



ARANA

Contract Bridge Club Inc

October 1995

Vol 9 No 8

Editor's desk

THERE were a few surprises after the qualifying sessions for both the Tuesday and Wednesday pairs championships. Congratulations to the winners and a special thanks to Muriel Anderssen, Bob Pearce and Trevor Cullen for directing the events.

Tuesday

Championship

1. Lorraine Martin – Noel Haysom
2. Charles Ingram – Henry Polt
3. Allan Box – Ted McGrath

Plate

1. Ailsa Smith – Marilyn Wright
2. Pat MacDonald – Peter MacDonald
3. Val Acklin – Carol Vardy

Wednesday

Championship

1. Val Acklin – Betty Willson
2. Jan Rae – Paul Yates
3. Cynthia Jamie – Beverley Quine

Plate

1. Jenny Lewis – Pam Horton
2. Peter Nottingham – Kevin Simpson
3. Alison Fulwood – John Willson

Richard McLauchlan

Management committee

ITEMS of interest from the management committee meeting of 23 October include:

A suggestion for our 10th birthday next March is for a Sunday (10 or 17 March) of bridge. The club would pay for hall hire, drinks and table fees. Lunch would be catered in at \$15-20 per head.

Pine Shire council has been requested to improve the car park lighting.

We have \$92 000 invested at 7.75% for 6 months and \$1 000 cash on hand.

Welcome to new members in Bob Thorpe and Joan Anne Crank, making a total of 181 members.

A directors meeting is planned for 6 pm on Wednesday 1 November. Any and all interested parties are welcome to attend.

A reminder that our tournament regulations require that all players entering must do so with the intention of completing all sessions; all substitutes must be cleared with the director; and the director must be notified at least 2 hours beforehand if anyone is unable to attend

Crs Battersby and Henderson attended and discussed possible sites in Drysdale Park for a clubhouse. The council offices are being air conditioned, the rest of the hall may be done at a later date with a probable increase in rent. The request for improved car park lighting is on their next agenda.

Dear Judy

SITTING West, I held this strong but dreaded 4-4-4-1 hand and the bidding went:

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

1. With 17 HCP, I did not like passing, but I felt I could not double 1H without spades. Similarly, I could not bid 1NT. Would X and rebid a minor promise a 5 carded suit? Should I pass?

2. After the opposition's bidding died at 1S, I had a comfortable pass out double.

3. Partner responded with the absolute minimum bid he could make (1NT) so I passed. We played 1NT making 10. Should I have passed, raised in NT, bid a minor or jumped?

Director!

TWICE in one week, I was asked about penalty cards, so I thought I should explain both major and minor penalty cards in layman's terms.

Minor penalty cards

A minor penalty card is a single card lower than a 10 that has been exposed accidentally, *eg* by dropping. It must be the only penalty card; if more than one card is exposed, they are all major penalty cards.

There is no constraint on partner whilst a minor penalty card is on the table. The holder of the penalty card may play any legal card he likes, but he must play the minor penalty card before he plays another non-honour card in the same suit as the penalty card.

Major penalty cards

A major penalty card is any card of honour rank (10 to Ace) or any card exposed through deliberate play, *eg* lead out of turn. Offender must play the major penalty card at the first legal opportunity. If a defender has more than one penalty cards that can be legally played, declarer may designate which is to be played.

When offender's partner is on lead, he may not lead until declarer has stated his lead penalty options –

(a) Declarer can require offender's partner to lead the suit of the penalty card which is then picked up and ceases to be a penalty card. If partner wins the trick, he may now lead whatever suit he chooses.

(b) Declarer can prohibit the lead of a card in the penalty card suit. Again, the penalty card is picked up and any legal card may be played. The lead prohibition remains in force for as long as partner retains the lead.

(c) Declarer can state that there is no lead restriction, in which case the penalty card remains on the table as a penalty card and partner may lead any card of any suit.

Declarer's cards

Declarer is not subject to penalty for exposing a card and none of declarer's or dummy's cards ever become a penalty card. If declarer drops a card accidentally, he is not required to play it.

The director must be called as soon as a penalty card appears on the table.

Muriel Miller

Seminar postponed

THE play seminar proposed for Sunday 29 October has been postponed to early next year, probably in February.

