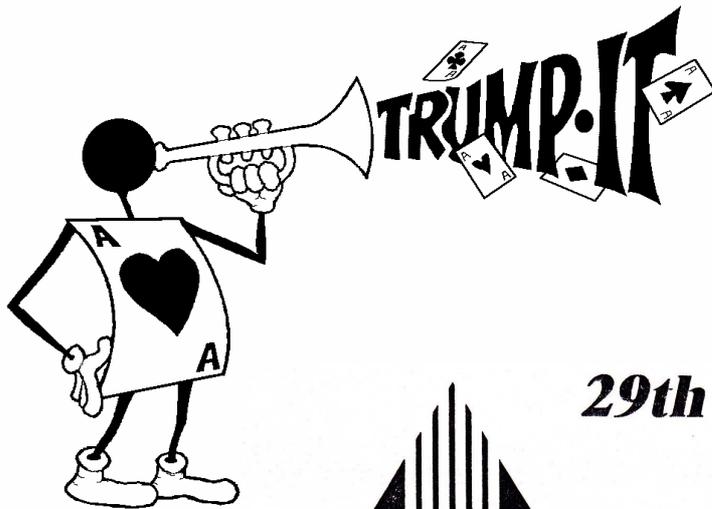


ARANA CONTRACT BRIDGE CLUB

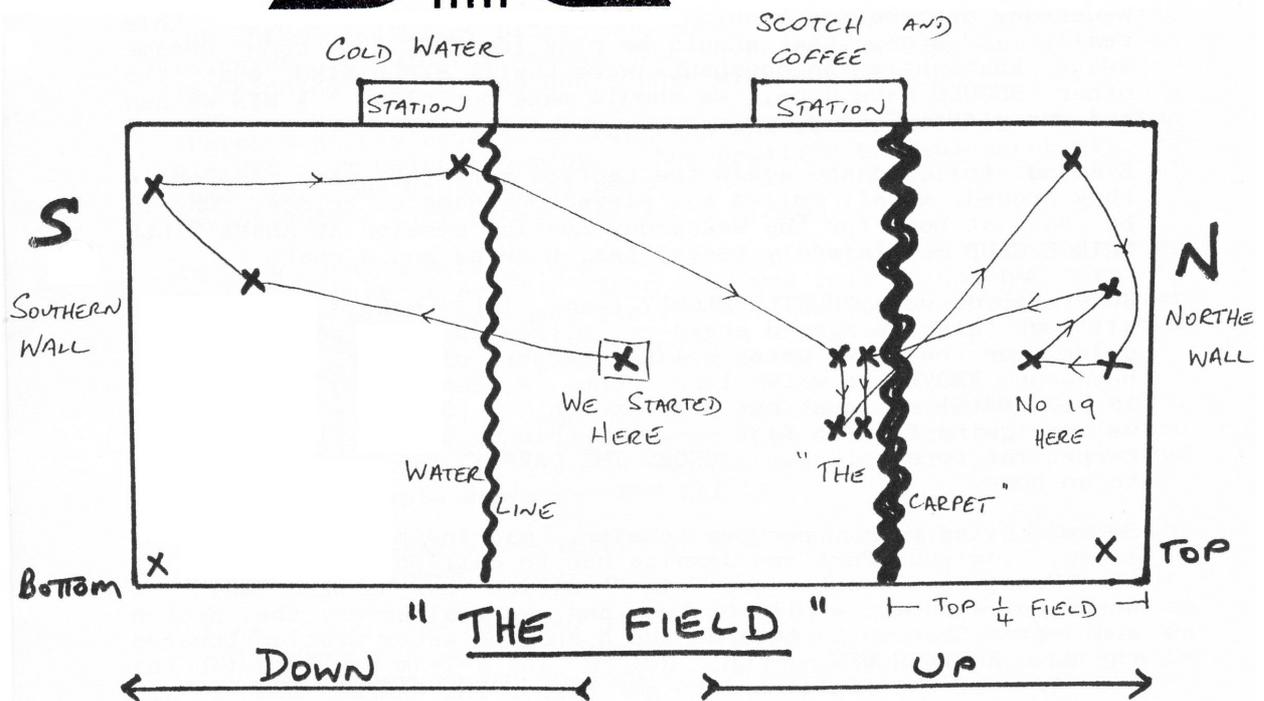


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29th ANA Gold Coast Congress

by Pam Horton.

Jenny and I would like to share with you -----
BRIDGE IN THE BIG WORLD!!
FUN.....they say.



Tuesday 20th February **LOOMED**--- large room filled with expectant bridge players from far and wide --- Melbourne, Sydney, Coff's Harbour, Lismore, Townsville, Bundaberg, Brisbane-----Samford. We, the Valentine Team were seeded No. 35 in a field of 100 teams --- Jessica and Judy are well-known in the bridge world.

It took us one round of 14 boards to realise that this was not really **FUN** at the bridge table as we know it, but deadly serious business --- towards the S we headed. Another round of 14 boards

and we leap to hit the Southern wall --- Jenny weak --- Pam frail --- Jessica and Judy ready to go back to Bundaberg and Brisbane --- we, well and truly happy to oblige. This session was only short, just a taste of what was in store for us.

