



ARANA

Contract Bridge Club Inc

January - February 2007

Vol 21 No 1

From the President

The Christmas party is over again for this year and what a success it was, thanks to director Frank Hoult and his assistant Val Cran. A big thank you also to Tony Agar and Irena Hall and their willing band of helpers for organising the drinks and other catering. The shield for the Club Member of the year was awarded to Val Cran.

Recently, the Interclub Teams event was held at Toowong where Arana came 4th out of the 5 teams represented. Some of our members were disappointed not to have been selected or consulted about the selection process, with due justification. Regrettably, the event was overlooked until three days before it was due to be held and hence teams were selected on the basis of availability at short notice. I accept responsibility for this oversight and apologise to our members. It will not happen again.

Our next round of beginners' lessons commence in early February under the expert tutorage of Ray Cowie. Please talk your friends and/or relations into joining the lessons as we find that word of mouth is the best recruitment method.

Your committee would like to wish you all a safe, happy and holy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year. We look forward to seeing you at the table in 2007.

David Lehmann

Annual General Meeting Tuesday 27th February 2007 Commencing at 9:00 am



**Support your Club.
Nominate for a position.
Have a say in the running of the Club.**

♣ ♦ Important Phone Numbers ♥ ♠

Clubhouse Phone Number:	(07) 3851 0299
Email address:	aranabridge@netspace.net.au
President:	David Lehmann 3205 7276
Vice-President:	Barbara Holmes 3300 6654
Secretary:	Tony Agar 3851 1362
Treasurer:	Jan McRobbie 3355 2425
Partner Contact:	Betty Willson 3355 2519

Arana Club Events – Winners 2006

EVENT	WINNERS	RUNNERS UP
Club Championship Teams - Open	Geoff Gulley/ Gary Mitchell Anne Gulley/ Judy Mitchell	Frank Hoult/ Fred Hoult Fay Anderson/ Peter Anderson
Club Championship Pairs – Open	Betty Willson/ Val Acklin	Helen McLauchlan/ Richard McLauchlan
Tuesday Teams	Liz Marshall/ Val Cran Frank Hoult/ Fred Hoult	Don Cutmore/ Ailsa Smith Pam Horton/ Jenny Lewis
Wednesday Teams	Alan Norman/ Bev Quine Ray Cowie/ David Lehmann	Richard McLauchlan/ Kent Taylor Irena Hall/ Joan Mills
EVENT	GROSS WINNERS	HANDICAP WINNERS
Monday Pairs	Betty Willson/ Joyce Rosser	Kay Milliner/ Mary Craig
Tuesday Pairs	Gary Lynch/ Bob Dancer	Lyn Haysom/ Barbara Holmes
Wednesday Pairs	Val Cran/ Frank Hoult	Alice Brown/ Joan Mills
Friday Pairs	Val Acklin/ Joyce Rosser	Pauline Ford/ Anne Tennock
Neil Hamilton Memorial Trophy	North-South Jacqueline Carbone/ Peita Grant East-West Pam Horton/ Jenny Lewis	

A New Trump-It Editor

This is my last Trump-It. David Backstrom will be taking over the publishing of the newsletter from March 2007. I am very grateful to David for his enthusiasm and willingness to take on this position. The editing of the Trump-It over the past 3 years has been a great delight to me. The history of the Club and the interesting life stories that I have been able to publish has been amazing. It only goes to show that you really don't know someone until you have taken the time to find out about their beginnings and life journey.

Thank you to all the members who have contributed in so many ways to make this an enjoyable episode of my life and to give entertainment and knowledge to the Arana members.

I wish David well and am looking forward to being a reader in lieu of an editor.

Barbara Holmes

How Will You Make 7NT?

The contract is 7NT North. The lead is 5♠.

South (Dummy)

♠ A Q J
♥ Q J 10 9
♦ 10 9 8 7 6
♣ 2

North

♠ K
♥ A K
♦ A K Q J
♣ A x x x x x

Answer in the next Trump-It (if you can wait that long)

Barbara Holmes

Profile - Val Cran

I was born in Gordonvale near Cairns and raised on my father's cane farm at Aloomba and lived there throughout the war years. I can still remember having to crouch down in muddy trenches with cotton wool in our ears biting on a cork, whenever the practice sirens were activated at our school.

After the war my mother caught the gypsy bug, so after a few more moves my family arrived in the Daintree and took up dairy farming. This was a more pleasant place to live, even if we had to ride five miles to school each day on our uncle's borrowed horse, piggyback style. This was great except the darn horse managed to unseat us every time we passed our Uncle's gate. Always took a long time to arrive home, as we knew every guava, mulberry, mango and nut tree for miles around.

