



ARANA

Contract Bridge Club Inc

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Editor's desk

MEMBERS who could not make it to the 10th birthday missed a great day: great lunch, cards, company, prizes and all round fun. The cards and movements were a bit formal but we really had no alternative with red points and prizes at stake.

Our '96 congress is just around the corner. Pam Horton is convenor again and will be assisted by the usual team of members. Alison Fulwood is the provedore and will organise the kitchen helpers on Saturday and Sunday 1 & 2 June.

Don and Julie Cutmore have purchased more coffee cups as the stock of old ones declined. I have noticed that when we are running a bit late, some cups are still in use when the rest are being put away, often by a sit-out pair in the round following the break. Some of these cups end up in the kitchen and some are taken home by the cleaner-uppers. If anyone has any at home, please return them.

The waste paper basket emptiers have suggested that we don't scrunch the used bidding sheets before discarding them. Flat sheets occupy a lot less space in the wpbs and are easier to dispose of.

Richard McLauchlan

Management committee

ITEMS of interest from the management committee meeting of 15 April include:

Arana is home to 158 members and we have a dozen or so non-home club members.

To assist the treasurer, especially regarding ABF levies, next year, membership fees will be payable by the end of February and may be paid from the start of play in January.

We have around \$3 000 cash on hand with \$105 000 invested for 6 months at 7.1%.

The builders of Northern Suburbs clubhouse have been consulted re building something similar

in the Drysdale Reserve. Their estimate for a building slightly smaller than NSubs is \$286 000.

The Qld Dept of Tourism, Sport & Racing administers grants to sporting bodies. Clubhouse funding comes under their minor facilities program which provides grants of \$5 000 to \$50 000. We would like to get the clubhouse started in the 1996/97 financial year.

Masterpoint movements

NEW masterpoint rankings at the end of March for members whose home club is Arana include:

National*

Jenny Lewis Pam Horton

State*

Richard McLauchlan

State

Allan Box Trevor Cullen
Darryl Cullen Marilyn Wright

Regional

Ted McGrath

Local**

Don Cutmore Vonnie Wallace
Wella Hooper

Local*

Dot Cain Albert Lewis
Deslei Den Haan Liz Marshall
May Hassum Judy Perkins
Fran Husband Paul Yates

Local

Carolyn Garden Sylvia McCutcheon
Noel Haysom Henry Polt

Club

Tricia Diddhams Pam Feehely
Kath Downs Katherine Patrick

Graduate

Frank Hoult Pat Smythe
Judith Little Peter Van Eden
Jenny Lewis (MP sec)

Buderim Swiss

A SWISS pairs at Buderim attracted 36 tables and a classy field in March. The fun started on board 1 against Blanche Slaughter and Neil Strutton (dlr). With bidding of // 1S X / 2C //, Neil doubled for takeout. Blanche was unsure about the double and left it in; 2C* making 9 for +280 was a very friendly start. Unfortunately, it pushed us to table 6 where we were quickly sent packing.

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

Board 28 proved that you never know when you will need that odd convention once every blue moon. N did his best to interfere over Helen's ace ask (4C), but we were ready. My double was DOP1 (double = none, pass = 1, next suit up = 2 etc) and Helen was happy to settle in 4S making 10, one of our better rounds (60%). After an up and down day, we finished mid-field.

Richard McLauchlan

Our 10th birthday

"EU! Euge! Excellens dies natalis factio!" From 100 bc to the death of Livy, Latin is described as the golden age language. I believe our 10th birthday deserved gold, hence the golden language tribute: "Bravo! Excellent birthday party!" Yes, it certainly was a day for all to remember. The accolades must go to Deslei and Alison. Without their enthusiasm to "do it in style", the day may have come and gone without the batter of an eye.

The day was run as a mini-congress (3 x 7 table Howells) and many rallied to the cause: Trevor Cullen directing; Helen McLauchlan and Bob Pearce scoring; Ted McGrath setting up the hall. You are all worth your weight in gold.

Recovering from a back injury sustained when the electronic beast that resides in my bedroom (walking machine) whisked my short legs from under me and catapulted me into the air, I was plonked into a chair by Deslei & Alison to play Mother Superior for the day. These two Sisters of Mercy did give me one job to do. "Grab everyone as they arrive and have them sign this book for our historical records", I was told as they handed me a small notepad, the pre-signed pages secured from my eyes with a rubber band.

A more diligent worker for this cause you are yet to see as I literally accosted members as they arrived, refusing entry to the hall until their names were duly recorded for posterity. I was stunned when I opened my gift from you all to find this booklet inside along with \$200 worth of gift

vouchers for the Qld performing arts complex - a truly lovely gift; thank you all most profoundly.