Speaking of **TASTE** ---

"Fanny Blinz Restaurant" became the eating house for the V-Team and the Restaurant Chef, Fanny, provided delicious morsels of Brains in Garlic (some of us needed them more than others), Moreton Bay Bugs, Spatchcock, Chicken, Lamb (all served in Fanny's special sauces), Strawberries, Sorbets, Vino and Irish Coffee (to name only a few) --- sumptuous food, first class attention from Ian, Fanny's husband, fabulous company --- **BAD** for the diets --- **GREAT** for the egos --- who wants to play bridge anyway?

Wednesday arrived too soon, but we decided "What the heck, this really is a game that should be played for **FUN?**" We soon became aware that while the opponents were busily **EXPLAINING** what the other **SHOULD** have done, we should make our play. A **WIN** we had and swung from **S** to **N**.

Evening followed and again the tactics were the same --- while they argued, we all smiled and played our game of bridge. **OH!** To be back at home for the Wednesday evening session at **ARANA HILLS BRIDGE CLUB** --- friendly faces, tea, bikkies and a chat!

Judy's words were "**HUSTLE SLOWLY** team, let's make a move" and to all our glee we surged ahead --- with a 25 (the possible top) under our belts we were feeling --- sort of great. With our heads now **ABOVE** the water line, Jenny is complaining that wins of 16, 17 and 21 are just not good enough --- "**SLOWLY - SLOWLY** team, we are going too fast --- keep this up and we'll cross the carpet far too soon!" "**CROSS THE CARPET**" --- we just wanted to go home.

Smoke filled room, nervous tension, migraine headache, lack of sleep, too much port and Jessica has to call on the services of the Managing Director and Team Physician (her husband Ian) --- words of wisdom, a pill or two and we realise why the Scotch and Coffee Station is towards the **N** and the Water Station towards the **S**. **ANOTHER WIN** --- **OH! NO!** --- The V-Team now 19th (in the top 1/4 of the field) and to our horror **THE CARPET** had to be crossed. Jessica and Judy were firing from the **TOP**.

Captain V runs round and round to find out **WHO** we have to play. Protection is needed now for her weak-kneed students.

ANOTHER WIN --- we've hit the Northern wall. Back we go to Fanny's before the Evening Session begins --- we need a boost --- "**THE LAST SUPPER SO TO SPEAK**".

"Remember now --- go slowly. We don't want to have to play the dreaded Borin Team" (one of the strongest teams who come to win). Perhaps a little loss won't hurt --- Jenny was unimpressed with the 8 we tallied --- **BUT** it moved us from the **N** a little.

Now, "Jenny and Pam, you take the **GIRLS**, Jessica and I will take the **LADS!!!**"

THE GIRLS --- the lesser of the two evils --- one a bridge teacher with her own private bridge club, the other her friend and standing partner of 12 years --- we had a ----- pleasant match.

THE LADS --- one named **MAGNUS** (named to scare the bravest of us all) had played for Australia in the Youth Team, the other, not really known quite so well, but as sharp as nails. Magnus feeling cold, donned Judy's jacket, flowers and all --- really she should have let him freeze.

THE LADS used every bid in the book, and some that are not even in print, to win the match. They even made a Psych bid (which is bidding a suit you don't have with not many points).

To use Judy's words - she didn't know whether she was "Arthur, Martha or Pitt Street." When Judy was told it was her turn to bid (after Magnus had made his Psych), her words sounded familiar to ours from the days before, "I don't want to bid, I don't want to play bridge, I just want to go home."

On the tally of this round we all burst into laughter **77-1** loss. This massive score was not even seen on the "Richter Scale" and instead of the usual 1 which was the bottom score, we received the inconceivable score --- **A BIG FAT 0.**

OH! GOOD! GREAT! --- back over the dreaded carpet towards the sanctuary of the **S.**

"Alas Team, we made our run too fast!!" The final sessions on Friday were very relaxed in comparison to the ones before and we were back where we had started --- the field had been seeded pretty well.

Now that we **ARE** home, we can look back on all of this and think of all that **FUN** we had.

Thank you Jessica and Judy for the **HONOUR** of playing in your team, the **PLEASURE** of your company and your **SUPPORT** to us during these four days of **FFFF-----UUUU-----NNNN !!!!!**

MORE ON THE GOLD COAST CONGRESS by Judy Valentine.

The main thing that Jessica and I want during our week at the Gold Coast is a happy pleasant time. If the bridge is good, and our team mates play well, then that is a bonus. Pam and Jenny played excellent team bridge, hence the reason we crossed Pam's "Dreaded Carpet" into the top league. Just about everyone in this top section knew Jenny and Pam were fairly new to the game and extended to them every courtesy. The performance of our team seemed to generate interest that I have never before witnessed in my nearly 30 years as a bridge player. It is impossible to do so well if only one partnership is playing good bridge. It needs both partnerships. This is what happened. Jenny and Pam played very steady bridge, making their games when biddable and accepting part-scores without pushing too hard. The result - we did very well. How well our team did will take Pam and Jenny many years to appreciate. In their matches they made games that the other side couldn't and even bid a slam against a top team that was not bid at our table. I hope they accept our invitation to join us again in a team at the 30th ANA Gold Coast Congress.

