



# *Trump·It*

## *Arana Bridge Club Newsletter*

August 2019

Vol 33 No 3

### From The President



Mike Le Voi and ITXperts have completed the installation of the new computers and their updated software. We have also installed two new TVs on the East and West walls of the club house. This allows us to show the Sponsorship Adverts and the Bridge Timer on three TVs at the same time.

This project took many hours of planning, implementation and troubleshooting. I thank Mike for all his work in this regard. New email addresses have been created based on roles rather than individual names e.g.

**Secretary@aranabridgeclub.org.au**

Some Committee members have met with representatives of the Council who are processing a request from the AFL Club to erect a building and remove the current public toilet block. Tentatively, it is proposed to erect the building on the present car park as this is the most stable land close to their oval.

The Committee raised concerns about this proposal. It would remove many of our parking

spaces which are already too few. Other concerns included possible obstruction of access to the club, blocking of vision from the road, signage and electricity meters which are presently in the public toilet block.

Further, planned repairs to our building are still awaiting Council work. The Council has agreed to liaise further with the Club on these matters. Phil Chappel is working on a grant proposal for the Council to complete repairs for the club building.

Following a request from some club members, the committee has revised and adopted a complaints procedure. This procedure will be on the Committee's notice board.

I note with regret that Rod Thomson has resigned from the Committee because he is moving away. I thank him for his service to the Committee and wish him well for the future.

The Committee has brought back the number of meetings to 6 a year which has been the case for many years. The new schedule will be on the notice board.

We have bought new boards and new cardboard boxes for holding the cards to replace the old ones. The new boards will be introduced over the next few months.

I would like to thank Richard Grills for keeping the club informed about the recovery of Robyn after the sad incident at the club. We wish Robyn all the best and we all look forward to seeing her back at the club playing Bridge.

*Happy Bridging*  
**Robert van Beest**

## June Congress

Arana Contract Bridge Club held their annual X-IMP pairs and Swiss Teams Congress on the 1st and 2nd June 2019.

On the Saturday, 62 pairs, the largest field in recent history, competed in 3 grades with Arana members having some success.

Julie Jeffries was the Director for both days for the first time and carried out this task with great efficiency. She was assisted by Robyn Grills which was a great learning experience for Robyn.

Helen & Richard McLauchlan led the A grade for most of the day before dropping back to 3rd place in the final 2 rounds, which was still a great result given the standard of the competitors, which included Pele Rankin who has been picked as a member of the Australian Women's team this year.



Sri Sriprakash & Rosemary Matthew finished 6<sup>th</sup> overall and won the B Grade which was a great achievement. Ian Broadley and Ben Ludik, who were ranked 57<sup>th</sup>, finished 10<sup>th</sup> overall and won the C Grade.

Other Arana members who belied their rankings were Lyndel Hewitt & Albert Loh and Val Cran & Gordon Broadley. Overall winners on the day were Wendy Gibson and Linda Norman.

34 teams competed over 7 x 8 round boards on the Sunday with the Arana Club struggling to match the feats from the Saturday pairs, with no

teams finishing in the money for any grade. The Parker team ended up winners of the A Grade in what was a very strong field.

This success of this congress could not have been achieved without the great support of Arana members who helped with providing a great range of food to eat on both days, serving the food and refreshments on both days and assisting with preparing the clubhouse prior to the event. Special thanks to Warren Applegate who was in the kitchen all day on the Saturday, Robyn Grills who organised most of the food preparation and Richard Grills who opened and closed on both days in the kitchen.

Finally thanks to those Arana members who were standby players for the pairs and teams events, which is often a thankless task.

**Alan Norman**

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## Modified Bergen Raises

In the 1980s, Marty Bergen invented a method of responding to Opener's bid of 1 of a major. These "Bergen Raises" were designed so that Responder's bid would more accurately describe their point count and distinguish between 3 or 4 card support for the major.

There are many pages on the internet describing the way that the system of Bergen Raises has evolved. None of the pages on the internet are consistent in the way in which modern Bergen Raises are used. Some examples are also too complicated. In addition, Bergen's original raises did not clearly distinguish between 3 and 4 card support. Over the past 18 months, we have devised and tested a version of Bergen Raises that is easy to use, consistent and occurs frequently enough to be useful.

