



ARANA

Contract Bridge Club Inc

November - December 2004

Vol 18 No 9

From the President

I'm quite convinced that the older you get the faster the days pass. Already we have seen Melbourne cup Day and the its usual success with a bounty of fun and food. I received a gift from the phantom but unfortunately the gift was too tight. Retribution will follow.

I believe we have had a good year in all respects and whilst the workload on Committee Members and on special groups has increased, most is routine.

This is the last issue of the Trump-It for 2004 and as your President I wish you all that is good for Christmas and fulfilment in 2005.

Merry Christmas.

Remember bridge is only a game.

Neil E Hamilton



Pearl's Party

page 4

Arana Christmas Party



Saturday 11 December 2004

**Bring a plate to share - drink supplied
1:00pm start - play followed by
Arana culinary delights and
presentation to winners of all Club
Events / Championships**



Eat, Drink and Enjoy

📞 Important Phone Numbers 😊😊

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Vice-President:	Val Acklin 3851-3059
Secretary:	Tony Agar 3851-1362
Treasurer:	Gay Hull 3300-2050
Partner Contact	Carol Wilson 3353-2297

Convenor's 2004 Novice Teams Report

Attendance increased to 13 teams this year. This was an improvement on last year of 3 teams and led to the club making a small profit. The number of entrants from other clubs increased considerably. Unfortunately, the number of Arana members playing decreased.

Entries in all novice congresses apart from 1 or 2 appear to be low this year. On my recommendation, the club applied to the QBA to change this event to a graded teams. This would still provide a novice competition while widening the pool of possible entrants. This request was refused for 2005 and I recommend that the committee applies again next year to change the format of this event in 2006. There are no other congresses in Brisbane on this date and we should stress this to the QBA.

I believe that increasing prize money, and advertising the first prize amount, could be an attraction to increase attendance. I do not subscribe to the belief that, first and foremost, congresses are run to provide a profit to the host club. I believe this should be secondary to providing a service to the bridge community. This is especially so now that Arana has a quality facility to offer for the running of events..

Increasing advertising in the QBA Bulletin is also my recommendation.

As usual with novice events, it was a happy uneventful day and our facilities were enjoyed by all. We can only hope that numbers will continue to increase. Jan Peach and Geoff Slack-Smith directed and scored and contributed to the smooth running of the day despite the need for a triangle. The only hiccup was the production (by me) of scoring booklets which only provided enough space for 8 board matches although attendees were playing 9 board matches.

Once again members assisted with food and we made a small profit. Costing report is attached. I was happy to run the kitchen and was ably assisted by Richard in late afternoon to prepare the food for "high tea".

Joan Mills moved a vote of thanks to myself at the conclusion of the festivities and this was greatly appreciated. I consider this event my "baby" and will continue to run the event while this is possible.

A full list on entrants in final placing order is attached.

Helen McLauchlan, Convenor

Arana Novice Teams 10/10/2004 - Director: Jan Peach

1	Syd Solo, Heather Kruse, Vivien Solo, Jeanette Campbell	115
2	Alan Norman, Beverley Quine, Warren Holmes, Barbara Holmes	104
3=	Margaret Owen, Ellen Meldrum, Sally Hall, Paul Mann	103
3=	Campbell Lane, Valerie Lane, Maureen Munro, Rodney Curtin	103
5	Tricia Duffy, Pamela Evans, George Macionis, Andrew Guminski	100
6	Kerry Pope, Wolf Stuthe, Brigitte Stuthe, Jocelyn Lawrence	96
7	Murray Perrin, Christine Noakes, Ann Pearce, Frances Orford	93
8	Pam Schoen, Barry O'donohue, Alan Aitcheson, John Lee	88
9	Robert Matthew, Rosemary Matthew, Peter Van Eden, Peggy Whittaker	83
10	Caroline Black, Charles Johnson, Joan Mills, Joyce Riley	78
11	Gay Hull, Carmel Steer, Pearl Cowie, Ray Cowie	69
12	Gordon Broadley, Ian Broadley, David Lehmann, Gary Ypinazar	65
13	Michael Staley, Mary Staley, Lyn Haysom, Heather Salzgeber	57

BOOK LOOK

Our guest book reviewer this edition is Gary Mitchell

"The Bridge Bum" By Alan Sontag

If you are looking for another book on card play or one on conventions, then this is not the book for you. First published in 1975 and now revised in 2004, it drew this comment from Eddie Kantar, "When I first read this book, I loved it... It reads like an exciting novel." And how true this is!! Not a dry, analytical dissection of card play, hand after hand, nor a prolonged description of a bidding system or sundry conventions, page after page. But rather an absorbing collection of amusing anecdotes and tales which recount Sontag's meetings with the Who's Who of the Bridge World of the 1960's and 1970's.

