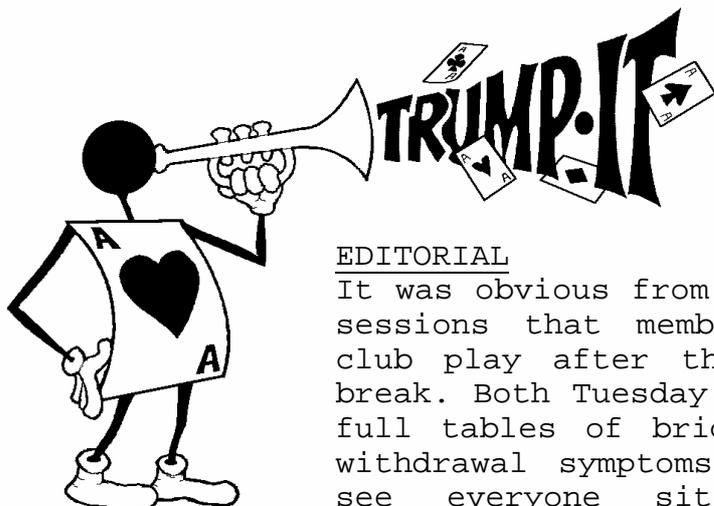


# ARANA CONTRACT BRIDGE CLUB INC



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## EDITORIAL

It was obvious from the numbers attending both sessions that members were ready to resume club play after the long Christmas/New Year break. Both Tuesday and Wednesday attracted 11 full tables of bridge players suffering from withdrawal symptoms. It was a rare sight to see everyone sitting down, well before starting time, shuffling boards, just waiting for the Director to say "go".

The Management Committee has already met twice this year, a total of 9 hours, trying to find ways to improve the club. It is to meet again this month to finalise what was a very lengthy agenda. Many of the items, under discussion, come from the "feedback" article which was published in the December Trump-It. Although I did not receive phone calls from all members, a good percentage did contact me, and all ideas presented by them have been or will be discussed at Committee. The following ideas have been approved and will be put into operation forthwith.

### 1. TRUMP-IT

Enjoyed and read, by all. Will now contain "highlights" of all Management Committee meetings. This is to keep the members informed. Will include reviews on all books in the library. This has been made possible due to Tuesday club members offering to read a book and review it. Thank you to those members. Will include, on a trial basis, hands from club play that posed a bidding or play problem. JENNY LEWIS has offered to be the HAND RECORDER. Give Jenny all the details - which session, board number, what the problem was, etc. and I will try and solve your problem either personally or through the Trump-It. As the Trump-It provides learning material, it is important that all members receive a copy. NORA TOWLER has offered to distribute it for me, to ensure that all members receive their copy. Back issue have been kept and are available through Nora if anyone is missing a particular issue.

### 2. LIAISON OFFICER

Up to now, there has been no official person to greet visitors when they arrive at our club - to introduce them to members - to tell them where to sit, where facilities are etc. - now there is - HAZEL BITOMSKY has volunteered for this role. Hazel will also be the Liaison Officer for those in beginners classes or visitors who wish to become members. She will be responsible for distributing to each new member the

club Constitution, the club booklet, last issue of the Trump-It etc. - making sure that they receive a name tag - advising them as to what is available to them as club members (library books, Trump-It etc.). The ever increasing interest in beginner's classes (expected 70-80 this year) makes this role a very important innovation.

3. MEMBER'S REPRESENTATIVE

MURIEL ANDERSSON has agreed to wear this title. She is, what the name suggests, a representative of you, the member. Muriel is the person to talk to if you have an idea or suggestion that may improve the club. Muriel is the person to talk to if you have a complaint - most times a genuine complaint can be easily solved. You can speak to her in a confidential way or raise a matter, through her, at the Committee level. Every club member has the right to attend committee meetings and speak on any issue they wish or they can attend as an observer. The "feedback" phone in proved that members do have good ideas but many are reluctant to put them forward in fear that they may be construed as a complaint. Muriel is a very approachable person, as most of you are aware, with a genuine concern that the club member's voice should be heard.

4. PUBLICITY OFFICER

RICHARD McLAUHLAN has taken over this role from Ann Pearce who, due to work commitments, has been forced to retire. We thank Ann for her efforts in producing material that was published through the Hills District 'Advisor'.

