



# ARANA

## Contract Bridge Club Inc

April-May 2014

Vol 28 No 2

### From the President



ANOTHER AGM has been and gone. Sorry, but it looks like you are going to have to put up with my ugly mug on this journal for a little longer. Welcome to those who have joined this year's management committee.. Sue Norton has taken on the role of Treasurer. Natalie Bloch, Glenys Bobbermein and Jim Webster have also come on board. Terry Nowitzski who has been on the committee for several years has now taken on the role of Vice President, clearly a stepping stone to assuming the Presidency next year. To those who have left the committee many thanks for your past efforts. In particular Gay Hull who has resigned after many years of outstanding contribution as Treasurer. We should also thank John Black. Although not on the committee John has worked tirelessly for many years helping the Treasurer by collecting and counting money and making bank deposits. This also seems an appropriate time to thank all those other folk who although not on the committee do so much to ensure the smooth running of the club.

I have been asked by the committee to raise a couple of points regarding communications. Firstly if you wish to discuss any items of club business by email you are requested to send them to Tony Agar and me only, rather than to all committee members. Tony or I will then forward them to others as required. The other point raised was use of the microphone to make personal announcements. The Director for the session is in charge of the day's proceedings and as a courtesy to him or her you should ask their permission before taking the mike. For announcements relating to club business please check with a member of the management committee.

Happy Bridging

**Allan McIntyre (President)**

### Masterpoint movements

NEW rankings for Arana home club members for the period to 28th February 2014

Graduate Master	Rosalind Geschke Wihelmina Kranenburg Margaret Marshall
Club Master	Philip Chappel
Local Master	Judith Cowie
*Local Master	Sue Norton Robert van Beest Russell Skennerton
**Local Master	Sally Cox Yvonne Howman

**Robert Matthew (MP Sec)**

**ENJOY LIFE, LIVE SIMPLY, GIVE  
MORE (AND ENJOY BRIDGE)**

## WEDNESDAY MORNING BRIDGE

Sessions 9:30am to 1:30pm

For a friendly and relaxed game

Morning tea/coffee provided

**NO PARTNER REQUIRED**

Phone Dawn Benes 0411 468 722, or

Lorraine Steele 3351 6173

### Tony's Tip

BRIDGE adages and should we follow them?

Two common adages are:-

**“Eight ever, nine never”**, and

**“Never lead away from an Ace or King”**.

Firstly, if there are two words that have the potential to cripple your bridge play these words are surely "always" and "never"!

Perhaps if we add "almost" then maybe this will limit the use of certain plays best avoided.

Common sense should be applied at all times.

**"Eight ever nine never"**

This adage arose as a guide whether to play a finesse or play for the drop. Say you hold:

AKJ6  
5432

Do you play for the drop of the Queen or finesse the jack?

The logic is if 5 cards are outstanding the odds are they will split 3-2 (approx 60% of the time- not "always")!

Furthermore the missing Queen will more likely be in the hand that holds 3 of the missing 5 cards- simple arithmetic. Therefore the lead of the AK will not drop it. Therefore finesse the Jack.

If say the north hand held AKJ76 there are now 4 cards outstanding so that the odds favour a drop of the Queen, so lead out AK.

### **“Never lead away from an Ace or King”**

Wouldn't we all like to have a simple answer to this one. If we hold a suit headed by an Ace or a King our first thought is usually to ensure we win a trick with it. The Ace is usually guaranteed but till dummy goes down or the play has advanced somewhat the success of the King is unknown.

Moreover if we hold an Ace we hope to capture a King or Queen. And if we hold a King, we hope to take a Queen or Jack.

The chances of these duel uses of Aces and Kings diminish if we lead away from them. So it is better practice to lead a card from another suit unless of course our faithful partner has bid the suit. What a relief that is!

In suit play and your hand be such that you are obliged to lead from an A or K, it is preferable to lead the A and under lead the K. You then await you partner's signal. In no trump the fourth highest rule still applies.

A lead of the Ace protects against a singleton in dummy. Under leading the King succeeds where there are no higher cards in dummy once it is tabled.

Beware if your right hand opponent has bid the suit strongly, surely he holds the A-Q.

