



ARANA

Contract Bridge Club Inc

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Editor's desk

ANOTHER great congress with new champions in Ezra Ben Ezra and Lorraine Fredericks. The compliments flowed freely for everything from the food to the colour coded stationery.

A special thanks to all the kitchen helpers and the cake and biscuit makers. The dessert table was as popular as ever.

That was Pam's FIFTH AND LAST congress. She is definitely playing in next year's event so we'll be looking for a new convenor next year.

The CULLEN team performed best of Arana's 3 finalists at the gold point teams zone finals, lying second for 4 rounds before fading to 8th.

More discussion with the Pine Shire Council re land in the Drysdale Reserve. The gullies around the ridge proposed for the clubhouse are the current tip site and being filled now, so the tip will be well away when the land is available in 4 years.

Val Acklin and Betty Willson finished second in the recent Moreton-Bribie swiss pair congress.

Richard McLauchlan

Masterpoint movements

LATEST masterpoint rankings as at the end of June for members whose home club is ARANA include:

Graduate

E Harris D Symons

Club

G Cruice

Local*

B Acklin B Douglas

Local**

D Cain M Welldon

P Yates

Regional

W Hooper

State

J Cutmore

J Sadleir

State*

H McLauchlan

National

R McLauchlan

Jenny Lewis (MP sec)

Sydney or the bush

WITH the top 3 teams getting to the national final in Sydney, we thought we were a chance when we were lying second with 1 night (3 matches) to go in the gold point teams zone final. A narrow loss to the HERON team (Western Suburbs) still left us in second and meeting KEMPTHORN (Barry & Agnes, Margaret Millar, Robyn Clayton) who ultimately finished second. We lost, but board 14 almost kept us in the game.

14/ E/ Nil	Q 10 9 7 6 5 4	E	S	W	N
	6 5 3	1C	2NT	3D	4S
	10 5	X	5C	X	5H
A 2	K	K J 8 3	X		
K J 4		A 9 7 2			
K Q 8 6 2		7			
6 3 2	--	A 8 7 4			
	Q 10 8				
	A J 9 4 3				
	Q J 10 9 5				

Barry's 2NT was for unbid suits (5/5, 6-10 hcp) and they were soon in all sorts of strife. I led the D7, won by dummy's A, and won the C return. The HA then H2 saw Darryl Cullen win the J and play the HK. He won the DK & Q. The SA followed by the S2 to my J then K left declarer with 3 tricks for 8 down and 2000 to us.

Our team mates Pam and Helen played in 1SNx making 4 for -500 and 17 IMPS to us. Another loss on the final match saw us slip to 8th but not that far from 4th. Maybe next year.

Richard McLauchlan

Mixed up pairs

THE Qld mixed pairs at Toowong attracted a typically strong field with many non-regular pairings. Pam Horton and I continued our partnership in the event while first timer, Trevor Cullen, partnered Helen McLauchlan. Qualifying produced ordinary results but I often get an interesting board against Ralph (& Sheila) Parker; board 6 was no exception.

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

Pam & I bid the NS cards to 4S. Ralph led the S2, exposing the 5-0 trump break, won in hand with the 6. The HJ was covered, won in dummy and the HQ played. A ruffed H was followed by a D to the A and a 2nd H ruff. Another D put Ralph in a bind. He declined to ruff and dummy's K won. I exited with a C to Sheila and Ralph should have been end played for 10 tricks.

Unfortunately, I did not get it quite right. I had ruffed Hs with the SA & K and could not beat dummy's S8 for the final finesse against Ralph's SJ so I had to concede a S for 1 down. Trevor & Helen played in 3NT making. We played board 13 in Q2 against Jim & Margaret Millar, while Helen & Trevor played it against (guess who) Ralph & Sheila Parker.

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

Rich	Jim	Pam	Marg	Trev	Ralph	Helen	Sheila
2D	/	2H	4C	2C	4H	X	/
4D	/	5C	/	5H	/	6H	/
5S	/	7D		6S	/	6NT	/
				/	X	/	/
				7D	X		

Our bidding is fairly straight forward. My 2D was 3 loser; Pam's 2H the H A or K; Margaret interfered; more Ds; C A or K; Ss; that'll do 7D!

Helen & Trevor's sequence meant something like: 2C 4 loser game force; Ralph interfered; X HA; 5H not my suit, don't stop; 6H H support (has Ralph psyched?); S suit; Ok NT; X I don't believe it, you've stuffed up; NT on 2 voids? I don't think so; X neither do I!!! 6NTx makes for 1680, but Ralph chased them into the top spot of 7D for 2140, then to outright top 7Dx for 2330!

