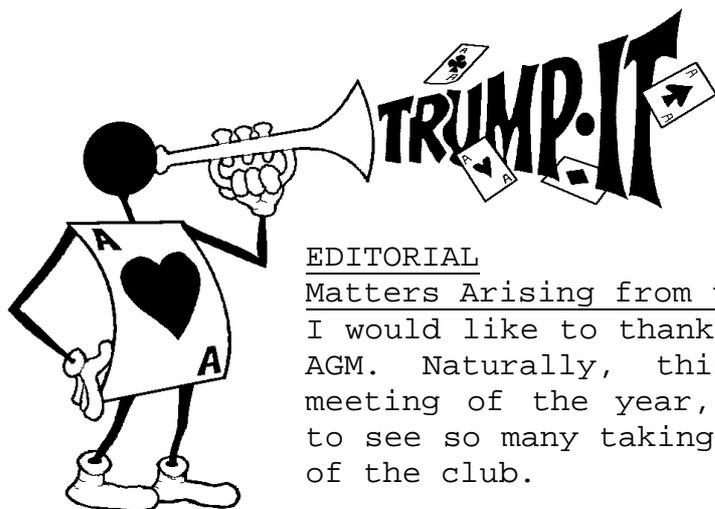


# ARANA CONTRACT BRIDGE CLUB INC



APRIL, 1992  
VOL. 6 ISSUE 3

## EDITORIAL

### Matters Arising from the AGM

I would like to thank all those who attended the AGM. Naturally, this is the most important meeting of the year, therefore it was pleasing to see so many taking an interest in the affairs of the club.

Since the meeting approved the changes to our financial year, the annual subscription, that is now due, will be \$12 for the period ending 31 December, 1992. This can be paid to Pam Horton on Tuesdays or Peter Nottingham on Wednesdays.

The meeting also amended the motion concerning table fees. Members will now pay \$3 a session and visitors \$4. These new fees are effective as from the AGM. It is worth remembering that this is the first increase in fees since the Club started in 1986.

Other matters that were raised will be the subject of discussion at the next Committee meeting. Among these was the question of the investment of the Club's funds that have been growing quite rapidly with the increase in membership. It certainly behoves us to try and obtain the best interest rate available whilst ensuring the security of the investment.

The suggestion that we should try to adopt the notion of "quality" in the day-to-day running of the Club is also worth pursuing. I feel sure there are many areas where we could do better. As a start, I would ask all members to be much more vigilant in the recording of hands and results. The level of errors in this area is becoming unreasonably high and creating many difficulties with scoring.

I have received advice from the member's representative that some members feel insufficient time is allowed for general discussion at the AGM. It has been suggested that 30 minutes be allocated for this. This matter will certainly be discussed by the Committee. In the mean time, I would like to make a few salient points.

Firstly, the prime purpose of an Annual General Meeting is the election of office bearers, the presenting of reports for approval and the putting of motions to set fees etc. In order for this to happen, all relevant information is circulated with

the agenda so that members can have time to peruse it adequately prior to the meeting. In this way the "formal" business of the meeting can be dealt with effectively and efficiently.

Secondly, if a member considers a matter to be important and in need of discussion, he or she has the opportunity to place a motion on the agenda so that others have time to reflect upon it. This may provide for a more considered and productive debate.

Thirdly, I prefaced my remarks at the AGM by noting that it represents an opportunity for any member to "have their say" and made it clear that I welcome contributions and suggestions from members. During the discussion of matters of general business I tried to ensure that all those who wished to speak could do so, and asked several times if there were other matters that member's wanted to raise before closing the meeting.

I must say, therefore, that I am somewhat surprised that some members feel that the meeting was rushed through without adequate time for discussion of general business. Nevertheless, committee will certainly review the situation and make any changes to procedures if it thinks they are necessary.

At the AGM, the following members were elected to the Committee:

Bob Pearce (President)	Muriel Miller
Richard McLauchlan (V. President)	Pam Horton
Jan Rae (Secretary)	Beth Douglas
Peter Nottingham (Treasurer)	Marion Richardson
Judy Valentine	Dot Cain
Neil Orford	

Welcome to the new members of the committee and thank you to the meeting for your vote of confidence in re-electing the previous committee members.

