



ARANA

Contract Bridge Club Inc

November December 2011

Vol 25 No 5

From the President



THE Arana Bridge Club is going green!. Within the next few weeks, solar panels will be installed on the roof of the clubhouse. This is occurring courtesy of a \$10,500 grant from the Gambling Community Benefit fund and at no cost to the club. Electricity is a major operational expense of the club and the savings from the solar contribution will be most helpful.

The club has also submitted grant applications for the external painting of the clubhouse and the installation of two additional air-conditioning units at the rear of the playing area. We expect a decision in relation to these applications by Christmas.

The Melbourne Cup meant that Tuesday players again had the opportunity to soak up the cup atmosphere in the company of their Bridge friends. Sweeps and raffles were held and lucky door prizes were available. Many thanks to those who gave their time to these fundraising activities.

My sister visited me recently and played a couple of games of bridge at Arana. She was most impressed with the welcome that she received and was most complimentary of the obvious friendliness that exists within the club.

The fact that members and visitors alike can not only play competitive bridge at Arana but also can have fun doing it is very reassuring to me as president. Thank you to all members and long may this environment continue.

Val Acklin (President)

The Festive Season

Christmas Party

ALL members should note the Club's Christmas Party will be Saturday, December 10, starting at 12:30pm, for play at 1pm.

Sessions

ALL normal session times apply through the Christmas – New Year period; except for Thursday play. *There will be no play on Thursday 29 December.*

New Year's Eve Party

On Saturday 31 December there will be play as usual on the afternoon, followed by dinner till 6:45, and from 7pm there will be Bridge and Games till late. Please bring a plate of your favourite food for the dinner, games you like to play, BYO drinks and your usual fun attitude.

Mobile Phones

Yes, yet again!

Some members are still using mobile phones during play. Would you please turn off mobile phones before play starts?

Editor: Michael Walker ph 3359 8907

Email: walkermj1@bigpond.com

Contributions may be by email (preferred) or by placing a note in the ideas box at the clubhouse

Profile: Darlene Smith



WHEN asked to write about your life it is hard to know where to start. Don was born in St. Louis, Missouri; I was born in Healdsburg California, (Many, many years ago)

We both lived in San Francisco for a while, and then both moved to Palo Alto California, home of Stanford University. Went to the same middle school and high school (2 years apart), and actually lived a block and a half from each other but did not meet until we both attended a youth club at our church. Were married in 1958, and produced two children.

During that time, Don finished an apprenticeship in Tool and Die making at the San Francisco Naval Shipyard, changed employment to National Aeronautics and Space Agency (NASA) in Moffett Field, where I also worked on computer data. I worked with the very old tape driven machines that took up a room the size of three of our Bridge club, we were processing the data from the wind tunnels working on space flight. During these years he was continuing his University education part time. I had stayed home with the kids for a total of 10 years, but when he was close to completing his degree in education, he went to school full time and I returned to the work force, again with computers. After graduation, he taught machine shop at a High School, changed to a woodwork teaching position working with blind students. Quite a challenge, he had to learn what it felt like by making a project (which I still have) blindfolded. While working at these jobs he was still attending University working on his Masters Degree in Educational Media. He also worked part time and

school holidays at a Winery Tasting Room close to home. Don figures it was the best job he ever had.

In 1973 Don was just completing his Master Degree when The Department of Education in Queensland sent a recruitment flyer to all of the Universities. Don applied and many months later found that he had been accepted. In August 1974, we shipped a crate of personal effects, put our house in California up for rent and embarked on a mysterious adventure. At that time there was not a great deal of information available about Brisbane, or even Australia for that matter. I had gone to the library and read everything I could, but most had been about the war years and very little after 1950.

We arrived after the 1974 floods and, of course, it was still the talk of the town and clean up was going on. Buying cars and renting houses was difficult if you didn't know what areas had been affected. We were lucky and settled the two children, 10 and 14, into schools. Don took up his position and we quickly made friends. During this period Don fulfilled a life long ambition to take up Sky Diving and Scuba Diving; not at the same time but successful at both! The Sky Diving was a film documentary about learning the sport and appeared on the ABC, with Don as one of the students.

Moving ahead a couple of years, we sold our house in California and purchased one in The Gap. We lived there for 27 years. The kids grew up, our son returned to the US to serve in both the U.S. Coast Guard as a Sonar Technician and the U.S. Army as a Medic stationed on Hawaii. He then returned home to work as a Computer Technician, Scuba Diving Instructor, and to study Aviation. Our daughter got married and started reproducing. We now have 4 grand children and one great-grandson. During this period, we wanted to refresh our Bridge playing skills. We originally learned in 1960 when our daughter was first born. We had taken classes, and played Goren's system, of course, mostly at Lockheed Aerospace, quite near our home. That was our first exposure to duplicate play. Then time, work, children and obligations took their toll and our Bridge took a back seat, playing with friends and relatives and becoming extremely messy.

As retirement drew nearer, we felt we wanted to get back into real Bridge and saw an advertisement in the local paper about classes. We took the classes from Judy Valentine, held at the temporary home of The Arana Bridge Club in Arana and felt we had found a new home.

Over the following years, Don and I have served on the Committee; I was secretary for one year and also edited the Trumpit for four years. We are so wrapped up in the Bridge club that without our attendance I would feel really lost. We have made many friends that will be with us for ever, and could never have hoped for such a home away from home.

