



# ARANA

## *Contract Bridge Club Inc*

February 2004

Vol 18 No 1

### ***From the President 25.01.04***

My last 'From the President' will be a brief offering, as I am currently working on my final annual report for the AGM. There are, however four recent developments on which I would like to comment.

- For the first time ever, Arana has won the Interclub teams event, against strong opposition. The full list of teams is published separately, but special congratulations are due to the selection panel of Richard McLauchlan, Gary Lynch, and Pam Horton, as well as to all the players. No Arana team finished lower than second in their category, so the winning margin was very solid.
- The new format Christmas party was a great success, so much so that the outgoing committee considers that the single Christmas party must be retained from now on. The possibility of having a second one was considered and discarded because the tremendous atmosphere could not be duplicated if the function were split. The committee is aware that no matter when we schedule the party, there will always be some members who cannot attend because of conflict with other functions.
- Warren Holmes has done a great deal of work on the 2004 operating budget. For the last two years, we have really been operating on the cost and revenue models prepared for the grant submissions, and to have a full formal budget is an important improvement, as the old assumptions, such as no GST, are becoming way out of date. The budget confirms that we will have to keep a tight rein on spending for

several years, except for things that directly increase attendance.

- The course by Paul Lavings was massively attended, illustrating the desire of many club members to improve their play. Because of the large attendance, Paul donated eight new books for our library to continue the good work. Many of us are attempting to apply the Lavings doctrines without his skill or discretion, and without his partnership understanding, and the carnage that results has been visible in the club for some weeks.

**Bob Dancer**

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**9:00AM - TUESDAY  
17 FEBRUARY 2004**

It is important that you participate and have your say in the running of the Club. Attend the AGM, run for an office, volunteer for a committee AND MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT.

The following Committee members have indicated they will be stepping down this year:

Bob Dancer, Geoff Gully. Warren Holmes and Barbara Holmes.

### **CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2003 CLUB CHAMPIONS**

**Club Pairs:**

**Open:** Pam Horton, Jenny Lewis.

**Restricted:** Bob Dancer, Margaret Dancer.

**Novice:** Peggy Whittaker, Ray Cowie.

**Club Teams:** Richard McLauchlan, Peter Gill,  
Helen McLauchlan, Margaret Welldon.

## BRIDGE ADDICTS ANONYMOUS ♠♥♦♣

Vonnie Hoo

One of the vital ingredients of good defence is “wishful thinking”, so Victor Mollo, one of my favourite authors says in “Card Play Technique”.

	♠ K J 9 x	
	♥ 9 x x	
	♦ A K J x	
♠ 10 8 7 2	♣ Q x	♠ A x
♥ A x		♥ K 10 8 7
♦ x x x		♦ x x x
♣ 10 x x x	♠ Q x x	♣ A x x x
	♥ Q J x x	
	♦ Q x x	
	♣ K J x	

South is in 3NT. West leads the ♠2.

East can see there is no future in Spades, so wins with the Ace and changes to ♥10 – the “Surround Card”. Who says you absolutely must lead the 4<sup>th</sup> highest?

If South does not cover he is in big trouble.

Partner must have the right card, of course, so you assume that he has it. That’s where the “wishful thinking” comes in.

Just play the hand for yourself and you will see you make 5 tricks. South is defeated. See how quickly you learn.

The next B.A.A. meeting will be in the March Trump-It. (If the editor invites me back!)

♠♥♦♣

### BRING & BUY TABLE

The Committee has approved a **Bring & Buy Table**.

This new project has a double purpose.

- It will give you the opportunity to dispose of some of the unused goods you have stored in the cupboards
- It will be a worthwhile fundraiser for the Club.

We wish to emphasise that the goods should be in a good and usable condition, there will be stickers on the table for you to price the goods yourself, and should the goods not sell within a given period (yet to be decided) they will either be returned to the owner or donated to a charity.

Suggested items: cakes, jams, books, bric-a-brac or unwanted presents. Fresh produce, flowers and plants are other possibilities but if they are not sold on the day they should be retrieved by the donor.

### “TO CANBERRA FAIR”

LIZ MARSHALL

The **Summer Festival of Bridge** is held in Canberra every year in mid-January.

