



# ARANA

## *Contract Bridge Club Inc*

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### **Editor's desk**

THE AGM saw only a small change in the management committee. Henry Polt is the new chum, replacing retiring members Bob Pearce (with 3 of his several committee years as president) and Alison Fulwood. Fees etc remain unchanged as we complete our first and stride forth confidently into our second decade.

I attended a Brisbane Zone committee meeting at the end of January. Of the 10 Brisbane clubs, only 4 (Arana, Corinda, N Subs, QCBC) were represented. The committee was so desperate for new blood, I ended up deputy chairman. That shouldn't be too onerous as they run only the knockout and interclub teams events.

The 35th QBA Gold Coast congress was held in February. Val Acklin (& Lorraine Fredericks) won a qualifying session and finished an excellent 6th in the plate final. Later, the BROOKES team (Steve, Verna & others) made a bold showing to lead the teams competition after 8 matches (top 2 teams after 10 matches play off for the championship) before fading in the next 2.

**Richard McLauchlan**

### **Management committee**

ITEMS of interest from the management committee meeting of 25 February include:

The 10th birthday party on 24 March is well in hand thanks to Deslei Den Haan and Alison Fulwood who anticipate 80 members attending.

When our fixed deposit matures in March, we expect to roll over \$105 000 for the next 6 months.

New assistant treasurers are Henry Polt, Pam Horton and Val Acklin who will collect table fees. Attendance/fee slips will be introduced.

Welcome to new members: Heather MacKay, Ted Coker and Peter Van Eden.

Val Acklin offered to put the coffee cups through the dishwasher on Wed evenings. Please empty your cups and leave them on the sink.

Membership fees are now overdue. Any home club members who have not paid by mid-March could incur an extra \$5 ABF fee.

Pam purchased around \$200 worth of new books for the library at the Gold Coast congress.

Congress planning has started with Pam as convener (again). She will need someone to manage the kitchen when the time comes. Please assist if you can.

### **Tenth birthday party**

ALISON and I would like to thank all who so promptly paid for the birthday party. At this stage, it looks like about 80 people will attend.

If you are coming but have not yet paid, please do so as soon as possible so we can finalise the catering with 'Le Bressan' restaurant of Stafford. We would hate to see you miss out on a terrific lunch.

Carol Wilson's husband Peter (of Universal Press, South Brisbane - publishers of street and business directories, maps and travel guides) has very kindly donated a copy of the new 40th edition of the UBD Refidex as a luck door prize.

And don't forget, if you need a partner, Betty Willson has kindly offered to be partner contact for the day.

**Deslei Den Haan (convener)**

### **Club history (cont)**

I AM sure it is true to say that after only one year of operation, many of the inaugural members were unable to foresee the full potential of what our club could achieve. With my 30 odd years of involvement in bridge, many of which were spent

in forming or helping new clubs get started, I knew that any sceptical thoughts were unwarranted, because I had seen these clubs grow and had shared, in a small way, in their success.

Much time was spent on education during the first 2 years, as it was important for our club to function along the lines of other bridge clubs if we were to prosper. Members were introduced to the laws of duplicate bridge, taught how to set up a movement, and to matchpoint and tally results, a long and meticulous job that was done by hand until 1989 when a computer scoring program was purchased.

The 'Trump-It' was introduced in this second year, primarily to continue education in the many areas of playing bridge. The work load was shared and members rallied around when there was a task to perform. Many are still giving this generous service today.

I plodded along giving seminars as well as conducting beginner's classes, and slowly our membership increased. To add further interest, 3 championship events were introduced: pairs, teams and individual, the latter of which was abandoned in 1993.

To reward the small band who continued to support each club session, a free game voucher was presented to the outright winners, alternating with handicap winners. As funds became available, additional equipment and library books were purchased.

Many avenues were explored to advertise our club and beginner's classes in the hope that membership would increase. In 1988, the committee decided that if the public would not come to us, we would take bridge to them, and 14 members were commandeered to put on a display in the park.

It was a sight to behold. Three tables of fearless bridge enthusiasts sitting under a tarpaulin, clutching at cards as the wind blew them from the table. It is difficult to know whether this one of many valiant efforts had any impact, but I am sure that those who gave their time would like to believe so.

With the very low rent we were paying for hall hire, funds continued to grow. We sold the old Gestetner and replaced it with a photocopier so we could print our own stationery and teaching material, a wise move by the committee, as the photocopier has continued to serve us well.

In July 1988, 12 members attended their first congress in Bundaberg to gain experience against stronger players. It was an ideal choice, as this congress mainly attracts other country club

members and therefore offers a friendly atmosphere.

As our bicentennial year, 1988 was a very exciting time for all Australians. The QBA hosted a special congress in September and paid for many of the world's greatest bridge players to be present. This was a one-off opportunity to see so many champions together: Alan Truscott, Dorothy Hayden-Truscott (USA), Zia Mahmood (Pakistan and world champion at the time) and Philip Alder (GB) were just four.

