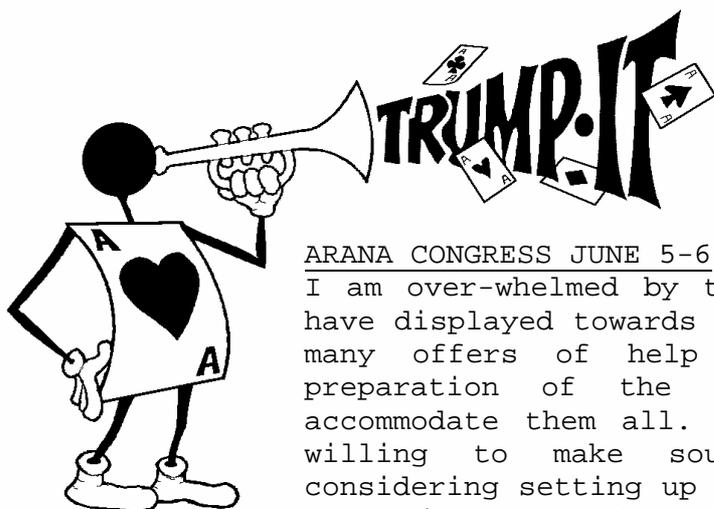


ARANA CONTRACT BRIDGE CLUB INC



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ARANA CONGRESS JUNE 5-6

I am over-whelmed by the enthusiasm that members have displayed towards our Congress. I have had so many offers of help in the kitchen for the preparation of the lunches that I can not accommodate them all. I have had so many people willing to make soup that I am seriously considering setting up a business in opposition to Mr. Heinz. Two of our male members, Ray Willson and Cec Harrison have come forward and offered to make the pumpkin soup (their forte, I am assured).

I have had no trouble in filling the quota of biscuits, cakes, nibbles and tarts needed to feed the starving congress entrants. Thank you to all those who have come forward so willingly to provide these items.

By keeping members fully informed as to what is going on, often bears fruit. Our main concern was going to be the garden salad provided with the Quiche and the fruit salad as dessert for Sunday. Knowing the quantity to purchase, knowing the time factor that would be involved in washing and preparation was going to be a real headache. A phone call from Deslei Den Haan has solved the problem. A friend of Deslei owns a salad factory and he is prepared to supply and deliver to our hall on the Sunday morning the quantity we need (approximately 20 kg of each) for \$4.00 kg and \$4.50 kg, respectively. We could not do it ourselves for this price but the main consideration was the time factor. After all, we do want the workers to enjoy the Congress. Thank you Deslei.

There are a couple of other jobs that must be done on the Friday or Saturday morning. Marian returns on the 30/5 (jet-lagged is a real possibility) and I have no wish to place the last minute chores upon her. If there is anyone who would be prepared to do one of these tasks, please see Judy or Pam. The club will provide the items, we need someone to provide the labour and to deliver it to the hall Saturday morning.

- [1] Cut up 8 large chicken for sandwiches.
- [2] Hard-boil, peel and mash 3 doz. eggs for sandwiches.
- [3] Cook and finely shred 6 kg piece of corned meat for sandwiches.
- [4] Make 100 carrot straws for crudities.
- [5] Make 100 celery straws for crudities.
- [6] Make 100 cucumber straws for crudities.
- [7] Make 50 capsicum straws for crudities.
- [8] Make avocado dip for crudities (approx. 12 avocados).

This will be the last Trump-It before our Congress. I will advise further details by announcements and I do, once again, thank you for your support.

Judy V (Congress Convenor)

MACKAY SILVER JUBILEE by Judy Valentine

As a foundation member of this Club, I was pleased to accept an invitation to be present for the special celebration. Although the Congress is their 22nd, the club is 25 years old on the 14th June so it was decided to have their silver birthday in conjunction with their congress. Inaugural President, Alan Henry and his wife Win also made the special effort to be present - Alan and Win now live at the Gold Coast. Two other foundation members, Rene Hobbs and Molly McMahon, attended the special luncheon, held on the Monday, but both are now too elderly to participate in long Congress sessions. It was very kind of Pam to partner me and the two of us drove to Mackay on the Thursday, taking 2 hour shifts at the wheel. On Friday, we took the opportunity of sight-seeing. We visited my old haunts and friends and as Pam was a teacher at the Mirani High School, back in the early 60s, we returned to this area for nostalgic reasons. After visiting the high school and the Mirani Museum (excellent) we drove up to the Eungella National Park where we ate our lunch at the hotel overlooking the Pioneer Valley.

