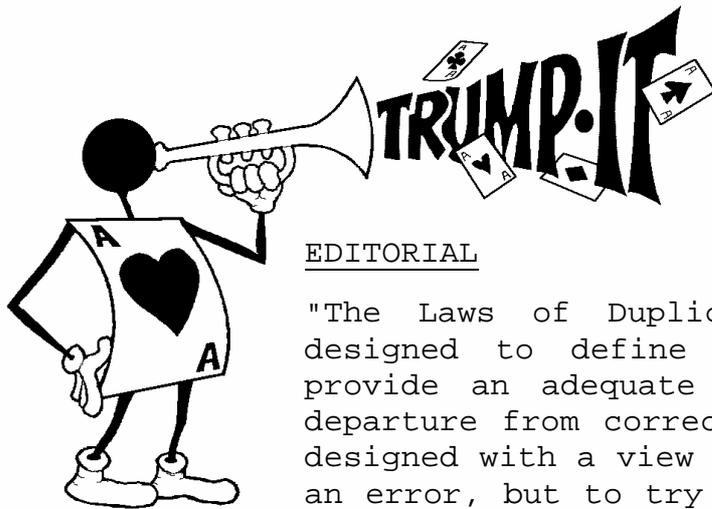


ARANA CONTRACT BRIDGE CLUB



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EDITORIAL

"The Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge" are designed to define correct procedure and to provide an adequate solution when there is a departure from correct procedure. They were not designed with a view of punishing those who make an error, but to try and restore the bidding or play to where it was before the error occurred.

Our club has been trying to implement the rules into the weekly club games for some 2 years now and this has been fairly successful. There are, however, a few areas that need clarification. The questions most frequently asked are "Who instructs the opening leader to turn his card face up?" "What rights has the dummy hand?" "Who is in charge of boards?" "Am I allowed to touch them when playing East/West?" These questions on what is correct procedure have been brought to my attention by Club Directors and players who are now visiting other clubs. The understanding of the Rules which govern our weekly games may help you to make the right decision when an infringement occurs, either as a declarer or as a defender. The "Trump-It" will now have a special segment called "Director's Corner". Should any member like a rule explained, please write it down on a piece of paper and hand it to Judy. You may want to know why a Director made the ruling he/she did. If there is a hand involved, please make sure that you write down all four hands. This new segment is to help you all learn the more common rules without having to wade through a rather boring rule book.

This issue, we will cover correct procedure and from next issue we will start covering the rules in the hope that a better understanding will enhance your enjoyment of the game.

ALERTING DURING THE AUCTION

LAW 40 B. Concealed Partnership Understanding Prohibited

"A player may not make a call or play based on a special partnership understanding unless an opposing pair may reasonably be expected to understand its meaning, or unless his side discloses the use of such call or play in accordance with the regulations of the sponsoring organisation."

The Australian Bridge Federation, supported by all State Associations, has ruled that all bids made, that do not show a natural suit, must be alerted.

For instance - players who are now using bids that divert from the Standard American System taught to students, must alert. Examples would be - Benjamin 2's and their responses, cue bids, trial bids, etc. Any player who fails to alert when a special partnership understanding is present, can be subject to a board adjustment should the opponents feel that they have been damaged by the non-disclosure. If there is any doubt in your mind that the opponents could misunderstand your partner's bid, then it is better to alert. Better safe than sorry, so to speak.

The person who is the one to alert is the partner of the player who made the bid. No information must be given until requested by the opponents. No opponent must ask for the explanation until it is his/her turn to call. It is unwise to continually ask for explanations during the auction unless you have some intention of bidding or doubling. Asking for an explanation of an artificial bid made by an opponent, especially when you have some values in that suit, could be construed that you would like that suit led. Partner may have every intention of leading that suit if no questions had been asked, but may find it difficult to justify the lead after your questions in relation to that suit. Unless you are going to bid, don't ask questions. At the end of the auction all alerts should be explained.

This rule is not meant to frighten or upset players. Bridge is a game of skill, poker is a game of deceit. The governing bodies believe that each partnership at the table has the right to know what the other partnership's bids mean without having to learn their system.