Two inaugural members were guests of the club at the celebrations - Kevin Simpson and Neil Orford who both received a bottle of wine in recognition. Other inaugural (and still) members are Sylvia McCutcheon and Jan McRobbie, both of whom were unable to attend.

Lunch was served at the end of the qualifying round won by Marilyn Wright & Philip Smith, Richard & Helen McLauchlan, and Pam Horton & Judy Valentine. Bridge tables were replaced with large tables so that the "family" could eat together, ensuring a more social atmosphere. The lunch provided by "Le Bressan" restaurant of Stafford was superb, as was the whole memorable day.

The lucky door prizes went to Kath Percy, Muriel Miller, Deslei Den Haan (who donated her prize back) Steve Brookes, Carol Wilson, Pam Horton and Rita Wood. Trevor & Darryl Cullen scored champagne for winning the championship, while Ted McGrath & Allan Box (plate) and Ken & Wella Hooper (consolation) received wine prizes for winning their sections.

Some members asked me how I made 12 tricks from 1 hand in the qualifying session when only 11 appear available. Five N/Ss reached 3NT making 11, one made 11 in 5C, and I made 12 in 3NT.

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

Most easts led a small D, being the stronger of the 2 x 5-carded suits. A H lead will also produce 11 tricks, declarer making 2 H instead of 2 D tricks. All declarers would have won in hand with the DJ and played out their clubs.

At this point, I took a different view. Where others cashed out making 3S, 1H, 2D & 5Cs for 11 tricks, I decided to play for the 12th trick via a squeeze play. I knew by the time I reached the end game, I would have a more accurate count on all suits. One thing players should be aware of is that only very rarely is a squeeze play apparent in the middle game, because we do not have the full suit count, nor do we know where the high cards lie.

By losing a H to E's Q, there was no danger that this play would reduce the 11 tricks available

and it just might give me the tempo to squeeze E if he held the vital cards. Yes, I know the H suit offers a double finessing opportunity and yes, I can see that it works on this hand, but I don't know that in the middle game. What I do know is that if E holds a H honour, he can't protect it AND hold D length.

If E held the H7 and not the K, then I would know from E's discards that W was reduced to the bare K. By the time I got around to play on Hs again I would rise with the A. If W held H KQ7, then the double finesse will never work, so that was never a consideration for me.

After winning the DJ, cash your 5 C tricks, throwing a D and the S3, the only card for the squeeze to happen. Lead a low H to dummy's 9, W winning with the Q. On the D return, win with the A in drummy, play SQ and a low S to hand. you are now at this 3 card ending:

	A	
	J 10	
	--	
10 9	--	--
7		K 8
--		K
--	--	--
	A 3	
	5	
	--	

The lead of the SA now squeezes E in the red suits. If he discards the DK, dummy throws a small H; if he throws the H8, dummy throws a D. Try it yourself with a pack of cards. A nice squeeze play on a jolly nice day.

Judy Valentine

The hardest bid

ONCE again, the Valentine residence provided dinner, bed and breakfast during the Caloundra congress in March, with Helen and I the only Arana reps among the 29 tables. The first session produced a handy third placing; the second felt like a last but produced another third. We missed qualifying for the championship by 0.7%, but life was easier in the plate.

We got a great start in the final with a 72% on round 1. Next round, I (E, vul) picked up this 4 loser 19 point hand only to hear S open a weak 2S non-vul. Pass, / X (take out) and, as expected, Helen bid 3H. I bid 3NT which duly went 2 down for -200. If we played 2NT for take out and double for penalty, N (void in spades) intended to 'rescue' in 3H which Helen would have doubled for a small fortune to us.

K Q 8 5 2
4
A K 10 9
A K 7

Pass is often the hardest bid to make, even harder with a very strong hand and the opposition non-vul, but that was the best bid I could have made. We can quietly take 2S 3 or 4 down for a good plus score.

We were in the top half of the field all day and despite a miserable 33% on the last round, we finished third for a share of the prize money. Caloundra continues to be a happy hunting ground.

Richard McLauchlan

Error free

I have a spelling checker
It came with my PC
It plane lee marks four my revue
Miss steaks aye can knot sea.

Eye ran this poem threw it
Your sure reel glad to no
Its vary polished in its weigh
My checker tolled me sew.

A checker is a bless sing
It freeze yew lodes of thyme
It helps me rite awl stiles two reed
And aides me when aye rime.

Each frays come posed up on my screen
Eye trussed to be a joule
The checker pours o'er every word
To cheque sum spelling rule.

