

ARANA CONTRACT BRIDGE CLUB

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EDITORIAL

The reason for the hold-up of the November Trump-It was to publish results immediately after the conclusion of our last Championship event of the year - the Open and Handicap Pairs Championship.

The event was conducted over two consecutive nights in a seeded Howell Movement (every pair meeting every other pair). Barometer scoring was used throughout so that players had the advantage of instant round results and progressive totals.

Throughout the bridge world, Pair Championship events are considered the most prestigious of all Championships and the accolades for our Open Pairs Championship go to Neil and Frances Orford.

The runnersup were Alan and Merilyn Wright, who finished a very close second, only a second top behind the winners.

Handicap honours go to a relatively new pair to the game Steve McDougall and Ann Pearce. Steve and Ann finished a creditable equal fifth in the Open event.

Congratulations to all the winners with a special congratulations to Frances who took off "the treble". Apart from the Pairs Championship, Frances was the winner of the Individual Championship and a member of the winning team who took off the Teams Championship.

J. VALENTINE

REMINDERS

Christmas Break-up Parties - Our main Christmas Break-up Party which will include the presentation of trophies for Club Championship events, will be held on the evening of Wednesday, 9th December at 7.30 p.m.

The evening will begin with a short game of bridge where everyone will draw for partners. This is a fun event where no person may draw his regular or part-time partner. The Club will be providing beverages and the players have been asked to bring along a plate of food. There will be no charge for this evening.

Tuesday Break-up - The Day-time Club is to hold its own Christmas Party, as many of the members are unable to attend the main function on Wednesday night. The Committee has agreed to provide beverages and members are to bring along a plate of food. The festivities will begin with a short game of bridge at 9.30 a.m. - a draw for partners - followed by a lavish morning tea (if I know the day-time crowd).

If you are not a day-time player, but could spare the time, please come along and join us - I promise you a most enjoyable morning.

1988 CLUB ACTIVITIES

The 1988 Club activities booklet will be handed out at both Christmas Parties. For those of you who are unable to attend either Christmas Party, we mention that Club play resumes on the following dates.

Tuesday - 19th January, 1988 at 9.30 a.m.
Wednesday - 20th January, 1988 at 7.30 p.m.

CLUB LIBRARY

The Club has purchased some 20 new books which will go into our Library and be available for members to use over the Christmas/New Year break. Most of the books are learning material with the odd books for easy reading. The book I intend to review in this months Trump-It is from the easy reading section.

BOOK REVIEW

Have I Got A Story For You!

by Patty Eber and Mike Freeman.

When doing a book review, one should always give an honest opinion as to the books merits, as seen by the appraiser.

The book is an anthology of favourite bridge tales by two authors who are Americans. Needless to say, the "tales" emerge from the American Bridge Scene.

Although I did get the odd giggle, I found the book disappointing. Many of the stories involved comments to partner or opponents which I considered rude rather than funny. I am sure my attitude towards partners, opponents, and the game as a whole is well known by now, hence the reason I was unable to enjoy the book more. I am sure readers, who have not experienced first hand the unpleasant side of bridge players at top level will get more laughs than I did.

The book is easy reading and is a break from the normal text book which we tend to drown in most of the time. I should warn you that the book has the odd rude word quoted which could offend.

Personally, I think the Klinger book "The Bridge Player Who Laughed" put together in the same style is more palatable reading. We will purchase it next time.

I quote two "tales" which did tickle my fancy.

Suited for Anything - I arrived at a tournament in Tel Aviv just in time to go to my assigned table in the Individual event. The director said something in Israeli, and everyone started to play.

The Frenchman opposite me opened the bidding with une peake. Righty passed, I raised to two peake, LHO passed, and partner jumped to quatre peake. Before she made her final pass, my right hand opponent turned to me and asked, "What's a peake?"

"I have no idea", I said.

"You mean to tell me," she declared, "that you bid two of them and you don't know what they are?"

"That's right," I answered.

"Well, I double that bid," she said rather vehemently.

Quatre peake, bid, doubled, and made, followed by "Director!"

After the director found out what had happened, he inquired of me, "How could you bid two peake when you don't know what they are?"

"I have 4-3-3-3 distribution and a single raise for any suit that partner opens," I said. "If he had bid one banana, I would have said two bananas."

The headline in the next day's Daily Bulletin read: "How to drive your opponents bananas."

Submitted by Alice Evans Brooklyn, New York.

The Dummy's Reversal - John was a fine bridge player. His wife, Elaine, was not. During one of their innumerable games together, a violent argument erupted. John began to upbraid Elaine unmercifully for her lesser bridge abilities in general and her unwillingness to bid game on the previous board in particular. The opponents, obviously disturbed by the sudden exchange, hurried them along to the next hand.

John sullenly opened one heart. LHO passed. Still fuming, Elaine sat perfectly still arms folded and eyes flashing. She made no attempt to remove her cards from the board. "Four hearts," she snapped, glaring at her husband. All passed. John pulled out her cards, spread the dummy, and handily made his contract. He eyed Elaine and remarked dryly, "From now on, always leave your cards in the board. You do much better when you don't look at them."

Submitted by Cornelia Porter Naperville, Illinois.