Due to personal commitments, Judy Perkins was unable to stand for Committee again and I would like to thank her for her contributions to the management of the Club.

The previous President, Adrienne Brougham, has informed me that she is moving to Runaway Bay and therefore is not renewing her membership with the Club. We are all indebted to Adrienne for her hard work on our behalf and I am sure members will join me in sending her our best wishes and thanks. No doubt, she will soon be taking up bridge again with a new club.

If there is any matter you would like discussed at a Committee meeting, please contact one of us personally, or through the member's representative. Good bridging!

Bob Pearce (President)

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## DATES TO REMEMBER

### 1992 INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

This event will be held on Wednesday nights commencing May 6 and should be completed within 2 rounds, finishing May 13. This Championship requires a full table movement, therefore entry forms will be numbered as received. Every endeavour will be made to accommodate those entering but it may not be possible to finish with a full table, therefore last entries may not be accepted.

### BIDDING SEMINAR

The Bidding Seminar for 1992 will take place on the 26th/27th May and will be held in lieu of both playing sessions. The subject to be covered is match play with a couple of new ideas for addition to systems. The Seminar covers match play in general and is not restricted to those who play only Standard American.

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### BOOK REVIEW

50 WINNING DUPLICATE TIPS for improving tournament player -  
by Ron Klinger.

Review by Muriel Anderssen.

Undoubtedly, every earnest student of Contract Bridge would be aware of the numerous texts on the subject by this author. His 101 Winning Bridge Tips (in our Library) gives expert advice to players at the general level. This later book is of interest to the duplicate tournament player where the most frequent games are matchpointed pairs. As we know from our recent seminar at Arana Club, the secret at pairs is tied in with the scoring, the question being "how many pairs does your score beat?" And these 50 Tips suggest the best strategy for doing just that.

There are five sections in the book constructive bidding, competitive bidding, opening leads, declarer play and defence. Each section is well illustrated with example hands and logical easy-to-follow explanations.

#### Constructive Bidding

Klinger tells us that the basic strategy here is to avoid 5 clubs or 5 diamonds if 3NT is at all feasible; to choose 4 hearts or 4 spades with eight or more trumps rather than 3NT, but to prefer 3NT if you have no better than a seven card major fit unless the bidding reveals that 3NT is unsound.

Tip 2 offered some food for thought - "If your choice is to remain in 1NT or support a minor at the two level, support if the combined count is 23/24" and, after various disasters at the table, Tip 10 is one I hope to take aboard - "If partner opens 1 heart or 1 spade and you have support but a balanced hand with 10 LOSERS choose 1NT response rather than raise to 2 hearts or 2 spades."

### Competitive Bidding

This is where the rewards go to the pairs having sound systemic strategy. Winners are able to judge the right time to push, the right time to defend, how high to go and when to double (familiar advice?). Ron Klinger is an ardent advocate of the Take-Out Double at low levels.

Tip 16 "Don't put all your eggs in one basket use the competitive double to maximise your options".

### Opening Leads

A definite warning on this subject is that defence at pairs means we cannot be generous or carefree with our opening leads. To give away a precious overtrick with our opening lead is an opportunity squandered. Experts at matchpoints are very, very frugal with their opening leads.

Tip 21 tells us to stick with the safe lead and forget about the speculative one which might pay off. Tips 24 and 25 suggest the right time for a trump lead, while Tip 28 takes a step further advising "Be quick to double an enemy bid to focus partner's attention on that suit for lead purposes".

### Declarer Play

Good habits bear fruit, so we are told; so before playing a card stop, count dummy's and your own points and estimate whether your contract is a poor one, a normal one or an excellent one. Suppose you are in 3NT and the sight of dummy tells you that you've missed the better 4 heart contract. If 10 tricks appear comfortable at 4 hearts, then you must go all out to score 10 tricks at no trumps or you will have a poor score.

Tip 39 seemed to be worth repeating "Without a compelling reason do not hold up an Ace at a trump contract" - and another word of warning "If you assume the opponents are morons you will find yourself with egg on your face".