People like Giorgio Belladonna and Benito Garozzo (the feared partnership of the famed Italian Blue Team), C.C. Wei (creator of the Precision Club bidding system, and patron of the Chinese Precision World Championship Team), Harold Ogust, Sam Stayman, Mike Cappelletti and Oswald Jacoby (each responsible for a particular bidding convention), Terence Reese and Boris Schapiro (two English players accused (and found guilty) of cheating in the 1965 World Championships), Michael Truscott (famed columnist for the New York Times) and Omar Sharif (of Dr Zhivago fame), to name but a few.

We are given snippets of information about some of the major events in the Bridge World of that era, along with its personalities (their physical appearance, table manners, playing styles and peculiarities). Unfortunately we do not learn enough about Sontag himself and his rise to prominence in the USA (this is not an autobiography).

But his stories hold our attention and entice us to find out more. Like the one about Roy Cox, an addicted gambler, and his forays to play bridge (and be fleeced) in Jamaica, or the one describing the purchase of the services of a

bridge professional to help the player (not Sontag) to become a Life Master (you need as much as US\$50 000 for this).

Want to know more? Then get hold of this book. It is a great read for all bridge players, but especially for those of us who are old enough to remember its characters of that era.

Gary Mitchell



LIBRARY LINES Jan Rae & Kath Rooney

Thanks to the Bring & Buy table our library continues to grow. We have recently purchased 12 new books entitled:-

Bridge Play Unravalled	Freddie North
Case for the Defence	Victor Mollo
Play with the Champions	Ron Klinger)
25 More Bridge Conventions You Should Know	Barbara Seagram & David Bud
Bridge Below the Belt	Larry Cohen & Liz.Davis
Roman Keycard Blackwood) Splinter Bids) Jacoby 2NT)	Barbara Seagram & Linda Lee
Understanding Slam Bidding	Ron Klinger
The Art of Psychic Bidding	Julian Pottage & Peter Burrows
The Fun way to Better Bridge	Harry Lamput)
100 Winning Duplicate Tips	Ron Klinger

In addition Judy Cantemessa donated a copy of The Best Book of Bridge (Ron Klinger). Thank you Judy.

Some news from Jan overseas. She and Alan loved New York (great shops); enjoyed touring Budapest and Germany and are currently leading the good life in Tuscany. Paris to come.

Hope you all continue to use and enjoy the Library.

Kath Rooney

90 Years Young

The special occasion was Pearl's 90th birthday party. Several members of the club were present to help celebrate this milestone and all enjoyed the wonderful morning tea provided by Judith Cowie and Pearl's daughter, Heather. Pearl sat at the head of the table surrounded by friends, family and flowers, loving every moment of it and quite up to the verbal sparring provided by President Neil.

Neil paid tribute to Pearl's beauty in youth and to her sharpness of intellect through the years. We congratulate you, Pearl, and wish you all the best in the coming year. Liz Marshall



Pearl with President Neil, Rosemary Matthew and Kath Rooney.

After Session Supervised Play - Fridays

Helen McLauchlan has offered her services to conduct supervised play/ post mortem/ lessons after play on Friday afternoons (approx. 2.00pm).

Cost is envisaged at \$2.00 for one hour (approx.). This will rise if instruction time increases.

NOTE: IT IS NOT NECESSARY FOR MEMBERS TO ATTEND THE FRIDAY SESSION. ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME.

Hire of Hall

The Committee has agreed to offer use of the hall to other "quiet" non-profit activity groups (eg: five hundred, mah-jong, chess, cribbage) on the following basis.

Facilities to be available at the times the hall is open but under-utilised such as Monday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings, Thursday and Friday mornings and Saturday afternoon. Other times will be by special arrangement.

Members of these groups would join Arana as associate members – membership fees would be the same as bridge players but they will not pay QBA and ABF levies. When attending the club associate members would pay to Arana the same table fees as bridge players i.e. \$4.50 per person per session. Alternatively, they could choose not to join and pay table fees of \$6.00 per person each attendance.



A Day with Paul Lavings Thursday 30 December 2004

Arrangements are presently under way for a one-day seminar by Paul Lavings. This seminar will be modelled on last year's format.

There will be two sessions, one in the morning followed by a lunch break and the second session in the afternoon.

The topics this year are:

- ♣ **Winning Finesses**
- ♣ **That Elusive Extra Trick**

Each session will include 12 hands to be played on the particular topic discussed by Paul.

The cost is yet to be set and further details will be posted on the notice board.



THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

Bridge System Colours Explained

Players should note that the following system regulations apply only to tournaments held under QBA regulations and to regular club play in Queensland.

The ABF has recently changed its system regulations but, as yet, **these changes have NOT been adopted by the QBA**. Therefore, in Queensland, the ABF regulations only apply to events such as the Gold Coast and Barrier Reef congresses.