OPENING LEAD

The player who makes the opening lead does so by placing the card face down on the table. This is done for one reason only. It is to give the partner of the opening leader the opportunity of asking a question/s or for further clarification about the bidding that he/she has not been able to ask during the auction for fear of drawing attention to a specific suit before the opening lead is made. Once again, it is important not to direct your questions in a way that could be construed as having a particular interest in a suit.

Because the card is faced down for the benefit of the partner of the opening leader, it is this person who requests that the card be faced up on the table by stating "Thank you, partner, no questions" or "Thank you, partner, no further questions". Many bridge players have the conception that this law was designed to stop the lead out of the wrong hand. This is not so, but it is a big bonus that arises from a very sensible law.

DUMMY

I am always being asked what is the correct way to place dummy on the table. Do you have to put the cards in ranked order? Do you have to place the cards in colour order - black, red, black

red? The answer is you may place the cards in any order you wish. The only stipulations are that trumps be placed on the right side of the dummy hand and that all cards are visible to all players. If your partner has a preference for the way the dummy hand is spread, then oblige. Most players don't care, but some have bad eyesight and separating the colours could help considerably.

Place your cards facing declarer and not yourself. It is very disturbing to most players in having dummy placed up-side-down on the table and you may be asked by opponents to rearrange dummy if you do place the hand on the table this way.

Dummy is declarer's agent and should play the cards as directed. Dummy must never try and influence declarer's play by touching any cards or making suggested plays by placing the hand above a particular card or suit. The opponents have the right of redress should this happen.

Dummy must not look at the declarer's or the defender's hand or remove the score card from the board until the hand is completed. There is a penalty on dummy should this not be adhered to.

Dummy may ask declarer (but not a defender) when he/she has failed to follow suit to a trick whether he/she has a card of the suit led.

Dummy may try to prevent any irregularity by declarer (he,/she may for example, warn declarer against leading from the wrong hand.

Dummy should not initiate a call for the Director during play. If an irregularity occurs, then it is up to the declarer or one of opponents to call the Director.

Dummy may not call attention to an irregularity during play (for example, dummy may not draw attention to a revoke until the hand is over).

Dummy may not participate in the play or make any comment, or ask questions, on the bidding or play. (For example, dummy must not enter into any conversation between declarer and the opponent/s by giving an opinion on bidding or play.)

THE BOARD

The board must remain in the centre of the table at all times. It may be moved forward to accommodate the dummy hand, but it must not be put to the side of the table. It may be necessary for a player to refer to the board during the course of play to remind him/her who the initial dealer was or the vulnerability of the board. The added advantage to this rule is that the board is less likely to be fouled when it remains on the table. The removal of the board from the table could very well mean that the hands are restored to the wrong pockets.

SILENT BIDDING SHEETS

The Silent Bidding pad may be marked with the vulnerability and the dealer if desired, however, the onus rests with each person to check the board itself. If a player opens out of turn due to a wrongly marked bidding sheet, then he/she alone is responsible for the infringement and there is no redress on the person who marked it. Strictly speaking, the bidding sheet should be turned over after everyone has played to the first trick. Any questions regarding bidding should be made before the first trick has been completed.

TABLE MANAGEMENT

Once again, I have been asked who controls the table? Who places the boards on the table? Who marks the silent bidding pad? Who scores? Apparently in some clubs, players are upset if East/West try to lend a helping hand.

Generally, it is the North and South players who manage the table and for some unknown reason, it is the North player who feels he/she should rule the roost (I have had my hand slapped once or twice by a brooding hen when I tried to touch her eggs.) North is usually the one who scores but this task may be given to South if so desired. For convenience sake (North has enough to do), South is generally put in charge of the silent bidding sheet but the East/West players may circle the dealer and mark the vulnerability, if it important to them, when North,/South have declined to do this. Each club may have their own local rules of whether a silent bidding sheet should be marked or not.

In the next issue of the "Trump-It", we will start to cover some of the more common laws where infringements occur. Don't forget, if you have any specific law you want covered, write it down on a piece of paper and hand it to me. Also in the next issue we will be showing you how to fill in a Convention Card.