Be fore a veiling checkers
Hour spelling mite decline
And if were lacks or have a laps
We wood be maid to wine.

Butt now bee cause my spelling
Is checked with such grate flare
Their are know faults with in my cite
Of non eye am a wear.

Now spelling does knot phase me
It does knot bring a tier
My pay purrs awl due glad den
With wrapped words fare as hear.

To rite with care is quite a feet
Of witch won should be proud
And we mused dew the best wee can
So floors are knot aloud.

Sow eye can sea why aye do prays
Such soft ware four pea seas
And why I brake in two averse
By righting want too pleas.

Anon

Gympie 96

BOB and I joined a strong 27 table field at Gympie. In Q1, he felt we needed a top so he pushed me to 7NT on a combined 32 point count, making on a finesse against the DQ. Equal 4th in a tough section was Ok. Round 1 in Q2 saw bidding of // 1H //. Obviously partner was waiting for my reopening X which I duly bid on my paltry:

9 3 2 2 8 7 6 3 2 Q 9 3 2

1Hx went 1 down for 200 to us; W and N each held 17 points but Bob's Hs were A Q J 10 4 to W's K 9 8 7 6. All was well until Sue Moses and Arnold Remedios hit. Sue opened:

1H X 1S X 3D / 3H / 4H

"You bugga" said Sue when Arnold laid down:

J 6 5 9 7 6 4 10 4 10 5 4 2

We misdefended and 4H made, earning Arnold entry to the "Ralph Parker memorial psyche register". That started some rot and we finished 5th for a spot in the plate.

A good start got us to second after round 4 when we met the ultimate winners who misbid to 6D making, when declarer managed only 1S loser from K 10 8 opposite J 3 (I held A Q 5 2). That dropped us back to 10th. F2 saw some high level sacrifices which we doubled for 300, 800 and 1100 in consecutive rounds. We were close to the placings with 2 rounds to go until board 18.

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

S led the HA, HK, and switched to a S for 3 down, our only doubled disaster of the weekend. Even a good final round couldn't get us into the money. All up, it was a very pleasant congress, even if it was a darn sight tougher than the last time we ventured to Gympie. And I would have liked to have played more than 14 of the 104 boards!

Richard McLauchlan

Novice no more

KATH Rooney, Liz Marshall, Philip Smith and I headed to Toowoomba to try our luck in a novice pairs in April. We all used the 1½ hour trip to fine tune our systems as Liz & Kath had only played together once, and Philip and I 3 times.

The boards were hand dealt, fairly friendly in the morning and slightly more confronting in the afternoon. The qualifying round was 2 x 9 table Mitchells. Liz & Kath won at N/S in one section while Philip & I won E/W in the other for spots in

the championship. Kath followed that by winning a cyclamen plant in the lunch time raffle.

The final was a 7 table Howell (championship) and an 11 table Mitchell (plate). The club house is not very big and a lot of movement over 18 tables caused some congestion. The end result was a 3rd for Philip and me, while Kath & Liz were not disgraced and it was nice to get bottles of wine for the sessional wins.

7 3	Q J 5 4 2	E S W N
K 10 6 5 3 2	--	/ 1D 2H /
10 8 2	6 5 4 3	/ /
K 2	J 6 5 4	

Board 18 showed the effectiveness of pre-emptive bids. When Philip laid down his 4 point dummy, I was amazed we hadn't been doubled. Five down for -250 was a top as every other N/S bid and made at least 3NT. We had several boards where we bid pre-emptively to game and made every one. I'm sure some of our good results were partly due to not being doubled once, making the minuses good scores.

There were no biddable slams although we made 12 twice, mostly with some help from our opponents. I highly recommend novice events to anyone under regional master as a way to improve, earn red MPs, and prepare yourself for congress level. As my last novice event, it was nice to follow my 2nd with Marilyn Wright at Northern Suburbs last year with the 3rd with Philip. Thank you both.

Helen McLauchlan

Important dates

- Wed 8-15-22/5 Club heats gold point teams
- Sun 12/5 QCBC novice pairs
- Sat 18-19/5 Qld mixed pairs (Toowong)
- Sat 25/5 Director's accreditation exam
- Sun 26/5 BBC swiss pairs
- Mon 27/5 management committee meeting
- **Sat 1-2/6 Arana congress**
- Sat 8-10/6 QCBC congress
- Sat 15-16/6 Sunshine Coast pairs
- Fri 14-21-28/6 Finals (QCBC) gold point teams
- Mon 17/6 Red point session
- Tue 18/6 Red point session
- Wed 19/6 Red point session
- Sun 23/6 Toowong pairs