Masterpoint movements

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

State

Bob Pearce

Regional

Muriel Anderssen Ailsa Smith
Allan Box Marilyn Wright

Local**

Hazel Bitomsky Margaret Joyce
Perry Hooper Jan Rae

Local*

Don Cutmore Kath Rooney
Julie Cutmore Philip Smith
Gary Lynch Vonnie Wallace
Marian Richardson

Local

Beth Douglas Kay Paull
Lillian Kemp Paul Yates

Club

Sharon Agar Zelma O'Connor
Barbara Armstrong Anita Tindall
Margarette Golden

Graduate

Kathleen Carroll Nancy Kerlin
Gloria Cruice Sommie Mackay
Betty Hall

Jenny Lewis (MP sec)

Northern novices

MERILYN Wright and I tried our luck in another novice Swiss pairs, this time at Northern Suburbs. As Marilyn had just returned from 2 weeks in Tasmania at 8:30 the previous night, we opted to keep our system simple for the day.

The first 2 rounds were random computer draws and we got a better than usual start, scoring 60 and 74%. The second pair were Acrol players from Toowoomba and really did overbid board 6 for a poorly played 2 down.

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

I don't know the Acrol system very well, so I don't know how W should show the strength of his hand. Under Judy's system, a rebid by opener straight to game is allowed with a 7 carded suit. The second bid by E with such a weak hand should be either pass or 4H; singleton support for the rebid major is often sufficient.

On board 19, dealer S and EW vul; W held –

9 4 2 Q 4 3 9 7 5 A K Q 5

and the bidding went // 1S // . W tried a re-opening 1NT (9-15). Holding 20 HCP, I took the first 7 tricks, showing the folly of a NT overcall without adequate cover in the opposition's suit.

The boards as a whole were fairly easy in the morning and slightly more difficult in the afternoon with no way out distributions, much to everyone's relief. With only 2 bad rounds out of 11, we finished 2nd, 11 points (out of 2750) or 0.4% from the winners. We were also 2nd at lunch so we should score plenty of red MPs. Unfortunately, that was probably our last novice event as Marilyn looks certain to become at least a regional master next quarter.

Helen McLauchlan

Redlands Swiss

JOYCE Rosser & Joan Sargent and Helen & I played the 23 table Redlands Swiss pairs on Sunday 8 October. As luck would have it, we drew Joyce and Joan in the first round. Five ordinary boards later, we went to 3rd while Joyce & Joan went to 3rd last. That was short lived and 2 rounds later, they were back in front of us. At lunch, they were in the top half (Championship) of the field while we were nicely placed in the Plate.

The afternoon saw a lot of doubling of contracts, including:

13/N/All		N	E	S	W
6		/	1NT	x	/
10 6 2		/	xx	4S	/
Q J 10 7		/	x		
8 3	7 6 5 4 3	7 5 4 2			
8 4		A J 5			
6 4 3 2		K 9 8			
K J 9 8 2	A K Q J 10 9	A Q 10			
	K Q 9 7 3				
	A 5				
	--				

The 1NT was weak (12-15) and Helen didn't know what to do with her 2 loser hand. Had E opened 1 of a suit, she would simply cue bid with 2 of the same suit. Double (take out) was next best. W's pass was alerted as forcing, so I passed. E's redouble was explained as 'he'll get them'. Helen knew better but did not know what the score was for 1 or 2 down XX vul (400 or 1000), so she bid game, which E kindly doubled.

The H8 lead restricted that suit to 1 loser. On the run of the Hs and Ss, E retained the CA and bared his DK, allowing Helen to make 12 tricks for +1190.

On the next round, Helen opened 1H on board 20. Holding J 8 7 4 A 10 8 7 6 3 5 4 6, I bid 4H which was doubled by S (who held a swag of Cs). Another friendly lead of DA and Dx to Helen's K 9 6 3 2 saw my C disappear on the 5th D for 12 tricks and another +1190.

While Joyce and Joan were slipping out of the Championship, we got to 3rd in the Plate but the 3rd last round killed any hopes and we finished in the middle of the field. Joyce and Joan scored some MPs for the morning session and we scored for the afternoon, while the rest of the city was scoring some lovely rain.

Richard McLauchlan

Should be laws against it

WE had a good turn out of 12½ tables, including 4 visitors for the Australia-wide pairs. It was a pity that for the second year in a row, errors were evident in boards 11 and 26 (14 cards in one hand and 12 in another), and in the score on board 20.