Good bidding should be based on probabilities. Why have bidding systems for something that occurs infrequently? The KISS principle also applies. Based on Total Points (i.e.

HCP and shortage points), the TP ranges are familiar: 0-5, 6-9, 10-12, 13-15, 16-18 and 19+. Under “bidding stress”, your partner will probably remember these ranges ☺

If Responder has 3-card support for the bid major, respond as below:

**Table 1 - Responding with 3-card Support**

0-5 TP	Pass
6-9 TP	Bid 2 ♥/♠
10-12 TP	Bid 3 ♦
13-15 TP	Bid 3 of the other major (3 ♥/♠)
16-18 TP	Bid 2 NT (Jacoby)
19+ TP	4 ♣ (Roman Gerber/Whatever)

In the above table, all bids except a single raise to 2 of the major need to be alerted. Note that a bid of 3 of the other major means an opening hand and 3-card support for the Opener’s major. It does not mean that Responder has the other major. Also note that 16-18 TP is “upgraded” to 2 NT (Jacoby) even though standard 2 NT (Jacoby) normally means 4-card support!

If Responder has 4-card support for the bid major, respond as below:

**Table 2 - Responding with 4-card Support**

0-5 TP	Pass
6-9 TP	Bid 3 ♥/♠ (*)
10-12 TP	Bid 3 ♣
13-18 TP	Bid 2 NT (Jacoby)
19+ TP	4 ♣ (Roman Gerber/Whatever)

(\*) Downgrade the bid to 2 ♥/♠ when your hand shape is 4-3-3-3. Such a hand shape is of no use for trumping in Dummy.

We have also slightly modified the normal response to 2 NT (Jacoby). We have given the Opener’s rebid the acronym of “SWIM”. In our version, the Opener’s rebids are as follows:

**Table 3 - Opener’s Rebid after 2 NT (Jacoby)**

Opener’s Hand	Opener’s Rebid
Shortage (Void)	3 of that suit
Weak (12-14 TP)	4 ♥/♠ (Sign off)
Intermediate (15-16 TP)	3 NT (Point count)
Maximum (17+ TP)	3 ♥/♠ (Point count)

In standard 2 NT (Jacoby), Shortage means a Singleton or a Void. In our version of SWIM, the advantage of Shortage meaning Void is that a subsequent “Ace Ask” will be far more useful. If

Opener says they have 1 Ace, you know it is not in the Void suit! Having said that, “Shortage” has occurred rarely in our experience ☺

Note that if the Opener is weak, they will sign off with 4 ♥/♠. Responder will then have to bid 4 NT, instead of 4 ♣, if they wish to “Ace Ask”.

**Roman Gerber**

Roman Gerber, and Roman Blackwood, are two easy “Ace Ask” systems that avoid the complexity of Roman Key Card (RKC) systems but result in less accurate information. We would recommend RKC systems for advanced players but Roman systems are fine for us improving players ☺

**Responses after 4 ♣ (Roman Gerber)**

Responder’s Hand	Bid
0 or 3 Aces	4 ♦
1 or 4 Aces	4 ♥
2 Aces	4 ♠

The idea behind Roman Gerber is to keep the bidding low, especially when asking for Aces with a minor fit. You need a way to “bail out” with 5 ♣ or 5 ♦ when asking about minor slams. If you want to ask for Kings, you can bid 4 NT, else you can stop the auction with 5 of the major or minor.

This all sounds easy. However, what do you bid with interference? Twice at this year’s Gold Coast Congress, an opponent bid 4 ♣ after our 4 ♣ bid. We had never seen this before, so we got confused and got bottom board in both situations! Thus, we have devised the following to annoy our opponents next time this happens ☺

**Responses after 4 ♣ (When they intervene with 4 ♦/♥/♠)**

Responder’s Hand	Bid
0 or 3 Aces	Pass
1 or 4 Aces	Double
2 Aces	4 ♥/♠/NT (1 more than them)

This is the only time that a Double at the 4 level is not for penalties.

