



# ARANA

## *Contract Bridge Club Inc*

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### **Editor's desk**

WHAT a shemozzle the hall air conditioning turned out to be. A simple job over the Christmas - new year period fell foul of the subcontractor. Several times, we were told the hall would not be available with the needless loss of play when the job was continually delayed. Sincere thanks to those who supported the uncertain daytime sessions over this period. Air conditioning on a couple of those steamy days would have been most welcome.

With play cancelled on a couple of Mondays and Tuesdays, several members visited Northern Suburbs Club, some for the first time. Sunnybank are using North's clubhouse as a model for their proposed building. Arana deserves a clubhouse of at least the same standard. Hopefully, that is only another year or two away.

Judy is off to Tasmania for a holiday after the QBA Gold Coast congress so the next set of classes has been delayed. New start dates are Tue 31 March and Wed 1 April. Send any potential students to Pam Horton for an enrolment form.

Some members who have directed are declining invitations to do so this year. A common reason for not directing is the number of uncooperative members who make life unpleasant for directors.

At the risk of rehashing old ground, players are expected to be at the hall and sitting down by quarter past at the very latest. This is the only way the director can accurately ascertain (full) table numbers and set an appropriate movement. Anyone asked to move, either to another table or to another section or to a different direction, should do so amicably and without dissent. Please assist to make the director's job as easy as possible.

Slow play is the bane of any bridge club. In 1947, Russell Baldwin (an American National Director) determined that timing hundreds of hands showed the average time in bidding and

playing 1 board was less than 4 minutes. Even slow players seldom took 5 minutes. Yet directors usually have to allow 6 to 7 minutes per board. Why?

Because players spend time discussing hands, marking score cards, relaxing between boards etc. Presumably, people enjoy this social aspect of the game. Allowing for this, normal play is about 8 boards per hour. The director should time the play to please most of the players, speeding up the slower, and pacifying the faster players. The best way to keep a session on time is to call the move when the majority, and not the slowest, are ready.

**Richard McLauchlan**

### **Management committee**

ITEMS of interest from the management committee meeting of 29 January include:

Due to the air conditioning fiasco, the AGM has been delayed to Wednesday 25 February to enable agendas, financial statements and reports to be distributed to members. We have \$144,000 invested at 4.8% and \$600 cash in hand.

There are 2 nominations for President – Val Acklin and Helen McLauchlan – but none for Vice-President. Darlene Smith has nominated for Secretary and Ailsa Smith for Treasurer.

For members who cannot attend the meeting (the Gold Coast congress is on that week), proxy forms will be distributed with the agenda so you can vote for President and on any other issues.

No change is recommended to the current fee structure, *ie*, \$10 joining, \$15 annual membership, \$3 table fees, \$4 visitors. If your home club is Arana, you are also required to pay the ABF levy of \$7 and QBA levy of \$8, *ie* \$15 + \$7 + \$8, total \$30 for continuing members.

Fees are payable after ratification by the AGM and must be paid by Friday 20 March. Late returns to the ABF incur a further \$5 penalty.

**Helen McLauchlan (vp/treasurer)**

## Masterpoint movements

LATEST masterpoint rankings as at the end of 1997 for members whose home club is Arana:

### Graduate

Jill Ray

### Club

Thelma Bell

### Local

Betty Brandt                      Wendy Pollard  
Anita Tindall

### Local \*

Ilene Bishop                      Anita Hillier  
Helen Joughin                      Kathy Patrick

### Local \*\*

Deborah Dwyer                      Fran Husband  
Albert Lewis

### Regional

Judy Perkins

### State

Margaret Joyce

### National \*

Richard McLauchlan      Betty Willson

### National \*

Jenny Lewis

**Jenny Lewis (MP Secretary)**

## The night before Christmas

ON the night before Christmas, two guests in our house

Had started to play bridge with me and my spouse.

Please tell me, she shouted, why didn't you double?

It was plain from the start that we had them in trouble.

'Tis futile, my dear, said I, taking no stand,  
To discuss it with you – let's play the next hand.

Remember next time, said she, icing a frown,  
To double a contract that's sure to go down.

So I picked up my cards in a downtrodden state,  
Then I opened 1 spade and awaited my fate.

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

The guy sitting south was like many I've known  
He played and he bid in a world of his own.

Two diamonds, he countered with scarcely a care;  
The ace in his hand gave him courage to spare.

My wife, she smiled faintly, and tossing her head  
Leaned over the table; I double she said.

And north, for some reason I cannot determine,  
Bid 2 hearts, as though he were preaching a sermon.

I grinned as I doubled, enjoying the fun,  
And turned round to south to see where he would run.