It seemed all wrong when Pam & I had far more plus scores than Trevor-Helen in this session but ended up with a worse percentage and placing. Their third (courtesy of Ralph) got them into the plate while we went to consolation 2.

In the finals, they played solidly and were mid-field most of the day. When they met Ralph & Sheila, he said they could bid anything they liked, he was not doubling. We started slowly and worked up to 3rd at lunch, grabbed the lead on the 3rd-last round, lost it, and played with controlled aggression for a comfortable last round and overall win. Gympie avenged! Helen & Trevor might be the 28th best mixed pair in Qld, but we got more cash and probably more MPs than them. If only wine prizes were awarded for the final session, we'd have got that too.

Richard McLauchlan

Arana congress

A CROWDED bridge calendar was probably responsible for the drop back to 27 tables in this year's congress. Still, that is a nice number for the director with plenty of locals and top Brisbane and coast players entered. First qualifying session was great if you were S (I was) who had an opening hand (or better) 75% of the time. Bob & I won the 1st session, while Betty Willson & Rita Wood and Julie Cutmore & Bob Dancer had seconds in Q2 as we all made the Championship.

We played the ultimate winners Ben Ezra and Lorraine Fredericks in the first round on Sunday and beat them 33-15. That must have been their only bad round for the day. At round 3, sitting N and with your side passing, W opens 1C, 1D, 1H, 4NT, 5H, 6H; the 1C was better minor (minimum 3), 4NT was Roman key card, 5H was 2 controls (of 4As + HK) plus HQ. What do you lead from:

9 8 3 2 A 7 2 K 6 4 J 8 6 ?

Not a difficult question. In fact, a random guess has a 12/1 chance of being right. It is often best to lead a trump against a freely bid slam and this is one of those times. The only card you should not lead is HA. Bob found the good lead of the H2, low from dummy and I jokingly called him a mongrel as I played my BARE HK (which I

always assumed was dead anyway). I turned the trick in the EW direction without even looking at declarer's card and was quite surprised when Bob informed me I had won the trick and was on lead.

One of our better rounds that helped push us fleetingly (2 rounds) into 1st place. We survived some big names (Millar-Clayton, Wallis-Konig, Pryde-Thomas) still in 3rd when Rita and Betty did us no favours and dumped us back into mid-field where we remained.

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

Very few pairs (2 of 9 in the championship) bid board 18 in F2 to 6H. I (E) opened 2NT (22-24 balanced) and Bob's 4H quickly ended proceedings. W's first trump lead should be a small H to the Q if N does not produce the K. Bob got it right and made 13. Ben and Lorraine play a Precision style strong club and found 6H via: 1C (16+, any shape), 3H (long weak Hs, less than 7 hcp), 4NT (key card), 5C (no HK), 6H. That didn't hurt their progress towards the championship win.

Aranans finishing in the money were Muriel Anderssen & Blanche Slaughter who won the consolation, with Trevor & Darryl Cullen finishing 2nd. Another great effort from club members and the compliments flowed freely as we maintained our reputation for great food and a friendly atmosphere. Congratulations to all who were involved in any way.

Richard McLauchlan

Convenor's congress

TO all members, a BIG THANK YOU for your support at our congress again this year. I usually have a panic attack a couple of weeks before the event but you all seem to come to the fore on the vital weekend.

One of Qld's top women's players - Margaret Millar playing at our congress for the first time - came and congratulated me on our congress format. She said it was a pleasure to play in such a friendly atmosphere and it reminded her of what it used to be like years ago at a country congress, but never had she seen this at a city congress before.

She could express nothing but very well done, so **VERY WELL DONE TROOPS!**

And troops are what some of you have become. Five congresses and some of you have worked with me at all 5. To all the workers, cooks, donation givers, setting up & pulling down crews, parking stewards, pencil sharpeners and odd-jobbers, my sincere thanks. I will try to list you all but if I miss anyone, please forgive me.

Cooks - too many to name. Helpers - Marian Richardson, Bob Pearce, Ailsa Smith, Ted McGrath, Philip Smith, Albert Lewis, Helen McLauchlan, Jenny Lewis, Richard McLauchlan, Trevor Cullen, Ilene Bishop, Don Cutmore, Alison Fulwood, Deslei Den Haan, Lorraine Steele, Judith Homan, Joan Hill, Gloria Cruice, Darlene Smith, Beryl Bell, Zelma O'Connor, Joan Fitz-Herbert, Wendy Pollard, May Hassum, Betty Brandt, Kay Paull, Marie Harvey, Trish Diddams, Fran Husband, Margaret Woodroffe, Jean Parry, Joan Sadleir.