**Responses after 4 NT (Roman Blackwood)**

Responder’s Hand	Bid
0 or 3 Aces	5 ♣
1 or 4 Aces	5 ♦
2 Aces	5 ♥

If there is intervention at the 5 level, Opener or Responder will almost certainly Double for penalties ☺

**Mike and Kathleen Le Voi**

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## 2019 Australia Wide Novice Pairs

This ABF-sponsored competition takes place annually in the week 25-31<sup>st</sup> May. The Novice Pairs is restricted to players with fewer than 100 MPs. Overall 700 tables competed in this competition i.e. 2800 players. Every table played the same boards which had been randomly dealt (Brad Coles, Organiser, 2019).

At the Arana Contract Bridge Club (ACBC), the competition was held on Wednesday 29 May 2019. At ACBC, Dawn Benes was the organiser and director. She chose to limit players to those with fewer than 50 MPs because so many of our members have less than 100 MPs. The competition was very well attended at ACBC with 13 tables i.e. 52 players enrolled.

Hearty congratulations to our winners on the day at ACBC. East/West was won by Warren Tealby and Jeff Borg. North/South was won by Phil and Dawn Chappel. Our players did well nationally with Jeff and Warren scoring 65.8%, coming 23rd out of 1393 East/West pairs. Phil and Dawn scored 61.9% and came 59th out of 1393 North/South pairs.



We all share pride in our outstanding Novice winners.

Thank you to all who participated in this event for your enthusiasm and great Bridge Etiquette. A very special thanks to Dawn Benes for organising and directing this event which she did with calm and grace.

## “Older and Bolder” Lessons



The Moreton Bay Regional Council approaches the Arana Contract Bridge Club (ACBC) annually to contribute beginner’s Bridge lessons to their Healthy & Active program. This community provides an avenue for residents to be more active, more often through a large and exciting range of fitness, recreation, sport activities and workshops.

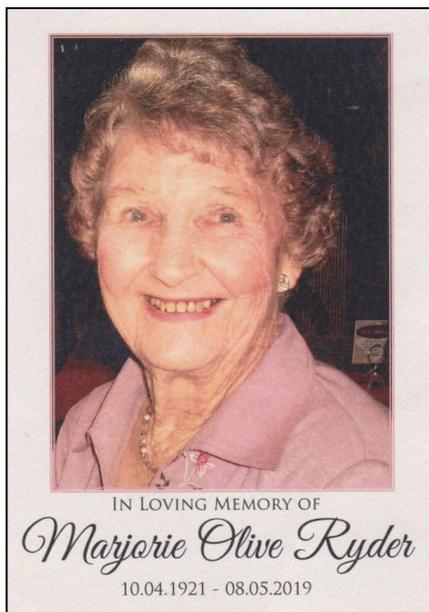
Over the past three years, Dawn Benes has prepared an eight-week series of beginners’ lessons where no previous card game experience was necessary to enrol. Dawn prepared the learning activities and pre-set boards. The actual set-up and help was conducted by Dawn for the first two weeks, then by Beth O’Reilly who responded to a

request for volunteers. Five people enrolled to attend classes at ACBC on Wednesday's from 10.30 am. The photo shows Beth tutoring Pam Briggs.

## Vale Marjorie Ryder

Most people called her 'Marge' or 'Smiling Marge'. She loved playing Bridge and had done so for many years. Marge, who lived alone, achieved her greatest wish which was to be able to live independently in her Mitchelton home until the very end. We will miss you, Marge.

Submitted by Jacqueline Carbone



## Teacher's Corner: Declarer Play

Michael Le Voi and I are participating in the ABF Teacher Accreditation program. As part of that program, we have now completed 8 week x 2.5 hours of seminars devoted entirely to Declarer Play for Improving Players. The leaning materials we used to prepare the lessons and the practise hands were based almost entirely on Joan Butts' materials. The topics we covered in the seminars were:

- Revision of Basic Play of the Hand (2 seminars)
- Playing Safe
- Managing Entries
- Managing to Count Hands
- Managing Suit Play
- Managing No Trump Play
- Strip and End Play.

