



ARANA

Contract Bridge Club Inc

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Editor's desk

IF it is not the hall air conditioning, it is the #\$\$*& painting. Another week lost and almost no warning given when the air conditioning ducts were painted. As we have no representation on the hall management committee which meets one Wednesday night per month, we can't complain too loudly. Any volunteers to represent Arana?

Congress time is just around the corner and will be here before you know it. Any volunteers to work in the kitchen or provide cakes etc, please see Pam Horton or Helen McLauchlan.

Forest Place are sponsoring a Tuesday pairs event scheduled for 30 June. Prize money is being offered so stay tuned for details.

The number of coffee cups not washed, dried and put back into the boxes is increasing. Please help ease the tidy-uppers workload.

Richard McLauchlan

Management committee

THE main points of interest from the committee meeting held on 21 April include:

Suggestion Box answers will be posted to the notice board. Keep them coming.

Hills Community Centre AGM: rent for the hall is to stay the same. There will be an hourly charge for the use of the air conditioner. How much to be advised at a later date.

No new building information although a formal expression of interest has been sent to B. Battersby for the James Drysdale Reserve site.

Forest Place will sponsor a session and donate prize money. It will be held on a Tuesday morning in late June with special emphasis on Judy's ex-students and ex-members of Arana Bridge Club to encourage new and returning members.

Our current financial membership is 154.

Darlene Smith (Secretary)

Masterpoint movements

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

Graduate

Lynn Free Carmel Steer

Club

Mary Backstrom Judith Little

Local

Rae Gear Frank Hoult

Regional

Alison Fulwood Jean Parry

Marian Richardson

National

Helen McLauchlan

Jennifer Lewis (mp sec)

What odds

TOP players are right up on the probabilities of certain distributions. Is a 4-2 or 3-3 split more likely when 6 cards are missing? Finesse (50/50) or play for the drop? All things being equal, then for X cards missing, the odds (out of 100) of the possible distributions are:

X	Distributions			
7	7-0	6-1	5-2	4-3
	< 0.5	7	31	62
6	6-0	5-1	4-2	3-3
	1	15	48	36
5	5-0	4-1	3-2	
	4	28	68	
4	4-0	3-1	2-2	
	10	50	40	
3	3-0	2-1		
	22	78		
2	2-0	1-1		
	48	52		

From: *Reese on Play* by Terence Reese

A little distribution

IS worth lots of high card points. At least, that's what the BBC Easter congress indicated. We played the pairs on Sunday for a top half finish, then teamed up with Alan Maltby and Di Roddy (Sunshine Coast) in the teams on Monday. The tactic for the day was to pre-empt long and hard, to get in first and to muddy the waters.

This tactic was working with 2 good wins and a narrow loss in the morning getting us to fifth where we met Wynne Webber, Sheila Parker, Robyn Clayton and Linley Jenkins on the 'big set' of boards with slams aplenty.

2/ N-S/ E	4	
	J 7 5 3	
	A K J 10 8 7	
A K Q 9 6 2	9 6	J 10 8 7 5 3
10 9 8		Q 6 2
9 4 2		6 5 3
A	--	K
	A K 4	
	Q	
	Q J 10 8 7 5 4 3 2	

<i>LJ</i>	<i>RMc</i>	<i>RC</i>	<i>HMc</i>	1. Max 4 losers, any suit
E	S	W	N	2. 5+Ds 8+hcp or 1A+1K
/	2C ¹	2S	3D ²	3. Pre-emptive
4S ³	5C ⁴	5S ⁵	/	4. I seldom get 9 card suits
/	6C ⁴	/ ⁵	/	5. No X with CA + SA?
6S ⁶	/	/	X	6. I don't like my stiff CK

With plenty of red suit losers, 6S duly went off, but not enough to make up for the **21 hcp** club slam. That didn't matter because the other table only bid 5C making 12. We bid the next board (3) to a cold **28 hcp** S slam making 13 on a finesse, the other table again subsiding in game. Our team mates bid 6S making 13 on the **28 hcp** board 5. Our opponents again missed when I got in first with 2H on: 2 J 9 8 7 4 K Q J 7 5 6 4.

We both missed the 25 hcp S slam on board 7 where N has a bare CA and S the bare DA for 13 tricks. Finally on board 6, Helen showed 19+ hcp (actually 21), I had 10 and a H fit. Working on the theory that there couldn't be any more slams in this set, we played 4H making 11 on the board with most hcp. Give me distribution any day.

All up, we won 4 of 7 matches for a top half finish. Not bad for a first time team and having to play teams 1, 4, 6 & 8, including the winners (1). Pity about the venue though. BBC play at Souths League's Club in a room that is not air conditioned. Some hot sticky weather made both days rather uncomfortable.

