



Trump It

Arana Bridge Club Newsletter

February-April 2019

Vol 33 No 1

From the President



Welcome to 2019 and another exciting year of bridge. We have received \$1500 from our sponsors which covers cost this year of colour printing the Members Booklet and the Trump It newsletter. I thank Phil Chappel for the work he has done in developing these relationships with sponsors. To maintain positive relationships with our sponsors, members are asked to please give business to them wherever possible.

As most of you know the table fees increased in January 2019. They are now \$6 for members and \$7.50 for non-members. The extra income is needed to assist us to update the facilities at our club.

The Arana Swiss Teams Congress was held on Sunday, 10 February 2019. Results are on the notice board.

Our membership numbers need to increase so please ask your friends and acquaintances if they would like to learn to play bridge. Potential new players are invited to join our free beginner's lessons which will start on Saturday 2nd of March. There are nine, two-hour classes that start at 10am.

For more details please contact Jim Taylor on 3289 0033.

The new committee will have another challenging year ahead. I invite all members to support the committee and the club as we move forward.

The latest news is that our application for a grant to upgrade our computer system and replace the carpet at the front is approved. \$11,250 will assist us with the costs of those projects. More information will be available when the necessary quotes are ready. Again Phil Chappel has done a great job to achieve this result.

The Annual General Meeting was held on Tuesday February 12th. I thank all office-bearers and committee members who have given their time and input running our club in the past year. A special thanks to those who continue their involvement this coming year.

The office-bearers for the coming year are as below:-

President:	Robert van Beest
Vice President:	Alan Norman
Secretary:	Trish Lye
Treasurer:	Sue Norton

Committee members are:-

Phil Chappel	Robyn Grills
Norma Hansen	Olivia Jackson
Michael Le Voi	Liane Morris
Rod Thompson	Jim Webster

Robert Matthew has become our 8th Life Member, nominated by the committee and approved by members at the AGM. Congratulations Robert and thank you for your support of the club over many years.

Happy Bridging

Robert van Beest



From the Director's Chair

All About Alerts

Alerting is about drawing the opponents' attention to your side's unusual bidding. It is controlled by a set of regulations issued by the Australian Bridge Federation. That document runs for 11 pages (!) so I'll save you some reading here.

With written bidding you alert *your partner's* unusual bid by circling it and saying "Alert". Don't explain anything: wait to be asked.

If using bidding boxes, say "Alert" and optionally fish around in the box in the hope of finding the Alert card.

The definition of an "unusual bid" is somewhat opaque, but the general principle is that, if a bid's meaning is not what it sounds like, then it should be alerted. Usually this involves bidding a suit that does not show length in that suit, or bidding no-trumps when it does not indicate a desire to play in no-trumps. It also includes bids that have an unexpected HCP range. Examples of alertable bids:

- Transfer bids
- Unusual No-trump or Lebensohl
- Multi 2♦ opening
- 'Pass or correct' bids
- Weak jump responses
- Inverted minor raises

K. M. Smith

Kate Mary Farrell emigrated to Australia from Ireland in 1864. She arrived in Somerset, a settlement in the Cape York, where she met and married infantryman John Smith a Londoner.

They moved to Brisbane in 1883 with their six children, purchasing the undertaking business of William Walsh. Alas, John became seriously ill and died in 1886 at just 42 years of age.

Kate began to operate the business in a time when women did not usually attend funerals much less work in the industry.

She became Brisbane's first female Funeral Director. Kate died in June of 1932 and is buried in Toowong Cemetery.

K.M. Smith Funeral Directors is still family owned and Kate's Great-grandchildren, Allen and Denise Smith are directors and Great-great-grandson Liam is Chairman of the K.M.Smith board of directors.

To this day K.M. Smith family and staff proudly carry on the traditions and quality of the dynasty that Kate Mary founded.

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Self-alerting bids

Some bids are defined as self-alerting, meaning they do not require an actual alert as they are "obviously unusual". These are:

- Doubles and redoubles
- All bids above 3NT (except unusual high-level opening, eg NAMYATS)
- Cue bid of opponents' suit
- 2♣ response to a 1NT opening bid

Asking

You can ask about any alerted bid, or un-alerted bid for that matter, but only at your turn to bid or play. Most people only ask if the answer may affect their upcoming bid or play, but it is entirely up to you whether or not you ask.

When asking, ask in general terms, not using leading questions. So, say: "what does 2♣ mean?", not "does 2♣ show clubs?" (which could be interpreted as code for 'I have clubs'). At the end of an auction that has had multiple alerts, if on lead you should say: "explain the auction please", rather than asking about one specific alerted bid.

If not on lead, wait until partner has led face-down and then ask your question.