Judy Valentine (Editor)

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Because a few of the our members have now been to the Gold Coast Congress, we continue the history of the QBA as compiled by Margaret Thomason on this event. Margaret's article was written in 1979.

GOLD COAST CONGRESS

The Toowoomba Bride Club convened Australia's first week-end congress in 1960 and Queensland scored another 'first' with the week-long Gold Coast Congress at the Chevron Hotel, Surfers Paradise in April, 1962.

In those halcyon days of 1962, the entry fee was 30 shillings per player per event, if staying at the Chevron, and the accommodation tariff for bed and breakfast was two pound ten

shillings single, 4 pound double with luncheon at a cost of 15 shillings and dinner one pound.

The entry of 22 pairs and 8 teams included four players from South Australia and thirteen from New South Wales, among them Mary McMahon, Dick Cummings and Tim Seres. The congress got under way with a welcoming cocktail party and the events that followed were similar to those conducted today: Pairs the first three days and teams the last four days. There were afternoon and evening sessions except that Tuesday night was always a free night until 1972. This programme enabled visitors to sample the glamorous night life of the Gold Coast.

The Congress was an outstanding success and at the Farewell Dinner it was announced that the event would 'take place again next year'. Trophies for the Pairs Championship and Plate and Teams Championship were presented and one hundred and forty pounds was distributed in prize money.

In the mid-sixties, the Chevron Hotel donated a trophy, The Chevron Cup, for an event for players staying at the hotel and, due to the efforts of James O'SULLIVAN, the Benson and Hedges Company became associated with what proved to be a valued sponsorship. For many years, all Benson and Hedges trophies were 'gold' the colour reflected in the very familiar official programme.

In 1972, the congress had become a very popular annual event and one of the premier congresses in Australia, attracting a sprinkling of international visitors and entries from all Australian States. That year, entries were restricted to 120 pairs and 48 teams and the Congress was sold out in two days. Many intending entrants were disappointed, so the QBA Council decided to expand the 1973 congress and hired the annex to the Convention Room to accommodate a larger field and, recognising that the event had become too large to expect anyone to organise it on a voluntary basis, appointed a paid Convenor and a paid Tournament Director.

For many years, George CUPPAIDGE worked tirelessly to ensure that the Gold Coast Congress continued to maintain the very high standard set by the former honorary Convenors. In his 1979 report to Council, he proudly announced that the entry had been a record: 142 pairs and 60 teams and \$5,000 had been distributed in trophies and prize money.

There have been many improvements over the years: Vu-graph for the last 20 boards of the Teams Championship was introduced in 1969 and, since the mid-seventies, the exciting barometer scoring for the final sessions of the Pairs Championship and Plate has become a feature; there has been a change in the format of the Teams from the handicap event played on a league basis to the more popular Swiss movement. A Congress Bulletin, edited by Ron KLINGER, was produced in 1975 and 1976, but due to

the high cost and the amount of work involved, the Bulletin was not continued.

Since 1979 when this article was published through the QBA Bulletin, the Congress has continued to grow in numbers. The old venue of the Chevron Hotel has now disappeared and the ANA Hotel has now become 'home' to this most exciting Congress. Because of the large numbers attending (1990 - approx. 120 tables of pairs and 100 teams) the Congress Convention Room overflowed to another floor in the hotel

Richard GRENSIDE has been Chief Tournament Director for many years now and the QBA has added paid Assistant Directors to cope with the large numbers. Computer scoring for all pairs events has replaced the manual task of producing results. This innovation has proved its worth by having results produced faster and more accurately than the hand scoring method.

The entry fee for each player for the full week of pairs and teams (including the cost of the final dinner) was \$150. A very small price to pay for the challenge at the bridge table, the happy holiday atmosphere, the glamour of the Coast and most importantly the camaraderie.

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SOME IMPRESSIONS FROM THE GOLD COAST CONGRESS

by Muriel Anderssen

The people one meets.

The unexpected pleasure, in the qualifying pairs, of playing against Tim Seres* and partner, plus the kibitzers gathered around; the charming Assistant Director, Enid, who so lucidly solved our problems at the table; the friendly contingent from Townsville and points north with whom we had many pleasant encounters; the Vu-Graph presentation with the clever commentary by Don Evans, Jim Borin and others.