The Congress began at 7.30 Friday night. Visitors were presented with an orchid [silver orchid for foundation members] and a specially inscribed glass, note pad and pen, marking the silver anniversary.

33½ tables participated in the pairs. We started our round against a strong Rocky pair - Dr. Malcolm Allen and Pat Buch. One hopes that the early boards are text book quality, that allows for a settling in period. After a straight-forward 3NT by Pam, we now found ourselves defending a 2H contract-

Dlr. E	K7		
Nil Vul	Q98743		Pam, East, led the club 3 that
	105		declarer won with the Ace in
	K75		dummy. The heart 5 was led, small
Q42		A9853	from me, heart 9 from North and
KJ2		A106	Pam won with the 10. The club 2
KQ32		764	return was taken in North's hand
J104		32	with the King and the heart 8
	J106		continuation was won by me with
	5		the Jack. I returned my last club
	AJ98		and Pam ruffed with the heart Ace.
	AQ986		

When Pam returned the diamond 7, declarer can now make 8 tricks, as the cards lie, by winning with the Ace, leading a now established club and throwing the losing diamond and picking the spade position. If I wish to ruff, I must do so with the master King of hearts. Instead, declarer played a low diamond, allowing me to win with the Queen. Now under pressure by my quick return of the low spade, declarer thought for some time before rising with the King (her next mistake). Declarer has only to count the points already viewed in the hand to know that, if I had the Ace of spades, I would probably have found a bid. Pam won the trick with the Ace and, at this point, should have returned a spade to my Queen, but instead returned the diamond and the long club suit

allowed for the losing spade discard. It is important to reason why a player hesitates for so long before playing a card. If declarer had held the spade King and Queen, it would have been mandatory to play one of the honour cards and this would have been done quickly. Even so, our result was better than par because most declarers made the 2H contract. This ruffing with the Ace of trumps is known as the "uppercut" - promoting a trump trick in my hand that would otherwise not eventuate and it is difficult to recognise. Well done, Pam!!

This little number occurred at the next table and is recorded at Pam's request. Systemically we are DOOMED.

Dlr. N	KJ9652		After North opened with a weak 2S
N/S Vul	10		(6-10 HCP and 6-carded suit), Pam
	K106		bid 3C (lower minor for take-out).
	Q63		I pondered for several minutes as
AQ10		3	there are two possible bids to
5		AKJ843	make. 3NT to show a double spade
QJ983		2	stopper plus sufficient values for
10985		AKJ42	game and 4D to show the suit and
	874		inviting the minor game.
	Q9762		
	A754		I believe I missed the superior
	7		bid of 3NT by bidding 4D but,

(this bid did not do wonders for my 50 year old heart). Taking the bit between my teeth I bid 5C (to save partner from disaster!!) and Pam carried along with the enthusiasm, converted to 6C (she is looking at a 4 loser hand and I sounded very confident). While Pam prepared the hand, I reached into my bag for a valium(this was a non-smoking congress).

This second set of boards could only be described as text book quality. A spade was led and Pam won with the Ace in dummy and led the heart 5 to her Ace. A low heart, ruffed in dummy and over-ruffed by North's 6 and the return of a low diamond to South's Ace defeated the contract at this point. However, this was not the end of the "fun". South returned another spade, Queen from dummy, King from North and Pam RUFFED WITH THE HEART 4. When I alerted Pam, who was about to lead, that it was the opponent's trick, Pam left this planet and the play of the rest of the cards is too unbelievable to record. 6C is quite a good slam, even though it does fail by 1 trick due to the bad break in hearts. There are many hands, played in our life-time, that we take to our grave - this is one for Pam.

The rest of the night produced hand after hand of tricky boards and we missed qualifying for the Championship by 1 matchpoint. North Queensland has always been considered as the strongest contingent of players outside the metropolitan area, so it was no surprise to find the Plate section top heavy after only one "cut-throat" qualifying round. After a steady start, we met up with the Parsons (Eric is an ex-President of Mackay club). This is where we had our first loss. This loss resulted when I failed to make a mere 1NT contract.

