



# *Trump·It*

## *Arana Bridge Club Newsletter*

October 2020

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### From The President



It has been great to see so many members back at the Club since we re-opened for face-to-face play on Monday the 3rd August. We now have over 130 members playing regularly at the Club. Play days are currently Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings and Saturday afternoon. Session sizes vary from 8-14 tables. The Club has 16 extra-large tables, so members do not have to pre-book to play. As soon as more directors become available, we will try to open more days to play safe bridge.

The re-opening of our club was done only after we had a Covid Safe Plan that meets the strict criteria of Queensland Health's Roadmap. I thank all members who helped to implement the plan. The committee keeps monitoring advice from Queensland Health Department and will make appropriate adjustments to our Covid Safe Plan. I thank all members who have returned to play safe bridge for their support in adhering to the plan. Any questions or concerns about the plan, or its implementation, should be directed to Trish Lye in the first instance or any committee member.

During the lockdown around 100 of our members regularly played free Arana Bridge Base Online Tournaments. The Arana Tournaments were organised and setup by Mike Le Voi and managed by the Arana Online Bridge Team volunteer members. I thank all for their contributions in this difficult time. Some Arana members continue to play online because they assess that they cannot safely or comfortably return to the Club while the pandemic continues.

The Committee is pleased that the Online Team have moved their sessions around so that there is no conflict with face-to-face sessions at the club. With the aim of increasing the number of members playing online, Arana and Northern Suburbs Bridge Clubs will now offer joint online tournaments. These BBO tournaments will be named "Arana – Northern Suburbs" and are being held on Tuesday and Thursday morning into the foreseeable future. ABF Masterpoints are awarded as for club play. The cost to play is around \$4.50 per player, of which around \$3 is received by Arana and NSBC on alternate weeks.

The committee was able to receive a grant worth \$3,612.34 from the Lord Mayor's COVID-19 Direct Assistance Program which covered some regular expenses during our lockdown. Also, the Queensland Government gave us a \$500 credit on our AGL electricity bill.

#### **Editorial Team**

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



Val Cran has retired as a Director for our Club after 22 years of service. She continues to be a regular player. I know I speak for others when I say ‘Thank You’ Val for your calm directing and warm, approachable manner.

I extend my congratulations to our associate club members Kerry Baillie and Ghislaine Green (Northern Suburbs) and Jo Neary (Toowong) who are now ABF accredited Directors.

I am pleased to welcome new members who have joined over the past four months: Lynda Roberts, Marion Gazzard, Kathleen Landsdowne, Caroline Fincham, Catherine Hellen, Patricia McGuire, Suzanne Cheney, Jennifer Millman, Rocco Patamisi. Please make these new members welcome when you meet them.

I am pleased to see that our new entry and car park line-marking is finished. Only 2 disabled car parks have been marked out which is disappointing. Please leave the two regular car parks closest to the building for those who need them most. I encourage all members to use our new car park and enter by the rear door.

The Beginner’s lessons, taught by Jim and Deidre Taylor, have re-commenced at the Clubhouse on Saturday mornings. My thanks to Jim and Deidre; I am pleased that these lessons are

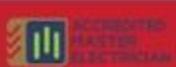
occurring at a time when we need to be recruiting new members.

Free online lessons for ‘Improving Players’ have continued. Kathleen and Mike Le Voi have prepared and conducted 18 x 2-hour sessions since April. Each lesson was attended by around 20 members. The lessons, which have all been about Better Bidding, were developed using excellent learning materials available for a monthly fee from Joan’s Butt’s website. The club covers the \$30 monthly fee.

We are living in a difficult time, but if we all work together and help each other to keep safe and healthy, we will come through this and still have a fun time playing bridge.

**Prepared by Kathleen Le Voi**

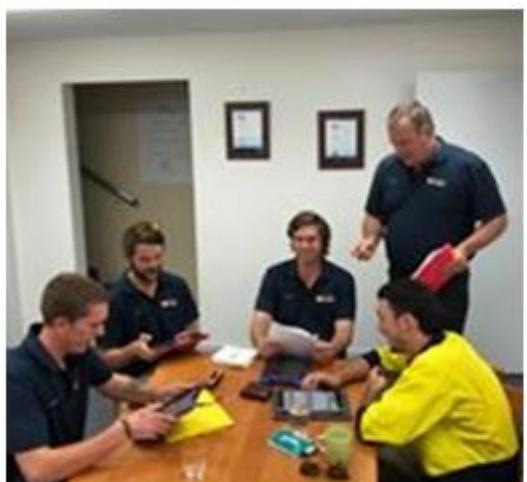
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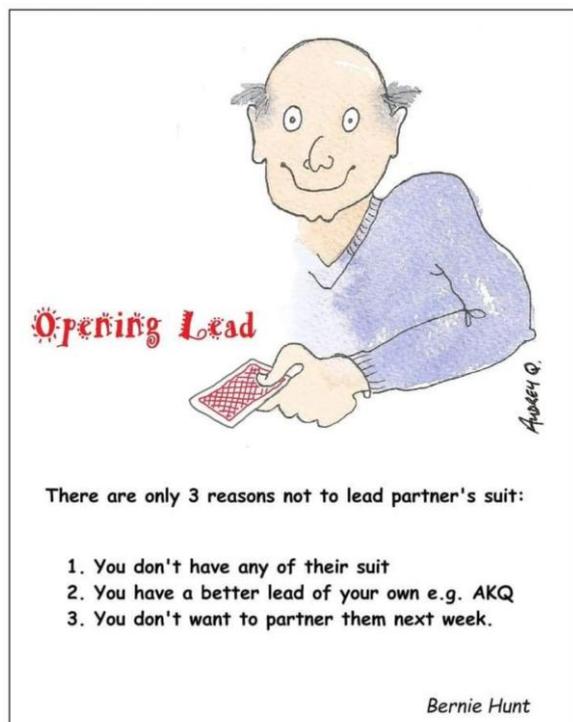
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## Bridge Humour