Here are a couple of the boards that may be of interest. Firstly, Magnus's psych.

Dealer N	A Q x		
N/S Vul.	J		
	A K Q x x		
	K J 8 7		
J x x x x		v o i d	
K 10 x x		x x x	
J x x x		x x x	
v o i d		A 10 9 x x x x	
	K 10 9 x x		
	A Q x x x		
	x		
	Q x		

Judy	Magnus	Jessica	Tony
1C (1)	1S (2)	2H (3)	2S (4)
3NT (5)	NB	NB	4S (6)
X (7)	5C (8)	5S (9)	NB
NB (10)	NB (11)		

- (1) Precision Club showing 16+ points and any shape.
- (2) The psych.
- (3) Game force - 8+ points and 5 hearts.
- (4) Natural raise not knowing his partner had psyched.
- (5) Natural and to play. Shows good spade stoppers 20+ and denies any heart interest.
- (6) Going for the better result, non-vul against vul. Knowing we can make 3NT and hoping the result will be better if X.
- (7) Confirming the spade stoppers and saying I wish them to play the 4SX.

- (8) Magnus bids his escape suit. He knows he is in trouble.
- (9) At this point Jessica knows he has psyched because of my persistence with showing 2 spade stoppers. She thought he may have an 8-carded club suits headed by AK. If this is so, then she must bid 5S because 3 down X is +500 and we should be able to make 650.
- The other thing is that Jessica knows I won't be aware of her strong spade holding.
- (10) This is where I wanted to go home. I don't know if we are being done out of slam and I am really not sure what's going on.
- (11) Much laughter from Magnus who has escaped from what would have been his down-fall if Jessica had passed.

The result for us was 1 down -100. At the other table, the opponents played in 4S making for -620 for us. Result -12 IMPS for our team. Magnus will keep - I'll get him eventually.

This is the slam that Pam and Jenny bid that was not bid at our table.

Dealer E	5	
Nil Vul.	K 10 9	
	A K Q 9 6 4 3	
	7 5	
9		A Q J 7 6
7 3 2		A Q J 5
J 10 8 5		v o i d
K 10 9 4 3		A Q 8 2
	K 10 8 4 3 2	
	8 6 4	
	J 6	
	7 2	

Pam elected to bid 6C after Jenny had showed 1 control, that being the king of clubs. Even though it needs one of the finesses to be right to make the slam and generally speaking it is not good to bid slams in teams when it is dependent on finesses, I am a great believer in the statement "You can't argue with success." Pam and Jenny have had little or no experience in team bridge and playing pairs you would bid the slam every day of the week. The other tabled played in 1SX making when Jessica elected to convert my take-out X to penalties. A good IMP pick-up for our team.

The only time when risky slams are bid is when you know at the table that the match is pretty even except for a couple of boards where bad decisions were made which will cost you the match. Here is the example of the risk that must be taken in order to win.

We were playing a top team when the final board appeared. Here is my hand.

J X Jessica had shown me 16+ points, 6 spades, 3 aces
 A K Q x x and 1 king. I know that the opponents sitting
 x x with Pam and Jenny will bid 6S and not push on to
 K Q x x 7S. I know Jessica and I are not winning the
 match at our table. With this hand I elected to
 catch up and so bid 7S. The contract was defeated by 1 trick and
 when we returned to the table to score up, we found that the
 opponents rested in 4S and not 6S. Had I bid 6S instead of 7S,
 the match would have been a draw. We needed the big pickup to
 win. We lost the match by 11 IMPS. If the grand slam had rolled
 in, we would have won by 14 IMPS. There was a good chance for
 this contract to make. The opponent sitting East had asked too
 many questions about the bidding not to have a potential spade
 trick in his hand. I sensed it. Jessica did not. Here is the
 full hand.

	J x	
	A K Q x x	
	x x	
	K Q x x	
x		K 9 8 x
x x x x		J x x
Q x x x x		J x x
J x x		x x x
	A Q 10 7 x x	
	10	
	A K 10	
	A x x	

On the diamond lead, Jessica won with the ace. Heart 10 to dummy's ace and the diamond 10 is pitched on the heart king. Spade jack covered by the king, won by Jessica's ace. Low club to dummy's king and the low spade is pulled. East played low, Jessica played the 10 and not the 7, so East made his spade 9.

We saw Muriel Anderssen many times during the week, having great fun with her lovely sisters. Maybe, Muriel, you have an interesting tale you may like to share with your fellow members on your first time at the wonderful Gold Coast Congress.

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REMINDER

Beginner's classes commence 13th and 14th March.

Bidding Seminar Sunday, 25th March.