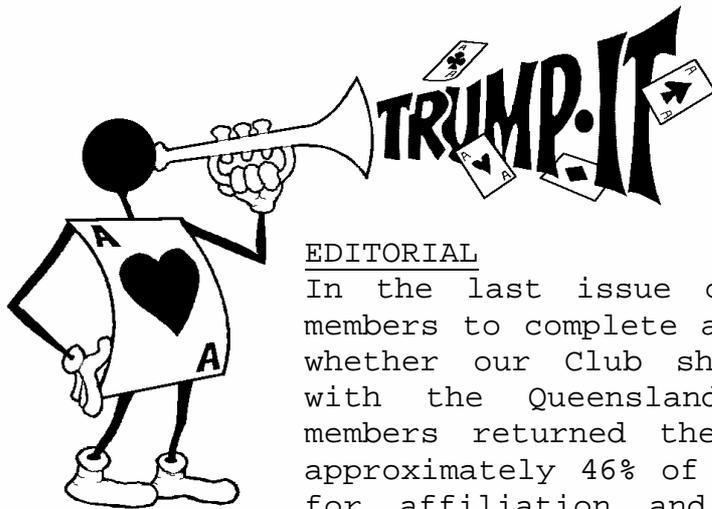


ARANA CONTRACT BRIDGE CLUB INC



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EDITORIAL

In the last issue of the Trump-It, we asked members to complete and return a survey form on whether our Club should now seek affiliation with the Queensland Bridge Association. 55 members returned their forms that represented approximately 46% of total membership. 48 voted for affiliation and 7 voted against. It is obvious from this survey that members now believe we have come of age and are ready to join the parent body.

There were some members who voiced their concern that our club could change from the friendly atmosphere we presently experience if "outsiders" invaded our club sessions. The tone of our club is dictated by what the member's desire. If an "outsider/visitor's" behaviour is not in keeping with the standard that our members have come to expect, then that visitor can be asked not to return. If a visitor shows interest in joining our club, then ratification of membership can be delayed for a certain period of time, to see if the player's behaviour meets the standards required. After membership has been approved, the Management Committee can still terminate membership if sufficient complaints are lodged against a member.

Certainly we will attract some "outsiders" if we affiliate, but I do not believe that we will be invaded. There are sufficient clubs in Brisbane, offering numerous sessions and I cannot envisage people travelling miles out of their way to attend our sessions for a paltry number of Master Points.

If I am wrong and we are invaded, what can happen? Most importantly, we can control the behaviour of visitors - we will prescribe what the visitor is allowed or not allowed to do. These visitors will bring extra revenue into the club that will be used for the benefit of our own members. Many of them could be players of many year's experience and if of a fairly reasonable standard, will provide a means to elevate the standard of our own members. In order to improve one's own game, one must play against players who are of a higher standard.

At the Management Committee meeting held recently, it was decided that as the majority of members, who returned the survey form, had indicated interest in affiliation, we should prepare to call a meeting where members will be required to vote. Firstly, we need to approach the QBA and find out the costs

involved in affiliation. Secondly, we need to advise our members, through the Trump-It, of these costs so that the members are fully aware of the additional fees they must bear. We therefore need sufficient time to collate and distribute information before the Special General Meeting of members is called. The Management Committee has set aside the month of September as a possible time for this meeting, but members will be advised once we have received a reply from the QBA.

It is important for members to realise that their "yes" vote on the survey form has not committed the club to affiliation. The survey was made to establish whether or not the majority of members supported the idea of affiliation before it was put to a meeting. Voting, for or against, at a Special General Meeting, will determine whether or not our club becomes affiliated. When the meeting is called, there will be plenty of time allowed for members to raise questions, make points and debate, before finally being asked to vote.

This is an appropriate time to state the Laws of Conduct and Etiquette.

A. Proper Attitude

1. Courtesy

A player should maintain at all times a courteous attitude.

2. Etiquette of Word and Action

A player should carefully avoid any remark or action that might cause annoyance or embarrassment to another player, or might interfere with the enjoyment of the game.

3. Conformity to Correct Procedure

Every player should follow uniform and correct procedure in calling and playing, since any departure from correct standards may disrupt the orderly progress of the game.

B. Etiquette

As a matter of courtesy a player should refrain from:

1. paying insufficient attention to the game.
2. making gratuitous comments during the auction and play.
3. detaching a card before it is his turn to play.
4. prolonging play unnecessarily (as in playing on although he knows that all the tricks are surely his) for the purpose of disconcerting an opponent.
5. summoning the Director in a manner discourteous to him or to other contestants.

C. Breaches of Propriety

The following are considered breaches of propriety:

1. using different designations for the same call.
2. indicating approval or disapproval of a call or play.
3. indicating the expectation or intention of winning or losing a trick that has not been completed.
4. commenting or acting during the auction or play so as to call attention to a significant occurrence, or to the number of tricks still required for success.