Richard McLauchlan

Gympie congress

GYMPIE attracted a tidy 21 tables with Brisbane, Bundaberg, Kingaroy, Maryborough, Sunshine Coast and Rockhampton doing battle with the locals. Helen and I were among the small Brisbane contingent. Qualifying was nothing to write home about and we had no trouble not making the championship which was quite a strong field. Life in the plate was not as easy as expected but we did get away to a flyer when the opposition bid: 1H 1S 4S 4NT 5H 5NT 6NT 7S X. What do I lead from:

9 3 5 2 9 8 6 5 4 3 Q 8 6

With the confident double, I thought they might be playing in a 4-4 S fit with Helen holding S Q-J-10. If so, the lead was irrelevant. My chances of getting a H ruff seemed slim so the H lead was out. I didn't want to risk leading from the CQ, so I led the D9. Bingo! Dummy had K-2, and Helen the A-J. One off and a lucky start, as any other lead allows declarer to dump her Ds on dummy's Hs and Cs. And once again, you shouldn't ask for kings with an ace missing (6NT doesn't make.)

We played a lot of scratchy 1 and 2 level contracts, especially 1NT, often going off. The field seemed to take a very conservative approach, so that bad scores were really bad. Board 11 in final 1 was memorable.

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

My (S) X of 1S promised 4Hs (and Cs) while Helen's X of 2S also promised 4Hs. When they bid 4S, my singleton, the known but unannounced 4-4 D fit, and our non-vulnerability suggested 5H was reasonable. With 5Hs to the J, W thought otherwise and went for blood.

She led the S 10-4-A-Q; E returned the CK to dummy's A; I pitched a D on the SK; a small H to my A showed the 5-0 trump break; the H10 was ducked; the D10 was won by W's A; the CJ held; I ruffed the S return and led a D to the K; the DQ followed; then I ruffed the DJ with the HK, W under-ruffing. Now the C7 and W was end-played; her H6 was taken with the 8 and the HQ won the last trick.

Although we counted the tricks 3 times, W still found it hard to believe that I was only I down (SA, DA, CJ and NO trumps). That was one of our better boards as N-S are cold for 4S and can make 5S on the probable H lead. We were top half all day but no real threat. The championship was won by Ron Lorroway and Jan Dooner (Rockhampton) who timed their run perfectly, hitting the lead for the first time on the last round.

Richard McLauchlan

While at Northern Suburbs

THEIR 1-day swiss pairs was run on the same Sunday as Gympie with a couple of Aranans in the 45 table field. Best result came from Jenny Lewis and Joyce Rosser with a top 20 (of 90) finish.

Anzac spirit

BRIDGEWISE, Anzac Sunday means teams at QCBC. Betty Willson played in a QCBC team while Helen and I teamed with Alan Maltby and Di Roddy (Sunshine Coast). Stroke of luck! We were seeded 25 in a 50 team event and our first round was against team 50, a relatively easy start. We found form quickly, winning all 3 morning matches (one against team 3) to get into second place.

The afternoon had to get tougher and, sure enough, we hit team 1 (Lachman, Remedios, Mayers, Francis) straight after lunch. We beat them mainly due to board 6, where Helen & I put 4Sx 1 off for 200, while Alan & Di clobbered Arnold & Rosa's non-vul 'save' for 300 and 11 imps to the good guys. Two more wins had us undefeated with the last round against McDonald (Keith, Andrew Pryde, Kim Ellaway, Marion Cooke).

There were 2 decisive boards in this round. On board 26, I made 3NT (+600) while Alan & Di put Keith 2 down (+200). A major factor in our wins was out team mate's strike rate on slam hands – they only missed 1 for the day – and it wasn't board 29.

29/ All/ N	10 9 6 4	
	K 6 2	
	J 10	
A 7 2	7 5 4 3	K J 8
J 8 7 4 3		A Q 10 5
5		A Q 8 6 3
A Q 10 8	Q 5 3	6
	9	
	K 9 7 4 2	
	K J 9 2	

Our table				Their table			
N	E	S	W	N	E	S	W
/	1C*	/	1H	/	1D	/	1H
/	2D	/	3C	/	3H	/	4NT*
/	4H			/	5S*	/	6H
* Precision, any 16+				* Key card: 2 keys + HQ			

After Helen led the S10, Kim managed to lose 3 tricks for -620. Andrew Pryde underled the S9-J-ducked by Keith; a C to the Q; the HJ was ducked; CA; DA; D ruff; C ruff; SK; SA; C ruff; HA; D ruff; over-ruffed with the K; S ruff was 12 tricks for 1430; net score +810 for 13 imps.