The match pointed scoring in these events is always contentious and this year was no exception. Typically, Bob and I scored well for what was incorrect bidding on board 8.

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

Sitting N, Bob was all set to open his 2 loser hand 2H when Joyce Rosser (W) opened 1C. Bob's double was for take out, but I happily left it in for penalty. With nowhere else to go, Joyce passed and ended up with 3 tricks (CA, K, 10); score 1100 to us for 98%.

Bob should have cue bid 2C over Joyce's 1C. That is going to get 2NT or 3C from me and 4H from him. Just to prove there ain't no justice and there should be laws against it, the 4H bidders scored 43% for 10 tricks and 62% for 11.

At our table, W played more than their fair share (12 of 26) while N spent more time answering calls to the Director than playing his 1 board. Top scorers on the night were: Trevor & Darryl Cullen (N/S, 69.9%) and Kath Rooney & Don Cutmore (E/W, 60.25%).

Richard McLauchlan

Stop thief

MARGARETTE Golden was the victim of a handbag grab in the northern car park after play on Wed 4 October. The character involved was quite brazen and even spoke to a couple of members just before the event. He was last seen disappearing through the park. Police quickly located a couple of likely suspects but to no avail. Margarette's handbag was recovered the next day so please take care and be alert of any loiterers when leaving the hall.

Judy replies

THE 4-4-4-1 hands are not named dreaded for no reason. Of all the many shaped hands possible, the 4-4-4-1 distribution causes more problems than any other, especially when –

- The singleton is held in the spade suit,
- The hand is in the 16+ range rather than of minimum opening strength,
- You are sitting in 2nd, 3rd or 4th seat rather than 1st and opponents open 1 of a minor.

Q 1. By the time the auction arrives around to you in 4th seat, you should have a fairly strong suspicion that nasty breaks could be occurring in all suits. Certainly, I will pass at the first opportunity, as to double would show 4 spades, the rebid of a minor after the double would show a 5- carded suit, and a 1NT overcall would show a balanced hand (this is the worst bid that could be made).

I have also taken the time to do my maths. My partner is expected to hold 6 points at the most, and at this time I have good reason to believe that better match points may result from keeping quiet rather than bidding.

Q 2. I don't agree that you had a comfortable double in the pass-out position. There is nothing comfortable about this hand. Why did S pass in a forcing auction? While the opponents were bidding, you should have been devoting some time to assessing what action, if any, you would take, after what would be considered a more normal auction from S after N's bid of 1S. Generally, S would respond 1NT or raise his partner to 2S. Had the auction proceeded in either fashion, would you have taken any action? Answer: No!

Now comes the difficult part. You have to make some assessment on what S holds for the pass. If I were W, I would first look at the face of the S player to see if I were sitting with "Foxy Loxy". If so, I would confidently double for take

out. If I were sitting with "Miss Sugar-n-Spice", I would still double for take out, but not so confidently.

Q 3. Partner is probably wondering "what's going on?". If you are playing with an experienced partner who is capable of picking a psyche, then you would expect a jump with 9+ points. Without the jump, you would pass. If your partner is less experienced, then it is probably better to raise to 2NT to show your values and encourage game. You must trust that partner holds S stoppers, as NT is a good a place to play as any when suits are divided badly.

Judy Valentine

[Ed: Judy has picked it in one. S was a sharpie who made his 1H bid on 3 points, so NS had 15 hcp total. N was also aware of S's style but did not alert EW who may have sought redress from the Director if they had realised what had happened.]

Quotable quotes

I DO not get upset or angry about anything that happens at the bridge table any more. I eventually worked out that the person on the other side of the table is actually trying to win, no matter what the evidence suggests.

Important dates

- Sat 4-5/11 Northern Suburbs congress
- Tue 7/11 Melbourne Cup day
- Sat 11-12/11 Noosa congress
- Sun 19/11 Toowong anniversary pairs
- Wed 22/11 Queensland wide pairs
- Sun 26/11 QCBC 1-day pairs
- Sun 3/12 Noosa 1-day teams
- Sun 3/12 Director's course (QCBC)
- Mon 4/12 Management committee meeting
- Mon 11-12-13/12 Xmas break up – play ends