



# ARANA

## *Contract Bridge Club Inc*

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### **From the President**

LAST year, I observed that 1993 would see another milestone in the history of our club with the holding of our first congress. My confidence then, that members would rally round to ensure its success, was borne out by events in June. There is no doubt that we are now fully recognised as an important part of the bridge community in Brisbane. Even now, I receive very flattering comments from players in other clubs who attended the congress. The only problem is that they will expect the meals to be of the same outstanding quality every year (not to mention the free champagne)!

Seriously, my thanks go out to everyone who contributed in any way to the success of the congress. In particular, we are all in debt to Judy and Pam without whom things would not have run so smoothly. Next year, Pam will need all our support and help in making the 1994 congress a worthy successor. A big thank you as well to Marian Richardson and all the helpers in the kitchen. Only the winners remember the bridge - everyone remembers the food!

With Judy taking a well-earned break in 1994, we would do well to reflect upon how much we depend on her experience and guidance. Suddenly, there is no one to run to when things go wrong or when planning events. I believe this can only be for the long-term good of the club as more and more members gain vital experience. It was pleasing to see Trevor and Noel qualify as directors this year. Hopefully, they will be joined by others in the new year.

Once again this year, we have been spoiled by Ted McGrath, whose efforts in setting up for each session and performing numerous maintenance jobs deserve our thanks. We are also grateful to Cynthia, Beverly, Vonnie and May for ensuring that we were never without refreshments during the year. I have also appreciated the help of Marian Richardson this year in organising and directing the Monday play sessions.

To these and all the others who have contributed to another successful year for our club - a big vote of thanks. Many committee members and members with other responsibilities have given long periods of service to the club. I know that some feel it is time for some fresh blood. As the new year and our next AGM approach, please consider how you can make a contribution.

To all members, have a very enjoyable Christmas time and may all your finesses work in the new year!

**Bob Pearce**

### **Pair's champs**

THE club's Pairs Championship was fiercely contested by 22 pairs over 3 and 10 November. After being in a handy fourth place at the half way mark, Bob Pearce and Richard McLauchlan scored a narrow win from Val Acklin and Joyce Rosser. Handicap winners were Henry Polt and Cec Harrison.

An even bigger field contested the Presidents Pairs over 9 and 16 November. Winners were Ailsa Smith and Marilyn Wright who pipped Pam Horton and Jenny Lewis. Handicap winners were Henry Polt

and Joan McDonald (we'll be looking at that handicap Henry).

## Honour roll 93

WINNERS are gridders so the saying goes and the 1993 gridders were:

### Pairs championship

Open: Bob Pearce, Richard McLauchlan.

Hdcp: Henry Polt, Cec Harrison.

### President's pairs

Open: Ailsa Smith, Marilyn Wright.

Hdcp: Joan McDonald, Henry Polt.

### Teams championship

Open: Trevor CULLEN, Darryl Cullen,

Val Acklin, Joyce Rosser.

Hdcp: Frank LUITEN, Perry Hooper,

Alan Box, Ted McGrath.

### Swiss teams

Open: Alan BOX, Ted McGrath,

Jenny Lewis, Pam Horton.

Hdcp: Ray WILLSON, John Willson,

Betty Willson, Judy Perkins.

### Pine festival expo pairs

Pam Horton, Jenny Lewis.

### Red point sessions

Wed: Bob Pearce, Richard McLauchlan;

Pam Horton, Jenny Lewis.

Tue: Betty Willson, Marilyn Wright; Lorraine

Martin, Ailsa Smith; Vonnie Wallace,

May Hassum; Gay Hull, Brigid Robertson.

### Epson world-wide pairs

Ted McGrath, Judy Valentine;

Tony Jackman, Meta Goodman (QCBC).

### Australia-wide multi pairs

Male: Peter Nottingham, Kevin Simpson

(overall winners).

Female: Ann Pearce, Annette Corkhill.

Mixed: Neil Orford, Frances Orford.

### Australia-wide pairs

Alun Preece, Geoff Toon (Toowong).

### Arana congress

Consolation: Betty Willson, Ailsa Smith (1);

Perry Hooper, Frank Luiten (2).

## Australia-wide pairs

AN expected 3-4000 pairs competed in the Australia-wide pairs in the last week of October. Arana hosted 12½ tables including some visitors. The stronger players sat N/S and this was reflected in the final scores with no E/W players reaching the required 1320 (55%) score for inclusion in the Aust-wide results.

Arana upheld its visitor friendly status with Alun Preece and Geoff Toon (from Toowong) defeating Richard McLauchlan and Bob Pearce by a mere 2 points (1554 to 1552). Their 65% scores may well figure in the final results.