5. STOCK CONTROLLER

JOAN SADLEIR has offered to look after our stock needs - to ensure that we do not run out of essential material as we did last year - no Duplicate Scorers. To make her life easier, please put all table items in their correct place in the cupboard after club sessions.

6. MOST IMPROVED PLAYER TROPHY

Finally, a suitable method of determining a winner has been found. The average percentage for the first half of the year will be compared with the average percentage for the second half of the year. The player with the greatest difference will be the winner. In the event of a tie, i.e. a partnership, two trophies will be awarded. To be eligible, a player must have competed in at least 15 club sessions in the first half of the year and at least 15 club sessions in the last half of the year. The winner or winners will receive a trophy, of their choice, to the value of \$30. The trophy will be awarded to a player/s from the Tuesday club as well as the Wednesday club.

7. SYSTEM CARDS

Under the Laws of Duplicate Bridge all players are required have a fully completed system card visible for the opponent's perusal. The Director has the power to enforce this law. With new players joining our club from other lesson groups, there will be variances within the Standard American system. Please

ensure that you have the system card completed before play commences.

8. NAME TAGS

The reason we ask you all to wear a name tag is so everyone knows who they are addressing or sitting with during club sessions. We ask you please to comply with this request as there are always new faces appearing.

9. CLUB'S 5TH BIRTHDAY - 13TH MARCH, 1991

On the 13th March, our club has been in operation for 5 years. It is planned to hold a special night. A short game until approximately 10 p.m. followed by a light supper with a birthday cake. Beer, wine and champagne will be available during the night free of charge. A special prize for the winners will be presented on the night. The Tuesday club is not 5 years old until next year, however, as members, we would like as many Tuesday players as possible, to attend this special night.

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PROBLEM CORNER

Board 8 - Wednesday 20th February, 1991

Dealer: East

Q J 4 3 2

J

A Q 6 4 3

8 6

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|     |

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10 7

K Q 9 8 2

v o i d

A K Q 10 7 2

QUESTION

Sitting South, you pick up the three loser hand. As visions of slam flash through your mind, you prepare to open 2C only to hear East open 1C. After recovering from the shock, you cue bid 2C.

Suggest an appropriate bidding sequence and final contract.

SOLUTION

When a player opens the bidding with a 2 demand bid, there is a good possibility that slam may eventuate, hence the reason partner shows controls and not shape. When an opponent opens the bidding, there is generally little or no possibility of a slam making - hence the reason the partner of the cue bidder shows suit rather than controls.

After the cue of 2C by South, North will show the spade suit first (suits of equal length, at least 5-5, bid the higher ranking suit first). South should show the club suit before the heart suit (clubs being the longer suit).

Here is a suggested sequence.

East	South	West	North
1C	2C	NB	2S
NB	3C	NB	3D
NB	3H	NB	3NT
NB	NB/4S	NB	

When North bids 3NT, South has a choice, he can pass 3NT to play, rebid 4H (to show 5) or convert to 4s (secondary support).

My choice is between passing 3NT and converting to 4S. I would not rebid my 5-carded heart suit when a known secondary fit in a major exists (partner has bid spades before diamonds, therefore the spade suit is 5-carded). The club suit will provide 6 tricks in NT - the level is 1 lower than the major suit game. These are the points in favour of leaving 3NT. The points against leaving partner in 3NT are: if partner's values are good in the spade suit, then 4S will yield more tricks than 3NT because of the void in diamonds. The other point to be made here is that generally, distributional hands will play better in a suit than they will in NT and it is because of this reason I would select 4S as my final contract and not 3NT. Here is the full deal -

		Q J 4 3 2	
		J	
		A Q 6 4 3	
		8 6	
8 6 5			A K 9
10 7 3			A 6 5 4
K J 10 9 7 5			8 2
3			J 9 5 4
	10 7		
	K Q 9 8 2		
	v o i d		
	A K Q 10 7 2		

Against a 4s contract East's best approach to the hand is the spade Ace lead (to look at dummy) followed by the spade King (to remove the ruffing power). East should then exit with a low club keeping declarer in the dummy hand. Declarer's best chance is to play a low heart towards the Jack in hand which will be won by East. If East continues with a club, the contract will be defeated because West receives the ruff. If East returns a heart, declarer should ruff in hand, draw the remaining trumps and cross to dummy via the club. Dummy hand provides enough tricks in hearts to dispose of the losing diamonds.