[* Tim Seres is considered to be the greatest bridge player that Australia has produced and one of nature's gentlemen. He has the distinction of being a World Grand Master, a title which is held by only a few. Ed.]

Then there was the original SLOW LEARNER who refused to subscribe to the belief that one doesn't play bridge with one's spouse. Now, thirty-five years on, he has a new partner.

So to the not-so-young player who, after rather traumatic experiences during the war, was not prepared to take any further risks in life. As a precaution before marrying, he and his intended, consulted an astrologer whom they managed to locate on the wharf as he was about to sail for South America. A favourable response from this quarter sent them off to a psychologist whose verdict was - **A PERFECT MATCH**. And, they say, so it has been through all the years since. Unfortunately this

story completely unnerved Blanche and Clarice who were unable to concentrate on a mere game of bridge. Meanwhile, Grace and I went into battle against their other pair. Suffice to say that Grace spent the break at the Iced Water Station before fronting for the next session. I think we were right off the carpet at this stage, Jenny.

So, Aradians, pick your teams, pack your bags and off to the 30th Gold Coast Congress. An experience not to be missed!!

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SUGGESTIONS RAISED BY MEMBERS

Two suggestions have been put forward to the Committee of the Club and both these were discussed at the last Committee meeting.

1. A draw of the cards for the positions of North/South in Club games.

The Committee members did not have any strong feelings for or against this suggestion. It was discussed that some players preferred to sit North/South due to difficulty in moving whilst others preferred the East/West direction because they could move or did not have to worry about the scoring. The Committee decided that if the players wished to draw for the position of North/South, then they may do so but the Committee did not feel that it should be an enforced rule.

2. A special yearly prize for the most consistent player from Tuesday's and Wednesday's games.

The Committee members were very much in favour of this idea. It is just a matter of how this can be done. After the matter has been considered further, we will let you know the result of our findings through the "Trump-It".

PINE RIVERS SHIRE FESTIVAL NIGHT - 30 MAY - 7.30 P.M.

This event is being staged in conjunction with the Pine Rivers Shire Festival week and will be open to the public to come and watch. The Festival Committee will be donating trophies for the winners. In order to produce one winner, a barometer method of scoring will be used. Entries may have to be restricted in order to produce a workable movement and for this reason entries will be dated upon receipt.

NOTICE TO CLUB PLAYERS

In order to start play at the published starting times, and thus having a chance of finishing earlier (especially on Wednesday nights), the Club rooms will be open from 8.45 a.m. on Tuesdays and 6.45 p.m. on Wednesdays. Players are requested to be seated by 9.15 a.m. and 7.15 p.m. respectively.

This piece of verse was written by Scott Miller, and dedicated to his Mother, Muriel who is now an avid bridge player in our club.

S P O R T

Sport is played the world around,
On greens and courts,
On fields and grounds.
Sport is something that baffles me,
With all its terminology

Golf is a game for anybody,
My rounds are always very shoddy,
With birdies and bogies it's beyond belief,
No sign of feathers or a handkerchief.

Now I come to the sport that's cool,
Because you always swim in a pool,
Butterfly's the stroke that I enjoy,
Winning I make my personal ploy.

Boxing is a sport of violence,
Before the bell there's always silence,
When it rings the fighters come out,
Jumping and prancing and moving about.
Will they ever throw a punch,
They had better soon, to please the bunch.

Cricket's a sport I do despise,
Because the terms are full of lies,
With maidens I have never seen,
Bowled over on the pitch of green.

After all this activity,
A pack of cards you can give to me,
There's lots of things you can do,
With a pack of 52.

Now cards are something, I understand,
In poker I always get a good hand,
Canasta's a game I Like to play,
When camping to pass a rainy day.

Playing patience can be fun,
Even though it's played by one,
In some games it's tricks you make,
To take away the money stake.

Cards are easier to understand,
Than all the sports played in the land,
Or so I thought until the day,
Mum decided Bridge she'd play!!

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