



ARANA

Contract Bridge Club Inc

June-July 2015

Vol 29 No 3

From the President



ANOTHER mid year congress has been successfully completed. Rosemary Matthews has once again done an absolutely fabulous job as convenor. Tony Agar and I have, in the past couple of years, shared the MC role, however this year I arrived on Saturday morning barely able to speak, and so I dumped it all in Tony's lap. He of course handled it all with his usual aplomb. Thanks Tony. Many thanks also to Ross Shardlow and John Martin who gave up a whole day to be full time Director's assistants. There were many others who made contributions to the success of the event. To try and name everyone would probably result in me missing someone, and having to face the dire consequences. You know who you are, and please be assured that we are all really really appreciative of your efforts.

At the tables the highest placed Arana member in the pairs field was Jill Pyne, who partnered Alan Boyce from QCBC. This won them first place in the B grade. The highest

placed all Arana pair was Robert Matthews and Irina Hall. Dawn Benes playing with Robert Peard from Noosa won C grade. I would also like to mention Trish Waters and Margaret Corley, who did ever so well. Both ladies have less than 50 MP, but at one stage they were mixing it with some of the very best players in the field. Only one very heavy loss lowered their final ranking, but when you are playing against the elite that is always likely to happen. There is a message there for others who may be intimidated by the idea of playing in these events. Get in there and have a go. You might be amazed at what you achieve.

In the teams event the highest placing went to Helen and Richard McLauchlan who were playing in the Afflick team. The highest placing by an all Arana team went to the Acklin team, comprising Val, Joyce Rosser, Tony Agar and Ann Smith. The Matthews team of Robert, and Carmel Steer with Warren and Barbara Holmes won the C grade prize. Congratulations to all of the above.

I noticed amongst the recent MP promotions that Pam Horton recently reached Gold Life Master. This inspired me to set that as a personal target. I have calculated that if I can keep playing to age 138 I can nail it. But back to the lady in question. Pam is a true legend of the club. She has been among the elite players in the club for longer than most of us can remember. She is a Life Member, and when Judy Valentine published, way back in 1990, the book that many of us learned from, it was Pam to whom the book was dedicated. Above all Pam, along with the equally delightful Jenny Lewis, is always a pleasure to

play against, and that perhaps is the greatest compliment any of us may receive at the club.
Happy Bridging

Allan McIntyre (President)

Masterpoint movements

NEW rankings for Arana home club members for the period to 29th May 2015

Club Master	Frances Ogilvie Simon Wood
Local Master	Sid Cantamessa Joan Mackay Barbara Gannon Warren Tealby
*Local Master	Margaret Corley Judith Cowie
**Local Master	Maureen Pears Doreen van Wunnick
Regional Master	Cynthia Sharp Geoff Doyle Peita Grant Sue Norton
State Master	Beverley O'Hara
National Master	Allan McIntyre
Life Master	Judy Wilkinson
Gold Life	Pam Horton

Robert Matthew (MP Sec)

Vale – Nancy Kerlin

MARY Backstrom lost her much loved sister, Nancy Kerlin recently. Nancy was one of the very early members of Arana Bridge Club and a lot of our earlier members would remember her with fondness.

Bidding Practice

I read somewhere that Bridge is a “Bidder’s Game”. So it goes without saying that if you and Partner are not in the right contract to begin with it doesn’t matter how well you play.

Now Bridge is also a partnership game and the Bidding Practice method described below will improve your partnership as well as your full understanding of your Bidding System.

METHOD

Firstly take 2’s, 3’s and 4’s out of the pack – leaving a pack of 40. Then deal 13 cards each and stack the remainder nearby (in case no-one has an opening hand).

The first person to say “I can open” does so – SILENTLY. Their partner looks at the bidding pad and verbalises their understanding of the bid.

i.e. “1C – that would be 3+, 12 to 19 HCP and no 5 card Major?”

The bidding advances, 1C-1S and Opener might say “4+Spades, since you haven’t passed - forcing and 6-17 HCP. Do we jump shift to 2S with 18HCP and 5 spades, Partner?”

Do you get the idea? A complete, full verbal explanation for each silent and written bid is made and some discussion where necessary to correct errors and misunderstandings.

Continue until you reach your contract; lay the cards out, count winners and losers and see how you might plan the play. Could the contract be made?

You will quickly find contracts from the 1 level to grand slams, gain confidence in your own and Partner’s bidding as well as finding possible shortcomings in your Bidding System.

Always keep in mind that the easy flow of information can be deliberately interrupted by overcalls, which is another technique to master.

Jim Taylor

Director’s Corner

AS you know, at the end of each round, the boards are moved to the next lower numbered table. Say table 4 moves the boards to table 3. Sometimes, table 4 is slow with their play and table 3 is anxious to start. Being of a helpful nature, they come over to table 4 to wait for the final board to finish being played. This is not a good idea as they can see what is happening to that board which could influence their own bidding. Another thing you need to be aware, is when you are waiting to move to the next table. It is far better to move to an area where you cannot see any play at any other table.

Directors are also being called when an opponent states “you must play that card you have partially pulled out of your hand, as I

have seen it. It is the Ace of Spades". If this card has not been held in such a way that their partner COULD have seen its face if they had been looking, then that card is NOT played and can be changed. If east is the card fiddler, and north is the one who saw the card, than north can make use of this information as east was careless with his cards. West can make use of the fact that partner has the Ace of Spades, as north has told her. South cannot make use of this information as it was illegally obtained and must, therefore, be very careful with their play.