There are numerous if and buts, so just apply common sense based primarily on the bidding.

After the play of a hand is nearing the end, how often do we discover that in the suit in which we hold the King we refused to lead away from, that partner holds the Ace, similarly not wanting to lead away from it? Who should have made the first move?

Often this will depend on the cards in dummy. Say dummy has QJ87. If declarer has not attacked the suit it is possible he is missing the other honours. If he held the Ace or King then he has 2 tricks guaranteed so why avoid it? As soon as either defender has determined the probability declarer is missing both Ace and King of a side suit he must attack the suit. If there are small cards in dummy, lead a low card through, hoping to capture an honour when partner returns the suit. And vice versa. But the important thing is to open the suit and not be left with no trick when declarer is busy discarding on a long suit of his own.

**Tony Agar**



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## **Reminiscences of an Old Soldier.....in a far country.....a long time ago.....Malaya, the late 50's.**

I was a soldier in the jungles of Malaya, on operations, sharing a 'Kootchie' with a Kiwi soldier called Buck. Well, we were bunkered down for the night when my mate must have flung his arm out of our abode and his finger must have come in contact with a thorn. It has been my experience that most Kiwis have an absolute fear of snakes and he was convinced he had been bitten by one. All my assurances to the contrary were of no avail because there was no reasoning with him. I took him into the centre of our harbour position to Platoon Headquarters. The Platoon Sergeant was an old 'bushie' who always carried a sharp knife on his belt. He could see there was no reasoning with Buck so he gave me the nod..... I and a couple of mates grabbed Buck and threw him to the ground, the Sergeant put a tourniquet on him and lanced the 'wound'. Blood flowed copiously and Buck and I returned to our 'Kootchie'.

We lay in our sleeping bags and Buck continued to wail that he was going to die from a snake bite. In the end, in an effort to ease his fears, I said if he had been bitten by a snake, what would occur would be that the bitten arm would go stone cold and the other arm would sweat profusely. He then went to sleep.

About half an hour later, this terrified man said "Charlie, Charlie, look at my arm". I looked and lifted his arms under the guide of a torch, and indeed, the "bitten" arm was cold and the other arm sweating profusely. An incredible sight!!

What to do? I realised if I wasn't careful that he would be dead by morning. I used my best persuasive manner to tell him I was trying to help, he was okay and that his mind was creating this dilemma. This went on for some time with me trying to convince him that he was OK and to go to sleep, but to no avail. Finally, I said to him, "Do you trust me?". He reluctantly agreed. So I said, "It is common knowledge that if you survive the night you will live"

The rest of the night I talked to him incessantly and made him innumerable cups of tea. Suddenly the night was gone and I looked up and the sun's rays were shunting down to the jungle floor. I said "Buck, look!" He smiled and we both fell fast asleep. Needless to say, neither of us went out on patrol that day!

**Charlie Chambers.**

## **Director's Corner**

**(From Jan Peach, QLD Head Director.)**

Failure to Announce is not a Failure to Alert. Announcing was introduced to stop opponents (LHO especially) from asking about the strength of 1NT when holding points themselves and from asking about 1C when holding club themselves. The aim is to stop the creation of unauthorised information.

The Regulations still say, "At the start of a round or match, pairs should acquaint each other with their basic system, length of their one level opening (eg 3+) and the strength and style of their opening 1NT. Subsequent questions about these, whilst legal, may be regarded as unauthorised information." Eg South opens 1NT, (North failed to announce), West may ask North, NT points? to clarify before bidding.

### **Some Trivia: EXTENDED STAYMAN**

One of the main flaws of this convention is that you cannot use ES unless you have 8+ points, whereas with Simple Stayman it is more flexible. Most experts agree that the 15-18 range is also too wide.

Sometimes when partner opens 1NT and you hold a rubbish hand (0-8) with a shortage in clubs, you KNOW that you are going to get a bad score playing in NT. Bid 2C, Simple Stayman AND PASS WHATEVER PARTNER RESPONDS. It's going to be a whole lot better. By all means look at the many conventions so that you understand them and know how to defend against them.

**Dawn Benes (Director)**