There are 4 main classifications of system – **GREEN, BLUE, RED** and **YELLOW**. The key element in deciding a system's classification is the opening call structure. The following information about **GREEN** and **BLUE** systems is extracted from the QBA website.

1.3 GREEN SYSTEMS (Natural Openings)

A system satisfies the GREEN classification if it complies with all of the following:

- (1) One level Bids must show no less than 18 Opening Points, two level Bids must show no less than 15 Opening Points and 5+ cards in the suit bid, and three level suit bids must show no less than 15 Opening Points, or no less than 12 Opening Points and a suit of at least seven cards in the suit bid.
- (2) Suit Bids must be Natural, showing no less than four cards in the suit bid.
- (3) No trump Bids must show a balanced hand.
- (4) Pass must show insufficient strength to meet the particular system requirements for a bid.

GREEN System Allowances Subject to Clause 1.3 (1):

- (1) One club may be better minor (minimum three card suit) or a two card suit with a 4-4-3-2-hand pattern.
- (2) One diamond may be better minor (minimum three card suit).
- (3) Two clubs or two diamonds may show any distribution provided that such opening bids also shows no less than 25 Opening Points.
- (4) Two clubs may show an Acol-style eight playing trick hand in an unspecified suit.

1.4 BLUE SYSTEMS

(Includes strong 1C openings)

A system satisfies the BLUE classification if all of its Bids, which fail to satisfy the GREEN classification fall within the distributional allowances, set out below:

BLUE System Allowances Subject to Clause 1.3 (1):

- (1) One club may be Club-Diamond Bust, Blue Club, Precision Club, Power Club, Polish Club, Omnibus Club, Strong Club or another similar treatment of one club.
- (2) One diamond may be Precision (short) Diamond or any other similar treatment of one diamond.
- (3) Provided the Bid of a suit otherwise complies with distributional requirements for GREEN or BLUE Systems, it need not deny the holding of a longer suit.
- (4) One no trump need not be Balanced provided it shows no less than 25 Opening Points.
- (5) A two or three level suit Bid need not show a minimum holding in the suit bid provided it shows no less than four cards in a specific suit or no less than 25 Opening Points.
- (6) Two no trumps need not be Balanced provided it shows no less than four cards in a specific suit or no less than 25 Opening Points.
- (7) Notwithstanding the above, a Blue System may include the "European Multi 2D" opening bid which shows, as an alternative to one or more strong hands with no less than 25 Opening Points, a hand of less than opening strength that complies with 1.3(1) for a two level bid and with 1.3(2) except that the suit promised may be either hearts or spades.

NOTE: The Bid need not disclose which of the possible complying hand types are held under Clauses 1.4 (4), (5), (6) or (7) above.

"Opening Points" means the sum of the high card points (Ace = 4, King = 3, Queen = 2, Jack = 1) and the number of cards in the two longest suits in the hand.

Only GREEN and BLUE systems are allowed in normal club sessions.

In all cases it is the players' responsibility to correctly classify their system. If in doubt, they should consult with a Director.

Bob Pearce

Defensive Trump Trick Vanishes Before Your Eyes

This deal contains an opportunity of rare device. West apparently has a guaranteed trump trick, yet it will vanish like a pea in a shell game.



4 ♥ by South

E-W Vul	♠ K 9		
	♥ A K 2		
	♦ K 8 4		
	♣ 9 7 5 4 3		
♠ J 7 3		♠ 10 8 6 5 4	
♥ Q 7 6 3		♥ —	
♦ Q J 10 2		♦ A 9 7 6 5	
♣ K J		♣ Q 10 8	
	♠ A Q 2		
	♥ J 10 9 8 5 4		
	♦ 3		
Lead: ♦ Q	♣ A 6 2		

West	North	East	South
			1 ♥
Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	All Pass	

North had a choice of responses to South's one-heart opening. It was pointless (pun intended) to show the club suit, so he bid two no-trump to describe a balanced hand. South rebid three hearts and North raised to game. (North intended to show his heart support even if South did not rebid the suit.)

West led the queen of diamonds, which held, then continued with the jack as South ruffed. A heart to the king revealed the lopsided trump break, and declarer paused to take stock. West's queen was in a finessable position, but North had too few trumps to capture it. Obviously, if South later leads the jack, West would not cover with the queen.

Declarer looked elsewhere, but it was all in vain. There was no way to avoid losing two club tricks. The inevitable result seemed to be down one. Oh, well... might as well play it out... maybe something good will happen.

Declarer ruffed dummy's last diamond, then he cashed three rounds of spades and the ace of

clubs. A club was led to West, who returned a low trump to South's nine. At this point South held J-10 in hearts and a club; West held Q-8 in hearts and a diamond; North was down to the blank ace of hearts and two clubs. The next part happens pretty fast, so keep an eye on the queen of trumps.