I am never influenced by board results. I will make the choice next time when bidding a similar hand for the same as I stated above. I have proved to myself, time and time again over the years, distributional hands generally play better in a suit contract than they do in NT.

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## 1991 GOLD COAST CONGRESS

The nice thing about the Gold Coast Congress is that nothing seems to change very much from year to year. The field entry continues to grow but generally the same old faces stroll through the door each year - a little more wrinkled perhaps, but none the less familiar.

The assortment of "stars" from the bridge encyclopaedia of "Who's who" were again present to do battle to covet the major prize money available in the pairs and team events. Tim Seres and Mary McMahon - legends in their own rights; Ron Klinger - a familiar name to all players - author of many bridge books; Stephen Burgess - a legend in his own mind - notorious for partner abuse; Jim and Norma Borin - international players of yesteryear but still feared by many players for their awesome table presence. The list goes on, especially through the junior players and there are many who have already achieved so much.

In the main, the Congress is attended by the likes of Jessica, Pam, Jenny and me - "nice people" who come each year to enjoy the week of good company, good bridge and a great social atmosphere.

In the pairs, Jessica and I finished 6th overall in our section after two qualifying sessions to end up in the 2nd top Consolation. The depth of talent attending this Congress is incredible so anywhere down to the 4th/5th Consolation is considered a "tough field". The final was conducted over three sessions and, to me, this is a marathon. The only good position to be in, after the first round of the three long sessions, is somewhere between 8th and 3rd. Lower than 8th is too far behind to catch up - higher than 3rd too far in front to sustain the pressure. Jessica and I have won many events, over the years, from the mid position, however, it was not to be a repeat performance this year. After 3 x 3 board matches of the 27 we hit the front and there we stayed until the 4th last round when a Sydney pair, who had been breathing down our necks most of the way, passed us after what should have been a flat match across the field. At our table it was anything but flat (hand from this match shown below). With only 1 round to go, the Sydney pair were only 4 match points in front so the last round was very important. Jessica and I had a small win - they had a good win to take out 1st place with Jessica and I 2nd.

My soul mate, McNeil always reports on the Good, the Bad and the Ugly from each Congress. I have also included, the Lucky and the Unlucky.

The Unlucky - This is the hand that, I believe, cost us 1st place in the Pairs events - it broke our momentum which took a couple of rounds to retrieve. The result of one board cost us 26 match points. We were beaten by 16. What would be your final contract on these hands with West as the dealer? -

A K 7 5	8 2
K 9 6	A J 8 2
8 7 4 2	K Q 9
A 8	J 10 7 4

It doesn't matter what event you play in there is always a pair who have a screaming qualifying round and end up in the wrong section - too high for their own ability - they don't enjoy the event because they are totally confused - not knowing all the systems being played. One such pair ended up in the Championship and finished last in the field and another in ours finishing last, and we met them at the wrong time - a time when the hands were their way, when we had no values to bid on - an UNLUCKY time.

When this pair arrived at our table they remarked they were coming last and asked where were we positioned. Not good to tell them you are leading. One could say that one should have a psychological advantage and this would be true if one has control over the game, but when they are doing all the bidding, the game is under their control. Terrified of her own inadequacy in NT play, West decided to bail out at 2NT because she felt "we must be good if we were leading the field." 2NT goes down 1 on the lie of the cards but only 1 pair is in 2NT and they are sitting at our table - the rest of the room is in 3NT going off 2. A straight bottom for Jessica and I. Never mind - it's only a game.

THE LUCKY

The lucky hand came in the teams event when we were playing the Neil team from South Australia. All the team members have represented Australia on many occasions and this 14 board match was our toughest. Pam and Jenny played the men who were playing a very artificial system with alerts made on every bid. They survived really well. Jessica and I were playing Sue Lusk and Cathy Chua. I was declarer when Cathy (sitting East) decided to have a "nod off" in a most difficult hand. Plan your declarer play in 4H by South on the spade Queen lead.

