



Trump•It

Arana Bridge Club Newsletter

February 2020

Vol 34 No 1

From The President



This is the first TrumpIt newsletter of the year. We have recently had the club AGM and I reported that the club is in a sound financial position. The solar panels have provided 66% of our electricity requirements this summer. I expect this to continue.

During the year, maintenance work was undertaken on ramps and ceiling leakages. We have been successful in a grant application to fix the broken panels on the building exterior and to paint the building. We also completely replaced the club's computer system with new PCs and new TVs. My thanks go to Mike Le Voi for his efforts.

There have been some changes to the committee. My thanks go to retiring members, Robyn Grills, Rod Thomson and Olivia Jackson. I am pleased to welcome new members Helen McLauchlan, Kathleen Le Voi and Marianne McPherson.

This club could not run without its volunteers. There are over 22 volunteer positions

and I thank all our volunteers for their work; they are the life blood of this club.

Sponsorship is very important to the club. It enables us to print the membership booklet and TrumpIt at no net cost to the club. If you know any organisation who might want to sponsor us, please contact Phil Chappel.

We have had a slight drop in members but an increase in sessions and tables. In 2018, 17270 members played at our sessions. In 2019, the number was 17570. However, we always need more members. Please refer all your friends and acquaintances to our club.

We are glad to be able to provide Bridge Training for free. Jim Taylor also teaches beginners classes twice yearly. Our other ABF qualified teachers provide free ongoing training to club members on Wednesday afternoons.

I am also pleased that we have some new Club Directors in training. This will allow us to provide more support for our existing directors who give their time for free. I know I speak for all members when I thank the Directors for their efforts throughout the year.

There will be some changes in the car parking and entrance access to the club as a result of new buildings being built by Brisbane City Council. Alan Norman has done a great job in liaising with the Council to make sure that our interests are well represented.

Finally, I wish all members a happy and contented new year. The club is a great place for pleasant, social interaction. Long may it continue.

Happy Bridging
Robert van Beest

From The Archives

OPENING LEADS

A couple of cases of opening leads that are frequently misused, not the least of which is because they do not arise all that often.

The trump lead

We've heard the saying "when in doubt, lead trumps". This is not sound advice. Trumps should frequently be led but not when you are in doubt. You should have a reason for doing so.

The trump lead is proper when you think Dummy has a short suit. You therefore wish to remove Dummy's trumps and with it destroy the trumping power, its primary value. How can you tell that Dummy may have a short suit? Only by the bidding ...

If declarer bids 2 suits, say Spades first and then Hearts (5-4), and Dummy prefers Hearts, it is probable that Dummy is short in Spades. Therefore lead a trump, Hearts. This being the case, if it becomes clear that Declarer has a 2-suited hand (say by rebidding his second suit twice), a trump lead is then indicated. Dummy is bound to be short in the other suits. Thus, against 2 suited hands, consider a trump lead.

Leads against slams

As it takes 2 tricks to defeat a slam, experienced players usually avoid the lead of an Ace. Often an Ace lead makes Declarer's job easier. On the other hand he may throw off losers in your suit before the Ace is cashed. But, on balance, it is better to select another lead and let the lead be made up to your Ace. You then stand a chance of capturing a K or Q.

However there are instances when the lead of an Ace is desirable. That is, if your hand contains the probability of a second trick. Say opponents are playing in 6♠ and you hold:

♠ Q65 ♥ A974 ♦ 532 ♣ 862

There is a fair chance of making the Spade Q. Therefore cash the Heart A first. Again, you're defending 6♠ and you hold:

♠ 7 ♥ A964 ♦ 8642 ♣ 7632

If Spades are not vigorously supported by Dummy, one can reason your partner has some strength in Spades. Again cash the Ace first; hoping partner has a potential trick in trumps.

Say you hold against 6♠:

♠ 862 ♥ A752 ♦ 973 ♣ Q32

Try establishing a Club winner first; lead a low club hoping partner has the King.

Trump leads against slams have a low success rate unless you hold controls in a second suit bid by Declarer. Dummy is likely to be short in that suit. The trump lead will reduce his ruffing power.

Against NT slams

Aggressive leads are likely to prove fruitless, unless you hold a complete sequence (say QJ10x). In other words don't try to establish a long suit. Example: Holding:

♠ 986 ♥ J642 ♦ Q653 ♣ J4

Against 6 NT lead the Spade 9, even if the opponents have bid the suit.

Reference: Goren's Bridge Complete.

Be prepared! Once bidding is concluded, the player on opening lead should have selected a card and be ready to play it, unless the bidding is complex or requires explanation. Don't be heard to ask, "Who's on lead?"