Answering

You are required to explain your partnership agreements, nothing more. If you're not sure what partner's bid means or have forgotten your agreements, try not to guess. Just say: "I don't know" or "I don't remember". (The director will adjust the result if your opponents are damaged by this failure of memory.)

If you haven't discussed a bid, say: "it is undiscussed". Again, do not offer a possible explanation, or how you are going to take it.

Partner fails to alert, or mis-alerts, or mis-explains

Happens all the time, right? You must stay silent for the moment. Then ...

At auction's end, with your side declaring:

Before the opening lead, draw your opponents' attention to the problem. Explain what you think went wrong.

If your side ends up defending:

You can say nothing until the end of play, at which point you should identify the issue.

Pre-alerting

At the start of each round, you should pre-alert your opponents to any unusual convention that they may need to arrange a defence against. Main examples are:

- Switched responses to 1♣
- Very unusual 2-level openings (eg 2NT for the minors) ... the Multi scheme does not need a pre-alert, as it's so relevant
- A system other than some form of Standard American: eg Precision, Acol.

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Responding to your partner's take out double

By making a take out double of an opponent's opening bid your partner is announcing a hand of at least opening strength. Your response must include both high card points and any distributional values. Many inexperienced players are prone to underestimate the value of their hands. Here is a guide:

0 to 5 points, a poor hand. Bid as cheaply as possible.

6 to 8 points is a fair hand. Bid again if partner raises your response. If there is an intervening bid after partner's double, make a free bid if possible. eg, 1D X 1H ? With a 4 carded spade suit bid 1S.

9 to 10 points is a good hand. With a good 5 carded major suit jump one level. If partner raises

your response, bid to game. Eg, 1C X pass ? Bid 2H or 2S with a good 5 carded suit.

11 to 12 points. A probable game is on. Bid one more than is necessary to encourage partner to go to game even with a minimal double. However, a jump response by partner is not forcing on you to bid again and you may pass.

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Sales Consultant

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13 points or more. Game going hand. Jump directly to game. If however you first wish your partner (the doubler) to bid his suit or describe his hand, you may cue bid the opponents suit first.

Eg, 1H X pass 2H. Such a cue bid is 100% forcing on partner to bid again. You are telling partner you have game values and wish her to describe her hand. Be sure you have partnership agreement on this or matters may become confusing.

To put action by both doubler and responder into simpler terms:

If you are responding to a take out double it is recommended that you bid twice as much as you would normally.

The strength of your partner's hand can range from opening strength to a possible slam.

Partner will then know you are bidding the maximum value of your hand and can decide the next step.

If you are the take out doubler, bid about half as much as it is your habit to do (remember you are

forcing partner to bid). Your partner may have a bust hand.

Tony Agar

Masterpoint movements

NEW rankings for Arana home club members for the period to 31st January 2019

Graduate	Bev Orton Merv Parmenter
Club Master	Ray Cooke Janet Cooke Andrew Renton
Local Master	Philip Chappel Anna Green
Regional Master	Yvonne Zande Judith Cowie
**National Master	Natalie Bloch

Robert Matthew (MP Sec)

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Welcome New Members

THE following are new members to the club.

Mark Penman Robert Mallac
Gillian Kinsella Noel Werth
Dawn Gordon-Brown
Peter Neil, and Linda Neil.

Please make these members welcome and help them settle happily into our club.

Editorial Team

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Contributions may be by email (preferred) or by placing a note in the ideas box at the clubhouse

Arana Members Attend Bridge Teacher Training

Three Arana Bridge Club members recently attended a two-day workshop at Queensland Contract Bridge Club. Our members are pictured below among other trainees with the Australian Bridge Federation's (ABF) National Bridge Teacher Trainer, Joan Butts. Dawn Benes has completed her training and is now an accredited Bridge teacher – hearty congratulations to her.



Michael Le Voi and I intend to complete more workshops and are looking for opportunities to teach intermediate bridge topics so that eventually we too can become accredited teachers.

The accreditation program comprises five face-to-face days of training (or online equivalent).

The first day we attended, Saturday, focussed on learning Bridge teaching methods and philosophy.

There are four Continuing Professional Development (CPD) days for teacher trainees: 1) Modern Bidding Methods, 2) Defence, 3) Two Over One Game Force and 4) Declarer Play. We covered Declarer Play topics on the Sunday.

I asked Joan what she based her teaching upon. She explained that her foundations are the same as Audrey Grant's from the USA. "We both use the same methodology for teaching and we both base our teaching on the Standard American System", she said. I enquired "How do you know that what you teach is best practice?" Joan responded, "Audrey Grant and I are both guided and critiqued by international Bridge Masters. There is a huge body of science and experiential knowledge that underpins modern Bridge teaching. However, Audrey and I use different teaching materials because over the past few years I have developed my own materials: for both teacher training and bridge education from beginners to advanced." she said.