This year, Barry and I joined forces with Liz Litzow and Donna Kroch from Northern Suburbs for the Non-Life Masters Teams, which last for 3 days. This was a comfortable level of bridge with good prospects of earning some gold points. While most people in this event were pleasant, a few stories of woe did the rounds.

On the first day, one woman became upset to the extent that she fled the hall in tears and refused point blank to return. A substitute had to be brought in to replace her. On another occasion, the director was called to protect someone from an irate partner! And last but not least, when the going got tough, one poor woman developed the vapours, put her head on her knees and gasped, *“If I look like I’m going to die, my pills are in my bag”*.

During the second week, Barry and I played in the South West Pacific Teams with the McLauchlans. We were team 78 in a field of about 130. After losing to team 13, we had a series of good wins, which shot us up to 11<sup>th</sup> place. Everyone was over the moon about this except for “Liz” who muttered, *“Now we’re in white shark territory and we are in for a mauling”*. These words proved to be prophetic indeed. We fought a losing battle with team 8, got a savage beating from team 2 and did not fare much better against teams 20 or 32. Finally, we finished with 2 wins, which restored our flagging spirits.

We celebrated the end of a challenging but stimulating 5 days with four friends from Northern Suburbs, feasting on a seafood buffet and champagne cocktails.

**Minutes of the General Meeting** of 13<sup>th</sup> January 2004 are available in the pamphlet rack for Club members. A copy is also pinned to the noticeboard.



### 2003 CHRISTMAS PARTY

The 2003 Christmas Party was attended by 100 members. A bridge session was followed by the annual Club presentation and a wonderful fare of food and drink.

A “special presentation” was made to Geoff Gully for the tireless work he has done for the Club over the past 3 years as Secretary, and frequently, Club “trouble-shooter”. Thank you Geoff.

## CLUB HISTORY "LOG" CHANGES HANDS

Our **Club Historian, Deslei Den Haan** is stepping down from this position. Deslei commenced playing with the Club at the "first official Club night" on 19<sup>th</sup> March 1986, with a grand total of 20 members. Our Club Founder, Judy Valentine, set up a history "log". Deslei took over the responsibility of this "log" in 1990 and with the exception of a 2-year period (1996/97) has fastidiously recorded our Club History. Deslei has mixed feelings about resigning but feels it is time to "give it away". Thank you Deslei for your dedication over the past 13 years.

Deslei has submitted an article for publication in this month's Newsletter, which coincides with the Gold Coast Congress in which 30 of our members are participating this year. This article (written by Pam Horton) is attached to the Newsletter and is introduced by Deslei.

**Our new Club Historian is Liz Marshall.** Those of us who know Liz, are well aware that Liz's care of our history will be "second to none". Liz will be writing a column entitled **HISTORIAN'S CORNER** in each edition of the Trump-It and this will include interesting facts/statistics/stories about our Club or our Club members, that will surprise and delight us.

**The History of the Club** is available for borrowing, and our new Librarians, Jan and Kath will be pleased to organise this for you.



## LIBRARY LINES - ILENE RETIRES

**Ilene Bishop** has retired as Club Librarian after serving 4 years in the position. Ilene has shown a great love of books by the manner in which she has taken care of the Library. Thank you Ilene, for the wonderful contribution you have made to the Club and the assistance you have given many members during these years.

**New Librarians - Jan Rae and Kath Rooney** will be sharing this responsibility and you may have already seen Jan and Kath with their heads in books and around the Library cabinet.

**Library Lines** will continue under Jan and Kath's care and Alan Rae will be writing book reviews for us to enjoy.

Jan and Kath have written the following piece as a reminder to members on the procedure to borrow books.

### HOW TO USE THE LIBRARY

As Kath Rooney and I (Jan Rae) are jointly the new Librarians for the Club, we would like to reacquaint members with the procedure for borrowing Bridge Library Books.

Books are on loan for **one month only**. In order to take out a book, members should approach Kath Rooney or Jan Rae or a Club Committee Member if librarians are not available. This procedure is necessary as the Library Cabinet is kept locked for security reasons.