South led his last club, West discarded his diamond (it would not help to ruff his partner's trick), and East won the queen. East returned a spade (a diamond makes no difference), and South ruffed with the jack. Presto! If West overruffs, North also overruffs with the ace; if West underuffs, North discards a club. Either way, West never makes a trump trick.

Wanna see it again?

Short Bridge Puzzles



Answers: Page 7

1. Hand Patterns

There are 39 hand patterns, ranging from 4-3-3-3 to 13-0-0-0. (A) Which hand pattern is the most common? (B) Which is more likely, 4-3-3-3 or 5-4-3-1? (C) Which is more likely, 4-4-4-1 or 6-4-2-1?

2. Huge Numbers

Which is the largest? (A) the number of legal bridge auctions, (B) the number of bridge deals, or (C) the number of feet to the nearest star.

3. Greatest Score

At rubber bridge what is the greatest score (most points) that can be won or lost on a single deal?

4. Singleton or Void

What is the probability that a random bridge deal will contain a singleton or void in at least one hand? (A) 37 percent, (B) 58 percent, (C) 79 percent.

Masterpoint Movements

NEW rankings for Arana home club members for the month of September & October 2004:

Club Master

Agnes Boross Gabriel Boross
Rab Wright Sid Cantamessa

** Local Master*

Andrew Guminski
Zelma O'Connor

Regional Master

Joyce Riley

State Master

Albert Lewis Barbara Holmes
Beverley Quine

** State Master*

Marian Richardson

National Master

Anne Gulley

** National Master*

Geoffrey Gulley

Life Master

Liz Marshall

Helen McLauchlan (MP Secretary)

Queensland Graded Teams Championships

Arana's Andrew Guminski and George Macionis teamed with T Duffy & P Evans of QCBC to win the Under 100MPs level in this Championship.

Congratulations Andrew and George.

Professional Opinion

Bill: My cardiologist says I can't play bridge.

Tom: Why not? Do you have a heart problem?

Bill: Nope. He's just played with me enough to know I'm hopeless.



Ferny Grove & Districts Junior Australian Rules Football Club Inc.

Founded in 1992 with one team playing at the Ferny Grove High School then in 1997 moved to Tramway Street, Ferny Grove Parklands. To 2000 when together with the Ferny Fireballs Cricket Club and the Arana Contract Bridge Club opening the Clubrooms.

Ferny Grove & Districts Junior Australian Rules Football club has grown in 12 years from 1 team to 14 teams, with great success. Four premierships teams and two Club Champions in 2003 and 2004, Ferny Grove took the honours over the other 34 Brisbane Junior Clubs.

Great overall growth in players to 2004 numbers were 212 players (aged 8 – 16) and 90 Auskick participants (aged 5 – 7).

Thea Isles, President



Answers

1. (A) 4-4-3-2 is by far the most common. It occurs 21.56 percent of the time. (B) 5-4-3-1 occurs 12.93 percent of the time, and 4-3-3-3 only 10.54. (C) 6-4-2-1 occurs 4.70 percent of the time, and 4-4-4-1 only 2.99. Are you surprised?

2. (A) The number of possible bridge auctions is almost beyond comprehension, a 48-digit number! The number of possible bridge deals is in the octillions, a 29-digit number. To put these into perspective, consider that the number of feet to the nearest star is only an 18-digit number. Better start walking!

3. Many would answer 7,600 (down 13, redoubled, vulnerable), but don't forget the possibility of 150 honors: 7,750!

4. (C). Most people are surprised by this, but almost four deals out of five have a singleton or void somewhere. Practical tests have been done on this, and it holds quite true.



Ann Pearce
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Important Dates November / December

Tue	2	Melbourne Cup
Wed	3	Wednesday Red Point Pairs (week 1)
Sun	7	QCBC pairs; Cleveland Bay (T'ville) pairs
Wed	10	Wednesday Red Point Pairs (week 2)
Sat	13	Eastern Suburbs graded teams Townsville novice teams (0-99)
Sun	14	Gold Coast novice teams (0-99)
Sat	20	Mackay novice teams (0-99)
Sun	21	Qld Senior & Youth pairs championships; Coolum graded pairs
Mon	22	Red points
Wed	24	Queensland Wide pairs
Sat	27-	Bowen Coral Coast teams;
Sun	28	Noosa Butler pairs
Sun	28	Arana Club pairs championship QCBC novice pairs (0-99)
December		
Sun	5	Toowong novice teams (0-99)
Sat	11	Arana Christmas Party
Sun	12	Brisbane Zone InterClub teams
Tues	28	28 – Jan 1 Brisbane Festival of Bridge
Thu	30	Paul Lavings at Arana