	A 7 4 3	
	10 5 4 2	
	K 7 4	
	8 2	
Q J 10 9		8 5 2
A 7		8 6 3
9 5 2		10 8 6 3
A Q J 7		K 10 4
	K 6	
	K Q J 9	
	A Q J	
	9 6 5 3	

Count the hand for losers - 0 spades, 1 heart, 0 diamonds, 4 clubs. At first sight, it looks as though you need 2 club ruffs

in order to make the contract, however, the spade lead and its continuation makes this line of play impossible. You have to ruff the spade continuations in the declarer hand, therefore making the dummy hand responsible for trump drawing. The hand is difficult to assess at trick 1. It is the type of hand where you start and leave your playing options open until you see what the defence will do.

Trick 1 - Spade Q, spade 3, spade 2, spade K.  
Trick 2 - Heart K, heart A, heart 2, heart 3.  
Trick 3 - Spade J, spade A, spade 5, spade 6.  
Trick 4 - Heart 4, heart 6, heart Q, heart 7.  
Trick 5 - Diamond A, diamond 2, diamond 4, diamond 3.  
Trick 6 - Diamond Q, diamond 5, diamond 7, diamond 6.  
Trick 7 - Diamond J, diamond 9, diamond K, diamond 8.  
Trick 8 - Club 2, club 4, club 9, club J.  
Trick 9 - Spade 10, spade 4, spade 8, heart 9.  
Trick 10- Club 5, club Q, club 8, club 10!! zzzzzzzzzz  
Trick 11- Spade 9, spade 7, diamond 10!! zzzzzzzzzzzz, heart J.  
Trick 12- Club 6, club 7, heart 5, club K.  
Trick 13- Heart 10, heart 8, club 5, club A.

The points to illustrate firstly in Declarer play. It is obvious at trick 1 (provided you count) that the extra trick can only come from ruffing. It is hard to know in what hand this ruff will take place because the defence will have control over whether spades are continued or the club switch is found. Remember there is still a trump out that must be drawn. When the defence continued spades, I was forced to plan my play as a dummy reversal by drawing the trump from the dummy hand and this meant that the only means of entering was via a club ruff. You will notice that I took two rounds of trumps before approaching the ruffing. This was to remove the trump lead communication from one of the defender's hands. If only one round is drawn, then it will not take the defence long to find the switch to the trump lead. You will also notice that I took my diamond tricks before trying for the extra ruff. I do not want the opponent who holds the trump to get a discard of a diamond on the spade continuation thus being able to ruff my third winning diamond trick.

On good defence, the contract should never make. Cathy has two opportunities to beat the contract. Her first error was in not overtaking the club, at either the first or second lead of the suit and sending back the trump before I could blink my eyes. Her second mistake was throwing the diamond instead of the club when it would be clear to even a beginner that the trump promotion was evident - dummy having to ruff before East. Her defence was appalling for a player of her calibre and I dare say she knew it - and heard about it from her team mates.

#### THE GOOD

Jessica is a fine bridge player as well as being a wonderful bridge partner and friend. This year she achieved the ranking of a 5 star Life Master - a sort of 5 star General so to speak. She

justified her ranking when playing against one of Melbourne's top players, Ian McCance who complimented her on her excellent declarer play. This hand appeared in Final 2 of the Pairs. E/W were vulnerable - I was in the West seat - Jessica East - Ian McCance South.

	10 9 6 3	THE BIDDING
	J 10 8	South West North East
	A K J	3D X 5D 5H
	Q 10 4	NB NB NB
A Q J 5 2	8 4	
K Q 6	A 9 7 4 3 2	LEAD - diamond 2
v o i d	9 6 5	
A J 9 7 3	6 5	
	K 7	
	5	
	Q 10 8 7 4 3 2	
	K 8 2	

McCance's lead of a low diamond was tale-telling and Jessica played the hand on the assumption that his suit was very poor and his bid made on outside values. She decided, and rightly so, he would not make the pre-empt if holding 3 cards in the spade suit, therefore she placed him with king and small of spades. For the hand to have a chance of making he must also hold a singleton heart. Communications between dummy's hand and declarer's hand are non-existent. She has to take diamond ruffs in dummy, set up the spade suit and draw trumps - not easy.

