



ARANA

Contract Bridge Club Inc

August-Sept-October 2018

Vol 32 No 3

From the President



It's already August and that means we are in the second half of 2018. Having been 16 years in our club house we have been starting to do some maintenance. The toilets upgrade has been finished and the solar upgrade to 20kw is now working. The committee decided to go ahead without grants in which we were unsuccessful this time around. Next will be replacement of the carpet at the North (Kitchen) end with vinyl and the upgrade of our computers which are really our lifeline for playing Bridge. We will apply for a grant towards the cost of those projects with quotes around \$10,000 for both. We also applied for a separate grant to replace our chairs. The outcome of that application will determine if we go ahead with that.

The half-yearly free lessons have started again and our mini bridge at the Arana library every fortnight attracts encouraging interest. Anyone wanting to help please contact Carol Bellis.

Please, if anyone has friends, relatives or neighbours that are interested in playing Bridge, encourage them to play at our club.

We congratulate Ross Shardlow for passing his Director's exams which is a great accomplishment.

On the 11th of August our 2018 club Teams Championships will be held. Please put a team together and have a go.

I thank everyone for making your club the way we are. Outstanding efforts are made by those members who volunteer in all kind of jobs. I wish everyone happy Bridging.

Robert van Beest

Arana Celebrates Our Latest Club Director Level 1

The Bridge session on Saturday 14th July was the perfect time to celebrate Ross Shardlow's success at this year's Director exams. The special afternoon tea was a great way to celebrate our very popular new director. Ross has been a regular 'Assistant' at Saturday sessions during the past 15 months, so we were all keen to make it a special occasion.

Ross has also stepped up to be a regular Director at the Monday evening sessions over this past year, and we are sure his group, and all Arana members, will join with us to say, 'Great effort, Ross!'



Lyn Holden, Trish Lye and Jan Powell sharing the congratulatory "Thumbs Up" with Ross.

Welcome New Members

The following are new members to the club. A warm welcome is extended to you all.

Geoffrey Saxby,	Susan Marshall,
Lynette Harrington,	Bronwyn MacLeod,
Charmaine Darby,	Jenny McMillan,
Penelope Edwards,	Ella King,
Brigid Quinlan,	Leo Brown,
Mervyn Parmenter,	Eileen Milliner.

Hand Distribution, “Golden Fit” and No-Trump Bidding

(Mike Le Voi uses his training as a statistician to offer a tool to help bidding)

Do you get frustrated with how often you can't find a fit with partner? This article uses probability theory to show the frequency of each possible hand shape. Armed with this knowledge you can recognise quickly the likelihood that you and your partner will reach a “Golden Fit” in the majors or the minors. You can also work out when to bid No Trumps or not.

With probability, you should be thinking about whether you would bet on an outcome or not. Toss a coin and expect “Heads”, or take a finesse, and the odds are 50:50. You take this bet if you have to but you prefer not to. However, if you have 10 cards in trumps, including the Ace and King, it is highly likely that the cards will split 2/1 in the opposition hands. You are unlikely to finesse for the Queen in such a situation. The probability of various hand shapes, HCP distributions and likely fits should affect your bidding as well as your play.

Here are the five most common hand shapes and their frequency:

Shape	Probability (%)
4-4-3-2	21.6
5-3-3-2	15.5
5-4-3-1	12.9
5-4-2-2	10.6
4-3-3-3	10.5
Total	71.1

Table 1: Hand shape probability

This table shows that you will be dealt one of these shapes nearly three quarters of the time. Having 6 or more cards in a suit is uncommon, as is having a void.

What is the likelihood that you have a hand with 4, 5 or 6 or more cards as your longest suit? Here are the odds:

Longest suit	Probability (%)
4 cards	35.1
5 cards	44.3
6 cards	16.6
7+ cards	4.0
Total	100

Table 2: Length of longest suit probability

Finding the Eight Card “Golden Fit”

Much of Bridge literature discusses the usefulness of a “Golden Fit” – 8 cards or more in the trump suit. However, what is seldom discussed is how often these “Golden Fits” occur. Here is a table showing the probability of a “Golden Fit” given the number of cards in your favoured suit.