But south undistressed, not at a loss for a word,  
Came forth with 2 spades; did I hear what I heard?

The other two passed and in sheer disbelief  
I said, double my friend, that'll bring you to grief.

South passed with a nod, his composure serene;  
My wife with a flourish led out the heart queen.

I sat there and chuckled inside at their fix  
But south very calmly ran off 8 straight tricks!

He ruffed the first heart in his hand right away,  
And then trumped a club on the very next play.

He cross-ruffed the hand at breathtaking pace  
Till I was left holding 5 spades to the ace.

In anguish my wife cried, your mind's growing old,

Don't you see 6 no trump in this hand is ice cold?

By doubling this time I'd committed a sin:  
It just goes to prove that you never can win.

This literary effort was sent in by Rosemary Porter. Must have been west's fault for the poor choice of leads? If the DK is led and ruffed by E who draws all the trumps, E-W take all 13 tricks; ie 8 down and +2300 instead of +990 (6NT) or -670 (2Sx making 8). Been there, done that! [Ed]

## Forest Place visit

TEN members of Arana joined public relations consultant Evette Locke for a tour of the various styles of accommodation and floor plans of the retirement village last December.

We were greeted with a cool drink before a walking tour (Ron and I took the golf buggy). Although it was a very hot day, the site offered a breeze at most stops. All were impressed with the facilities and grounds. A 3 course lunch with beer and wine followed the tour.

Anyone considering retirement village living would be impressed with Forest Place. You can inspect the premises and enjoy a lunch in their dining room by completing the request on brochures located in the stage cupboard.

**Deborah Dwyer**

## Dusting the cobwebs

FOR those of us who do not go to the national championships in Canberra, the lack of competition over Christmas and through January allows a few cobwebs to develop in the brain. So it was, when Helen and I played the Sunshine Coast pairs on 1 Feb. Director Richard Ward had set an odd 1-day 3 x 11 table Mitchell movements, playing only 9 of the 11 rounds.

In the afternoon, E-Ws were swapped into different sections and another 9 rounds were played. Prizes were awarded to the top N-Ss and E-Ws in each section and session, with overall winners determined by best total percentage over both sessions. This sort of movement requires very accurate seedings to produce fair results.

Assuming the seedings were fair, the cobwebs remain the only impediment. So sitting E (vul), you pick up the following hand and the bidding goes:

J 7 2	N	E	S	W
A K 10 2	2H	/	/	2NT
10 9 5	/	3C	/	/
9 7 4	3H	X	all pass	

N's 2H was weak, but you can't double as partner will assume you have an opening hand with Ss. Partner's 2NT was for the minors, so you try 3C and are delighted when N comes in again with 3H which you double for penalties. What do you lead?

Realising that 3Hx making 9 will cost -530 compared to +100/ 300/ 500 for down 1/ 2/ 3, the opening lead could be crucial. I worked on the assumption that N was prepared to rebid a weak suit on the expectation of a C lead, so I led the D10. Not a success!

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

Declarer won the DA, ruffed a D, discarded more Ds on the CA-K and lost the SA and 3Hs. Full marks if you found the only lead to set the contract - the HA (or K). When dummy shows up with 1D, continue with the other top H then switch to a D. N cannot get to the Cs and should lose 3Hs, 3Ds, 1S for 3 down; +500 to the good guys.

Despite top half finishes in each session, it was a pretty ordinary day. The Toowong congress next weekend should help remove a few more cobwebs before we tackle the big guns at the Gold Coast congress later this month.

**Richard McLauchlan**

## Toowong congress

ARANANS Jenny Lewis & Julie Cutmore, Betty Willson & Rita Wood, and Helen & Richard McLauchlan contested the Toowong congress. Qualifying had us all at E-W with few good hands and no real excitement in Q1. The cards improved in Q2 but some good decisions were still needed. On board 12, W opens 2C (4 losers, any suit) and E bids 7NT which N doubles. What do you lead from: 9 6 4 2 10 2 Q 10 8 7 J 7 6 ?

Partner must have an A for the double and that suit has to be led or it probably will not make. A few pairs were aware of a convention that says when no genuine suit has been bid and partner doubles, lead a SPADE. We were not the optimists bidding 7 with an A missing, settling for 6NT making 14 after the D7 lead. We won this session and despite the ordinary Q1 result, we made the championship, with Rita & Betty in the plate and Julie & Jenny in consolation 1 (of 3).

Sunday was never going to be easy but we got away to a good start and tried to keep it tight against the better pairs. I always try to interfere against precision players as they can exchange too much information in uncontested auctions. Board 24 against Mayers-Francis was a classic.

