

ARANA

Contract Bridge Club Inc

The Friendly Club

September-October 2009

Vol 23 No 5

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

We have some important upcoming events requiring your support. Firstly, our annual Novice Teams congress is scheduled for Sunday 25th October. So come on all you novices and get your team together. An Arana team has won this event for the last three years - we have a reputation to uphold!

The other events are the 3 way inter-club pairs between Arana, Caboolture/Bribie and Redcliffe (Sunday 1st November) to be held at Arana this year, and the Brisbane Zone interclub teams to be hosted by Arana on Sunday 15th November. Participants for the teams will be selected and notified prior to the event. We will be calling for nominations for the interclub pairs in the lead up to the event.

And finally, don't forget the Christmas party on Saturday 12th December.

Thanks to Val Acklin and her willing helpers, our new Novice/Social bridge session on Thursday afternoons commenced a month ago and has been well attended. Please promote this session with any known social players as it is an ideal way for participants to enjoy their bridge in a non competitive environment.

For any member who has difficulty getting to and from Bridge AND lives within a 5 km radius of the Arana Leagues Club, transport on the Arana Leagues Club Community Courtesy Bus may be arranged, to and from their home to Arana Bridge Club, by telephoning **Arana Leagues Club** on 3354 1333 the day prior to when transport is required.

David Lehmann

DIRECTORS' CORNER:

Did you hear the one about the opponent who was somewhat annoyed that an insufficient bidder was allowed to change her incorrect bid to a pass (forcing the partner out of the auction)?

"But," he said, "doesn't she HAVE to make it good?... I'm just dying to double 4H vulnerable..."
..... sorry!!

Richard McLauchlan

Arana Contract Bridge Club

ANNOUNCEMENT RE SLOW PLAY:

Members are alerted to the following factors that are contributing to slow play at the table:

1. If you are on lead, make your lead **before** updating your personal hand record or before entering the contract into the Bridgemate unit;
2. Similarly, if you are dealer, count and sort your cards and make your bid before updating your personal hand record from the previous contract;
3. Please avoid scrolling through all contracts on Bridgemate if you are behind time at your table;
4. Where it is clear that you have all the remaining winners, claim them;
5. Unless a card is on the table when the "time" buzzer has sounded, call the director immediately. The play of one late hand can delay the movement for the whole session. An average is allocated to both pairs for an unplayed hand.

Tony's Tricks and Trumps:

CONTINUATION PLAYS: (Defensive play)

Defensive play is the most difficult aspect of contract bridge. Its difficulty lies in the fact that it is practically impossible to classify or codify the different situations that may arise. Every hand requires special treatment. Doubtless we have all been instructed at some time that we must lead through strength and lead up to weakness. Generally speaking these principals are quite sound. Actually leading through strength and up to weakness, amount to the same thing. In each case the lead is through the strong hand, although when leading up to weakness in dummy you are assuming that declarer's hand holds the strong cards. You are West:

	AQ42		KJ3
963	KJ10	1074	AQ98
	875		652

For partner (East) to obtain the maximum number of tricks the lead must come from your hand or

PROFILE: Sommie Mackay

The youngest of six, Somerled Lachlan Mackay made his "grand arrival" in 1937 to parents Alexander and Lilly, at the Lady Bowen Hospital in Virginia. "Sommie", as he has affectionately come to be called, possibly owing to the fact that his Christian name is a bit tricky to pronounce, was educated in Brisbane and has lived here all his life.

It is perhaps an understatement to say that sport has played a big part in his, and his family's life. A member of the Toombul Cricket Club, Sommie wound up being Captain of the Queensland School Boys' Cricket Team. He wasn't too bad at golf either and ultimately chose this over cricket, going on to win many trophies over three decades on the Queensland circuit including several State Titles and 13 Club Championship Titles at Virginia Golf Club (where he is now a life member.) He ultimately swung his way into the Australian Amateur Golf Team.

Sommie's sporting prowess has by now means been limited to door pursuits, he is a terror with the table tennis bat and won a Queensland Doubles and a Brisbane Singles title for the sport. To this very day, he still plays top grade table tennis and this has helped him to maintain good fitness (and his Pecs?) as he grows older. Thanks to his love of chocolates and cake, though, I still have to keep a constant eye on his cholesterol.

In 1962, he married me at the Albert Methodist Church we'd worked at different Insurance Companies located in the same building - and we have been blessed with 2 children, Janet and Richard, who have now given us 5 beautiful grandchildren.

After our wedding, Sommie left the insurance scene and set up the Queensland Branch of Precision Golf Forging Pty. Ltd. He travelled most weeks all throughout the State, establishing connections for the sale of golf equipment (and, not to mention, 'road testing' many golf courses.) He was passionate about his job to the day he retired in 1993, at the age of 56.