5. looking intently at any other player during the auction and play, or at another player's hand as for the purpose of seeing his cards or of observing the place from which he draws a card (but it is appropriate to act on information acquired by inadvertently seeing an opponent's card).
6. showing an obvious lack of further interest in a deal (as by folding one's cards).
7. varying the normal tempo of bidding or play for the purpose of disconcerting an opponent.
8. leaving the table needlessly before the round is called.

You can see from the Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge (1987 Edition), under the heading of Proprieties, that bad behaviour need not be tolerated. From the inception of our club, the members have expected good behaviour at the bridge table and have enjoyed a friendly social club atmosphere that is not available in any other bridge club in Brisbane. The members have shown, by example, that they require this very high standard to continue and the Management Committee have agreed that anyone who is not prepared to fall in line with our set of values should be asked to leave.

Judy Valentine(Editor)

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OTHER MATTERS FROM MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

The Sub-Committee, appointed to do a feasibility study of the club owning its own premises, submitted a report.

The Sub-Committee has ascertained that Lease land is available through the Pine Shire and the Sub-Committee will be meeting with a Pine Shire Councillor, to determine what parkland is available and the conditions of the Lease. The Sub-Committee has looked at costs involved in buying ready made buildings where land costs are included as opposed to building a hall on leased land. At this present moment, building on leased land is strongly favoured simply because of the high cost of land today.

The Treasurer was asked to inquire at our bank, the conditions of borrowing money if building on leased land, the deposit required and what funds would be needed to service a loan.

When holding our various social events (e.g. Melbourne Cup party, Pine River Shire Festival, Christmas party etc.), we inevitably find that we are lacking in certain catering equipment, such as a knife to cut cakes, a tin opener etc. The Committee is prepared to purchase the various items needed, but felt some members may have a surplus supply that they may be prepared to donate to the club. The following are the items we need and if you can help, please see Muriel Miller.

cake server
3 sharp knives (any size)
baking tray
tongs
plates for serving cakes, sandwiches etc.
tin opener
bottle opener

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BOOK REVIEW
Opening Leads

by Noel Haysom
by Robert B. Ewen

As a comparatively latecomer to the contract bridge world, one of my pet hates has been the apparent tendency by many authors of bridge text-books and of newspaper or magazine "bridge problem" articles, to shroud the game with unnecessary gobbledegook, calculated to confuse and frighten off the newcomer rather than to encourage him.

Every intellectual activity needs to have some jargon to facilitate discussion and to identify certain actions accurately but succinctly, without having to use fifty words to do so. However, many people in the bridge literary field often write as though they are trying to make contract bridge a new form of freemasonry, with its secrets open only to the fully initiated!! Card players in a wide variety of card games use common terms such as "take", "trump" and "discard" which have been in existence for probably hundreds of years. When they switch over to contract bridge, why have they got to readjust their thinking to the use of more flamboyant terms such as "cash" "ruff" and "ditch" for what are essentially the same actions?

Having got that off my chest, I am greatly pleased to report that Ewen's book has little obtrusive jargon. The text is easy to read and amusingly expressed without reverting to some of the "smart-alec" humour of one or two of our well-known bridge columnists.

I was further pleased to note that each chapter is concluded with an abundance of set problems, followed by suggested solutions to these problems, together with a short explanatory discussion in each case. Great stuff!!

My first impression of opening lead theory in contract bridge was that it involved a very rigid pattern. It seemed to me that one first tried to find an opportunity to make a lead according to a limited number of general principles, such as "Fourth highest of longest and strongest" or "top card of a sequence" etc. If you couldn't find in your hand an appropriate lead along these lines, you were left with making a selection from a huge table of card combinations, quite beyond the average person's ability to memorise in toto.

I also noticed that there seemed to be very little space in general text books on bridge devoted to the problem of opening leads, despite the fact that opening leads are the traumatic transition from the bidding phase of the game to the playing phase. Even Judy's "Bridging My Way" (which I think is a great beginner's text) devotes just slightly above 3% of its coverage to this aspect of the game.

Robert Ewen's book gives clues and explanations as to what and (more importantly) why one may or should sometimes make opening leads which differ from the blind following of traditional conventions, or of fashionable "tables of recommended leads". One learns that the choice of the best opening lead can be arrived at by a thinking process rather than by the mechanical memorisation of a complex table.

The first half of the book, with chapters entitled "Rate your Opening Leads", "Trouble over Tables", "Gathering the Evidence", "Leads against No-Trumps" and "Leads against Suit Contracts" seemed very useful for persons such as myself, just progressing beyond beginner's classes. The second half, comprising such chapters as "Leads against Slam Contracts", "Lead-Directing Doubles", "Lead-Directing and Lead-Inhibiting Bids", "Lead Expertise" and "Opening Lead Hall of Fame" is definitely more for the advanced student.