If we only share one tiny part of the seminar, it is this: **Always plan the play.**

### Planning - Once Dummy Goes Down

Define the Goal i.e. Number of tricks needed to make the contract

- Count sure winners from the perspective of Declarer and consider both hands
- In a suit contract, also count losers
- Do you have enough tricks for the contract?
- If no, how many tricks do you need to develop?
- What technique(s) will you use to win extra tricks?
- Promotion, Length, Finesse (No Trump and Suit Play)
- Trumping Losers, Discarding (Suit Play)
- In what order will you play the hand?
- Consider and maintain entries
- Consider what could go wrong

Take your time: take at least 1 full minute to plan. Remember: a finesse will fail 50% of the time and you then lose the lead and possibly control. Do not take risks unless you have to. Playing Safe and End Play are better techniques if more challenging to learn and play.

During the seminar series we have had enthusiastic and dedicated students. They have evaluated our teaching using ABF approved Student Feedback forms. The evaluations have been overwhelmingly positive. Thank you to all who participated. Also, thank you to the Committee for approval and support to conduct these seminars free of charge.

**Kathleen Le Voi**

## Murder by Bridge Partner

In 1929, John (aged 35) and Myrtle Bennett (aged 33) were playing Rubber Bridge at their home with another married couple; Mr and Mrs Hoffman. "As the game went on", Mrs Hoffman told the New York Evening Journal, "the Bennett's criticism of each other grew more and more caustic".

In that environment, the fateful hand was opened, by Mr Bennett, as 1 Spade (South). The problem was that he only had 10 HCP and 1 length point and should not have opened. West overcalled 2 Diamonds. Myrtle Bennett (North) with 8 HCP, 4 Spades and a singleton, bid 4 Spades. John Hoffman failed to make the contract.

Myrtle was furious with him for overbidding his hand and they engaged in mutual verbal abuse when finally, he grabbed her arm and hit her several times in the face. She raged and cursed

him. He then got up and said he was going to stay overnight in a hotel and that the next day he would come for his things and move out. While he was packing to leave Myrtle, who looked like she was in a trance, went to the bedroom and got the pistol which she used to shoot him. When she saw what she had done, she ran to him and sobbed uncontrollably.

Myrtle was tried for murder but was acquitted. She subsequently worked for a hotel chain and lived as a single woman. She was childless and died in 1992. John's family inherited her million-dollar fortune.

### The Deadly Hand

**Myrtle Bennett**

North

♠ A 10 6 3

♥ 10 8 5

♦ 4

♣ A 9 8 4 2

**Charles Hoffman**

West

♠ Q 7 2

♥ A J 3

♦ A Q 10 9 2

♣ J 6

**Myrna Hoffman**

East

♠ 4

♥ Q 9 4

♦ K J 7 6 3

♣ Q 7 5 3

**John Bennett**

South

♠ K J 9 8 5

♥ K 7 6 2

♦ 8 5

♣ K 10

Played well, the experts assure us, this hand can make 4 Spades. See if you can make it. Our analysis will be presented in a later TrumpIt. The lead was Ace of Diamonds from West followed by a switch to the Jack of Clubs.

### References:

The Encyclopedia of Bridge (7th Ed) 2011, p.29-30

Wikipedia:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bridge\\_Murder\\_case](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bridge_Murder_case)

## Sponsorship

Arana Bridge club has a sponsorship program in place with a variety of businesses which generates an income that benefits our club.

We are always looking for new sponsors to further grow our program. If members are aware of prospective additional sponsors, please give the details of these businesses to Phil Chappel who will follow up with them.

The benefits for the businesses is their ad is placed in the annual membership booklet, the TrumpIt quarterly newsletter, our web site and a poster displayed in our club house.

**Phil Chappel**

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## More Church Bulletin Board

The following appeared in church bulletins or were announced at church services:

Potluck supper Sunday at 5pm: prayer and medication to follow.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hospitality.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What is Hell?" Come early and listen to the choir practice.

The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

This evening at 7pm there will be hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

Low Self-Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7pm. Please use the back door.

The Associate Minister unveiled the Church's new tithing campaign slogan last Sunday: "I Upped My Pledge – Up Yours".

This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.

My sister, Sandra, and I went to South Girls' & Infants' Primary School in James St. A new, modern high school was started at Mt Lofty and I was among the first intake in 1961. I completed Junior (grade 10) with good grades and then I left school.

**Q. You were a good student so why did you not complete your education?**

My father insisted that I leave school because I was a girl and wouldn't really need an education. My first job was for Insurance Company. Next, I got a job at the Commonwealth Bank and later transferred to Brisbane in 1966 when my family moved there.