Personally, the hands were interesting but sometimes too elementary. I played board 7 (N/S hands rotated to E/W) in 4H via:

W	E	W	E
QT2	86		/
A95	KQT76	1C	1H
AQ8	KJT5	1NT	3D
K874	Q6	4H	

Facing 3 losers (2S + 1C), you must not lose a H trick. As the summary says, whoever plays this hand (3NTW or 4HE), there is a safety play in hearts. Cash a high H in the E hand first, then a H lead to the A finds S out and N still with the J4. Finesse against the HJ and it is all over. No marks if you went down (77 to the opposition) on this board.

**Richard McLauchlan**

## Management committee

ITEMS of interest from the MC meeting of 26 October include:

Next QBA Director's course will be in early January, please consider attending; director's required for 94, sign up now.

Judy Valentine resigned from all official positions.

Checking with QBA/ABF re non-receival of ABF newsletter.

Approach to Pine Shire re lighting and security of car park.

Successful Sunnybank teams competition merits approach to other clubs (N Subs, Redcliffe) for similar events.

AGM is early February; nominations and agenda items required.

Hall must be left clean and tidy, ie hall, kitchen, toilets, entrance. Used bidding sheets, rubbish etc to industrial bin in car park.

Christmas parties on 14/15 December with usual format.

Copies of club constitution are in library cupboard.

Next meeting is Monday 6 December. See Jan Rae (sec) or Muriel Anderssen (player's rep) if you have anything for discussion.

## Northern Suburbs Congress

SEVEN Arana members were among the 40 tables entered in the Northern Suburbs congress on 6-7 November: Muriel Anderssen-Blanche Slaughter, Joyce Rosser-Betty Willson, Bob Pearce-Richard McLauchlan and Val Acklin (partnered by L Fredericks). Typically, qualifying was tough, especially for those of us who played E/W (all bar Betty-Joyce).

An average E hand held 8.6 hcp and W 8.9 in the morning, improving slightly in the afternoon to 9.5 and 10.1. Defend, defend, defend, with sheer consistency producing a 52% 5<sup>th</sup> and a 52% 4<sup>th</sup> for an overall 3<sup>rd</sup> and a place in the plate. Val qualified for the championship, Betty-Joyce for consolation 2, and Muriel-Blanche for consolation 3.

The cards definitely improved on Sunday. A good start (4<sup>th</sup>) was wasted as we slipped to 9<sup>th</sup> (of 18) at lunch with Val 2<sup>nd</sup>, Joyce-Betty 1<sup>st</sup>, and Muriel-Blanche still trying to get started. Boards that we fared poorly on invariably had clubs in both hands and 11 points in one. We never seemed to find the right contract (6C, 5C, 3NT) on these boards, often missing game. Maybe we need to re-read Judy's seminar on 11 point hands.

Funny things happen to some pairs at lunch, especially those who are not doing all that well. Many decide to get more aggressive and try to push a little harder. These tactics rarely pay and we promptly scored 48 and 42 (from a max 48) from our next opponents to get us within reach of the placings. Sadly, even a 40 on the last round could only get us 5<sup>th</sup> spot, although the top 5 scores were very tight (469, 463, 460, 458, 455). Board 6 (final session) probably cost us (E/W) a placing.

Board 6		E	S	W	N
Deal E		1C	1H	1S	2H
Vul E/W		3C	/	/	3H
	9	3C	/	/	3H
	T974	3S			
	AQT876				
A8432	T9	KQ5			
862	■	A			
52		K3			
AQ2	JT76	KJ76543			
	KQJ53				
	J94				
	8				

With N/S bidding H (on not many points), it got hard to describe my hand (long Cs, 16 hcp, 4 losers). A jump was in order, but 4C is Gerber and 4S might find Bob with only 4. When the bidding died, I thought 3S was a gross underbid. If N/S stay out of it, I'm sure we would get to game (C or NT) or even slam (6C), and with S on lead, it is easy. With Hs bid against us, N led a H. When S won the SJ, she led 2 more Hs and exited to N's DA, so 3S making 9 started to look Ok.

It was a bottom, scoring 0! 5CE making 12 would score us 8 points; 3S making 9 in the championship scores 6. This board was played (c'ship and plate) in 6NTE, 6CE, 5SW, 5HS\*, 5CE, 4SE, 4SW and 3SW. We were the only S bidders in the plate to be held to 9 tricks, yet all the S bidders in the championship made only 9.