By 1989, it was evident that our club was gaining the desired momentum with the numbers in the classes increasing with each course. It was time to think about affiliating with the QBA. The QBA president was invited to attend a special meeting but his address failed to instil any enthusiasm amongst the members. It was not until June 1991 that I could persuade members that it was the right thing to do. I hope there are no regrets.

1990 was a big year for me. On 27 October at enormous expense, club members gave me a party that I will never forget to launch my book 'Bridging My Way'. What a night - beautiful food, a great jazz band and over 100 family and friends there to help me celebrate - and the piece de resistance was my old soul mate McNeil from Adelaide. He turned on the humour and charm, performing at his best in front of an appreciative audience. Thank you again for this most memorable night.

In 1991, our club became incorporated, affiliated with the QBA, and it was time to look towards owning our own club rooms. A building committee was appointed and the Pine Shire approached for lease land. Although it has been a somewhat frustrating time up until now, we WILL, one day in the not too distant future, have our own premises. We have no alternative but to be patient. In anticipation of this day, the fund raising committee has been busy running raffles over the years, as well as a 'white elephant' stall in the Ferny Grove markets.

QBA affiliation opened many doors for our club. Apart from being able to participate in the many events that are conducted each year, world pairs, Australia-wide pairs and the like, our club was keen to hold its own congress. The first was held over the weekend of 5 and 6 June 1993.

Many of our members have spread their wings and are now competent and confident players, participating in the many congresses on offer. We are gracious hosts to any visitor, whether it is at our congress, during an interclub meet, or simply a club session. From the beginning, we have strived

to run our club in a professional manner to achieve the same standards that pertain in other Brisbane bridge clubs.

I believe we have surpassed them. In our desire to achieve success, we have created a club atmosphere that is unparalleled in other Brisbane clubs. We have not and will not accept bad behaviour, and as recently as last month, a visitor from another club has been advised in writing that he is no longer welcome.

Our club is not only a place to meet for a pleasant game of bridge, but it is also a place where friends gather to enjoy each other's company. This, I believe, is our greatest achievement. Happy birthday Arana.

**Judy Valentine**

## Brisbane zone

THE Brisbane zone committee was established to foster communication between Brisbane's bridge clubs. That purpose has largely been superseded and it now conducts only two events per year; the Brisbane heats of the national knock out teams and the Brisbane interclub teams.

Brisbane now supplies 2 teams to the ko final and the zone subsidy has risen from \$500 to \$600 per team. This means that entry fees will rise from \$160 to \$240 per 4 teams, essentially from \$10 to \$15 per person (still cheap for a gold point event). Club heats will be in May with the zone finals at QCBC on Friday nights of 14, 21, 28 June. The national finals are in Sydney in November.

The interclub teams was last held at Arana in 1994, Toowong breaking the winning sequences of QCBC and BBC. The event lapsed in 1995 but will be played this year at Northern Suburbs on Sunday 1 September. Entry fee, including lunch, is likely to be \$10 per person.

Each club can enter up to 3 teams with the club score equal to the sum of its team scores (ineligible if less than 3 teams), the club with the highest total winning the interclub trophy. Teams are graded into A, B and C sections which have been changed from previous years - the A division was so high, only QCBC and BBC fielded A teams at Arana.

New divisions are: A - national master or above; B - regional or state master; C below regional (nil to local\*\*) master, as at the end of the June quarter. We will be looking for entries when the time comes so please keep the date in mind.

## Toowong congress

THE Arana contingent at the 96 Toowong congress included Val Acklin & Betty Willson, Muriel Anderssen (& Blanche Slaughter), Steve & Verna Brookes (playing with different partners) and Helen & me. Qualifying 1 seemed Ok with Val-Betty & Verna-Michelle winning their sections. Q2 was a lot tougher for most with the end result being Verna-Michelle & Steve-Ian to the championship, Val-Betty to the plate, and Muriel-Blanche and Helen-Richard to consolation 2 (yes 2!).

More good news after the morning session with Val-Betty 4<sup>th</sup> and Helen-Richard 3<sup>rd</sup> at lunch. Curse those lunch breaks; it upset our progress with 2 bad rounds but we did score well on round 14:

9/EW/N		N E S W
	Q 2	1D 2H 2S /
	10 6 4	2NT / 3NT
	K 10 9 6 4	
A 9 6	A K Q	J 7 4
7 5 3		K Q J 9 8 2
J 8 5		Q 7
10 9 6 2	K 10 8 5 3	J 8
	A	
	A 3 2	
	7 5 4 3	

My 2NT bid is awful with no H stopper (I hoped Helen had one); 3s is better and would get 4S from Helen. The predictable HK lead exposed the 6 sure and probable 7 tricks. With E known to hold long Hs, I had to hope for split D honours with shortage in E's hand.

The C3 to my A was followed by the D10 Q A 5. The D3 8 9 7 established the Ds for 9 tricks (1H, 5D, 3C) and +400 (4S for +420 or 450 is better). If E had ducked my D10, I was gone, but who could blame her for not covering with the Q 7 doubleton.