There is no charge to enrol in the ABF Teacher Accreditation Program and attend training. If you

are interested in attending future Teacher Training Workshops, please visit:-

www.abf.com.au/education as a first step.

Jim Taylor will continue to present his highly regarded training sessions for beginners twice a year as well as other sessions for intermediate players

Kathleen Le Voi

Ross Shardlow - An Interview

Q. Ross, please tell me a potted life history?

I grew up in Townsville but left when I was only 16 to take up a scholarship at QIT (now QUT). I studied engineering, and then worked for Main Roads for 22 years before setting up my own civil engineering company in 1989. Most of my married life was spent living in Samford raising two children – Todd (38) and Kassie (37). Both my children are now successful professionals and I'm so proud of them.



I was an active member of Rotary for 21 years. I retired in 2006 and enjoyed an active life as a self-funded retiree for 7 years. After a divorce settlement in 2013, I returned to work as a casual bus driver, retiring at the end of school year 2018. I have now moved to Redcliffe and look forward to enjoying the fruits of retirement. Playing more Bridge, fishing, creative cooking, travel & wine tasting with friends are just a few of the activities I plan to pursue in retirement. Community service has always been a facet of my life and I expect that I will become involved in some aspect of community activity in Redcliffe.

Q: We are sorry to hear that we will be seeing less of you now that you no longer live in the neighbourhood. What led you to move?

I've always loved the Redcliffe area so I bought a unit there in 2014. Chris, my new fiancée, was my

real estate agent at the time. We used to meet once a year to discuss property prices and developments in Redcliffe. In January 2017 that annual short business meeting at a coffee shop morphed into a two-hour long conversation that was just marvellous. We began dating. I proposed to Chris on a cruise on The Queen Mary 2 in September this year. We plan to marry in early 2019.

Q: How, and when, did you get into bridge?

I began Bridge lessons at Arana in 2010 and took to it like a duck to water. Some of my initial partners were Gordon Broadley, Sue Kennard and Sobana Ponniah – I am grateful to them for their patience and encouragement.

Q: What have been some highlights of your bridge life so far?

The joy that I derive from playing this great game and the many great friendships that I have made over the past 8 years. I fondly remember my first Gold Coast Congress in 2011 where I unexpectedly won 4 or 5 gold points. You have probably heard me say as a director that when I play Bridge the main aim is to have fun. Sure, I strive to win, but I always want to have fun.

Q. What possessed you to do your Director's training?

A sense of duty, because a club doesn't operate without volunteers. I knew we needed more directors so I thought that is an area that I could make a contribution.

Q: What do you like most about our club?

We have a very friendly club with few disagreements and good harmony. So many clubs are beset with divisions and conflicts, so we are very lucky to have such a great community of Bridge players at Arana.

Q: How often can we expect to see you here at Arana?

About once a week, mainly on Wednesdays. I will play Bridge at Redcliffe - mostly on Mondays, Fridays and Saturdays.

(Interviewed by Kathleen Le Voi)

Fishing in Kenya

ONCE while fishing with my sons we got into the drifting papyrus islands at Naivasha (Kenya). The wind comes down from the Kinancop at times and whips the lake up into a frenzy.

We used as lure a 'Shakespeare mep' which is a small plastic bigmouth bass copy with 2 triple gang hooks and a hollow center with a ball bearing in it. It moves like a drunk or wounded fish and the ball bearing rattle drives the bass into a feeding frenzy.

Round about the time my sons were old enough to be allowed to go fishing with me most of the

crocs had gone and we used to swim there no worry. The Hippos however were a Nationally Protected Species and one could get serious jail time for injuring one, let alone killing one.

So we were fishing, spinning meps in this cove surrounded by papyrus when my lure got caught, (we could only get these from England when we went on leave so they were precious) so we moved the boat over to the lure and lo and behold it was stuck solidly into a lone Hippo's rump. Now lone hippos are usually bad-tempered males who have just been beaten up and have temporarily lost mating rights so you don't want to be alone in a papyrus pool with one, especially one who has your lure solidly lodged in its flank. However, the precious mep had to be recovered and we continued to an oar's length of this monster, which was watching us with interest, and wedged the oar under the mep and pushed it out through its hide. We then beat a gentle retreat out of the papyrus when Ivan with his little rod caught a fish. Not a word was said until the fish was boated and we were well away from the pool. I still feel we made that Hippo's day and it was laughing itself stupid over our combined terror.

Incidentally, on average the Nile Croc is bigger than the Salty but is more of a scavenger, fish eater and less of a hunter, the Nile is also more widespread, it does take people in ambush but would not hunt and attack as aggressively as the Salty. The salty would eat the Nile.

Phil Saunders

Nonsense (1 to 5 previously published)

6- Just remember, if the world didn't suck, we'd all fall off.

7- Patience is something you admire in the driver behind you, but not in the one ahead.

