



ARANA

Contract Bridge Club Inc

February 1997

Vol 11 No 1

Editor's desk

ANOTHER year, another AGM and a major turnover of committee. New president is Trevor Cullen, vice-president is Helen McLaughlan, secretary is Peter Nottingham and treasurer is Kevin Simpson. Sole non-executive committee person is Deborah Dwyer.

Annual subscriptions were ratified at the AGM. The outgoing committee's recommendation of no changes was accepted and the annual fee remains at \$15; the QBA fee remains at \$8; the ABF fee rises to \$7. So if Arana is your home club, your membership fee is \$15+\$8+\$7=\$30.

It helps the treasurer with QBA and ABF returns if fees are paid as soon as possible. All fees are payable within 1 month of the AGM. Late fees to the ABF (received after the end of March) incur a \$5 late payment fee, payable by the late-comers.

Judy's classes start on Tue 5 and Wed 6 March 1997. If you know of anyone interested in learning the game, steer them to Pam Horton for an enrolment form. The classes are important in maintaining club growth.

Our 2 remaining 1996-97 red point sessions are planned for Tue 11 and Wed 12 March.

Richard McLaughlan

Management committee

ITEMS of interest from the management committee meeting of 2 December include:

Peter Nottingham's offer to take over as secretary was accepted.

The Qld Government's funding guidelines for sport and recreation facilities are being requested. Earliest funding grant available would be for building in the April 98-99 period.

A Director's meeting will be held early in 1997. Any members who are interested in directing are welcome to attend.

As at the end of November, we had \$4,585 cash in hand and \$117,000 invested at 6.5%.

Some players are reluctant to change tables when requested by the director. Please fill tables systematically from table 1 and accept that you may be asked to move.

The committee recommended no increase in fees for 97, ie \$10 joining, \$15 annual fee (\$7.50 after 30 June), \$3 table fees and \$4 for visitors.

The possibility of using Mitchelton or Ferny Grove school halls for our congress, allowing more tables to be accommodated, was discussed.

Classes start in the first week in March with 12 lessons for \$50. Members are asked to help publicise the classes as low numbers are not economical and are discouraging for Judy.'

Christmas cheer

THE Christmas parties seemed popular and good value for money with plenty of left-overs taken home. A random draw for partners produced some intense competition between various spouses and bridge partners.

Winners of the Tuesday game were Muriel Miller – Rita Wood and Sommie Mackay – Bonnie Wallace. Wednesday winners were Pam Horton – Darlene Smith and Bob Pearce – Mort Coleman.

An extra week's play after the official break up was reasonably well supported with 6, 9½ and 5½ tables.

Monday play time

THE Monday philosophy is to play as many boards as possible in the session, generally 30+. For scoring fairness, most movements should not be cut short, so even with play moving fairly quickly, the session is unlikely to end before 1:00 pm and may run to 1:15 pm.

You and your system card

CARRYING a properly filled out system card is one of the ethical niceties of bridge. I played several clubs over the holidays and it is quite surprising how many clubs do not enforce this requirement in general club play. The attitude seems to be that club members are accustomed to their opponent's system and find the card superfluous. Yet when we arrive as strangers, our card is often perused, but rarely do our opponents offer their card.

I have also noticed many cards that are not correctly filled out. The worst area seems to be the 'Competitive Bidding' section. So lets take a quick look at the ABF simple system card.

The first section is for names, ABF nos, the basic system and its colour. Personally, I find it friendlier when opponents state their full names, eg Joe Bloggs & Mary Smith rather than J Bloggs & M Smith. ABF nos are relatively unimportant and many people write their club computer number here. The basic system should be a recognised,

| | | | | |
|---|--|--|--------------------------------|--|
| ABF | AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION INCORPORATED | | | |
| SIMPLE SYSTEM CARD | | | | |
| NAMES: | Joe Bloggs | Mary Smith | | |
| ABF MP Nos: | | | | |
| BASIC SYSTEM: | Standard American | | | |
| GREEN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | BLUE <input type="checkbox"/> | RED <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| OPENING BIDS | | | | |
| Describe: (e.g. minimum length, strength, suit shown) | | | | |
| 1♣ 2 12 | 1♦ 4 12 | 1♥ 5 12 | 1♠ 5 12 | |
| 1NT | 16 – 18 | 2♣ Stayman <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Other <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| [No 5 card majors] | | Transfers <input type="checkbox"/> | Other <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| 2♣ | 5C game force | 3 losers | | |
| 2♦ | 5D game force | 3 losers | | |
| 2♥ | 5H game force | 3 losers | | |
| 2♠ | 5S game force | 3 losers | | |
| 2NT | 22 – 24 [No 5 card major] | | | |
| 3NT | 25 + | | | |
| COMPETITIVE BIDDING | | | | |
| Negative doubles to 2S | | Responsive doubles to 2S | | |
| Jump overcall 6 card 6–10 | | 2NT overcall 6–11 minors | | |
| 1NT overcall (immediate) 16–18 | | (re-opening) 9–15 | | |
| Over opponents 1NT DONT, X = T/O (weak) | | Pen (strong) | | |
| Weak twos | | Natural suits, X = T/O | | |
| Opening threes | | Natural suits, X = Optional | | |
| LEADS AND SIGNALS | | | | |