I did not check the results on this board but using a similar line of play, NS can make 6S via: win the opening H; a S to dummy's Q; finesse against E's SJ; ruff the H return; clear trumps; play Ds as above. Maybe someone in the championship found that line but I doubt if anyone bid to 6S.

Although Muriel kindly revoked against me on the last round, converting 1NT from 1 down to making 2, it was too late and we both finished mid-field. Val & Betty finished 4<sup>th</sup>, 1 match point off 3<sup>rd</sup> in the plate. The Brookes played each other in the last round with a dinner at stake. The guys won narrowly after trailing the girls for most of the day.

**Richard McLauchlan**

## Gold Coast gold

THE 35th QBA Gold Coast congress was held at the ANA hotel from 17 to 24 February. The heart starter was a walk in pairs on the Saturday evening. Sunday saw the start of the real pairs which included Aranans: Judy Valentine (& Jessica Mortess), Val Acklin (& Lorraine Fredericks), Verna Brookes (& Beth Whebell) and Helen McLauchlan and yours truly.

Val & Lorraine won one of the qualifying sessions and made the plate final. They maintained form over the next day and a half to finish an excellent 6th in a very classy field. There was not much joy for the rest of us, but all did finish in the top half of our respective finals for a share of the gold points on offer.

In the teams, Judy & Jessica were joined by Pam Horton & Jenny Lewis; Val & Lorraine by Joyce Rosser & Joan Sargent; Verna & Beth by Steve Brookes, Ian Halford & Michelle Radtke. Helen & I had no one lined up for the teams and had asked Reg Busch to find us a pair. We scored a lovely pair from Sydney - Robyn & Pat.

Smartest away was the BROOKES team. After 8 matches, they were number 1 (the teams in first and second place after 10 matches go straight to a 60 board final). They lost match 9 but were still a chance for the final until they also lost match 10.

We lost the first 4, won the next 6, then Robyn caught the gastro that was going around and we dropped our last 2. Still 6 out of 12 at 1.12 gold points per match was pretty good for a scratch team. Some heavyweights hit Val's team early but they won 5½, while Judy's team won 8.

A final walk in pairs on Saturday morning pitted us against Brian Senior (open pairs winner) partnering a local woman (Jan).

9 8 x	A Q J x x x x
x	x
K J 10 x x x x	Q x x
x x	Q x

I opened the E hand 1S, 2H, 2S, 3NT, 4S, 5H, 5S. Brian said "I just know I shall regret this" and doubled. They took the HA, CA, CK, DA for 2 down X vul, -500 and a 57% score to us. They make 7H; even 4H making 13 for 510 was better. I got the feeling Brian would not be so generous in a real competition.

Jenny and Jessica won their section. Robyn and Pat left for Sydney but not before we organised to play with them next year. The dinner on Saturday night was a load of fun; bridge players are definitely party animals.

**Richard McLauchlan**

## Library additions

THE 9 new publications purchased for the library at the Gold Coast congress are:

Bergen's winning bridge secrets	Bergen
The bridge team murders	Granovetter
Defensive tips for bad card holders	Kantar
Improve your opening leads	Kelsey & Matheson
Cue bidding to slams	Klinger
Guide to better duplicate bridge	Klinger
Judgment at bridge	Lawrence
The complete book on takeout doubles	Lawrence
Bridge director's handbook of movements and scoring	McKee

**Pam Horton**

## Play seminar

JUDY gave the 1996 play seminar on Tue 27 and Wed 28 February. The topic was defensive play, a very broad area with specific strategies required for the opening lead, the middle game and the end game. Only opening leads and signals could be covered within the seminar time. The rest will be covered in future seminars.

Opening leads also vary with the contract being defended: suit vs NT; part score vs game vs slam; and whether partner has bid or not. Judy gave the preferred leads in each case from holdings of: singleton, doubleton and tripleton (± honour); long suits; trumps; unbid suits. Further emphasis was given to safe and attacking leads, and what can be determined from the bidding.

Some signalling techniques and when to use them were explained. These included attitude, Lavinthal, doubling artificial bids and Lightner doubles against slams; all up, 9 pages of very useful information. If you missed the seminar, you can purchase copies from Judy for \$10.

## Important dates

- Sat 9-10 & 16-17/3 Qld team trials (QCBC)
- Mon 11-12-13/3 Birthday red point sessions
- Sun 24/3 Arana tenth birthday party
- Sun 24/3 Surfers Paradise novice pairs
- Sun 24/3 Noosa swiss teams
- Sat 30-31/3 Qld team trials (seniors/ youth)
- Sat 30-31/3 Caloundra congress
- Sat 6-8/4 BBC easter congress
- Sun 14/4 Surfers Paradise swiss teams
- Sun 14/4 Directors course
- Mon 15/4 Management committee meeting
- Sat 20-21/4 Gympie congress
- Sun 21/4 Northern Suburbs pairs
- Sun 21/4 Toowoomba novice pairs
- Wed 24/4 Australia wide multi pairs