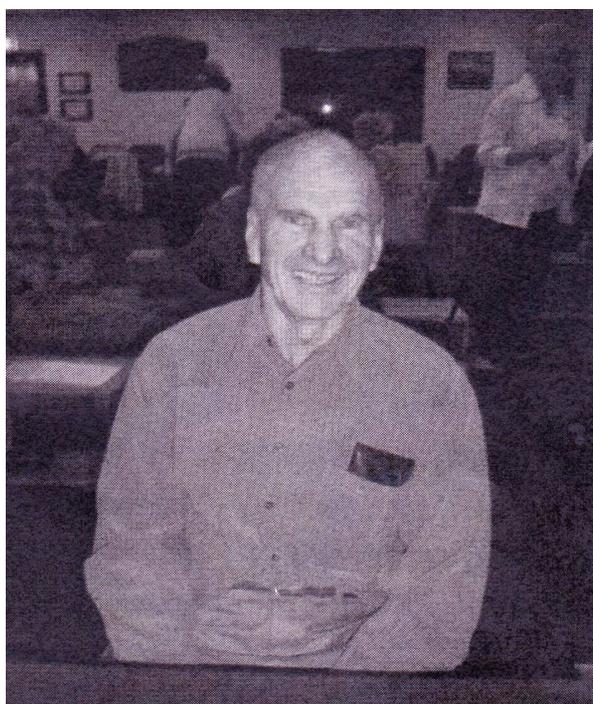
About 15 years ago, Sommie became a 'born again' Christian and this commitment to Jesus not only changed his life for the better, but also provided an outlet for his terrific, altruistic nature. For many years, he delivered food parcels to the underprivileged and this gave him huge satisfaction. We both belong to the Taigum Community Church and fellowship there every Sunday. Since moving to this church, Sommie now volunteers at the Nundah Victory Centre a centre

that accommodates homeless people and others, plus provides food and a safe haven during the day.

When we were in our early forties, we both decided to play Bridge as we thought it would be a good thing to do in retirement (and it has been.) We both love coming to the Arana Bridge Club and have made some lovely friends. Sommie does not have any Bridge Titles to his name - though maybe, it is because of his partner??

In closing, I would like to say that he is a wonderful husband, father, grandfather, friend and community member and he always has a very happy nature. I love him very much and am so pleased God brought us together.

Heather Mackay



COMPETITION WINNERS:

Congratulations to the following:

Monday Pairs:

Outright: Irena Hall & Helen McLauchlan

Handicap: Allan Box & Peter French

Zone Finals of Grand National Restricted Pairs:

Ray Cowie & David Lehmann, who have qualified for the National Final to be held in Canberra, mid January.

Basic Bridge: The Guide to Good Acol Bidding & Ploy

Written by Ron Klinger in collaboration with Pat Husband & Andrew Kambites

Ron Klinger is at the forefront of bridge in Australia both as a player & teacher. He has represented Australia on the international bridge playing stage & is the author of many best-selling bridge books.

The introduction by The English Bridge Union Teachers' Association really says it all: "This major new book on learning how to play bridge brings together three top bridge teachers with an unrivalled knowledge of what beginners and improvers want to know and how they should learn.... Basic Bridge will be the standard beginner's guide to Acol for the foreseeable future....."

First printed in 1994 this book is as relevant in 2009 as it was then. If you have never played bridge before or you want a refresher course in bridge basics you can start at the beginning & get a good grounding. If you are an established player wanting to learn to play the 4-card Acol system you can start at page 30. I found Mr Klinger's explanations easy to understand & learn from.

The system of Acol taught in this book includes: All 1-level openings promise at least 4 cards in the suit opened: the 1NT opening bid is a balanced hand holding 12-14 HCP & no five card Major; After a "1 of a suit" opening bid a NT rebid limits the hand to 15/16, 17/18 or 19/20 depending on the level of the re-bid. It is a very precise system & I personally enjoy playing it.

The Acol specific chapters include an explanation of the Acol system, Balanced Openings, Semi-Balanced or Unbalanced Openings, Responding with Weak & Strong Hands, Bidding by Passed Hand, & Opening at the 2 Level.

There are also chapters on Slam Bidding, Pre-Emptive Openings, Overcalling, Takeout & Penalty Doubles, Declarer play in No-Trumps & Trumps, Strategy for Defending, Stayman, Opening Leads (The Suit & The Card), Ethics & Etiquette & Common Conventions. There are hands with which to practice & the answers are at the end of the book. These chapters will be a good learning/ refresher aid for any bridge player regardless of the system they play or the standard they have achieved.

I found this book easy to read & understand and I recommend it to anyone wanting to learn and/or improve in any of these topics and especially a beginner/ improver wanting to learn the 4-card Acol system.

Reviewed by Helen McLauchlan



Social Bridge: Thursday afternoon 1:30-3:30

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Check out our club web-site at www.aranabridgeclub.com