



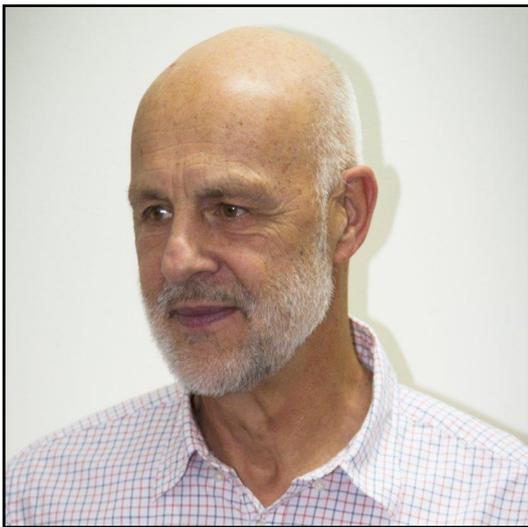
Trump•It

Arana Bridge Club Newsletter

May 2019

Vol 33 No 2

From The President



I note with regret that Tony Agar did not seek re-election to the Management Committee. I thank him for his long service to the Committee. Robyn Grills has resigned from the Committee and as Head Director. I thank her too and hope that she will continue as a director.

We have received a grant of \$11,284 for technology and floor covering from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund. Anderson has provided vinyl plank on Masonite to replace the carpet at the front of the room underneath the food tables.

The Committee established an IT Subcommittee to decide the club's IT requirements prior to calling for quotes. The requirements were submitted to various suppliers and a package including new Dell computers and new TV monitors has been chosen. This hardware will be installed over the next month or so.

We have replaced the wood of the ramps leading to the clubhouse which was necessary.

Beginners Bridge Classes have commenced; thank you to Jim and Deidre Taylor. There were 28 attendees on the first day. Mini-Bridge has recommenced at Arana Hills Library. I thank Carol Bellis who is the organiser of this important member recruitment initiative.

Improving Bridge players will be able to attend free Seminars on 'Managing Declarer Play' conducted by ABF teacher-trainees Kathleen and Mike Le Voi (more details included in this edition of TrumpIt).

The Committee reinforces the instruction in the Club General Rules that five-board sit-outs are to be avoided. Mike Le Voi and Richard McLauchlan are working together to streamline choices of configurations to make it easier for Bridgmate operators to use table movements that do not include five-board sit outs.

The TrumpIt editor, Michael Walker, has taken a break from putting the TrumpIt together. I thank Michael for all the hard work he has put in to get all the articles together for many years. Kathleen Le Voi has taken over as Editor with technical assistance from Mike Le Voi. I thank both so we can continue with our newsletter.

I wish everyone happy bridging

Robert van Beest

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Director's Corner

Bridge Tournaments

These events actually happened at Bridge Tournaments:

The bidding went 1H – pass – 2H – pass – 5 NT –

All pass. Opener: "You can't pass 5NT!" Responder: "What kind of bid is 5NT?" Opener: "I was asking for Kings". Responder: "But you didn't ask for Aces!" Opener: "I didn't have to, I had all four Aces!"

An experienced player ran into a newcomer heading for the restroom. As they entered their separate cubicles, the newcomer was heard to say, "Whew – I am so glad to be *somewhere* I know what I am doing."

A player opened 1S in the third seat and his partner responded 2C. When opener rebid 2H, his opponent called the Director. He said: "They're playing Drury and they didn't Alert". "But we don't play Drury" said the 1S opener. "There it is, right on their convention card", said the opponent. Opener calmly said: "That's not our Convention card." Undeterred, the opponent said: "Look at the name on the top. It belongs to.... ". At that point, the voice trailed off as they realised they were reading their own name!

Disgruntled bridge player to his partner after an extremely bad session: "We've been playing together for five years now and we just can't agree on anything." Partner: "We've been playing together for six years ..."

Post mortems must be conducted in an orderly manner. You should identify the problem together, isolate the cause and effect and then in no uncertain terms tell partner precisely where he went wrong.

Chinese Cards

The Chinese invented playing cards in AD 1000 - so herewith some interesting facts and observations about "playing cards".

Did you know that the traditional deck of playing cards is a strikingly coherent form of a calendar? Very intriguing indeed! There are 52 weeks in the year and there are 52 playing cards in a deck. There are 13 weeks in each season and there are 13 cards in each suit. There are 4 seasons in a year and 4 suits in the deck. There are 12 months in a year so there are 12 court cards. (Those with faces: namely Jack, Queen, King in each suit).

