



ARANA

Contract Bridge Club Inc

June-July 2017

Vol 31 No 3

From the President



TIME goes faster than we realise. Winter has come around finally and our June congress is already behind us. The congress was a great success for the club in its organisation but less in results for our participating members. However Gabriel Boross and Gary Ypinazar had a win in the pairs and Carol Bellis, Cynthia Sharp, Robyn Grills and Jenny Walker were the best Novice team. The results are available on the website. I wish to thank Alan Norman for his enormous effort in organising the event and also the many helpers over the two days. The donations of food and money were very much appreciated and welcomed by our players of the 2 days. We played 54 tables over the 2 days which was a bit down on last year. Also we played 9 teams in the AWP on Wednesday 31st of May which was organised by Dawn Benes. After hiccups with the setup of two different sides of play everyone did well. Gwen Walker & Linda Douglas won N/S and Norma Hansen & John Murphy E/W. We will find out later how they have finished overall.

At our May committee meeting we have decided that from now on will have a monthly meeting on the second Friday of the month from 8.30am. If any members want to bring any issue to our attention please contact any committee member or put a note in the box with name.

The request for a safety rail along to our clubhouse is sent to the council and I am waiting for a response. Five new 'disabled' car park signs will be ordered soon and installed.

New bridge lessons start on the 22nd of July and I ask all to help to find new members to learn Bridge. Our last lessons had more than 20 participants which was a great result. At the end several people joined our club.

Bridge is a great card game but sometimes we make mistakes with the rules of the game and we have to call a referee (Director). The Director makes a ruling about how the game will continue. If a player does not accept this ruling an appeal can be directed to a committee member with all the details on hand. A form is available for this also. A committee including a Director make the final ruling which can be done at a later day than the playing day.

If you have anything on your mind about the club or the play of Bridge please contact me.

Enjoy your Bridge

Robert van Beest (President)

Welcome New Members

The following members have recently joined the club.

Coral Cochrane

Leonie Nugent, and

John Burnside.

We extend a warm welcome to them and an apology to **Eva Banathy** for misspelling her family name (as Manathy) last issue. Sorry Eva. (ed.)

Masterpoint movements

NEW rankings for Arana home club members for the period to 31st May 2017

Graduate	Dawn Chappel Kit Clarke
Local Master	Rob Winders Helen Sitcheff Dianne Swift
*Local Master	Richard Grills Jill Warnecke
Regional Master	Ian Franklin Lyn Holden Margaret Corley
State Master	Julie Gibbens
*State Master	Pauline Ford Sri Sriprakash Dally Cox Peter Ebert
National Master	Marion Richardson Robert Matthew (MP Sec)

Directors Corner

WHO IS DECLARER?

Declarer is the player who first bids the suit, or No Trump, for the contract.

Situation 1

After an opening lead out of turn, Declarer nominates to accept the lead, and lays her hand down as Dummy. Partner will now play the deal. However, Declarer is unchanged.

Situation 2

N	E	S	W
		1NT	3D
3H	3D*	3H**	5D
5H	pass	pass	6D
6H	pass	pass	pass

* Insufficient Bid

**Insufficient Bid accepted, 3H repeated

In this case Declarer is north. North's original bid is not cancelled after East's Insufficient Bid is accepted. East's 3D is simply deemed acceptable for the auction to proceed. So north, being the original bidder of Hearts becomes Declarer.

Robyn Grills

Jo Mammen - a look at my life Part 2

(In Part one, Jo described her early life ending with tales of travels during her student days at university.)

University came to an end and the only career recommended to me was to work in the Tax Office. Well, that was not for me. I was ready to spread my wings beyond Europe. So I volunteered a year of my life for £3 a week (this sum was enough to pay for 12 photos) to work, doing whatever and wherever the recently-formed British organisation Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) found fit. The news of my posting reached me the day I was bridesmaid to my flatmate, and her mother kindly produced an atlas so that I could locate the city. It was Mombasa, the main port of Kenya just a few degrees from the equator.