PRIVACY ACT

Please advise if you do not wish to have your name and phone number published in the annual club booklet. A simple way of doing this would be to place a note to that effect in the ideas/suggestion box at the clubhouse – with your name on the note.

Directing at Arana

What can be said – Arana's a GOOD club:-

- the people are friendly,
- no-one's a 'real' pain,
- the committee does a fine job - keeps the Bridge flowing to everyone's satisfaction and handles the finances very well,
- the catering is great,
- the dealing is always there, and finally,
- the bridge is well organized by Val Cran, the other Directors and the Bridgemate Supports with significant additional help from Robert Matthews (Bridgemate Software) and Richard McLauchlan (Competition Movements & the tricky ones).

Directing at Arana therefore is basically pretty easy but the following are some of the actions that HELP and there is always the funny and the serious side!!

- Please don't hesitate to call the director - it is wrong to 'sort it out yourselves' when an irregularity has occurred OR there is uncertainty about the right course of action to take – 'Director please' is the way to go.
- It is important to arrive AT LEAST 15 minutes before the scheduled start time – it can be a real pain to fit a couple in at 9.29am – the movement will probably have to be changed and Bridgemate redone – not often EASY !!!
- When calling 'Director please' make it LOUD and please put your hand up and wave so that the director can see where the call is from.
- When you have been called for the 3rd time by the same person in the one day the director can be 'Direct'.
- **The Director is not always right** – if you think the 'call' is wrong please ask the Director to get a 2nd opinion from another Director – its not often that there isn't one available. Finally if you are still unhappy you may request that a formal review of

the situation be conducted – you need to make this request to the Director, you will need the concurrence of your partner to the appeal and you will need to lodge the appeal NO MORE than 30 minutes after the days results are available. Don't hesitate - if you're not happy/satisfied with the decision made - lodge the appeal.

John Martin

Directors..... Please

If you are interested in becoming a Director or learning a bit more about Directing, come to the clubhouse for a free informative session on Saturday, November 19, from 9:30 to 12:30 and meet Jan Peach. All welcome!

Novice Teams Championship

This event was held on Sunday, 23 October, running all day. Teams were comprised of three novices (less than 100 Master Points) and an experienced non-novice player as leader. The winning team was led by Gordon Broadley, with Ian Broadley, Joyce Maris and Peter Moritz. In second place was the team led by Irena Hall, with Charles Chambers, Gary Ypinazar and Gabriel Boross. Congratulations to the winning teams. An enjoyable day was had by all who attended. Special thanks to Richard McLauchlan for being the non-playing Director all day.

Have you changed your address?

The club booklet for next year will go to the printers mid-December. If any member has changed their address or wants their name removed from the booklet for next year, please notify the club. A note in the ideas box will suffice.

Masterpoint Movements

NEW rankings for Arana home club members for the period to 30th September 2011

Graduate Master	Beverley O'Hara
Club Master	Glenda Heyde Gloria Gledhill
**Local Master	Jennifer Walker
Regional Master	Gary Ypinazar
National Master	Judith Carr

Robert Matthew (MP Secretary)

A Moral Tale

Thanks to Tony Agar for the following.

BEST LAWYER/INSURANCE STORY OF THE YEAR, DECADE, AND POSSIBLY THE CENTURY. This took place in Charlotte, North Carolina. A lawyer purchased a box of very rare and expensive cigars, and then insured them against, among other things, fire. Within a month, having smoked his entire stockpile of these great cigars, the lawyer filed a claim against the insurance company. In his claim, the lawyer stated the cigars were lost 'in a series of small fires. 'The insurance company refused to pay, citing the obvious reason, that the man had consumed the cigars in the normal fashion. The lawyer sued and **WON! STAY WITH ME ...**Delivering the ruling, the judge agreed with the insurance company that the claim was frivolous. The judge stated nevertheless, that the lawyer held a policy from the company, in which it had warranted that the cigars were insurable and also guaranteed that it would insure them against fire, without defining what is considered to be unacceptable 'fire' and was obligated to pay the claim. Rather than endure lengthy and costly appeal process, the insurance company accepted the ruling and paid \$15,000 to the lawyer for his loss of the cigars that perished in the 'fires'. **NOW FOR THE BEST PART....**After the lawyer cashed the check, the insurance company had him arrested on 24 counts of

ARSON!!! With his own insurance claim and testimony from the previous case being used against him, the lawyer was convicted of intentionally burning his insured property and was sentenced to 24 months in jail and a \$24,000 fine. This true story won First Place in last year's Criminal Lawyers Award Contest. **ONLY IN AMERICA ?????**

Please support those who support our club and it's members.

AVEO, and Arana Leagues Club, provide aid to the club (funding or goods), while Flight Centre and IGA SUPA, both at Brookside, provide discounts to club members who identify themselves as a member of Arana Bridge Club by showing a club ID Badge. Any badge you use to identify yourself at Bridge which has the club name on it will suffice.

I am also advised that purchases at this IGA SUPA are tracked by them and an annual gift made to the club based on member purchases through the year.

Interesting stuff

In English pubs, ale is ordered by pints and quarts... So in olde England , when customers got unruly, the bartender would yell at them 'Mind your pints and quarts, and settle down.' It's where we get the phrase 'mind your P's and Q's'



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