Our congress fielded 27 tables this year. Several cancellations came at the last minute because of illness and gave me a very worrying Friday, but the number of tables was ideal for the director, so all was fine. Sat 31 May saw 2 qualifying rounds of 3 sections with 9 tables in each. Sun 1 June saw the field again divided into 3 sections of 9 tables for the 2 final rounds.

Results

Championship

1. B Ezra - L Fredericks
2. R Wallis - I Halford
3. A Pryde - G Thomas

Plate

1. M Eaton - D Cullen
2. L Worthington-Wilmer - O Humphrey
3. A Stitt - L Newnham

Consolation

1. B Slaughter - M Anderssen
2. T Cullen - D Cullen
3. P Darrouzet - H Sarafov

Joan McPheat & Reg Busch must be congratulated on scoring and directing in such a competent manner. I have booked them again for next year without even thinking.

Special thanks must go to Marian Richardson who so willingly organised the kitchen for me. This was Marian's second congress and it is always a comfort to me to know that I don't have to worry about the kitchen on the day. Don Cutmore kept the male flag flying on the weekend, manning the tea room on his own on occasions and doing a great job.

To my “girl Friday” Helen McLauchlan, many thanks. This was Helen’s third year and having someone who knows the ropes makes it so much easier. Nothing was too much trouble for Helen and I thank her.

The hall looked stunning again this year thanks to Ailsa and Philip Smith (for the 5th time). They came on Friday night looking like a couple of drowned rats in the storm and brought their potted gardens with them. The greenery makes the hall look so much more inviting as guests arrive.

Ted McGrath appeared out of nowhere at all sessions to open up and close the hall and help set up - thanks Ted.

The raffle was again organised by Alison Fulwood for the 5th time. This year, she chose a different format and raffled \$100 notes - this proved to be popular with all.

Thanks to Forest Place for donating the bidding slips.

Our first congress 5 years ago was organised by Judy Valentine and she groomed me well to take over the job. The congress is now firmly established as a QBA event and is well received by the players, so I feel it is time for someone else to have a go? It is a good fund raiser for the club, really the only one we have. I am happy to help anyone who would like to do the job and I have heaps of screeds of paperwork on each of the congresses to make things easier.

Thank you all again for your on-going support. It is certainly a pleasure to work with such a great group of people. Thanks also to the club for the presentation made to me at the end of the congress - it was all a lovely surprise. Thank you all.

Pam Horton (Congress convenor)

Caloundra congress

SOME significant changes were made to the ‘97 Caloundra congress. Notably, it moved from late February (after the QBA Gold Coast) to mid-May and it changed from pairs to teams. More astounding than all that was the desire of one Judy Valentine (off the smokes and into bridge) to participate, so I received the dubious pleasure of captaining Judy, Pam Horton, Helen and me. The format was a swiss, playing 2 x 14 board matches on Sat and Sun morning and afternoon.

We won our first 3 matches, lobbing into second spot against the (ultimate winners) Hunt team (Bill Hunt, Mike Pemberton, Jim & Margaret Millar). Helen & I tackled the Millars while Pam & Judy took on Bill & Mike. This set of boards

was very distributional - 8 voids and 17 singletons in 14 boards allowed a lot of bidding on not many hcp. A slip in defence allowed board 24 to get away.

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

Jim & Margaret (NS) bid to 4S, Helen leading the D10, 5, Q, A. Ten tricks are relatively easy if any of the finesses (SQ, HK, CK) are working but which one should declarer attempt, preserving dummy’s entries? Jim led a S to the A followed by the CJ to Helen’s K. She returned the D2 to my K. Without really thinking, I led the D9, unnecessarily pinning dummy’s 8. Jim’s J was ruffed and Helen quite rightly took my D9 as a signal for Hs. Jim played the Q and stitched up 10 tricks. The D4 would have called for a C exit, declarer being forced to the failing H finesse.

We lost this match but qualified for the championship final. As we were always in the top half dozen, the matches did not get any easier. We finished out of the money (a first for me, Caloundra is usually very kind) but did play 4 of the top 5 placegetters. Captaining 3 women isn’t difficult, you just do as you are told. Thanks team for a great effort.

Richard McLauchlan

Worldwide pairs

ARANA stopped playing this competition a couple of years ago when only small fields played on Friday night. Helen & I played this years Saturday event at QCBC where only 7 tables competed.