I was 22 years old when I took my first flight – on a VC10. I left Heathrow with one other Kenya-bound VSO. With clear skies once we were over the Alps, I could follow the lights down the coast of Italy, tracing the route known to me from my Vespa-adventure. We refuelled in Rome and then again in Cairo. Africa!

After a few days of orientation in Nairobi (my first jacaranda trees – so exotic) I flew (by Fokker Friendship) over the location of my first movie, 'Where No Vultures Fly', and the parched lands of Tsavo to the lush, tropical coastlands of Kenya and into Mombasa. At first my new life was bewildering. People of so many different skin colours, many in unfamiliar clothes, thronged the streets, reflecting the history of the island port. There were local Africans (mostly Muslims) and up-country Africans (mostly Christian), Arabs (from Oman, under whose rule the coastal area had been until recent times), Asian people (from a dizzying number of different Muslim and Hindu sects), Parsis, Goans, not to mention the Europeans. The 16th century Portuguese fort dominated the entrance to the port. The Old Town was a photographer's dream. These were beguiling surroundings and I was soon bewitched. The soft merging blues of the shallow waters of the Indian Ocean, the pristine coral reef with its rainbows of darting fish, and, oh, the intoxicating scent of frangipanis in the evening. I had won VSO's jackpot posting!

My job was to teach English in a Government institution to fledgling secretaries and copy typists. This was the first year of Independence from British rule and there was a dearth of local people qualified

to take these positions in government offices. Most of the students were from 'up-country', many with connections to politicians, and were resident at the college. I too lived on campus in a little thatched cottage between a brothel and the Sports Club. It took me some little while to work out just how political the situation was. I knew something about the background to Independence but nothing about the deep antagonism between the tribes. One night I was called to try to break up a fight that had broken out between 2 women from different tribes. The weapon was nail scissors, which I found can inflict nasty gashes. Luckily the police arrived quickly. Some years later I saw a photo in the local paper of one of the 2 fighting women taking tea with the President of Germany in Germany - her husband was by then the Kenyan Ambassador!

I drove a shocking pink Cadillac, and stayed overnight in a Sikh temple. I met some troglodytes and watched a thirsty man lapping water from a puddle like an animal. I went camping in the bush and tracked a rhino on foot. I was invited to stick my finger into rhino poo to gauge from the temperature how closely we were following the animal. We were following more closely than anticipated and hastily had to climb trees to avoid the charging beast. I climbed Mt Kilimanjaro (in borrowed shoes), and spent a month travelling in Ethiopia with an American friend. Haile Selassie was still Emperor. In Axum we were the only tourists and a monk gave us a private viewing of the Crown Jewels, which he brought out of the monastery displayed on a velvet cushion. In Harar in the south east of the country we watched the hyenas being fed outside the mediaeval town walls. As foreigners, we were always given the front seats on buses, which was fine until one day, to our consternation, we looked out of the window and found ourselves hanging way over the edge of the road and looking straight down a very deep escarpment - we had failed to notice on boarding that the bus was specially modified for negotiating tight hairpin bends, with the front wheels set well back along the body of the vehicle. Ethiopia was still very undeveloped and the scenes in the villages were truly biblical - if the Queen of Sheba had stepped out from the crowd we would not have been surprised.

My year of voluntary work came to an end. But lo and behold VSO in London failed to send a replacement for me. Would I please stay on? That was a no-brainer. My income increased with more part-time responsibilities at the Extra-Mural Dept, and I started to make plans for my return to England. My first plans to go south were cancelled when Ian Smith, in what was then Rhodesia, made the Unilateral Declaration of Independence for his country. I came up with alternative plans for a northern overland route, booking myself a 3rd class berth on a ship to Djibouti. But those plans too came to naught. For, a week or so before I was due to leave, I met the man who was to become my husband.

Peter introduced himself as an "International Orphan". He was well educated and could spout T S Eliot - to impress the girls, of course. He had been working in Kenya a year longer than I had. He was born in Burma where his Indian father was a civil servant under the Raj. They spoke English at home. When the Japs started over-running Asia in WW2, Peter with his mother and siblings were sent home to India. His father was destined to walk out of Burma to India with his Gurkha orderly, a journey of 6 months. My parents were horrified that I intended to marry an Indian. Inter-racial marriages were still uncommon. Peter decided not to double the concerns of our families, and did not inform his family of our intentions. I got a job to teach history in a local high school, and I was soon one-page-ahead of the students with French and English too. The children were from very mixed backgrounds and included some Sudanese refugees who, I later found out, excelled in my version of British Constitutional History in their school-leaving exam.

