



ARANA

Contract Bridge Club Inc

April 1999

Vol 13 No 2

Editor's desk

ANOTHER AGM come and gone with Val returned as president and Ailsa as treasurer. Ernie Harris takes on the secretarial duties, while Bob, Carol, Gary and Marian form the rest of the committee.

After a late start, some fairly rushed publicity, and a letter box drop, the 99 classes got under way with 10 students on both Tuesday and Wednesday. Alan Gibson's course is only 5 weeks long, followed by help with play sessions to encourage students into the main game asap.

The World Pairs (which Arana did not play last year) has been cancelled for 1999. New sponsorship will see a change in format when it returns in 2000.

Our own congress (5-6 June) will be on us before you know it. Seems the council 'lost' our hall booking. Some stern protesting was to no avail so plan 'B' has moved the congress to the Gaythorne RSL club. That means an entry fee increase (\$47) and reduction in profit margin, but lots of extra space with no table limit.

First round of the club heats of the GNOT (gold point teams) will now be on 21 April. Final rounds will be 5 and 12 May. There is a \$40 per team entry fee (as well as normal table fees) to cover costs (boards, records, gold points, levies). Get a team and put your entries in quickly please.

Richard McLauchlan

Directors' meeting

WHO'S directing: At the recent meeting of directors, a roster was established for all play sessions and for other events. Thanks to all those who have put their names forward.

Movements: Late arrivals make it very difficult for the Director to consider the most suitable movement. Please arrive at least 15 minutes before

the scheduled start of play and take your place promptly so that the number of tables can be determined.

Slow play: not only causes frustration for other players but also results in sessions running late. An allowance of 18 to 19 minutes for three boards should be sufficient. Hands that require more time would usually be compensated by those that are relatively straightforward.

A small number of players seem to be consistently slow. I have asked Directors to call the move on time and not to encourage slow players by delaying unduly to accommodate them. Any board that has not been started (*ie* opening lead not made) should be marked on the travelling scorecard as "not played". If the move is called and you've only just begun playing the hand, you should make every effort to complete it promptly.

Director! Call the Director to resolve issues at the table. If an opponent does so because of some action by you or your partner, you should not see this as a personal affront, but simply as due process being followed. Some actions that you should try to avoid include:

- ❖ Undue hesitation before passing - this can place your partner in a difficult position.
- ❖ Correcting insufficient bids without/ before calling the Director.
- ❖ Making face-up opening leads.
- ❖ Selecting a card from dummy before declarer has nominated a card.
- ❖ Making any comment about a particular bid, play or trick during the course of play.

Ethics: The QBA strongly endorses the notion of "active ethics". That is, you should not conceal information from opponents that they have a right to know, such as a bid with a special interpretation. If your system has such bids it is wise to draw them to your opponents attention before bidding commences.

If you think that there is the likelihood that your opponents may be unaware of the meaning of one or more bids made during the auction you should offer them an explanation of the bidding prior to the opening lead.

Similarly as opponents, you should beware of making assumptions about the meaning of opponents' bids. If in doubt, ask for an explanation of the bidding.

Finally, during the auction it is highly improper to attempt to explain your own bids or to draw partner's attention to a failure to alert. However, if you are aware that opponents may have been misled or bids were not alerted that should have been, try to correct this before play commences.

Finally: Please remember that all Directors are volunteers who try to do a difficult job to the best of their ability. So, before being too critical of a Director, try putting yourself in their position. Which reminds me... we need more (qualified) Directors! Any volunteers?!

Bob Pearce (Chief Director)

Toowong congress

BETTY Willson & Rita Wood, Ailsa Smith & Julie Cutmore, and Helen McLauchlan & yours truly played the Toowong congress in February. The first qualifying session was fairly ordinary but Q2 had a high percentage of boards producing 12 or 13 tricks. Board 18 was a classic. How would your partnership bid these cards?