By this time my mother had really caught the gypsy bug and after a few more uneventful moves, we ended up in Sydney. We didn't own a jumper between us, which made for a long, cold winter. At this stage my father took on a job as Tram Conductor, and thought it the most wonderful way to earn a living. My mother could never get him to return to farm life again.

Three or four moves later, my father joined the Air Force and we settled in Ipswich. Accommodation was so hard to get, we lived in a tent for the next eighteen months, until a house became available. After my parents were posted to Malaya I first moved into a YWCA Hostel and later into a flat at Windsor. My mother died in Malaya in 1960 and I married Ian soon after.

In 1962 we built a shed on our land at The Gap and started building our house above our heads, which took another two years. We had three children, Gary, Julie and Debbie and now have five grandchildren. Needless to say, I still live here and my next move will probably be the Alzheimer's ward in a Nursing Home. As a young family we enjoyed many a holiday in various National Parks, often erecting a tent for our accommodation. I still do this most Easters.

After being forced to retire due to Parkinson's Disease, my husband and I took two years to travel around Australia. That was such a brilliant holiday. Upon returning I spent the last ten years of my working life running a Chocolate Factory under the house. I became the most sought after Grandma in the world during this period



I eventually gave up work as it started to interfere something terrible with my social life and Bridge and that just wasn't right. I learnt bridge with Judy Valentine in 1992. After a full year of lessons, Judy recommended that all the class repeat the lessons for another year. She must have thought we were a dumb lot. Margaret Welldon and I looked at each other and thought – NO WAY. My hobbies include Bridge (naturally), tennis, gardening, U3A (University of the Third Age), and I love doing photography work on the computer and of course there is my family. I know you have met Gary, but I assure you I do have two normal children as well. My great love is travelling, which I do whenever my wallet allows me to escape.

Val Cran

Val was awarded the Perpetual Trophy for Club Member of the Year 2006. This annual trophy is voted on and awarded by the incumbent Committee.

Director's Corner

Etiquette

1) There is a growing incidence of gratuitous and unnecessary comments being made at the end of the play of a hand. Such expressions as eg "That was okay for us", or, "That's a top for us" etc. What must be remembered is that what is also being said is, "That is not okay for you" or, "That is a bottom for you".

Such comments can be disconcerting for the opponents who, of course are already aware of the situation and are having salt rubbed into their wounds.

2) Such comments are also contrary to Law 74, CONDUCT and ETIQUETTE.

Quote. A player should carefully avoid any remark or action that might cause annoyance or embarrassment to another player. **Unquote.**

Frank Hoult – Director

Masterpoint Movements

NEW rankings for Arana home club members for the period to 30 November 2006:

Graduate Master

Peter Moritz
Liane Morris
Terry Nowitzki

Club Master

Christine Fatcher

State Master

Kenneth Hooper
GayHull
Marjorie Ryder

**State Master*

Barbara Holmes

National Master

Daphne Gannon
**National Master*
Bob Dancer

Robert Matthew (MP Secretary)

Bridge Lessons for Beginners

Arana is to conduct two beginners' classes of eight lessons over an eight-week period:

Teacher: Ray Cowie

Date: Thursday, 8th February 2006

Time: 9:30 am – 12:00 pm
7:30 pm – 10:00 pm

Cost: \$60.00 (includes teacher's notes)

Enquiries & David Lehmann 3205-7276

Registration: Tony Agar 3851-1362

Important Dates

January 2007		
Dec 27 - 31		Brisbane Festival of Bridge
Dec 29 - Jan 1		Tablelands Pairs and Teams
Sun	7	Gold Coast Swiss Teams
Sun	14	QCBC Swiss Butler Pairs
Mon	15	ARANA - PM RED POINTS
Mon	15	15-26 ABF Summer Festival of Bridge (Canberra)
Sun	21	Ipswich Swiss Pairs
Thu	26	26-28 Townsville Australia Day Pairs & Teams
Sun	28	Northern Suburbs Teams
February 2007		
Sun	4	Toowong Swiss Pairs
Sat	10	10-11 QBA Senior Teams (Sunshine Coast)
Sun	11	Warwick Swiss Pairs; QCBC Novice Pairs
Sat	17	17-24 QBA Cold Coast Congress
Tue	27	ARANA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Did You Know

- Every day more money is printed for Monopoly than the U.S. Treasury.
- Men can read smaller print than women; women can hear better.
- Coca-Cola was originally green.



LIBRARY LINES

Librarian Peggy Whittaker

End-of-year stock take is underway. The following items are missing from the Library. Could members please check home libraries and return the items as soon as possible. Thank you.