Val Cran (Director)

Hunter Valley Bridge Holiday

FROM 20-24 April 2015, five members from Arana attended the first Andy Hung Bridge Holiday at the Tuscany Estate Resort in the Hunter Valley. What an exciting week it was! Bridge lessons were great, wines were great and other supporting activities were most enjoyable. Lucky players were Val Aklin, Carol Vardy, Margaret Marshall, and Robyn and Richard Grills. As well, two sisters of Val and Carol, who live in NSW, attended. It was great to see the four sisters, Val, Carol, Pamela and Barbara share the week together. Overall 44 players attended, and Andy was ably supported by Alex Smirnov, who incidentally is ranked 33rd in the bridge world. This was the first bridge holiday for Andy and it was a huge success. Andy and Alex were perfect hosts in somewhat trying conditions.

All the joy and entertainment were completely surpassed by the absolutely foul weather for four days!!! We arrived after lunch on the Monday and by the evening the wind was howling, the rain was falling [heavily], and it was going to get worse. On Monday night our room was blown completely open by a huge gust of wind, fortunately repaired early Tuesday morning. Then all weather hell broke out. The Hunter Valley and Newcastle were lashed by the most severe storms, since the Pasha Bulka ship was beached at Newcastle in 2005. Nine rooms at the Resort were flooded including Val's, and the guests transferred to the resort opposite amid the falling gum trees and wild weather. Dinner on Tuesday was interrupted by a power failure that went

through into the next morning. As one guest remarked – the lights went out, the candles came on, and the people kept drinking and having fun! It was like the last night on the Titanic! Enough was enough and by Thursday evening peace and calm returned – thank goodness! Friday was going home day.

There were duplicate sessions each day and Arana players achieved some success with Val/Pamela and Robyn/Richard winning on the first day. Overall it was an interesting and rewarding experience, certainly not one to be forgotten. (See separate photos ed.)

Robyn Grills

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

Wise Words

AN old Cherokee was teaching his grandson about life. "A fight is going on inside me," he said to the boy. "It is a terrible fight and it is between two wolves. One is evil. He is anger, envy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority and ego. The other is good. He is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion and faith. This same fight is going on inside you and every other person too."

The grandson thought about this for a minute and then asked his grandfather, "Which one will win?" The old Cherokee simply replied, "The one you feed."

Tony's Tip

Ruffing losers

PLANNING the play of a suit hand is perhaps more difficult than No Trump if only because there are more ways of winning tricks.

It is essential to pause and form an overall plan of play at the very first lead. Counting winners is important but so too is the counting of losers. Counting both should become a regular practice. e.g.

N
♠ K97
♥ KQ72
♦ 8532
♣ A4

D Q led

S
♠ QJ1086
♥ A4
♦ A74
♣ 1086

South is declarer in 4 Spades and DQ is led. Declarer counts 9 tricks and a club ruffed for the 10th. A club must be conceded before one can be ruffed. But before proceeding count the losers. If declarer wins the diamond opening and plays Ace and another club, the defenders will cash 2 diamond tricks ending up with 4 losers. To prevent this, declarer must first cash the AKQ of hearts, discarding a losing diamond from hand on the heart Q.

Note- always count losers from the long trump suit hand.

But don't forget to count winners also.

N
♠ Q9853
♥ 6
♦ K95
♣ AK97

C 2 led

S
♠ 10
♥ Q10874
♦ AQJ1042
♣ Q

South is declarer in 5 diamonds and a club is led, declarer winning with the queen. Declarer decides to discard his losing 10 of spades by

crossing to the DK and playing the C AK. Now when a heart is led from dummy the opponents will return a trump leaving only one in dummy to trump hearts. In fact declarer needs two heart ruffs to make 11 tricks. This misfortune can be avoided by counting winners at the outset- 3 clubs and 6 diamonds, needing 2 more to fulfil the contract via 2 heart ruffs in dummy. Therefore a heart must be led at trick 2. The opponents will return a trump but it is too late to prevent declarer trumping 2 hearts.

Tony Agar

Travel Insurance

ARE you aware that all members of the Australian Bridge Federation are entitled to a very good deal on travel policies with TBIB? So much so that we have quite a number of members of our bridge club who do not play bridge at all, but have joined solely to benefit from the deal.

If you are interested please visit

<http://www.tbib.com.au/abf-travel-insurance.php>

Natalie Bloch

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

Partner Search

IF you are receiving Partner Search emails and do not wish to, please reply with "unsubscribe". If you are not receiving Partner Search emails and wish to, please let Lynley Mason know. Her contact details follow.

Lynleymason@me.com

0407 575 179

Welcome

A warm welcome to new members:- Anna Green, Joal Gardner, Wayne Lambley, David Lewis, Julie Lewis, Barbara McGuire, Sue Marshall and Pat Stirling

Photo Fest

Pictured at the Andy Hung Hunter Valley Bridge Holiday are, from left to right, Andy Hung, Robyn Grills, Val Acklin, Alex Smirnov, Margaret Marshall and Richard Grills



The Arana field for the Australia Wide.National.Pairs. played on Friday 29th May 2015



Congratulations

The North-South winners at Arana in the Australia Wide.National.Pairs were Russell Skennerton and Ben Ludik, scoring 69.4% : Norma & John - E/W = 58.3%



The East-West winners at Arana in the Australia Wide.National.Pairs were John Murphy and Norma Hansen, scoring 58.3%.