The red cards represent the Day, while the black cards represent the Night. Jacks = 11, Queens = 12, and the Kings = 13. Add up the sum of $1 + 2 + 3 + \dots + 13 = 91$. Multiply this by 4, for the 4 suits, therefore $91 \times 4 = 364$, Add 1 for the Joker and you will arrive at the number 365 - being the days in a year. Is this construct a mere coincidence or the sign of great intelligence? Of interest is the sum of the letters in all the names of the cards, e.g. add up the letters in "Ace, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, Jack, Queen, King" = 52!

The Spades indicated ploughing or working. The Hearts indicated love for the crops. The Diamonds indicated reaping the wealth. The Clubs indicated protection and growth. Also, in some card games, 2 Jokers are used - indicating the Leap year. This mathematical perfection is mind blowing.

Dawn Benes and Ross Shardlow – Directors

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

Free Bridge Seminars



As mentioned in the last edition of Trump It, Kathleen and Mike Le Voi are attending the Joan Butts Teacher Training Courses with the aim of being fully qualified ABF Bridge Teachers. Current Arana Bridge Club ABF accredited teachers are Jim Taylor and Dawn Benes.

One of the requirements for obtaining accreditation is that the prospective teachers must give teaching seminars and receive feedback from students. Accordingly, Kathleen and Mike have been teaching material devised by Joan Butts on “Managing Declarer Play”.

There are two sets of four seminars. Each seminar lasts for 2 hours (including tea break) and is given on a Tuesday Afternoon. To date, four seminars have been given and the number of students has ranged from 12 to 20. We are happy to present these seminars and we hope that other club members will be able to attend the second set of seminars to be held in May/June.

Kathleen Le Voi

Church Bulletin Board

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

The sermon this morning: “Jesus walks on the water”. The sermon tonight: “Searching for Jesus”.

Ladies, don’t forget the rummage sale. It’s a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping. Bring your husbands.

Don’t let worry kill you off – let the Church help.

Miss Charlene Mason sang: “I will not pass this way again”, giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

For those of you who have children and don’t know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

The Rector will preach his farewell message, after which the choir will sing “Break forth into joy”.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

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Tony Agar – A Life History

I was born in Charleville, Western Queensland, and moved to Townsville until I was about 5. I then spent two years in Sydney. I do recall helping the milko deliver milk from his horse drawn cart to earn pocket money. Sydney was too wet and cold for us, so the family transferred back to Townsville. We were bare foot practically all year, as was the dress code back then.

At age 13, I joined my older brother at boarding school in Charters Towers. Shoes back on. “Cadets” was compulsory then and I recall as a skinny kid trying to manoeuvre a weighty 303 rifle. Practically all sports were compulsory (I had nothing else to do with my free time anyway) and I represented the school in cricket, tennis and swimming.



After school, I joined a cricket club in Townsville and the “old bloke” behind the stumps offered me a job at Perpetual Trustees. Two years later, I was transferred to Brisbane. I met my wife Sharon at work and we married in 1972. I remained in the trustee industry till retirement. We have 3 children: the first arrived during the 1974 Australia Day floods. Nappies were strung across a room using a heater and fan to dry. We have 4 grandchildren. We lived in Keperra for 30 years and now reside at Upper Kedron. As an avid golfer, I’ve been a member of Keperra Golf Club since 1978.

How I got into Bridge

As one who grew up playing cards, I suggested to Sharon in 1994 that we learn bridge, after my exertions on the squash court became too much. Judy Valentine held lessons nearby at the Arana Council Hall. Gary Lynch was also in the class. Once hooked, there was no bailing out.

Bridge Highlights

The obvious one is my role as secretary. It arose unexpectedly when the former secretary resigned mid-term. As I was to discover, this was the only way to divest oneself of the position. So I continued on for about 15 years. We produced most of our own stationery, spending considerable time photocopying (not to mention servicing the machine) and guillotining, so we computerised forms and outsourced printing. The introduction of Bridgemates revolutionised scoring and provided immediate results. Those who used travelling score sheets will appreciate this the most.

Security became a temporary problem when the building was vandalised on a couple of occasions but the problem solved itself when the suspected culprits moved on. We had an arrangement with security to ring me or Terry Nowitzki if the alarm was triggered. To our regret,

calls came at any hour of the day or night. This sometimes meant a trip to the club house in the early hours of the morning. The police and dog squad were present one particular night. Needless to say, we came to a more convenient arrangement. However, we did save the club callout fees.

On the playing side, my highlight is surely our first Arana congress. As complete novices, we qualified unwittingly into the championship round. The KISS principal worked that day.

What do I like most about our club?

The regular getting together with members in a friendly atmosphere and sharing a little banter and chatter. Members mix easily and although the game can be very competitive - there is ample goodwill all around. May it always be so. Members are also such great contributors. All in all, it has been a great experience.

Tony Agar