Cards in your hand	Cards in partner's hand	Probability of Fit (%)
3	5+	18.1
4	4+	33.7
5	3+	54.4
6	2+	76.3
7	1+	92.4

Table 3: Probability of finding a “Golden Fit”

Thus, if you have 4 ♠ and expect your partner to have 4 or more ♠, you are going to be disappointed about two thirds of the time. However, if you have 5 ♠, you can expect your partner to have 3 or more ♠ a little more often than not. If you have 7 ♠, you can be almost certain (92.4%) that partner has 1 ♠ as well!

4-4-3-2 Opening Bidding

In Table 3, we showed that there is only a 33.7% chance of finding a 4+4 card fit with your partner. However, what if you have two 4 card suits? Unsurprisingly, the chance of your partner matching either of these suits is much better - 63%. So, how should you bid this hand shape depending on whether the two 4 card suits are in the majors, the minors or one of each?

Here is a bidding strategy based purely on probability:

Opening with 4-4 in the majors

Bid 1♣ or 1♦ (“Better Minor”). “Better Minor” only promises 3 or more cards in that suit. Do not worry about this. It can be shown that 93% of the time you will have 4 or more cards in the minor suit when you open 1♣ or 1♦. Responder's bids are shown below.

Opening with 4-x major and 4-x minor

Bid 1♣ or 1♦. With at least 6 HCP, Responder will bid a 4+ card major suit “up the line”. If Opener bids 1♣, then 1♦ by Responder is a “waiting bid”, denying a 4 card major in either suit. If Opener bids 1♦, then 1 NT by Responder is a “waiting bid”. This waiting bid means 6-9 HCP and denies a 4 card major in either suit. If Responder bids 2♣ or 2♦, then at least you have found a minor fit.

Opening with 4-4 in the minors

Bid a Weak or Strong No Trump (see next section on No Trump bidding). As shown in Table 3, the likelihood of partner having a 5 card suit to match your 3 card major is less than 20%. If you are weak (12-14 HCP), just bid a Weak NT and make life harder for the opposition!

No Trump Bidding

Note that only three hand shapes are allowed for standard No Trump bidding. Namely:

4-4-3-2

5-3-3-2

4-3-3-3

These hand shapes account for 48% of the available hands. If we exclude the hands with a 5 card major, then about 40% of all hands meet the shape criteria for a NT opening. One of the advantages of bidding NT is that the responder has a really good idea about your hand shape and point count with a single bid.

Typically, the Strong NT HCP range is 15-17. Wouldn't it be nice if a simple bidding sequence could cover many more HCP ranges? Here is a bidding system that accomplishes this aim:

HCP	Bid-Response-Rebid	Probability (%)
12-14	1 NT	20.6
15-17	1♣ – 1♦ – 1 NT	10.1
18-20	1♣ – 1♦ – 2 NT	3.3
21-23	2♣ – 2♦ – 2 NT	0.7
24-26	2♣ – 2♦ – 3 NT	0.1

Table 4: How to bid Weak and Strong No Trump

It appears to me that the aim of a good bidding system is to cater for the more probable hands rather than to cater for hands which occur less frequently. As you can see, a Weak NT (12-14 HCP) is a far more useful bidding option as it occurs more than twice as often as a Strong NT (15-17 HCP).

Note that in Table 4 above, the 1♦ and 2♦ bids by Responder are “waiting bids” that allow the

Opener to bid the NT shapes and HCP ranges accurately.

Stayman

The artificial 2♣ bid known as Stayman is used to try to find an 8+ card major fit. However, as we have shown, the likelihood of Opener matching your single 4 card major is only 33.7%, so be prepared to rebid 2 NT in most cases. If you have two 4 card majors, opener will match one of your two suits 63% of the time: much better odds.

Weak No Trump Bidding

Assuming that you have 12-14 HCP, when should you bid a Weak NT?

4-3-3-3

Always bid 1 NT. You are not likely to find an 8-card fit (see Table 3). In addition, if you choose to play in suit, you will hardly ever be able to use your trumps because you will need 3 rounds to be played before you can trump in.

4-4-3-2

Only bid 1 NT when 4-4 in the minors. With one or more 4 card majors, always look for an 8 card fit in one of the 4 card suits.

5-3-3-2

Never bid 1 NT. When you have a 5 card minor, bid 1♣ then 2♣ or bid 1♦ then 2♦. You have a better than even chance of finding an 8 card minor fit (see Table 3).