When borrowing a book the procedure is as follows:

1. select a book
2. note the book code consisting of a letter and number on the spine
3. find the appropriate card in the front section of the index box (manila dividers)
4. sign your name in the correct space and write the date of the loan
5. place the card in the back section of the index box (yellow dividers) in the correct order
6. when returning the book within a month, retrieve the correct card from the back file and fill in the current date
7. replace the card in the front file in the appropriate order
8. return the book to the shelving in the correct space by letter and number ie, G3 comes after G2 and H1 comes after the last G.

Members are encouraged to use the library and if there is a book you would like to borrow which to date is not in library, please let Kath or myself (Jan) know and we will forward the information to Pam Horton, who does the purchasing when funds and opportunity present themselves.

Deslei Den Haan wishes to inform club members that she has brought "**The History of the Club**" up to the current date. Members are welcome to borrow this book but the same procedure should be followed as outlined above.

## Darlene Retires as Editor

Darlene Smith has retired as Editor of the Trump-It. Darlene has been editing and researching for the newsletter for 4 years and has done an outstanding job. The Club members and Committee members extend a heartfelt thank you and wish you well as you continue to enjoy the game of bridge without the "deadlines".

I have taken over the position of Editor for the coming year.

There has also been a change of Club Historian and Librarian this year, and the members who are taking over these roles have been introduced on the preceding pages.

I look forward to hearing from Club members who may have articles or "snippets" they wish to put forward for publishing in the newsletter, and subject to appropriateness and space available, I will be happy to use these.

If you would like to see other permanent "interesting items" in the newsletter, please let me know and consideration will be given to their inclusion also.

The Committee has given approval for **advertising in the newsletter**. The size of the advertisements is envisaged at 8cm by 4cm. The advertisements would be subject to approval by the Committee. The number of advertisements will be kept to a minimum and will not be intrusive into valuable space for Club members. The cost will be \$100 per annum.

*Barbara Holmes – Ed*

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*Fax: 3300 9819*

*Mobile: 0411 882 033*

*Email: wazbarbholmes@bigfoot.com.au*



## IS ARANA THE "FRIENDLIEST" CLUB IN BRISBANE?

It has been reported that members of the Sunshine Coast Bridge Club think we are. Not only are we getting a reputation as a force to be reckoned with in the playing fields (winners of the Inter Club Challenge), but our members are spreading good cheer far and wide.

## MASTERPOINT PROMOTIONS

Our Masterpoint Secretary, Helen McLauchlan advises that there will be two Masterpoint updates this quarter. The first will be in the middle of February and the second at the end of March. This is ABF edict due to the work involved in the Canberra and Gold Coast gold point events in January and February.

## Important Dates

- **1 February (Sunday)** - Toowong Swiss Pairs
- **8 February (Sunday)** - Warwick Swiss Pairs; QCBC Novice Teams (0-99)
- **17 February (Tuesday)** - Arana Annual General Meeting
- **21 – 28 February** - QBA Gold Coast Congress
- **4 – 7 March** - ABF Open/Women's play-off
- **5 – 7 March (Sat/Sun)** - Proserpine - Whitsunday Pairs
- **6 March (Saturday)** - Arana Red Points
- **7 March (Sunday)** - Dalby Swiss Pairs Maryborough Butler Pairs Toowong Novice Pairs (0-99)
- **12 February (Friday PM)** - Arana G.N.O.T. Heats - Week 1



## Important Phone Numbers

**Clubhouse Phone Number: (07) 3851 – 0299**

**Email address:** aranabridge@netspace.net.au

**President:** Bob Dancer – 3300-3414

**Vice-President:** Gay Hull – 3300-2444

**Secretary:** Geoff Gulley – 3851-3687

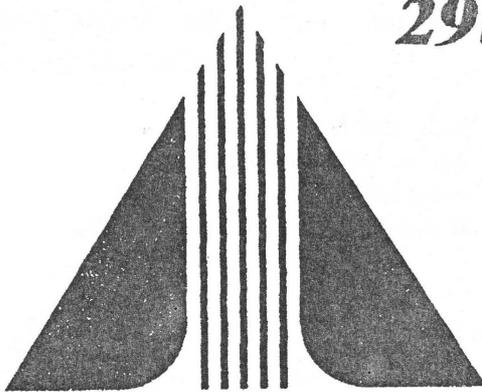
**Treasurer:** Warren Holmes – 3300-6654

**Partner Contact:** Betty Willson – 3355-2519

**The Queensland Government** provided \$263,900 to the Arana Contract Bridge Club for the development of the Ferny Grove Sports and Recreation Centre to get more Queenslanders active through sport and recreation.