published system, eg Standard American Precision, Acol, Goren etc. The 'with variations' often added is doubtful and is discouraged. Most systems will be green or blue - see V 10 No 5 for colour classes.

The next section is on 'Opening Bids'. The card clearly states 'describe minimum length, strength, suit shown'. Your 1C bid might show a minimum 2 cards with 12 hcp or 0 with 16 hcp (Precision, any suit) or 3 cards with 11 hcp (better minor). Playing SA (á la Judy V), your opening bids would be: ♣ 2, 12 ♦ 4, 12 ♥ 5, 12 ♠ 5, 12 and you do not play canape (open a 4 card major before a 4 or 5 card minor). You can state an upper limit, eg 12-21, but the card only asks for the minimum so I don't see the point in a maximum. Your 1NT is 16-18, may not contain a 5 card major, and you play Stayman. All your opening 2 bids are (at least) 5 carded in the suit opened, 3 loser, game force. 2NT is 22-24, 3NT is 25-27 (no 5 card majors).

'Competitive Bidding'. This is where you state what you do over your opponents bids. Up to what level do you make Negative and Responsive doubles? I play both to 2S. That means that doubling the opponents 1 and 2 level bids are essentially for take out. Many play negative doubles to the 2, 3 or 4H levels allowing a S bid at the same level, rather than to 2, 3 or 4S which forces partner to bid 1 level higher. If you don't play these doubles, put a dash.

'Jump Overcall'. Is this weak 6 carded 6-10 hcp, or intermediate showing an opening hand?

2NT. Strong NT (16-18 over 2 level bid, 22-24 over 1 level bid) or weak (6-11) for minors (5/5) or unbid suits?

1NT (immediate). Strong NT (16-18), weak NT (10-15) or T/O? Immediate means a bid over your RHO, eg S opens 1H and W bids 1NT.

1NT (re-opening). This is a pass-out bid, eg S opens 1D // and E bids 1NT, or S opens 1D / 1H // and W bids 1NT. I play these as T/O showing 9-15 hcp.

Over opponent's 1NT. This is what you do over your opponent's bid. So if the opposition open 1NT,

what do you mean by 2C, 2D, 2H, 2S (Aspro, DONT, Landy, Pottage, Ripstra, Splash)? What is X? You might X a weak NT (10-15) for T/O but X a strong NT (16-18) for penalty.

Over Weak 2s. What do you bid over their opening weak 2 bid (not what do you have for a weak opening 2)? If they open a weak 2H, what is your 2S? Natural (decent 5 card suit) with 10+ hcp or opening hand? What is 2NT - strong NT or T/O? What is X - T/O or penalty?

Over opening 3s. I often see a totally incorrect '7 cards 6-10 hcp' or 'pre-emptive' in this section. That means that you would only bid over an opening 3 bid with a similar pre-emptive hand, *eg* if they open 3D, then your 3S is 7 Ss with 6-10 hcp. Remember this section is for what you do over their bid, not what you need to make this bid. So is a suit bid natural? What is X - penalty or T/O or optional? Does vulnerability or direct/ indirect position have any meaning? More on this in a later issue.

Richard McLaughlan

Masterpoint movements

LATEST changes in masterpoint rankings as at the end of December for members whose home club is Arana include:

Graduate

Lorraine Steele

Club

Gill Lycette

Allan McIntyre

Val Mann

Local

Judith Henderson

Kathy Patrick

Kevin Simpson

Peter Nottingham

Bev Quine

*Local**

Kay Paull

*Local***

Val Cran

Ken Hooper

Alison Fulwood

Jean Parry

Regional

Hazel Bitomsky

Gary Lynch

Don Cutmore

Kath Rooney

State

Ted McGrath

National

Betty Willson

*National***

Val Acklin

Jenny Lewis (MP sec)

Book review

Points Schmoints

Marty Bergen

MARTY Bergen's latest literary effort is quite an entertaining and instructive read. He uses a light hearted humorous style to get his message across. *Points Schmoints* contains many examples of his bidding philosophy (distribution is more important than points) without being full of the dull text book stuff found in many bridge books.