Dlr. E AJ43
 All Vul J96
 J9
 AJ62

109 KQ8
 A843 102
 A10762 Q8543
 Q3 954

7652
 KQ75
 K
 K1087

Gwen, North, led the heart 6, low from dummy, Queen from Eric and I ducked. Eric returned the heart King that I again let hold the trick. On the return of the heart 5, I can now make 2 tricks in the suit if I play the Ace as my 8 is promoted. Ho! Hum! Stupidly I Put in the 8, won by Gwen's Jack and it was not difficult for her to find the club switch for 2 tricks light.

This monster appeared in our next match, Pam and I as N/S.

Dlr. N J2
 All Vul void
 K108
 AJ1085432

83 1054
 9876 QJ105432
 Q9532 J7
 Q7 K

AKQ976
 AK
 A64
 96

Holding an outside King of diamonds, I made the correct opening bid of Pass (I practice what I preach). East pre-empted 3H (slightly dangerous when vul, but acceptable) and Pam bid 4S that was allowed to play. We both agreed that a slower sequence (lower minor for take-out) with the 4 loser hand would have got us to the lay-down 6S contract.

If Pam bids 4C (lower minor for take-out), I would have raised to 5C, Pam would now bid 5S and I would have quickly converted to 6S holding a ruffing 1st round control in hearts and 2 other controls.

At the conclusion of the 1st final round, we were running 2nd. This was a very pleasing result.

This next hand is from the 2nd final and is a perfect illustration of the importance of balancing. It also serves to quell the fears of those who are still reluctant to apply the new aggressive form of bidding that may result in them playing in a 3-3 trump fit.

Dlr. E	A86		<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
N/S Vul	K			NB	1H	NB
	974		1NT	NB	NB	X
	Q76543		2C	NB	NB	X
Q104		J93	2H	2S	All pass	
J1073		A94				
A653		QJ82				
K8		J109				
	K752					
	Q8652					
	K10					
	A2					

South led the club Ace and switched to the heart 2. Pam, faced with the problem of the 3-3 fit, should approach the hand by taking quick tricks and ruffing where possible.

At trick 2, Pam overtook North's King with the Ace and immediately played a club to the King in order to set up the club

ruff after returning to her hand. This could not eventuate as her only quick entry had been removed at trick 2. She must play the diamond Queen before the club to ensure 2 tricks from the suit before opponents have a chance to discard. South will cover the Queen with the King, taken by dummy's Ace and the club King is now played and a small diamond to the Jack gets you back to hand to take the club ruff. South would be stupid to ruff before dummy as the only card that wins the trick would be the spade King and the playing of this card or any other trump would result in the opponents losing control of the hand. After ruffing, the best exit card is the low diamond - it sets up another trick in the likelihood that opponents will draw trumps. This set up diamond trick will either win or force South to ruff when North wins with the diamond 9. 8 tricks are now forthcoming as South will now have to surrender 2 further heart tricks to declarer. At our table, the contract was defeated by 1 trick for -50 [still a good result in pairs].

The Pair's Championship was won by a Mackay pair - Ness Knapman and Bessy Baldry - an exciting result in light of their Silver Anniversary.

The Teams

Pam and I teamed up with a Townsville Pair - Lyn Richardson and Joy Dean. The movement was Swiss Teams 3 x 10 boards per session. There were plenty of interesting hands during the Sunday afternoon, this was the most engrossing with us N/S.

Dlr. E	J1076		<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
Nil Vul	KJ9			1C	NB	1H
	1043		NB	2D	NB	3H
	1094		NB	4H	NB	NB
A832		Q54	NB			
Q105432		8				
J8		Q652				
6		AKQJ3				
	K9					
	A76					
	AK97					
	8752					

I think I can safely say that the bidding between E/W was a little suspect through-out and never in a fit of Sundays would I have reached 4H.