She ruffed the opening lead with a small trump in dummy. Played spade Ace and a low spade to South's King. South returned another small diamond. Jessica ruffed with the heart Queen and followed with the heart King, spade Queen throwing a diamond, small spade which she ruffed in her hand. After giving North his trump trick the defence was helpless - dummy's long spade provided the discard of the small club in her hand. Making 11 tricks - a well-earned top board for an excellent analysis.

Pre-empting on outside values and a poor suit is not good bridge and Ian McCance got the bottom he deserved.

THE BAD

The bad actually came in the form of a match. Out of 14 boards played there were 5 doubled contracts making their way. Jessica and I pride ourselves on knowing when to double but both of us left this match feeling very frustrated indeed. I have never seen so many cards sitting right for the opponents as I did in this match. The irony of it all was that the same lady was playing the hands each time, but for 1 hand, and her partner was hysterical when the contract made "Oh! Well done, partner". She should be told it is polite to leave the opponents to suffer in silence - and suffer we did. At one stage I even questioned whether they were actually playing the system that was written on their convention card. You hold the following hand and the bidding goes as shown.

What do you think Opponent 2 holds for her 2NT bid and what action do you take at ?. When questioned they tell you no "gadgets" and their system is straight Standard American. You are non-vul against their vul.

	Opponent 1	You	Opponent 2	Partner
A Q J 9 6				
v o i d	1H	X	2NT	NB
A Q J 10 2	3NT	X	4H	NB
K H 8	NB	?		

The 2NT bid after the take-out X, playing "straight" Standard American, Acol, or any other natural system, shows values of 10 or 11 points, at least 1 stopper in the suspected opponent's suit (spades) and categorically denies any interest in playing in hearts. The bid is also droppable. After Opponent 1 raises the NT bid to 3NT, I apply another X because I "know" Jessica has no points but holds long hearts and will pass my X (really still for take-out) and play for penalties because of their being vul and us non-vul. When Opponent 2 tries to "escape" to 4H, the situation is still the same. Jessica still holds long hearts, I still hold the points and there is no way this contract can make so I double again!! Wrong, wrong, wrong!!!!

Opponent 2 informs us, as she tables her hand, that she made a mistake and thought it was more important to show her partner that she held 11 points rather than showing her heart support. Jessica's eyebrows shot up to her hairline - I reached for my cigarettes. This was her hand -

K 3 2  
 A 10 8 7 3  
 9  
 A 10 9 5

#### THE UGLY

This monster raised its ugly head during the teams match against my friend Lindy Ward. Her husband Richard was one of the invited guests at the book launch night, Lindy not being able to attend.

	A 5 4 3	
	A 10 9 8 5	
	6	
	K Q 10	
6 2		J 9 8 7
K Q 7		J 6 3 2
10 9 7 5		K J
7 6 5 4		3 2
	K Q 10	
	v o i d	
	A Q 8 4 3 2	
	A J 9 8	

Pam and Jenny were sitting North/South in this match so had the bidding problem before them. Pam and Jenny reached a 6S contract while Lindy and Phil reached 6C - both contract ending in the secondary 4-3 fit. 6S cannot make, but 6C rolls in. There is no sound bidding sequence I can give you that will land you in 6C. Pam and Jenny chose what they thought would be the best slam and Lindy fell into 6C - lucky for her. Next time the pips could be reversed and 6S makes and 6C fails. Here is how Lindy made her contract with an overtrick. On the heart King lead, Lindy rose with the Ace led a small diamond and finessed the Q - low diamond and ruffed in dummy - low spade to the King - low diamond and ruffed in dummy - trump from dummy and over-riding - drawing all trumps and claiming 13 tricks.

I wouldn't miss this week at the Gold Coast for quids. It is a complete abnormal week for me. My sleeping mechanism gets out of kilter because I go to bed in the early hours of the morning and rise around 10 a.m., I eat too much good food, drink too much good wine, port and the like, my team mates are completely mad, laughing most of the time - and I love every insane moment of it. Why don't a few of you form a team and join us next year!!

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#### DATES TO REMEMBER

Tuesday, 5th March	-	Beginner's classes commence
Wednesday, 6th March	-	Beginner's classes commence
Sunday, 31st March	-	End of club year (Subs due but payable after AGM)
Sunday, 21st April	-	Bidding Seminar
Wednesday, 24th April	-	Annual General Meeting (Subs payable from this date)

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