Most of us are familiar with the *Rule of 11*: if the lead is 4th highest, subtract its face value from 11 to determine how many higher cards are in the other 3 hands. How about the *Rule of 15* or the *Rule of 20*?

Marty's *Rule of 20* states that in 1st or 2nd seat, add your hcp and the number of cards in your longest two suits; if the result is 20 or more, open; if less, pass! At Toowong's recent congress, I had the opening bid, holding:

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

This hand is too good for a weak 2H (at least 5Hs + 5 minor and 6-11 hcp) and not quite strong enough for a strong (4 losers) 2C opening. With 20 opening points (9 hcp + 5 H + 6 D), under Bergen's 20 rule, I should open 1D. Since partner wasn't reading the book, I passed. The bidding went / 1S / 4C where upon I wished I had opened and did not have to make a 4 level guess.

The *Rule of 15* states that fourth hand should open if its hcp + number of spades totals 15 or more. This rule applies to borderline hands, letting you open light provided you have control of spades, *eg* after 3 passes, open 1D on:

A J 7 4 K 7 K 9 4 2 10 6 3

You really need to have read Larry Cohen's *To bid or not to bid – the law of total tricks* to fully appreciate Bergen's methods, as he is a strong adherent to, and many of his tips are based on, 'the law'. Lots of good advice and I'm not about to argue with a 10 times USA champion.

Richard McLaughlan

Important dates

- Sat 15-22/2 QBA Gold Coast congress
- Sun 23/2 Redlands novice teams
- Sun 2/3 Dalby pairs
- Sun 2/3 Sunshine Coast pairs
- **Tue 4/3 classes start**
- **Wed 5/3 classes start**
- Sat 9-10 & 16-17/3 Qld team trials
- **Tue 11/3 red point session**
- **Wed 12/3 red point session**

Special Positions

| Position | 1996 | 1997 |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Assistant treasurer | Pam Horton | Pam Horton |
| Auditor | Peter Nottingham | Peter Nottingham |
| Brisbane zone rep | Richard McLauchlan | Richard McLauchlan |
| Catering | Deslei Den Haan | Deslei Den Haan |
| Chief tournament director | Trevor Cullen | Muriel Miller |
| Congress convenor | Pam Horton | Pam Horton |
| Fund raising | Alison Fulwood | Alison Fulwood |
| Hall committee rep | * vacant * | * vacant * |
| Hand reporter | Jenny Lewis | Jenny Lewis |
| Hand setter | Gay Hull | Gay Hull |
| Historian | Pat & Peter MacDonald | Pat & Peter MacDonald |
| Librarian | Ilene Bishop | Ilene Bishop |
| Masterpoint secretary | Jenny Lewis | Jenny Lewis |
| Membership register | Peter Nottingham | Peter Nottingham |
| Name tags | Richard McLauchlan | Richard McLauchlan |
| New members/ visitors liaison | Hazel Bitomsky | Hazel Bitomsky |
| Partner contact | Betty Willson | Betty Willson |
| Photocopier | John & Betty Willson | John & Betty Willson |
| Players representative | Jenny Lewis | Jenny Lewis |
| Publicity officer | * vacant | * vacant * |
| QBA delegates | Bob Pearce/ Ted McGrath | Bob Pearce/ Ted McGrath |
| Refreshments (Mon) | Julie Cutmore | Julie Cutmore |
| Refreshments (Tue) | Maree Harvey/ Betty Brandt | Vonnie Wallace/ Julie Cutmore |
| Refreshments (Wed) | Don & Julie Cutmore | Don & Julie Cutmore |
| Score board/ records | Rita Wood | Rita Wood |
| Scorer | Helen McLauchlan | Richard McLauchlan |
| Special events coordinator | Julie Cutmore | Joan Fitz-Herbert |
| Stock controller | Joan Sadleir | Joan Sadleir |
| Teacher | Judy Valentine | Judy Valentine |
| Trump·It distributor | Betty Willson/ Margarette Golden | Betty Willson |
| Trump·It editor | Richard McLauchlan | Richard McLauchlan |