I didn't stay long in Brisbane then because I was young and wanted to see more of Australia. I resigned from the bank and travelled up the coast with a friend. We took whatever work there was, wherever we could find it. We made the most of the glorious weather. We returned to Brisbane and I quickly found work at the University in the brand new Computer Centre. I found the work boring, so I went to work at the AMA's retail arm and started a new career in bookkeeping. I was 20 years old and stayed there until after Richard and I got married. I later worked in a printing company doing bookkeeping as well.

### Marriage and Family

I met Richard as a blind date for the Christmas party at work. We were set up because one of the women I worked with had a husband who worked with Richard. This couple thought he and I would be a good match. They were right: seven months later we got engaged and seven months after that we married in January 1972.

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## Helen McLauchlan: Bridge Grand Master

### The Early Years

**Q. Hi Helen, please tell me about your early life?**

I was born in May 1947 in Southport. I developed Asthma at about 18 months old and doctors recommended we move away from the coast, so in 1951 we moved to Toowoomba where one of Mum's brothers lived with his family and there was plenty of building work for Dad. My asthma subsided and didn't rear its ugly head again until this year.



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We have 2 children, Steven 43 and Karen 42. Karen & her partner Brendon have 2 children also, Zachary 8 and Chelsie 6. We have been involved in the grandchildren's lives in a big way since they were born, and they are the most wonderful part of life for me now.

### **My Bridge Journey**

About 1989, our next-door neighbour, Muriel, found out that Richard played Bridge in his lunch hour at work and asked if he would go to Bridge classes with her. She found the Arana Contract Bridge Club running classes, which were taught by Judy Valentine. Classes were held at the community hall in Dawson Parade.

Richard then became a serious Bridge player. Five years later I decided to learn as well. By this time Judy Valentine had retired and was travelling around Australia so I took classes at Northern Suburbs club with Ross and Diana Dick.

Most of what I learnt about Bridge in the first year was from Richard. In my usual fashion, I diligently applied myself and read books and asked lots of questions; Richard and I had great conversations as we developed our Bridge partnership.

In my first year of Bridge playing (1994) we played most Saturday afternoons at Northern Suburbs and later played in our first congress. I eventually found a regular partner to play with on Wednesday night (we were both working) and so our Bridge life continued.

As our children were grown, we started playing lots of congresses with limited success and little return on our entry fees. We had a lot of fun and made lots of friends. Our exploits also provided articles for the TrumpIt as Richard was the editor and main contributor from 1993 until 1999.

He has digitised these old newsletters and put them on the Arana Club website. They are available to read or print under "Documents". I found these old TrumpIt articles invaluable and very interesting when I was doing some research for this interview.

Most of my success at Bridge has been at the club level and, of course, Richard has been a large part of this. I also acknowledge my other great partners over the years. Most particularly: Pam Horton, Liz Marshall, Jo McKittrick, Judy Carr, Carla Webb, Marilyn Wright, Margaret Welldon, Bob Pearce, Trevor Cullen, Geoff Gully, Irena Hall and David Lehmann.

Thank you all for the wonderful hobby shared and the beautiful friendships. I also studied

under Ralph Parker for a couple of years. I found him to be a wonderful teacher who suited me very well and helped build my self-confidence where Bridge was concerned.

Before I joined the Arana club, I assisted Pam Horton, who was the convenor, at two of the Arana Bridge Club's weekend pairs congresses. So started one of my longest and warmest friendships and successful playing partnerships.

The positions I have held at Arana over the past 24 years include: Treasurer, Vice President, Committee Member, Chief Scorer, Masterpoint Secretary, Congress Convenor, and Director.

My Bridge journey has been long, varied and exciting. We have travelled far and wide to play and spent a lot of money earning Masterpoints of all hues. I became a Grand Master in 2006; a year after Richard.

Around this time, I finally realised that the main reason for playing Bridge is not about collecting Masterpoints or rising up the status ladder. It slowly dawned on me that the main reason for playing Bridge was to enjoy myself and socialise with lots of lovely, like-minded people from all walks of life. I am grateful to the Arana and Northern Suburbs Bridge Clubs for being such warm and socially inclusive places for its members.

**Helen McLauchlan**

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

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