I led the spade Jack that was allowed to hold the trick. The continuation of the spade 6 was won by West, capturing Pam's King. Declarer immediately led a club to the Ace and the King, followed by the Queen disposed of the two losing diamonds. The heart 8 was then ducked around to my 9 and I played another spade that Pam duly ruffed. Pam then played her last club, declarer threw a losing spade and I ruffed with the Jack. On the return of the now master spade 10, Pam must play the heart Ace to produce the "uppercut" but instead felt her Ace could be put to better use and so discarded. If Pam ruffs with the Ace declarer has to under-ruff and I make my King. In actual play, declarer ruffed the spade 10 and a low trump felled our King and Ace together. This was a great hand for the defence. Uppercuts are difficult to see, especially when it is necessary to ruff with the Ace of

trumps to give the trump promotion in partner's hand, however, if this occurs, declarer is 3 down instead of 2. The initial lead of a diamond also takes the contract 2 light but I have never been one to find the uncomplicated way to defend, especially when there is the opportunity to give Pam practice in "uppercut" plays.

This hand comes from our last match of the Congress.

Dlr. S	AJ		<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
E/W Vul	73				1D	2C
	85		NB	2H	3D	3H
	KJ107542		NB	4H	5D	NB
Q64		8732	NB	X	All pass	
KQ102		AJ9854	The 2C overcall by West is			
6		K7	pretty pathetic - suit content			
A9863		Q	is bad and the hand holds 4-3 in			
	K1095		majors. The better bid is X for			
	6		take-out. East would then jump			
	AQJ109432		to 3H that West would pass.			
	void					

It is obvious from the method used here that the bridge is a hit and miss style with neither opponent sure what points partner holds until the hand is over. In teams, it is dangerous for West to encourage the game, vulnerable, as the loser count of the hand is too high. I elected not to double (X) West's 2C for penalties as I know, at most, East holds a singleton club, therefore extremely likely to hold a 6-carded major that is going to be bid at the 2 level. The double would also suggest that I would rather defend the hand rather than us play and asks for partner to consider the same action if her defensive values are good. Pam's confidence had spiralled during the Congress and determinedly she bid 5D after the opponents had bid the vulnerable game that, naturally, was doubled by East who had no intention of allowing Pam to escape unpunished for having the audacity to steal a vulnerable game away from them.

West led the spade 4, Pam put in the Jack that held the trick. A low diamond, taking the finesse was followed by the diamond Ace that felled the King. A low spade back to dummy's Ace, club ruff back to hand, spade King and Pam claimed 12 tricks, surrendering 1 heart trick. Easy - thank you very much!!!

At the other table, our pair also defended 5D after East had bid hearts after a take-out double (X) was made, but Joy found the heart lead. Although, double dummy [when all 4 hands can be seen], declarer can play the hand the same way as Pam [ruff the 2nd heart, low spade to the Jack, low diamond finesse etc. etc.], it is not quite as easy when your are sitting in declarer's seat and you have to find all the vital cards yourself. This declarer took all the wrong views. She finessed spades into West's hand and, cutting herself off from dummy, had no alternative but to play the diamond Ace.

13 IMPS were tallied on this board and we won our match comfortably. With victories in all 3 matches on the Monday morning, we were delighted to find that the total of our matches was the highest for the session and we were the recipients of the Special Teams Final Award (a \$10 note).

The overall Teams Championship was won by the very strong team from Townsville - Barry Kempthorne, Agnes Brown, Margaret Ward and Vilma Laws.

Alan Henry, as Inaugural President of the club, had been asked to raise the new club flag on the Sunday and all congress participants were present for the special ceremony. As I was the only other foundation member capable of performing the task, I was asked to present the prizes to the congress winners. I felt it was only fitting to ask Alan to join me in this honour.

Pam and I headed off after the luncheon and camped down at a lovely Gladstone motel for the night. We ordered an a la carte meal in our room, opened a bottle of red and settled down to watch the State of Origin. A very pleasant end to a very special Congress.

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CORRECTION

Members, please note the following corrections to the 1993 booklet.

WELLAND, Valerie - phone number should be 837 4939 (w) not
349 7475.

WENHAM, Peggy - phone number should be 349 4139 not
837 4939.

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RAFFLE

Tickets in our congress raffle are now on sale. The raffle will be drawn at our Congress during the Sunday lunch break.

1st prize - Bottle of Chivas Regal
2nd prize - Basket home-made chocolate
3rd prize - Bottle of Port with our special label

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