Tony Agar

K.M.SMITH
FUNERAL DIRECTORS since 1883

We think of everything

Phone 3252 2031 - 24 Hours, 7 Days

Teacher's Corner

Jim and Deidre Taylor will once again conduct their successful Beginner's Lessons in 2020. Lessons start on 7 March at 10:00 am to 12:00 noon on Saturdays. Classes run for 9 weeks, after which, help with play sessions are available. Lessons are FREE but purchase of the associated text book (\$30) is strongly recommended.

Kathleen and Michael Le Voi are also conducting lessons in 2020. The next set of lessons

is FREE to all club members. The standard of the first series of lessons, on Play, was pitched at players who had attended beginners' classes in the last one to two years. That series of lessons ended on 19 February. The 12 completing learners rated the teachers an average 9.2 out of 10 on five questions related to teaching effectiveness.



The next set of 6 lessons, on Better Bidding, will commence on 18 March. These seminars will cover such topics as hand evaluation and improved bidding when opening in the minors. Club members are invited to drop in to any lesson: you do not need to register. For further information or to join our mailing list, please email Michael Le Voi at mikelevoi@gmail.com.

Bridge Club – Albany Creek Library



“Contract Bridge or Bridge is considered to be the ultimate card game and it is played all around the world”

“Come along to learn how to play, practice your skills or just have fun playing with other players. Suitable for adults only.

The Albany Creek club meets on the 2nd Monday of the month from 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM.”

The above sessions are run by Dawn Benes who has been teaching bridge there for many years. At least 6 new members have joined our club as a result of her efforts. Thanks, Dawn!



Your Agents.

Simon Whitehead & Drew Crump

e whiteheadandcrump@harcourts.com.au

m 0403 856 205

Harcourts Solutions

Director's Corner

Call Out Of Turn

Under the old Laws, the penalties arising due to a call out of rotation could be very harsh. Often, a player's partner was barred from bidding for the whole auction. Under the new Laws, the partner can make his normal call.

Depending upon the action now taken by the player who originally called out of turn, the auction will either continue without penalty or the player's partner will have to pass for one round. The Director will make a determination on a case-by-case basis using the guidelines in the Laws regarding “comparable calls”

Since the notion of “a comparable call” is new, some examples may help to clarify what these changes mean in practice.

Pass Out Of Turn

If you passed at LHO's turn to call and partner opened 1C:

1) You could respond 1NT or 2NT without further rectification if these responses show less than an opening hand.

2) You could also respond 2C, 3C or 4C without further rectification if these responses show less than an opening hand.

3) Similarly, you could also respond 2H or 2S without further rectification if these responses showed a “drop dead bid” of, say, a 6-card suit with 4-7 HCP.

4) **You could not respond**, however, 1D, 1H or 1S without making partner pass at their next turn as these bids are unlimited. (Law 30)

Bid Out Of Turn

You opened 1H (12+ HCP and 5+ Hearts) out of turn at LHO’s turn to call and the bid was not accepted. Partner then opened 1C.

Partner will almost certainly have to pass at their next turn to call if you respond because your response is unlikely to be comparable to a 1H opening bid, unless you have a bid in the system which shows a game-forcing hand with Hearts
Examples:

1) If you responded 1H (6+ HCP and 4+ Hearts), partner would have to pass at their next turn to call because this bid is not “comparable”. You show the same suit but 6+ HCP, not 12+.

2) If you responded 3 NT, partner would have to pass at their next turn to call because 3 NT is not “comparable” to an opening bid of 1H. (Law 31)

Extract from an online Article at Randwick Bridge Club.

Luxury retirement
awaits at
Samford Grove

Brand new villas for sale – call us on
(07) 3289 3372 to find out more

SAMFORD GROVE
A RESIDE COMMUNITY

18 Camp Mountain Rd, Samford
samfordgrove.com.au

Bridge Humour

Playing Bridge is better than sex because:

- It is perfectly acceptable to play with a total stranger.
- When your regular partner is not available, he/she will not mind if you play with someone else.
- Your partner doesn't become upset about people you played with years ago.
- Nobody expects you to play with the same partner for the rest of your life.
- Nobody expects you to give up playing if your partner loses interest.
- You can keep playing into your 90s, and people won't gasp in shock.
- Your partner will never say: "Not again, we just played last week!"

Mastering the Finesse

The following is a sample from the first set of rookie lessons on Play.

Many players, even experienced ones, still struggle with knowing how to finesse. If you want to be a master of the finesse, just be sure you are clear about the basics first. So, before you read any further, ask yourself to define the meaning of finesse in Bridge and write down your answer. I say this because any attempt to recall what one knows before reading the correct answer aids learning. Passively reading on will have little effect on what you retain about mastering the finesse.