8- Silence is golden; duct tape is silver.

9- Tomorrow is often the busiest day of the week. (Don't I just know that!)

10-Trying to understand some people is like trying to smell the colour 9. (Thanks Jill)

Memories of a new Life Member: Robert Matthew

When the Clubhouse was built, a mood of frugality prevailed, as there were many expenses yet to be paid off. It was DIY or nothing. Many people offered to do all sorts of things. Robert got involved with the first computer.

2002: The first computer and dealing machine was bought with a gaming grant. Randomly generated

hands plus machine dealing into boards plus a handout for post mortems with makeable contracts was an exciting leap out of the past.

Up till then, hand dealing at the table, writing scores on paper travellers, manual input of hands, names and scores on home computers by Richard and other scorers (including Robert) was the laborious way results were obtained.

At first scorers printed results out at home and brought them in to pin up. Later files were emailed to the Club for printing.

The new Dell came with Windows 2000 installed. It wouldn't work with the Swedish Jannersten dealing machine. Robert solved this with a computer from home on which he installed an older version of Windows to get the dealing machine running.

The analysis of makeable contracts was job of the more powerful Dell. Robert linked the computers so a file could be generated on the Dell, which did the analysis while the cards were being fed into the dealing machine running on the old computer.

Dealing took up lots of time as the number of sessions increased from three per week to five (adding Friday and Saturday to the existing Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday night). The machine was cranky and slow. It depended on two sets of rubber bands to drive the card feeder and they broke from time to time. Replacing these was a tedious process only Robert attempted. Replacing them was always urgent as panic set in whenever it looked like the club might run out of dealt boards.

2003 First website: A volunteer from Toowong offered to create a website for the Club.

Robert got it going using the Club's service provider, Netspace. It only went so far – having contact details, location and session information only. Lots of efforts by other members were expended on marketing the Club to attract more members. Later, of course, the website promised to reach a much wider public. However, this was in the future: In these early days only Club members with home computers would have been able to look at it.

Soon, however, the website was be used to display results of sessions. Members would not have to wait until they were back at the Club house to find out their results.

2005: Master Point Secretary's job was handed to Robert by Helen.

Robert is still doing this job. In the early days, scoring was done using the Rapscore program at the scorer's house, usually Richard's, and the file

created was emailed to Robert who then created a spreadsheet in order to balance the monthly report sent to the ABF. This accounting type job was a rigorous and time consuming job then.

By December that year, as results were being posted on the web, scorers were beginning to receive more calls at home asking for members' results. This was not okay.

2008: Funding for the new wireless data input to the scoring program, the Dutch Bridgemate 1 was granted.

This system promised results at the end of play – a huge advance from the days of waiting up to a week. Installation of this caused two problems: Rapscore with its built-in handicap scoring – one of Arana's specialities; was not compatible with the files generated by Bridgemate 1. At first an old Australian scoring program, ASE 8 was installed. It had no handicap scoring – requiring data on each member to be averaged over their history, going back months, recalculated and applied to the days results. Robert gave up playing bridge for a few months to work on programming a scoring segment to add on to ASE 8. There was some impatience on this score; no one was getting a handicap winner's voucher.

Later: Robert installed the new scoring program, Compscore, devised by Peter Busch. This had the handicap capability built in, replacing the old ASE scoring program and the handicap program he wrote.

Every time new computers were bought into the system, files and software had to be reinstalled and files copied. Robert has taken care of this until fairly recently. He and Richard have kept an eye on security and software updates, also power surge protection on power points.

Thankfully the Club has not fallen victim to malware either, as can easily happen with multi-user computers.

Robert Matthew

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Advertising

A number of businesses have provided financial support for the club. In recognition of this we are carrying ads for them in The Trump It and the annual yearbook. Check them out!

Congratulations Tom Peake

Tom Peake received a bronze medal for hockey in the recently held Pan Pacific Masters Games held on the Gold Coast. A great effort.

(notified by **Robyn Woodrick**)

New Books in the Club Library

1. **It's All in the Game -**
Rubens/Ewen
 - A light-hearted look at the game
2. **Bridge Behind Bars -**
Pottage/Smith
 - A humorous look at bidding variations when in prison.
3. **2 Over 1 Game Force -**
Grant/Rodwell
4. **Two Over One: an introduction -**
Bruno/Hardy
5. **Two Over One Game Force Revised -** Hardy
6. **Two Over One Game Force –**
Joan Butts
 - A good starter into the Convention. The book explains the principal of 2 over 1 bidding which simplifies bidding to game or slam when you require room to reach the best contract.
 - Chapter 1 covers openers rebids, how to get to slam & exercises
 - Chapter 2 cover the 1NT response.
 - Both Chapters have Play Hands with explanations for the Bidding, the Play & the Score.

Sue Norton

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