18/ N-S/ E	
10 8 3	--
9 8 6 4 3	A K Q 5
K 7 4 3	A J
3	A K J 10 6 4

At E, you pop your eyes back into their sockets, try to look cool with your **ONE** loser hand, and make your most forcing bid – 2C in our case. Needless to say, partner gives a 2D negative and N passes. Now what?

The SA in partner's hand would be useless. The negative bid denied an A and a K. You could bid 4NT-5C 5NT-?? Two Ks (6H) would be nice as one would have to be the DK but you are committed to 7C.

The bashers simply bid 6C over 2D. Holding the SA-K-Q, N thought she had enough to double and with 6 Ss to the J, S duly led the S2. 13 tricks later we wrote +1190 on the score sheet for an average plus. Provided partner cannot stop bidding before game is reached, the H slam can be found via:

2C – 2D – 3C – 3D – 3H...
 or 2C – 2D – 3C – 3H...
 or 2C – 2NT – 3C – 3D – 3H...

depending on whether W shows the D honour or H length first, or in the Valentine sequence with a 2NT negative (waiting) then 3D guarantees the DK. Having found the H fit and the DK, 7H is a great spot.

We made the Plate while the others went to Con 1, but let's just say Sunday was eminently forgettable. Best result went to Betty and Rita who just missed some prize money.

Richard McLauchlan

Gold Coast 99

THE Arana contingent to the QBA's Gold Coast congress is increasing slowly each year. You can get accommodation within 2 blocks (walking distance) of the venue, the ANA hotel, for \$50 per night for a self-contained 1 bedroom unit. Two bed units are a little dearer but still quite cheap if sharing with partner/ team mates.

The pairs attracted 180 tables (open and restricted (0-149 mps)) while 200 teams really stretched the facilities. Pairs qualifying is deadly with 2 rounds of 14 table Mitchells. To make the championship, you virtually have to win both qualifying sessions. Every mistake will push you down the list and into a lower final, although Helen & I did manage 3rd in the H final.

After 5 gruelling pairs sessions, the teams start. We (team 79) opened with a loss to SPIRO but the next match against CHEN (team 97) looked easier (on paper). We got creamed; board 21 did not help.

21/ N-S/ N	Q J 10 8 6 2	
	A K	
	A Q 9 6	
--	4	A 7
10 9 5 4 3 2		Q 7 6
7 2		K 10 8 5 3
K Q J 6 3	K 9 5 4 3	9 8 2
	J 8	
	J 4	
	A 10 7 5	

At their table, N opened 1S and our team mates interfered, Ian (W) showing Hs and a minor, before N ended in 6S. Alan thought Ian's minor was Ds and duly led one, making 6S lay down. At our table, Helen (N) opened 2C and with the opposition silent, I (S) ended in 6S. The CK was led and the contract went off on the losing D finesse. The contract can be made regardless of the

finesse. Anyone finding the winning line should be playing this congress.

Take the CK with the A and ruff a C; small S to hand (no reason for E to grab the SA); ruff a C; HA & K; small S and E is end played with only Ds (leading into dummy's tenace) and the HQ (D discard from S and ruff from N).

We didn't feel too bad losing this match as CHEN led our section for a long time and played in the semi-finals before finishing 3rd. We all won about half our matches, the Valeltine (Judy, Pam, Jenny, Jessica) team finishing best.

Richard McLauchlan

Easter bunnies

BBC runs a congress at Easter each year. It is usually a pairs (Sunday) and a teams (Monday) event. The pairs format often changes as many people tend to be away over the long weekend.

This year it consisted of 3 walk-in sessions. The pair with the best aggregate percentage over any 2 sessions was declared the winner. With the teams on Monday, not too many hung around for the Sunday night session which was eventually changed to a small teams session instead.

Typically the teams attracted a reasonably good field of 30 tables. Then team 31 turned up and the organiser remembered he had taken their entry form and cheque, but forgotten to pass them on to the director (Reg Busch). So all the pre-planning went out the window – odd numbered teams events are a pain.

We had a very ordinary run during the early rounds and joined quite a few of the top half teams in the bottom half of the field. That means there is not much to write about; and certainly very little to skite about. I am currently reading Ottlick and Kelsey's *Adventures in Card Play*, a book on squeeze plays, so Helen's play on board 22 was enjoyable.