(To be continued)

Jo Mammen

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

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ **Weak No Trump and a "1 Club System"** ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

In a previous article, I suggested that bidding Better Minor was better than bidding Short Club because in almost all cases you will have 4 or more of the suit when you bid 1♣ or 1♦. Of course, the "Better Minor" problem only occurs with the range 12-14 HCP as you can bid 1 NT and other conventions with 15-17 HCP or higher.

If you want 100% certainty about hands in the 12-14 HCP range, there is another solution, which is Weak NT. When using standard Weak NT, the problematic hands of 12-14 HCP and a hand shape of 4-3-3-3 or 4-4-3-2 are always bid 1 NT. A bid of 1♣ or 1♦ implies 4+ cards in that suit. Playing Weak NT in Australia may upset inexperienced opponents who often pass a Weak 1 NT bid. They sometimes miss out on a contract when they have the better hands.

Using Weak NT, however, leads to a new problem. What do you do with a typical "Strong NT" hand with 16-18 HCP which would normally be bid 1 NT? Here is an elegant solution to the problem. It is similar to the solution used when bidding and replying to 2♣. Note that in my "1 Club System", a 1♣ bid normally shows 4 or more ♣ but may show as few as 2 ♣ to allow for a Strong NT bid. In this system, the Opener bids 1♣ in only 3 situations:

- 1) 12-19 HCP and 4+♣ and 4♥ or 4♠
- 2) 16-19 HCP and balanced (Strong NT)
- 3) 12-19 HCP and 6+♣

Unless Responder has a 5-card major or 13+ HCP, Responder bids 1♦ – a "waiting bid". The planned bids by Responder and Opener are shown in the tables below.

Table 1 – Responder's Response

1♦	Less than 6 HCP
1♦	6-12 HCP and no 5-card major
1♥	6-12 HCP and 5-card ♥
1♠	6-12 HCP and 5-card ♠ and no 5-card ♥
1 NT	13+ HCP and no 5-card suit (Game Force)
2 X	13+ HCP and 1 or more 5-card suit (Game Force)

Table 2 – Opener's Rebid

1♥ or 1♠	12-14 HCP and 4+♣ and exactly 4♥ or 4♠
1 NT	16-18 HCP and balanced (Strong NT)
2♣	12+ HCP and 6+♣
2♥ or 2♠	16-19 HCP and 4+♣ and exactly 4♥ or 4♠
2 NT	19 HCP and balanced (Strong NT)

This is simple and elegant – except when there is interference. Table 3 shows the additional responses.

Table 3 – Responder's Additional Responses after RH Opponent Intervenes

Pass	Responder was going to say 1♦ but intervening bid of 1 X
Double	Responder was going to say 1♥ but intervening bid of 1♠
Pass	Responder was going to say 1 X but intervening bid of 1 NT

Similarly, when Opener was planning to bid 1♥ and there is a bid of 1♠ from opponent or partner, modifications to the planned rebids by Opener have to be made. Table 4 shows the additional and changed responses.

Table 4 – Opener's Changed Rebids with Interference

Double	Opponent bid your major. You were going to say 1♥ or 1♠
1 NT	Opponent bid 1♠ and you were going to say 1♥
1 NT	Partner bid 1♠ and you have no fit and you were going to say 1♥
2 NT	Opponent bid 1♠ and you were going to say 1 NT (Strong NT)
2 NT	Partner bid 1♠ and you have no fit and you were going to say 1 NT (Strong NT)

My bridge partners and I use this "1 Club System" because we can communicate with more certainty the shape of our hands at the lowest possible bidding level. However, if you are happy to stay with Strong NT, then you can play Better Minor and confidently assume that Opener has 4 cards in the minor when it is bid.

Mike Le Voi