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

N opened a precision 1C (16+, any shape). I (E) bid my hand to the limit with 3D, knowing Helen would play me for a weak hand, but I would never bid 1D (or X) and let N-S get started. S doubled, N bid 3H, I passed and S raised to 4H which I quietly passed. My DK was won by N who led the HA & K, finding the bad trump break.

He switched to the C5 which I ruffed to lead the DQ ruffed. A small H to dummy's J was followed by a small C won by Helen's K. Her SJ was covered with the K and my A. Now I lost the

plot (and the trump count) by leading the DJ ruffed, a C to dummy for 2S discards, losing the SQ for 1 off.

Had I returned the SQ then the S2, they are 3 down. Not to worry, this was a second top result. Standard players opened the N hand 1H so E-W were not aware of his strong hand and many 'saved' in 5D. Why you would 'save' holding 4 of their suit is a mystery. Sure, partner holds at most 1H and has some ruffing power, but NS can negate that by continually leading trumps. We won this encounter.

We had lunch with Richard Ward and Lindy Vincent (we beat them too) where we learned about FSBs (the S & B stand for Stupid Bid) and SBSs (Should Be Shot). We were in the top half most of the day but had to play the winners and runners-up in the last 3 rounds. Not much hope there, especially when Bill Hunt (2nd place) opens 1NT on: A J 9 6 2 K Q K Q 7 4 K 3!

Yes there are 18 hcp, BUT 2 doubletons AND 5Ss! The field played in 3 or 4 S, often doubled, all going down (I hold S K-Q-10-5, H A-J, CA) They played 1NT making 7, the only plus score to N-S, very suspicious.

Rita & Betty had a rough start, going straight to last. From there on, it was a roller coaster ride through the field, occasionally holding the lead. They ended up with hard cash in finishing a very tidy third with some name players in their wake. We had to settle for wine for the Saturday sessional win. At least we all got some practice for the coast.

**Richard McLauchlan**

## Important dates

- Sun 15/2 Gympie teams
- QCBC novice teams
- Warwick swiss pairs
- Sat 21-28/2 QBA Gold Coast congress
- **Wed 25/2 Annual General Meeting**
- Sat 7-8/3 Qld team trials (stage 1)
- Sun 8/3 Dalby pairs
- Fri 13-15/3 Qld team trials (stage 2)
- Sun 15/3 Toowong novice pairs
- Sat 21/3 Surfers novice swiss pairs
- Sat 21-22/3 Qld team trials (stage 3)
- Sun 22/3 Toowoomba novice pairs
- **Mon 30-31/3, 1/4 Red point sessions**
- **Tue 31/3-1/4 Classes start**

## Alert

WHILE the laws were recently updated, there has been no change in the alerting regulations. Essentially, any bid that does not promise the suit bid and is not a jump bid is alertable.

### Alert

1C opening if promising less than a 3 card suit

1D opening (precision) if less than 3 carded

Canape style: *eg* 1H/S if may have longer minor

2C (Stayman) response to 1NT opening

2D (no majors) response to Stayman 2C

Transfers over 1NT: *eg* 1NT 2D (xfer to H)

Negative responses: *eg* D bust: 1C 1D (neg) and 2C (forcing) 2D (neg)

Conventional: *eg* 2D 2H / where the 2D opening is either a weak 2H or 2S, or strong balanced, then both 2H and the pass are alertable (the pass confirms opener's weak 2H), similarly 2D 2NT: asking for opener's suit and strength

Interference over their 1NT: Ripstra, Landy *etc*,

Bergen (non-jump) raises

Drury 2C: did you open light?

Baron 3C: *eg* 2NT 3C

### Do not alert

Doubles

Redoubles

Jump bids

Jump transfer: *eg*, 1NT 3C (transfer to D)

Cue bids in opponent's suit

Opening 2 bids: essentially a jump bid

Opening 3 bids (even transfer pre-empts): *eg* 3H as a transfer to 3S

Splinters *eg* 1D 3H (0/1 H, D support)

Any bid greater than 3NT

### Pre-alert

Warn your opponents beforehand about any unusual bids that are non-alertable (*eg* transfer pre-empts) also your 1NT and 2 level openings.

### Asking

Ask only if you need to know (no need if you are passing; repeated asking can be considered harassment of opponents in a complex auction)

Ask at your turn (not partner's) only

Ask on the round the alert was made, otherwise

Ask about the whole auction after all bidding has finished (after partner has selected a lead if you are not on lead)

### Replying

Give full and open explanation

If unsure, say so; do not offer suggestions

Offer an explanation of any special meaning non-alerted bids at the end of the auction