## Introduction by Deslei Den Haan

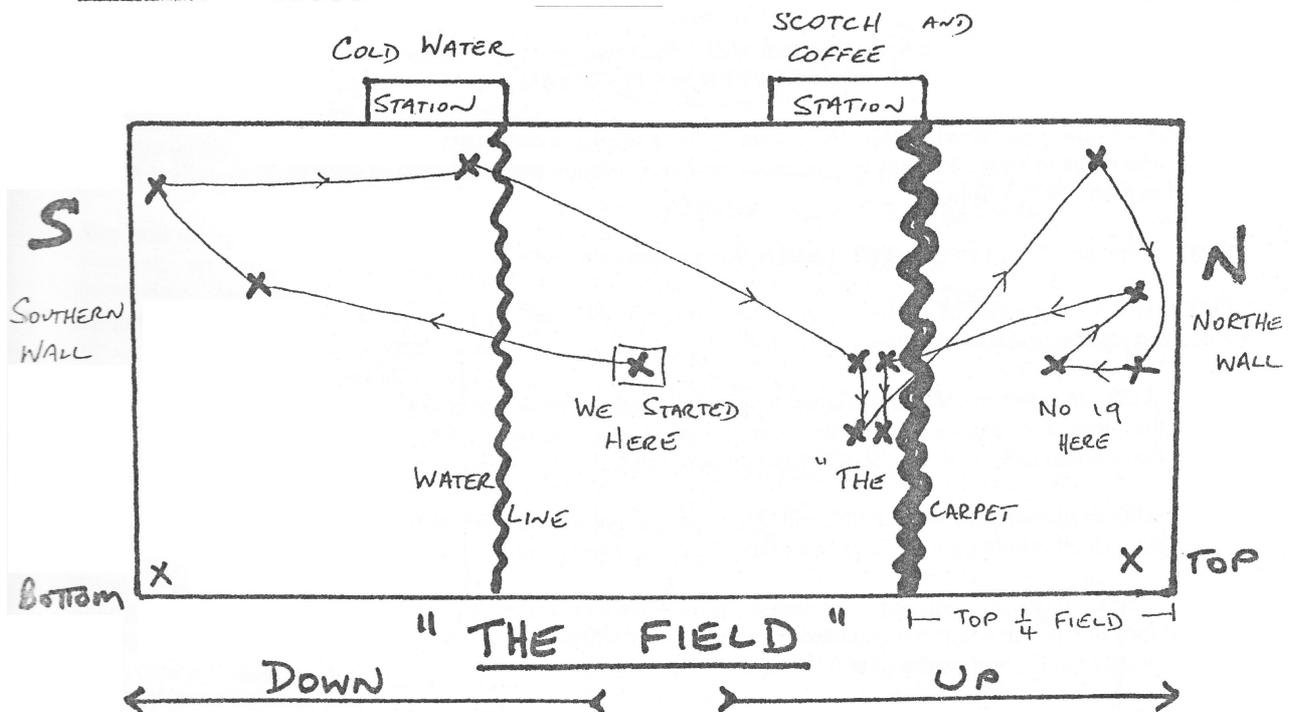
During this month about thirty well experienced congress goers will be making the annual trek to the Gold Coast. However, Aranians were not always so intrepid. The very first members to go to the coast were Pam Horton (now a life member) and Jenny Lewis, when in 1990 Club Founder Judy Valentine and her partner Jessica Mortess invited them to make up a team. The following is an article Pam wrote for the Trump-It on the experience!



# 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.



## IN THE BEGINNING -

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February **LOOMED** - large rooms filled with expectant bridge players from far and wide - Melbourne, Sydney, Coffs 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.

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 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 19<sup>th</sup> (in the top quarter 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 the restaurant 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 !!!**