Definition: A finesse is an attempt to win a trick with a card that is ranked lower than one held by opponents (Audrey Grant, p.365)

Example of finesse: With “King X” on the table, and not holding the Queen or the Ace, lead a low card towards the King. If your left hand opponent plays the Ace, then your King comes good. If they put anything else on, you play the King and hope. If the Ace is held your right hand opponent, you were going to lose the King anyway.

Consider here what your options are in the example above:

- If you lead the King, you are 100% sure to lose. ☹
- If you try the finesse, there is a 50% chance you will win.
- If you must win the finesse to make the contract, then you have to do it and hope.
- If not compelled to attempt the finesse, think carefully, because if it fails, you lose the lead.

- Therefore, if you can make your contract without the finesse – play safe; don't risk it.
- Where you are trying to make an overtrick by attempting a finesse - do so only if you can quickly regain the lead if the finesse fails.

Try the examples below (answers at the end of TrumpIt). In all cases, you are South in Declarer's hand.

1) Which opponent do you want to hold the Ace?

How should Declarer play this finesse?

Dummy ♠ K Q 7

Declarer ♠ 6 4 2

2) Which opponent do you want to hold the King?

How should Declarer play this finesse?

Dummy ♥ A 4 3 2

Declarer ♥ Q J 10 9

3) In the next example, what factors will influence you i.e. where is the Queen?

Dummy ♠ A J 10 2

Declarer ♠ K 9 8 7

References: 1) Audrey Grant, 1988. Play of the Hand. 2) Joan Butts, 2014. Play Bridge 2. P.71-86

New Members

The following are new members to the club. Please make them welcome.

Graham Killoran

Chris Green

Debra Green

Barbara Chitham



My Story – Carol Bellis

If I had not chosen to strike up a conversation with a woman in the park in front of our home in South Africa, we may never have made the momentous decision to migrate.

This meeting was serendipitous because in those days, late '60s to early '70s, white South Africans were not noted for their friendliness towards strangers. One would never greet a stranger and ask, "How are you?"

This lady was walking in the park opposite our home and I struck up a conversation with her. What she had to say interested me, so I invited her in for a cup of tea – also very unusual. She spoke of unrest and rumblings going on underground and illegally. There were very strict laws regarding subversion in South Africa at that time.

After she left, I spoke to my husband and we discussed migration as I now believed there could be much unrest in South Africa in the future and I worried for my young family. Another major concern was the fact that conscription was law and my young son would have to serve in the army upon reaching the age of 18. Not necessarily a bad thing, but he would likely be sent to Angola where South Africa was engaged in fighting the Border War. A cause we had no belief in.

We applied to migrate to Australia which took approximately 3 years to be approved by the Australian authorities. We were so happy. We totally committed to making Australia our home, so we sold up nearly everything and boarded the Italian cruise boat Galileo Galilei from Cape Town around July 1975. This sea crossing was no cruise

Tradesmen On Time

(07) 3353 8751

holiday! This was not a luxury ship. We paid our own way and so could only afford a family cabin in the bowels of the ship.

The swimming pool was emptied as they were expecting a rough passage, which was indeed the case. Each morning, we would read the weather report with much hope only to read that it was going to be “molto grosso”, which meant very large seas. Despite the weather we were happy and could not wait to reach Fremantle. One of the more memorable things about this Italian ship was that red wine was served free by the carafe for each meal except breakfast!

We arrived in Fremantle at 4am and Australian Customs officers entered the ship to process our entry into Australia. They were so casual and friendly! We could not believe it! They offered helpful suggestions about work for my husband and which city was the best to live in.

We eventually arrived in Sydney after another two week voyage. After we disembarked at the wharf with our luggage my husband left his little family sitting on our large cabin trunk and went off to seek a taxi to take us to we knew not where. We had no accommodation booked and knew no one in Sydney. While Chris was away, a cab driver approached me offering us a ride. I was so wary of this man and being true South Africans, we were mistrustful! But he was very kind and said he would give us a quick tour of the city for a set price before taking us to a reasonably priced hotel.

He took us on a quick tour and drove us to a type of large boarding house on Elizabeth Bay, called The Beauregarde. The B & B was not the smartest place but it was clean and the friendly manager gave us a large room with a view of the bay and told us we could watch TV downstairs in the lounge. He informed us that we could walk to Kings Cross and buy reasonable meals at a particular café.

We knew nothing about Kings Cross but soon discovered what type of area it was when we noted the posters in the windows of some of the establishments! We had never seen anything so racy because South Africa censored nearly everything, even Harold Robbins novels! Needless to say Chris' eyes were agog. It was truly amazing taking in all the differences that surrounded us.