A married couple are not speaking to each other after a horrible game and are driving home after a Bridge tournament. They pass by a field where there are many donkeys. The husband breaks the silence by asking the wife: "Relatives of yours"? "Yes" she says, "In-laws".



## Director's Corner

Research reveals that poor behaviour at the table is the most consistent issue affecting our ability to grow the game. People simply want to play bridge in a friendly and welcoming environment. If we are to grow bridge in Australia, we must ensure that people enjoy their bridge playing experience – particularly at the club level.

Club directors hold a critical role – they are essentially the public face of bridge in our country. While administering the laws of bridge is important, so too is the requirement for them to ensure that a friendly environment is provided for all players. Key points for a club level director are:

- 1) The role is to create and maintain a warm, friendly atmosphere.
- 2) Be a kind helper rather than a strict magistrate.
- 3) When you are called, walk up to the table and make a conscious decision to smile as you approach.
- 4) Ask, "How can I help?" (in a respectful tone).
- 5) Be a host, welcome and invite people back next week to your session.
- 6) Avoid blame and judgement.

7) Where possible, give slow players a quiet tip that they need to 'Move it along, please, else we may need to average it'.

8) If players interrupt each other, ask the person who called you to first explain the issue. Then ask the others to add their piece.

9) If you want to educate players before a session begins regarding a recurring issue such as giving partner unauthorized information, it may be better to tell a humorous anecdote about an outrageous breach rather than offer a lecture.

10) Try and defuse tension before it has a chance to escalate.

11) Be firm and sympathetic. Do not be dogmatic.

12) Be polite and understanding. Do not be aggressive or critical.

13) If your view is questioned, offer to check the rules or check with another director.

14) Do not have prolonged discussions. Make your ruling and walk away from the table.

This article is based on a booklet called "The Director is Called" by John McIlrath, a top NSW director. It was accessed from the Sunshine Coast Bridge Club website. Submitted by Dawn Benes, Arana Bridge Club Director.



Your Agents.

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## Teacher's Corner

This article summarises the key principles of opening and responding to Strong Balanced Hands. Strong Balanced Hands are exciting; bid properly they can lead to successful game and slam contracts. If you plan to use this way of bidding you and your partner need a clear agreement to do so.

### Bidding Strong No Trump Hands

Slam requires 33 total points and Grand Slam requires 37 total points. If neither hand has a long suit, winning in NT is all about HCP's.

With 20+ HCP, open 2 ♣ or 2 NT depending upon HCP:

- 20-21 Open 2 NT
- 22-24 Open 2 ♣ – planning to rebid 2 NT
- 25+ Open 2 ♣ – planning to rebid 3 NT

Be very accurate with bidding as responder will add their points to yours to select the level of the contract.

### Responding to a 2 NT Opening

2 NT is not a forcing bid; Responder will pass with fewer than 5 points.

- Responder will bid 3 NT with 5-10 TP (No chance of slam).
- If Responder has 13+ HCP, they simply bid 6 NT.
- If Bidding goes 2 ♣ – 2 ♦ – 2 NT, Responder will Bid 3 NT with 2-7 TP.
- If Bidding goes 2 ♣ – 2 ♦ – 3 NT, Responder will bid 6 NT with 8 TP.

### Responding to a 2 ♣ Opening

A 2 ♣ opening is forcing:

- 2♥, 2♠, 3♦ or 3♣ are 'positive' bids. Showing 5+suit, 2 of top 3 honours, 5+HCP.
- 2 NT is a positive bid showing 8-10 points and denies the above.
- 3 NT is a positive bid showing 11-12 points and denies the above.
- 2♦ is a 'negative' and 'waiting' bid and denies the above.

The content presented is based on Joan Butt's Learning Materials which we are authorised to use by the Club paying a monthly fee to Joan Butt's website.

**Kathleen Le Voi**

**ABF Qualified Teacher**

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## 2020 Teacher and Student Lunch



When play was not possible at the club due to lockdown, a number of us spent 18 weeks or so preparing or receiving online Bridge lessons.

Kathleen and I spent many hours preparing Powerpoint lessons and specimen hands for playing on BBO or on Joan Butts' web site. We used Zoom for the majority of online teaching sessions and the student numbers ranged from 20 to 30 attendees per session. Some of our students said to us "These weekly lessons are keeping me sane ..."

One great thing about preparing lessons is that you have to do a lot of research to make sure that you understand and can teach the topic properly. Kathleen and I learnt a lot during this process!

In August, 20 of us had lunch at the Arana Leagues Club. A good time was had by all ☺

**Mike Le Voi**