Beyond our wildest expectations, we won all 7 matches and the event, beating teams 1, 3 and 7 along the way! Fame (well, our names in the Courier Mail's bridge column), fortune (well, a tidy return on the entry fee), and probably back to reality next week when our team tackles Toowoomba on May day.

Richard McLauchlan

Australia-wide multi pairs

THE boards for this year's event were nothing special - just 36 random deals generated by the 'Duplimate' program used with many of the dealing machines currently in use. Two visitors were among the 9 tables participating at Arana.

Sitting E, there were no real stand out boards for me, although board 3 against Ted McGrath and Allan Box demonstrated that looking for a quick ruff is not always the best defence.

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

After Ted (S) opened 1S, Bob ended up in a thin 4H (we missed game on the previous board and were not missing another). Allan led the S10-3-J-7. Ted hoped Allan's 10 was a singleton and continued with the SA and S2 to give Allan a ruff. Bob ruffed with the H10 and the beatable (SA & Q, CA & K) contract is now makeable.

Small D to the K; small S ruffed with the HK; DA discarding a C; H2 to dummy to clear trumps; make the SK; surrender the remaining C; 10 tricks. That's the way it should have gone on a good night. In real life after playing the DK, Bob came to hand with a trump to his K to lead the DA. That

leaves us with a losing spade, 1 trick short and a slightly below average score.

There were several flat boards and a couple of biggies. On board 18, N-S only had to decide between 6D, 6S and 6NT, no one finding the cold 7D/S/NT. It was harder for E-W where Betty Willson and Bev Quine were the only pair to find 6C on board 9. Thanks to Don & Darlene Smith for setting the boards. Winners on the night (overall winners in bold) were:

Men (N/S) Peter Stride - Harold Rienstra
 (E/W) Bob Pearce - Richard McLauchlan

Women(N/S) **Helen McLauchlan - Rita Wood**
 (E/W) **Betty Willson - Beverley Quine**

Mixed (N/S) Margarett Golden - Peter Van Eden
 (E/W) Ailsa Smith - Bob Dancer

Richard McLauchlan

Important dates

- Sat 16-17/5 Qld mixed pairs (Toowong)
- Sat 23-24/5 Caloundra congress
- Sun 24/5 BBC swiss pairs
- Thu 28/5 QBA council meeting
- **Sat 30-31/5 Arana congress**
- Fri 5-6/6 World pairs
- Sun 7-8/6 QCBC June congress
- Sat 13/6 Directors exam
- Sun 14/6 Toowong Rotary Cup
- Sat 20-21/6 Sunshine Coast honeysuckle pairs
- Sat 27-28/6 Moreton-Bribie congress
- Sun 28/6 BBC novice pairs

Toowoomba

WE tackled the Toowoomba congress over the long weekend in May. Q1 was a shocker; Q2 was a lot better but not good enough as we missed the main final by 4 match points. So we started Sunday with some hopes of winning the plate. An average start plus some consistent results got us to the lead. With 2 rounds to go, we did nothing particularly wrong but scored a dismal 3 from 48.

19/ EW/ S	Q		
	Q J 8 5		
	K 10 9 7 5		
A 10 6	A K 8	3 2	
K 3 2		A 9 7 6	
J 3 2		6	
9 5 3 2	K J 9 8 7 5 4	Q J 10 7 6 4	
	10 4		
	A Q 8 4		

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On board 19, the auction went 1S, 2D, 2S, 3NT, 4S (with some concern about missing a D slam). Sitting W (cover the other 3 hands), what do you lead against 4S? Conversely sitting E, what do you lead against 6D?

From W, most text books would tell you to lead the S6. Not my W; she led the H2-5-A-10. Long think then the S2-4-A-Q; the HK was the 3rd and last trick for the defence and 13 of the 16 match points. Most Ws led a C or a D, allowing S to dump the 2 H losers on the CA-K, making 12.

Four pairs bid to 6D, 3 getting home when E did not lead the HA and W did not switch to Hs after a S lead. Our opponents went on to win the plate. Despite a good last round, we just missed the money in finishing fourth.

Monday saw some new faces where we were seeded 6 of 26 teams entered. We won our first 3 matches (for 10 in a row counting the previous weekend) but promptly dropped one to team 10. We won 2 more and lost 1 to team 1 (the winning Wallis-Tully, Parker-Hainsworth outfit). Our hopes for third place were dashed when the 8th placed team had a very big win on the last round to pip us for the prize money and fourth again...

Richard McLauchlan