Each night when we returned to our room at The Beauregarde we went into the communal lounge to watch TV. South Africa had just introduced TV in 1975, just before we left, and we would only get the news in English one night and Afrikaans the next. As you can imagine, the family was glued to the box every night!

On our second night there was a knock at the door of our room; the kindly wife of the manager had brought along a tray of scones which she said were ‘leftover’ and offered them to us. We could not believe the kindness that we encountered in those first few days in Sydney.

It took 3 or 4 days for our car to be offloaded from the ship and cleared through customs. We were told that we had to reach Brisbane, our destination, in 3 days so that our vehicle could be licensed in Queensland instead of NSW.

Once we arrived in Brisbane we were met by relatives of friends in South Africa who took us in and offered board and lodging for our family of 5 until we could rent a place of our own. And so we settled in The Gap, sent our children to the local school and now my daughters' children (my grandchildren) attend the same school they did.

After finding accommodation, my husband began to seek work. He made applications to several companies for structural drafting positions, but was unsuccessful. He eventually applied to the Commonwealth Employment Service (CES) and was told that there was a high percentage of unemployment in 1975, and so there was not much work about.

However, there was a drafting firm in Brisbane that was on the lookout for good draftsmen. He was called in the next day and was immediately offered a position. A week after my husband started, the director of his new company sacked 4 draftsmen! My husband felt very bad about that, but times were tough. He was with that company for 20 years and retired as a director in October 1995 before sadly passing away in November that same year.

I suffered some homesickness for the first 3 years we lived in Australia, but after our first visit back to South Africa it never returned. We don't always make the right decisions in life but this was one of our best!

Carol Bellis

Mastering the Finesse - Quiz Answers:

- 1) Lead the 6 towards the KQ. If West plays the Ace, play low and make KQ later. If West ducks, play the K and hope. Return to Declarer's hand and repeat.
- 2) Lead the Q towards the A. If West plays the K, cover with the A and make the J, 10 and 9. If West ducks, let the Q go and hope. Repeat with the J, 10 and 9.

3) You can finesse in either direction. So, how can you improve your guess as to where the Q is? Consider the bidding! If West opened 1 ♥ and East passed, you know that West has more HCP and is more likely to hold the Q ♠. If West opened 2 ♥, a “Weak Two”, then East is more likely to hold the Q ♠.

Masterpoint Changes

The following members have been promoted in the last 6 months. Well done to all!

Graduate Master

David Brown
Helen Hornibrook
Warren McIlwraith
Jeanett Mutzelburg

Club Master

Ray Derbyshire
Bronwyn Macleod
Bev Orton

Local Master

Linda Douglas
Chris Green
Byron Lye
Andrew Renton
Yvonne Stalling
Gwen Walker

*Local Master

Ross Heyde
Bruce Hutson
Marianne McPherson

Rosemary Roy
Robyn Woodrick

**Local Master

Penny Baker
Richard Grills
Kathleen Le Voi
John Murphy
Sophie Quinlivan

Regional Master

Olivia Jackson
Ben Ludik
Phil Saunders
*Regional Master
Pam Ryan
Robert Van Beest

*State Master

Beth O'Reilly
National Master
Trish Lye

**National Master

Allan McIntyre
Bronze Life Master
Ailsa Smith
Silver Life Master
Barbara Holmes

Change of Session Time

A survey was recently held as to members' opinions on the timing of the Friday session. The majority of members voted that the Friday session change to a normal morning session commencing at 9.30 am and finishing at about 1.15am with no lunch break.

There will be a 2 month trial of this new arrangement starting after the GNOTS events on Friday 17 April 2020.



Editorial Team

Kathleen Le Voi Michael Le Voi
ph 3851 4704

Email: editor.aranabridgeclub@gmail.com

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

2019 Christmas Party



Lorraine Pescatore



Marianne McPherson



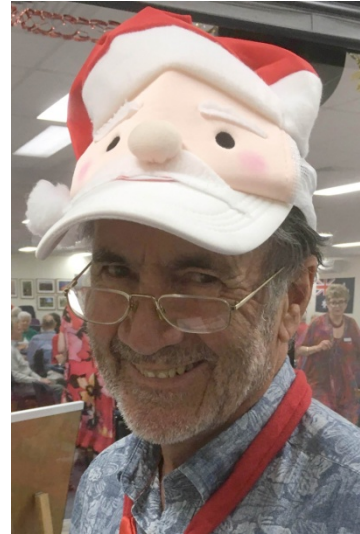
Maureen Pears



Richard McLauchlan



Dawn Benes



Richard Grills

Saturday 14 December 2019. Good fun! Thanks to Olivia Jackson and all her helpers ☺