

ARANA

Contract Bridge Club Inc

January-February 2009

Vol 23 No 1

From the PRESIDENT

The three-way **Interclub Pairs** for 2008 between Arana, Caboolture/Bribie and Redcliffe was held on Sunday 11th January with Arana again winning the day. Richard and Helen McLauchlan recorded the highest scores for the day, closely followed by Val Acklin and Joyce Rosser. That makes three years running we have won this event.

Nominations are open for positions on the management committee. Please don't sit back and leave it to someone else - get involved in the running of your club.

Membership fees are payable by end of January. You will have noted from the attachments to your membership fee notices, that the committee has proposed some changes to the constitution. These changes will be put to the vote at the Annual General Meeting which is scheduled for Tuesday 24th February. If you are unable to attend the AGM, you may vote on the changes by submitting a proxy vote.

Don't forget to nominate your team for our first Teams Congress of the year to be held on Sunday 22nd February.

David Lehmann

BOOK REVIEW

The Language of Bidding

By Paul Marston

Paul Marston is a leading bridge player in Australia. He writes a weekly column in The Australian as well as publishing the Australian Bridge Magazine. This book is very easy to read and covers most areas of bidding in a clear, concise way. Because bidding is changing all the time, (as new ideas are taken on board and old ones thrown out,) this book will keep you up with current thought. (Published 2004).

His main changes are:

- opening with 12 HCP :
- 15-17 HCP for NT, 5 card majors,
- 20-21 HCP for opening 2NT and
- 25 TP (total points) for game.

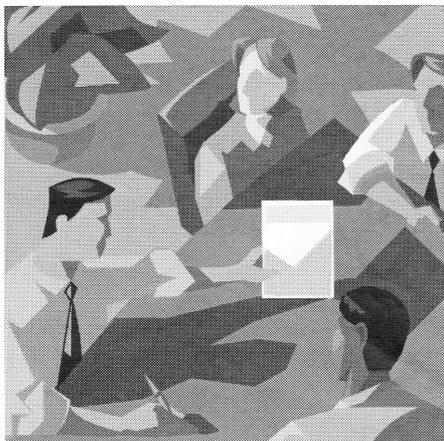
The book is written in chapters with a quiz at the end to test your new found knowledge.

One of the chapters included is "**The Opponents Intervene**" where he gives strategies on how to fight back. After a double he suggests you redouble to show 10+ HCP and interest in penalties. Another interesting chapter is entitled "**Competitive Bidding Strategy**" and one of the aspects he deals with is that you should aim to play at the two level and defend at the three level. He also states: "When you have a nine or ten card fit and good shape, one side or the other figures to make game. So you should aim to play four and defend five."

I would recommend this book to any novice or intermediate player who wishes to improve their game.

Judy Carr

Annual General Meeting
Tuesday, 24th February 2009
Commencing at 9:00 am



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

LINE DANCING

At the beginning of 2008, **Brett Jenkins**, a line dance instructor who holds weekly classes at the **Mitchelton Senior Citizens' Hall**, kindly allowed us to distribute our flyers regarding bridge classes etc. to the dancers. From this exercise the bridge club managed to get two new members! So, in return, we are letting you know that Brett will start Beginner classes in early February, 2009.

Line dancing is great fun and great exercise – better than walking around the streets! If you would like further information, contact Liz, Val, Jan or Deslei.

Recent competition winners :

Tuesday Pairs: 7th & 14th October
 Judy Wilkinson and Richard McLauchlan

Quote to consider

*My creed is this:
 Happiness is the only good.
 The place to be happy is here.
 The time to be happy is now.
 The way to be happy is to make others so.*

Robert G. Ingersoll, Motto

New rankings to 31st December 2008:

CLUB MASTER

*YVONNE HOWMAN
 ANDREW SOKOLOWSKI
 MICHAEL WALKER*

***LOCAL MASTER**

*MARY EWING
 GARY YPINAZAR*

****LOCAL MASTER**

*PAULINE FORD
 TERRY NOWITZKI*

REGIONAL MASTER

*JUDITH CARR
 PAMELA FEEHELY
 JOSEPHINE MCKITNCK
 SRI SRIPRAKASH*

NATIONAL MASTER

*ROBERT MATTHEW
 ROSEMARY MATTHEW*

Robert Matthew MP Secretary

ARANA CONTRACT BRIDGE CLUB

Gratefully acknowledges funding grant of \$17,007 provided by



Gambling

Community Benefit Fund

Queensland Government

For our 2008 Bridgemate project



Margaret Dancer 1948-2008

Our acquaintance began in the sixties. People met their spouses at work, or through flatmates, which was the case for the three flatmates, Bob, Robert and Barry.

Bridge was part of our shared lives, even before we all married forty years ago.

Bob was the natural card player, but he also read bridge books. Margaret was his girl friend, soon to be fiancée and in passing, his student. Once married, we soon spent many evenings at the kitchen table in various flats around Brisbane playing bridge through the night. Coffee was the drink of choice. In the first years we played in a thickening haze of smoke, to which we all subjected Margaret, though not without her comment.

When the kids started arriving, the smoke had gone, the cups of coffee merging into tea, but we kept up a slender acquaintance with bridge after dinner and a modest bottle of red, snatching a few hands before an early night.

Later, on camping trips, there were always cards close to hand. After the evening meal, a circle seemed to form spontaneously and a game of O'Hell or Rickety Kate would begin.

As the children grew up, the era of bridge dinners sprang from the better cooks among us – and Margaret was one of the best. The format was a complicated movement in which the four couples mixed and matched partners between the various courses of the meal. Actually the bridge was secondary to the dinners, the socialising and up to eight bottles of wine.

Arana Contract Bridge Club

Handicapped as we all were, Bob still always managed to emerge the winner.

Getting on to retirement, Don and Julie had located the Arana Bridge Club, and had made a startling discovery – duplicate bridge and the Five Card Majors system of bidding. As we all gravitated to the club, bridge took on a serious and sober demeanour. It was a whole new world. It was clear we had merely been flirting with it up till then (except for Bob).

Margaret was an excellent programmer and while Bob was president, it was she who took on the job of creating the first website for our club. She had amazing powers of concentration and tenacity. Who else, surrounded by small children, would keep at the Rubix Cube until it was solved. But her greatest talents were with the people in her life, to whom she devoted her considerable energy, thoughtfulness and generosity. Margaret's quiet grace and strength drew many even closer to her as her illness became more and more serious.

Robert and Rosemary Matthew

Don and I first met Margaret in 1980. I have a well remembered mental picture of her tramping through the forest with a small baby on her back.

Our family spent many entertaining Christmases with the Dancer family. Craig, Sarah and Karen, take after their parents in honour, brains and sincerity.

Sometimes Margaret and I would go on attempted art exercises – trying to copy a bat, hawk or eagle at the museum, often surrounded by not always complimentary school children.

Even while ill, Margaret managed to give hours of baby-sitting time to her four, much-loved grandchildren.

Her life was strong in ethics – she hated gossip; never forgot her friends; showed no bitterness as she bravely battled the devastating illnesses of multiple myeloma and bipolar. Margaret's journey has been hard, with an ever faithful and caring husband walking beside her. Bob has been her rock; a pillar of support, love and understanding.

I have always loved and admired this lady. As our youngest daughter said. "We are blessed to have known Margaret Dancer."

Julie Cutmore

♣ ♦ Important Phone Numbers ♥ ♠

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Results: www.aranabridgeclub.com

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Secretary: Tony Agar 3851 1362

Treasurer: Jan McRobbie 3355 2425



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Found in a Christmas cracker:

Q. Why are there no card players in the jungle?

A. Because there are too many cheetahs there.

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NEXT ISSUE:

Ray Cowie writes about his mother, Pearl.

EDITOR

Lynley Mason

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Please let me know if you have a profile of someone in the club you would like to submit or know of anyone who you think would like to be interviewed in 2009.