### Defence

Klinger says it is no compliment for a defender to be known as "The Magician" - one who makes tricks disappear. We must not adopt a futile line and slop trick after trick. Good defence is often a matter of partnership co-operation and strong partnerships play close attention to their signalling agreements. In defence you need all the help you can get.

Tip 41 "Take the tricks that belong to you unless they cannot disappear. If you fail to take a trick you could reasonably have taken, you are headed for a poor score".

I thought Tip 47 might be one we could profitably apply for our tutor quotes Murphy's First Law of Defence: "If you give partner a chance to go wrong, partner will take that chance".

Tip 47 "When partner leads from an interior sequence or from a broken sequence, be quick to drop an honour if you can afford it so that the position will be clarified for partner".

Finally Tip 50 with a hand to illustrate its effectiveness. "When it comes down to the last two cards, it is vital for you to know which card to keep and which to let go. Beware of becoming a victim of the 'Memory Coup'. When partner discards a winner late in play it means partner has only winners left. If is safe therefore to lead to partner and let partner cash the rest of the tricks".

K Q 8 5 4		Dealer East, Nil Vul.			
A 9 8 7		<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>
8				NB	1D
10 6 5		NB	1S	NB	2D
	10 7 2	NB	2H	NB	2NT
	Q 10 4	NB	NB	NB	
	A K 9 6				
	J 9 2				

- Trick 1. West leads 7 of clubs (fourth highest): 5-9-4
- Trick 2. East continues with J of clubs: Ace-3-6
- Trick 3-4. South cashes Ace and J spades, west follows: 3-6
- Trick 5. South leads heart 5 to Ace, west follows: 2
- Trick 6-8. Dummy's spades are cashed. South throws 2, 3, 4 of diamonds. West follows once, then discards diamond 5 and heart 6. East discards 9 & 6 of diamonds
- Trick 9. Declarer leads heart 9 from dummy: 10-5-K
- Trick 10. West cashes club K, south discards heart J
- Trick 11. West cashes club Q and East is down to heart Q and diamond Ace and K. Which card should East discard? South discards diamond J
- Trick 12. West cashes the club 8. Which card should East keep?

AAAgghh! Exactly the problem you want to avoid. If you did keep the diamond, well done as West's last card is the diamond 7.

However, the problem should never have arisen. At Trick 11, East should discard the diamond Ace, showing that he has nothing but winners left and asks partner to lead a diamond or a heart so that East will not have the terrible guess at Trick 12. West should therefore not cash the fifth club but lead the diamond at trick 12. Spare partner the guess and partner will not guess wrong. The complete deal -

	K Q 8 5 4	
	A 9 8 7	
	8	
	10 6 5	
9 6 3		10 7 2
K 6 2		Q 10 4
7 5		A K 9 6
K Q 8 7 3		J 9 2
	A J	
	J 5 3	
	Q J 10 8 3 2	
	A 4	

2 spades would have been easier for North/South, but that is not your concern as defender. Your job is not to let them get away with 120.

Opinion of the book. Keith McNeil says "Every player will find these 50 Tips a firm foundation for future excellence".

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BIDDING PROBLEM

This problem was given to me by Julie Hankinson who made 13 tricks in hearts. Her question - "How do you bid it".

Q J 9	A 2
J 10 8 2	A Q 9 7 6 4 3
v o i d	A J 7
A J 10 8 5 2	K

<u>Prue</u>	<u>Julie</u>
	1H
3H	4H

I believe you have found a good bidding sequence on this particular hand, to get you into 6H - I would not be thinking of 7H even though it makes. Your hand, as East, revalues to 19 points, and opposite a known 12-15 point hand, this is worthy of a slam try. There is another way to approach the bidding and has some merit. 2C, at first bidding opportunity and then showing the good support next bid at the game level. For experienced partnerships, 2C is probably the best way to approach the hand. When ultimately bidding 4H on rebid, West would be showing a good 5/6-carded club suit, support for hearts and an opening strength hand. Bidding clubs first, suggests to partner that the hand is slightly better than the 1H:3H auction. East's King, although singleton, is a very nice card to hold and East can visualise the spade and diamond losers disappearing on the club suit.