In summary, this is not an elementary text. However, it is a great book for a student wanting to know more about opening lead theory beyond the beginners Level, but definitely a text to be taken in stages. Unless you are well beyond the novice stage, I suggest you concentrate initially on the first half of the book, and defer study on the second half until you have acquired a bit more experience under Your belt.

[Bridge is a game that takes a life-time to learn simply because of the many facets attached to the game. To cover them all in the one book is an impossibility - hence the reason why bridge authors choose one specific area to write about. The first area that should be perfected is the bidding - even this is divided into two - bidding without and bidding with interference. My book was written to cover a bidding system with just a smidgen of information on opening leads and play technique to get the beginner started. The play area is enormous with only world top players attempting to write books on the many and varied methods of approaching hand play. Our club has quite a comprehensive library, for members, covering the different methods of play strategy but unfortunately many are not taking advantage of this facility. The purpose of publishing book reviews is to enlighten members as to what is available and the standard of player the book is aiming at. I agree with Noel. Ewen's book is an outstanding publication and for those who wish to have their own bridge library, I can recommend this as the best book available on "Opening Leads". Ed.]

PINE SHIRE FESTIVAL PAIRS

22 pairs participated in this event which was held on Wednesday night the 12th June, 1991. The event was conducted as a seeded 11 table Mitchell movement with 22 boards being played.

Members provided "goodies" for supper which made a very social evening.

Perry Hooper and Ed Brown were the winners of the pairs event. Two Pine Shire Councillors presented a boxed pair of crystal wine glasses to each winner before the start of play on Wednesday night 19th June, 1991.

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BUNDABERG CONGRESS

This friendly Congress will take place on the week-end of 27th & 28th July. Players who attended last year, are again entered for a "relaxing" week-end of "fun". Entry forms are available from me for those who wish to attend. To give you a taste of what you may expect, I am publishing an article by Richard McLauchlan from last year's Bundy Congress. Ed.

I WISH YOU'D BID YOUR HAND, PARTNER

I'm always telling Bob I wish he'd bid his hand when game was lay down and overtricks were there for the taking. A couple of such hands came up at Bundaberg. You hold the following cards and the bidding proceeds as shown. What is your next bid and in what contract do you want to play?

1. K Q 9 4 2 8 4 K J 6 3 A K	2. A 9 7 2 7 A K 7 3 K 7 5 2	3. A K J 8 3 Q 10 9 8 6 Q 2 K	4. A K J 9 5 4 A J A 5 2 A 6
N E S W 1S NB 3S NB ?	N E S W 3H X NB 3S NB ?	N E S W 1C NB 1S NB 2S NB ?	N E S W 1S NB 2S NB ?

These hands were played in the finals. In fact, hands 2 & 3 were consecutive boards in the second final. The opposition played hand 1, while I was lucky enough to play the others. Point counters might open 2S on hand 4. O.K., times up.

When we played these hands, the next and final bid was 4S. If you didn't bid to game on each hand, please don't ask me to partner you. If you bid 6S on every hand, you cheated or you're an inveterate gambler or I'm open to offers for a trade-in on my present partner (just kidding Bob). The full hands were -

1.	A85		2.	KJ10864	
	6			Q108	
	A1072			98	
	Q9872			A4	
J107		63	Q53		void
KQ1097		AJ532	KJ		A965432
Q4		985	Q1064		J52
1065		J43	10983		QJ6
	KQ942			A972	
	84			7	
	KJ63			AK73	
	AK			K752	
3.	10965			Q76	
	AJ			74	
	K75			QJ1094	
	A852			KJ8	
42		Q7	832		10
K743		52	10962		KQ853
AJ84		10963	63		K87
1064		QJ973	Q1052		9743
	AKJ83			AKJ954	
	Q10986			AJ	
	Q2			A52	
	K			A6	

Arguably, they are all poor slams, depending on kind drops or finesses. Perhaps some of the more esoteric bidding systems around may be able to bid the slams. Or maybe, I need another seminar on slam bidding. Minimum point counts for the hands are 26, 24, 27 and 30. Having found a fit in spades, distribution points can be added. Still, hand 4 is the only one getting close to a 6S point count. The slam would probably be bid by point counters opening 2S.

Even then, slam depends on the diamond King being onside and the spades being played correctly (3 rounds ending in dummy so the club King remains as an entry when the diamond Queen and Jack are not covered). I did everything right on this hand up to the diamond Queen. When the Queen held, I thought "Oh, no, not another unbid slam!" I then called for the diamond Jack. When it was not covered, I pulled the 5 from my hand and in a Freudian slip, I dropped the Ace on the table and had to settle for 11 tricks.

After suffering through the trump distributions of the qualifying sessions (consistently nasty: e.g. with 5 trumps out, you would start figuring how you could accommodate a 6-0 trump break!), we could hardly believe the favourable distributions in these hands. But then, as I said before "I wish you'd bid your hand, partner"!