1. **Video 02 "Opening Leads 1"** by Ron Klinger.
2. **(B23b) "25 Bridge Conventions You Should Know"** by B Seagram & S Smith.
3. **O1 "Opening Two Bids"** by Paul Marston & Nick Hughes.

Peggy Whittaker



Our guest reviewer this edition is Peggy Whittaker

"The Bridge Bum" by Alan Sontag

The book I have reviewed is *The Bridge Bum* by Alan Sontag. To quote from the back cover of the book:-

"The Bridge Bum is on everybody's list of the top ten bridge books ever written and it is not hard to see why. It has everything: history, stories about the great players, Sontag's own fascinating hands; cheating, hustling, gambling, the glamour and grind of the bridge professional's life and most of all the game itself which Alan Sontag describes with such vigour and eloquence that it is easy to understand why he loves it so much."

Alan Sontag is an American bridge player and is both an American and world champion. He played in his first international championship in Europe in the summer of 1970 aged 24 years. Tony Jackman, in his bridge column in the Courier Mail recently reported that on 24 June 2006 Sontag was a member of the team which won the Rosenblum Cup at the World Championships in Verona, Italy.

The book has chapters on the tournaments he was in and reads like a thriller. Amongst all the excitement, he gives us all some very good advice on playing bridge. When falling behind in a competition he would be aware of the standings but knew it would have been suicide to worry about them or to base his play on the need to catch up. If he did that he would be gambling instead of playing bridge. The very essence of good bridge is to eliminate as much of the element of chance as possible. What they had to do was play as flawlessly as possible and hope that those partnerships ahead of them would have their own problems.

He believes that defence in bridge is as important as offence but that it is an area that is often overlooked by beginners and intermediate players. A problem that most non-experts have is that they just bid their own hand instead of exchanging information with their partner.

Bidding today has become more sophisticated. Matches were held in 1965 and later in the 1990's using old and new methods and the results showed the new bidding methods were superior.

I was very sorry when I came to the last page of *The Bridge Bum* and hope that Alan Sontag finds the time to write a sequel.

Peggy Whittaker

Copy Deadline

**For March - April 2007 Issue
20 February 2007
David Backstrom
Ph: 3359 6262**

The Handicap System

ARANA has been using the RapScore program since August 2005. We often get questions regarding the handicap system and how it works.

When we started using RapScore, all members were entered into the program's database, along with their average score calculated from actual results obtained in club sessions from January to August 2005. This average score became your starting handicap.

For new members and visitors, a handicap is allocated according to master point rank. Students get 42%, Nil masters 43%, with increases of 1% up to National, then 0.5% up to Grand master at 58.0%. Non-ABF players (no rank) are usually allocated 50% (= Regional master).

Handicaps are updated on a fortnightly basis, ie at the start of a handicap week. In updating handicaps, RapScore takes 95% of your existing handicap and adds 5% of your score at the current session (sessions are updated in chronological order). This means that any big wins or bad losses only have a small impact on your handicap. If you consistently improve, your handicap goes up slowly; if your form is fading, your handicap slowly reduces.

Consider my handicap and scores over 4 weeks in November where my start handicap was 58.80% –

Score	64.73	52.88	55.23	44.21	65.17	63.02
Hdcp	59.10	58.79	58.61	57.89	58.75	58.49

Note that even the poor score (44.21%, the night they all decided to pick on Liz & me) had only a minor impact (down 0.72) on my handicap. Essentially, you score less than your handicap, it goes down; score above it, it goes up. Remember, your handicap is a reflection of your average score.

Handicap printouts show your handicap score according to the formula –

$$\text{Result} = 50\% + \text{Handicap} - \text{Score}$$

In the example below, John and Patricia Andrew, average handicap 43.47%, scored 51.73%. Applying the above formula, their handicap result was 58.26%. the best on the day and the handicap winner.

Barbara and Lyn played pretty much to their handicap (score 49.13, handicap 49.42) for a handicap result (49.71) close to 50%.

Frank and Val (handicap 56.47) had a totally forgettable day. Their 34.50% handicap result indicated 15.5% below their average.