[Wouldn't happen to you? I slipped this board into club play on 17 November and did the right thing by not bidding Hs on the S hand. 1C, 1S, 3C, 5C, 30 seconds of thought and a pass from Geoff Doyle saw him make 12 in 5C. Results: 5C\* 12, 4S 11, 5C 12, 5C 11, 4C 12 and 4DN 9 (nice save). What, no H bids nor leads?]

That final session saw Val and Betty-Joyce fail to live up to their morning results but Blanche-Muriel did manage a mid-field result. One conversation we had many times over the weekend went: 'What club are you from?' 'Arana.' 'Arana; wonderful congress you had there this year.' Our congress is very fondly remembered, especially the food. Expect to see a good roll up to next year's event.

**Richard McLauchlan**

## Book review

**Signal Success in Bridge** by Danny Roth

ACCORDING to Roth, planning a defence starts with 'The 7 Roll Calls'. These are the distribution around the table of: S; H; D; C; HCP; then how many quick tricks for declarer; and how many for defenders?

Throughout play, each defender should endeavour to legally inform partner about leads, high cards, distribution, switches etc. Roth demonstrates the various signalling methods with sets of problems to be solved. Each problem shows the bidding, dummy (N)

and your (E) hand, and asks for your play at a certain point.

However, his style is sometimes irritating. For example, hand 29 states: S shows 11-12 hcp, partner leads the ♦2 to the 5, Q and A; S plays the ♠5; partner wins and switches to ♥4, dummy playing the T; plan your defence.

Solution: S's bidding suggests a ♥ stopper so W has led the suit purely to get you in. This can only be for the return of his original suit so you should take your ♥A and return the ♦4. Now, which card did you play on the ♠ trick? It should have been the 2, showing no help for partner if he leads another ♦.

This tactic is repeated often: eg, hand 22, play to trick 2, but which C did you play on trick 1? Hand 26, play at trick 3; you did, of course, drop the CJ under the K (trick 2). Hand 30, return the SJ; you did, of course, win (trick 3) with the SA; and which card did you play on the C (trick 2)? Hand 37, 39, 40, 43, etc, etc, etc...

In working through the various signals, Roth never really states whether or not he agrees with or likes that system, only that some are incompatible with others.

That is until the final set of problems (47-60), when he finally declares: we are playing standard honour leads except Q from AKQ; discretion if leading from 3 or more low; signals played include alarm clock, lone ranger, Bechgaard echo, 6-shooter, ammeter, Feb Xmas card, cash register, McKenney/Lavinthal, foghorn, Smith peter, emergency call; fourth highest from 4 or more to an honour unless attitude dictates otherwise; we are NOT playing non-standard leads (Trelde and American), Vinje, Scanian, Wenceslaus, Foster echo, encrypted, revolving, natural, REO, Dodd, Dunsby, Finch, Texas. (Never heard of them? Time to read the book, eh?)

But at least you are warned that you are not always asked for your play at the critical moment but should state your play at every trick if it is not specifically stated.

All in all, this book is worth a read. There is bound to be something worth trying for every partnership.

**Richard McLauchlan**

[Speaking of book reviews, between Mar 91 and Apr 92, Muriel A, Deborah, Nora, Noel and Rita reviewed 6 books. We have had no

reviews since. According to library records, there are several books which haven't even been read yet. Send those reviews in.]

## Arana needs you

SEVERAL members have given more than their fair share of time and effort to keeping the club running smoothly and intend standing down at the end of 1993. Nominations for the executive (President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasury), management committee (5) and various honorary positions are required.

We really do need a secretary. Jan Rae has been sec for the last 2 years and has streamlined the business side of the club so the incoming sec should slip right into the job. The management committee meets once every 2 months, not overly time consuming!

Some positions up for grabs include: special events co-ordinator and publicity officer. Most jobs are not onerous but do have to be done. If you can contribute, please nominate... or as JFK (almost) said... 'ask not what your club can do for you; rather, ask what YOU can do for your club'.

## Important dates

- 14/15 Dec Christmas parties, 93 play ends
- 18/19 Jan club resumes
- 21 Jan close committee nominations and AGM agenda items
- 2 Feb AGM followed by play session

## Final word

PARTNERS – bless them. Most partnerships in the club seem to be fairly constant. In looking back over 93, I realised how many different partners I had besides Bob, with varying degrees of success. So a big thank you to Bob, Pam, Alan, Ailsa, Ann, Betty, Carol, Deborah, Hazel, Neil and Paul. Also to Joan for the teams (maybe next year) championship. And finally, a very happy festive season to all Aranans. Hope to see you all safe and well in 1994.



*Merry Christmas & Happy New Year*