22/ E-W/ W	K 8	
	9 7	
	J 8 5 3	
J 7 6 4	A 9 8 4 3	10 9 3 2
A J 5 2		6 4
10 9 4 2		Q 6
K	A Q 5	Q 7 6 5 2
	K Q 10 8 3	
	A K 7	
	J 10	

In 3NT (N), Helen received the S10 lead won by dummy's A. The CJ-K-A-2 was followed by a small C to E's Q, W discarding a small H. Another

S to Helen's K was followed by the DA and K (felling E's Q). Helen now has 9 tricks (3Ss, 3Ds, 3Cs) so leading the HK will establish a H and 10 tricks. W won the HA and returned a S to my Q and this position.

	--	
	9	
	J 8	
J	9 8	9
J 5		6
10 9		--
--	--	7 6 5
	Q 10 8 3	
	7	
	--	

Slowly but surely, W had been getting squeezed for some time. The D7 to the J, followed by the C9, saw W let go of the SJ (partner would have to protect the S). However, the C8 was just too much for W: a H discard sets up all of dummy's Hs, so W tried to nonchalantly discard the D10. Helen did notice and the D8 and HQ brought in 11 tricks while our partners held their opponents to 9.

All up, BBC's organisation leaves a lot to be desired. The facilities at Souths Leagues Club are also less than ideal. On the plus side, the bridge is usually pretty good and we (and our team mates who had been holidaying over the last month) needed the warm up for the ANZAC teams at QCBC later this month.

Richard McLauchlan

New members

NEW members ratified at the recent management committee include: Joan Stomfai, Pat Valentine, Lorraine Connolly and Muriel Prasad.

Important dates

- Sun 11/4 Redlands novice teams
- Sun 11/4 Directors' course (QCBC)
- Sat 17-18/4 Gympie congress
- Wed 21/4, 5-12/5 GNOT club heats
- Sun 25/4 Anzac teams (QCBC)
- Wed 28/4 Australia wide multi pairs
- Sat 1/5 Toowoomba swiss pairs
- Mon 2-3/5 Toowoomba swiss teams
- Sat 8/5 Surfers Paradise teams
- Sun 9/5 Eastern Suburbs novice teams
- Sat 15-16/5 Qld mixed pairs (Toowong)

A bridge ballade

You will remember - when I called a spade,
And, like a shot, she put me up to three?
A miniature she was, in blue brocade.
And eyes as blue- what is the simile?-

Well, well, for rhyme's sake let us say the sea,
And half a hundred Helens in her face,
That caused at least ten hour's war in me-
I liked my partner, but she trumped my ace.

Do you remember now?- She looked afraid
To bid, so kind and unaffected she;
Was it for wantonness her plots she laid
To lead me unsuspecting up a tree?
No! No!- for heartless could she never be;
I'm certain those bright eyes could bear no trace
Of guile- and that from tricks her hand was free-
I liked my partner, but she trumped my ace.

Oh! Surely you remember- how she made
The cards- a gentle shuffle?- and how we
Watched in a kind of wonder as she played
With simple art and feigned duplicity
Each vain finesse; but then, with artless glee,
Formed with her witching lips a sweet grimace,
And made for my locked heart a golden key-
I liked my partner, but she trumped my ace.

Prince! On her lovely charms we both agree,
The wavy hair, the sweet attractive grace;
Yet firm against such fair I hold a plea-
I liked my partner, but she trumped my ace.

Anon (c/- Margarett Golden)

1999 Arana Congress Entry Form

**Gaythorne RSL Club
534 Samford Road, Mitchelton**

Entry fee: \$47 per player

Please make cheques payable to Arana Contract Bridge Club Inc

1 Name: Phone:

Home club ABF No

2 Name: Phone:

Home club ABF No

Entries: Must include entry fee

Close Sunday 30 May 1999

Accepted in order of application

Enquiries: Val Acklin (07) 3355 6399