Richard McLauchlan (Scorer)

Event: 10 Table Mitchell (with Skip)

Date : Tuesday 5-12-06

North / South Placings

Place	%	Pts.	Mp's	Partnership	Pr.No.
01.	57.63	332	30	Elsie Anders, / Denis Ward	09
02.	56.77	327	21	Betty Willson	03
03.	55.55	320	15	Robert Matthew / Rosemary Matthew	06
04.	51.73	298	10	John Andrew , / Patricia Andrew	08
05.	51.56	297	8	Tony Agar , / Keith Howman	04
06.	49.13	283		Barbara Holmes / Lyn Haysom	10
01.	48.09	277		Allan Box / Vonnice Wallace	02
08.	47.91	276		Ray Cowie / Pearl Cowie	05
09.	40.97	236		Frank Hoult / Valerie Cran	01
10.	40.62	234		Gay Hull / Carmel Steer	07

North / South Handicap Placings

Place	%	Partnership	Handicaps	Av. H/C
01.	58.26	John Andrew / Patricia Andrew	43.47/43.47	(43.47)
02.	57.77	Elsie Anders / Denis Ward	47.83/51.88	(49.86)
03.	53.22	Robert Matthew / Rosemary Matthew	52.33/52.33	(52.33)
04.	52.80	Betty Willson / Carol Vardy	55.48/52.45	(53.97)
05.	50.84	Tony Agar / Keith Howman	52.17/49.27	(50.72)
06.	49.71	Barbara Holmes / Lyn Haysom	51.21/47.62	(49.42)
07.	46.41	Allan Box / Vonnice Wallace	51.25/52.12	(51.68)
08.	45.72	Ray Cowie / Pearl Cowie	53.65/50.72	(52.19)
09.	38.55	Gay Hull / Carmel Steer	52.60/51.54	(52.07)
10.	34.50	Frank Hoult / Valerie Cran	56.33/56.62	(56.47)

Tactics in Pairs

Tactics in pairs events differ from those in rubber bridge. Careful declarer play and defence are the order of the day. Every overtrick and every undertrick could be vital. They make the difference between good scores and bad scores. In rubber bridge, declarer's aim is almost always to make the contract and the defence's aim is to defeat it. At pairs the aim is to obtain the best possible score which may mean from declarer's viewpoint that making the contract is a secondary consideration while from the defenders' viewpoint, the possibility of giving away an overtrick in trying to defeat the contract may be unwarranted.

Being extremely competitive in the bidding is essential. Almost always force the opposition to the three level on part score deals. Be quick to re-open the bidding if they stop at a very low level in a suit. In pairs events, re-opening the bidding occurs ten times more often than at rubber bridge.

Minor suit contracts at the game zone, should be avoided. Prefer 3NT to 5C or 5D, even if 3NT is riskier, since making an overtrick in 3NT scores more than a minor suit game. On the other hand, it is not necessary to bid borderline games or close slams. The reward for success is not so great in pairs events as to justify 24 point games or 31 point slams. You should be in game or in slam if it has a 50% or better chance. If less, you will score better by staying out of it.

What counts at duplicate pairs is how often a certain strategy will work for you, not the size of the result. If a certain action scores 50 extra points 8 times out of 10, but loses 500 twice, it is sensible at duplicate but ridiculous at rubber bridge. Penalty doubles are far more frequent at pairs since players are anxious to improve their score. The rule about a two-trick safety margin is frequently disregarded since one down, doubled, vulnerable, may be a top-score while one down, undoubled, vulnerable, may be below average.

Safety plays which involve sacrificing a trick to ensure the contract almost never apply in pairs, unless the contract you have reached is an unbelievably good one.

In the tournament world you will encounter a remarkable number and variety of systems and conventions and gradually you will come to

recognize them. A most important point to remember is that a bidding system is not some secret between you and your partner. You and your partner are not allowed to have any secret understanding about your bids. That is cheating. A bidding system is not a secret code. The opponents are entitled to know as much about what the bidding means as you or your partner. If they ask you what you understand by a certain bid of your partner's, you must tell them truthfully. Of course, partner's bid may be meaningless and if you cannot understand it, all you can do is to be honest and tell the opposition that you do not know what partner's bid means.

Similarly, if you do not understand the opposition's bidding, you are entitled to ask. When it is your turn to bid but before you make your bid, you ask the partner of the bidder 'Could you please explain the auction?' You may ask during the auction or after the auction has ended, when it is your turn to play. Unless it affects your making a bid, prefer to wait until the auction is over. After all, the opposition might not understand their bidding either and when you ask, they may well realise their mistake.

If an irregularity occurs at the table, do not be dismayed if the Director is called. That is a normal part of the game and it is the Director's job to keep the tournament running smoothly and to sort out any irregularities.

Taken from Ron Klinger's Introduction to Bridge (ABF Website).

Thank You

Judy Perkins thanks members for their past support in purchasing her homemade scarves. The proceeds are sent to Vanuatu where they are used to assist the needy and provide accommodation for parents of sick children in Shekinah House.

Scarves are available from \$10.00

See Judy at bridge or phone her on 3359 9071

A composite of faces of club members put together by Val Cran our intrepid photographer. Thanks Val you are a treasure.



Wishing all club members a very Happy and Healthy 2007

Signing off... Barbara Holmes ☺ ☺