Responding to Weak No Trump

When you bid a Weak NT, what is the chance of getting to game? Not very good, I am afraid. The likelihood of your partner holding 13 HCP when you hold 13 HCP is only 18%, so be prepared for a part score on most occasions.

When should Responder bid after a Weak NT? Here are some examples of when Responder should bid or pass:

0-9 HCP and a 5 or 6 card suit

Bid 2 of that suit. The opposition probably have more points than your team, so just call your 5 or 6 card suit. The weak 5 or 6 card suit will be far more useful as trumps. Remember, the Opener will have at least 2 cards in your suit. Forget Stayman and transfers for Weak NT! There is no harm in the Weak NT hand being Dummy. The opposition know it is weak but they do not know the strength of your hand so keep them in the dark.

6-10 HCP and no 5 card suit

You will normally pass. There is generally no reason to think this will play better in a suit contract.

11-12 HCP and balanced

Bid 2 NT. If Opener has 14 HCP, they will bid 3 NT.

13+ HCP and a 5 card major

Bid 3♥/♠. Opener will bid 4♥/♠ or correct to 3 NT with only a 7 card fit.

Happy bidding!

Mike Le Voi

Australia Wide Novice Pairs

(Held Wednesday May 30)

We had 12 tables in play for the competition, plus seven tables in the second section. Winners AWP for NS were Neil Orford - Jeff Borg scoring 67.42% and for EW, Noel Werth - Anna Green with 56.69%.

The day ran smoothly with all seated by 8.45am as requested. We all appreciated the work on the day and behind the scenes from Dawn Benes (Director) and the Committee. All players received a Souvenir booklet by Brad Coles after completion of play and we will look forward to seeing Neil and Jeff's names in "The Winners - AWP" list next year.

My partner, Berrice and I enjoyed the event and will be looking forward to competing again next year.

Second section (normal club play) winners were Carla Webb - Pam Horton with 59.29% NS and Peggy Whittaker - Jennifer Walker 60.00% EW.

Congratulations to all players for a relaxed social morning of Bridge.

Happy Bridging,

Joan Byrne

Thank you, Jill Warnecke, for the following

1- People say that money is not the key to happiness, but I always figured if you have enough money, you can have a key made.

2- Etc. – End of Thinking Capacity.

3- I'm gonna go take a hot shower. It's like a normal shower, but with me in it.

4- My life is all maths. I am trying to add to my income, subtract from my weight, divide my time, and avoid multiplying.

5- It's useless to hold a person to anything they say when they are in love, drunk, or running for office.

Rita Wilbert

(Rita enjoyed her visit here from South Africa and emailed Dawn Benes the following.)

Just to let you know I am safely back in SA and getting in touch with my bridge partners here.

Please convey my sincere thanks to all those lovely members for playing with me, and the ones who kindly drove me home afterwards. It was a real pleasure playing at the Arana Bridge Club. It was lovely getting to know you too, my email is rita@phola.com if any of your members are ever in Cape Town.

Yours sincerely, Rita Wilbert.

Masterpoint movements

NEW rankings for Arana home club members for the period to 31st July 2018

Graduate	Andrew Renton Brenda Evans
Local Master	Mike Palmer Judi Sunman Marianne McPherson
*Local Master	Penny Baker
**Local Master	Gerri Hodgson Yvonne Zande Michael Walker
*State Master	Cynthia Sharp
*Regional Master	Robyn Grills
National Master	Susan Kennard

Robert Matthew (MP Sec)

Upcoming events

August

Lessons continue Lesson 4 Sunday 5th
Lesson 5 Sat'y 18th
Lesson 6 Sat'y 25th

Saturday 11th Arana Teams Championship
Monday 27th Monday Pairs (am) Week 1

September

Lessons continue Lesson 7 Sat'y 1st
Lesson 8 Sat'y 8th
Lesson 9 Sat'y 15th

Monday 3rd Monday Pairs (am) Week 2
Wednesday 19th Red Points Day
Saturday 29th Arana Pairs Championship

October

Tuesday 9th Tuesday Pairs Week 1
Tuesday 16th Tuesday Pairs Week 2

Editor: Michael Walker ph 3359 8907

Email: mandjwalker@tpg.com.au

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