The boards were an improvement on a few years ago as was the very thorough commentary by Eric Kokish. Although the instant scoring was based on actual results from play in large fields, there are always occasions where it seems askew.

On board 20, N/S have a 25 hcp slam (7H), yet only Keith McDonald - Andrew Pryde bid to 6H (against us) for which they earned 70%. All others were in 4/5H making 13 for 23%. Not bidding game or making less than 13 in 4H got you 0%, while 7H making 13 got 97%. We felt even more cheated by board 9.

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

We duly bid the EW cards to 4S and got the lead of DJ ?! This looks all very straight forward for 11 tricks (7S+1H+2D+1C) which Helen duly made for 9%! You can make 12 by winning the D in hand and leading the HQ won by S who returns (say) a S to dummy's J. Ruff a small H and clear trumps; cross to dummy on either minor suit A and ruff another small H; back to dummy on the other A and lead Hs for a C and D discard. Now you have upped your score to 44%!

Bidding and making 6S earns 86%, but the slam can be defeated by a trump lead which prematurely removes one of dummy's entries needed to set up the Hs. Making 12 in 3NT earns 10% but that should only be possible on a C lead from N or some poor discarding on spades.

Our final score of 51% in a not so strong field was all a bit ordinary but the cards were reasonably interesting.

Richard McLauchlan

Did you know...

MORE from the useless fact department. There are 19 possible distributions holding a singleton, the most likely being 5-4-3-1 which occurs roughly 1 in 8 hands, or every second board. The dreaded 4-4-4-1 hand is only the fifth most likely singleton holding, occurring 3% of the time. The probability of any singleton occurring is 30.8%, or roughly 1 in 3 hands. So next time you need to drop a singleton K, consider that in a 27 board movement, ie 108 hands, 33 hands should contain a singleton with 2.6 of those a bare K.

Alex Montwill (Aust Bridge June 97)

1C: how many clubs?

YOU are playing Standard American with a short club (minimum 2), 5 card majors, and you bid 4 carded suits up the line. How can you determine if partner's 1C opening is 2, 3 or 4+ carded? Subsequent bidding will give you a clue, especially if the opponents are silent on the first round. For ordinary hands with no jump bids and no C rebid by opener, bidding will proceed 1C-

1D-1H, 1C-1D-1S, 1C-1D-1NT, 1C-1H-1S, 1C-1H-1NT or 1C-1S-1NT.

1C-1D-1H is the least helpful, although it is the only one which may have a 2 card C suit. If so, opener holds precisely 2-3-4-4 (C-D-H-S). If 3 carded, she is 3-2-4-4 or 3-3-4-3.

For 1C-1D-1S and 1C-1H-1S, if opener holds 3 Cs, she has precisely 3-3-3-4. Otherwise she holds 4 or more Cs (more likely).

If 1C-1S-1NT comes from a 3 carded C suit, opener holds exactly 3-3-4-3 and it is even more likely that the C suit is 4 carded or longer.

The 2 sequences which totally eliminate the 3 card C opening are 1C-1D-1NT and 1C-1H-1NT. Opener will be at least 4-3-3-3 and may actually hold 4Ds (4-4-2-3 or 4-4-3-2) but elect to play NT rather than support the 1D bid. The possible distributions (* = possible on the bidding) are summarised below.

C	D	H	S	CDH	CDS	CDnt	CSnt
				CHS	CHnt		
2	3	4	4	*			
3	2	4	4	*			
3	3	3	4		*		
3	3	4	3	*			*
4	1	4	4	*			
4	2	3	4		*		
4	2	4	3	*			*
4	3	2	4		*		
4	3	3	3			*	*
4	3	4	2	*			*
4	4	1	4		*		
4	4	2	3			*	*
4	4	3	2			*	*
4	4	4	1	*			*

Richard McLauchlan

Important dates

- Sat 19-20/7 Goondiwindi congress
- Sun 20/7 Noosa pairs
- **Tue 22/7 Management committee meeting**
- Sun 27/7 Lockyer pairs
- Sat 2-3/8 Bundaberg congress
- Sun 3/8 Northern Suburbs novice pairs
- Sun 3/8 Sunshine Coast novice pairs
- Sun 3/8 Toowoomba 1-day pairs
- Sat 9-10/8 Qld men's & women's pairs (QCBC)
- Sat 16-17/8 Maryborough congress
- Sun 17/8 Toowong novice teams
- **Mon 18-19-20/8 Red point sessions**
- Fri 22-24/8 Rockhampton congress