

ARANA CONTRACT BRIDGE CLUB INC



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CONGRESS FEVER

With a month to go before our Inaugural Congress, it is time to approach members for help. Many people have already volunteered to stand down from playing in this event in order to help make this Congress a success. We need several other members to do the same. I have indicated where help is needed. Please give serious consideration to lending a hand to ensure that Arana puts on the best Congress possible.

Pre-Congress preparation started late last year. At a Management Committee Meeting, I was elected as Congress Convenor due to my experience in running Congresses. As I will be on a 12 month holiday in 1994, I asked Pam Horton to be my assistant so she could take over the reins in my absence for the second Congress. I produced a projected budget so that we would have some idea of the cost involved in staging the event. I believe the final figure was fairly realistic as Pam and I did a full costing on catering items, stationery, board setting, hand records etc., however, we are hoping to improve on the break-even result by holding a Congress raffle, wine sales, bar trade, having food items donated etc.

The Congress Entry Form has been distributed to clubs and entries are now starting to arrive. I think our entry form looks pretty classy with our Trump-It logo and the good news is we found a printer to do it for \$40 cheaper than originally quoted. We are in the process of having 2 new sets of bridge table cloths made and to those members who have volunteered to sew them, I thank you.

Pine Shire Councillor, Brian Battersby will be present on the Saturday to officially open our Congress and if the QBA President is a Congress player, I will also ask him to speak. North-West News have agreed to run a photo and article in their paper on the Wednesday after the Congress.

Bob Pearce is negotiating with the Pine Shire Hall Committee to see if they will reduce our rental charges for the week-end. I am also endeavouring to get some stationery items donated from different business houses. Pam is working on the Bank of Queensland for the silent bidding pads. Does anyone know where we can get a few hundred pencils? See me if you have a solution. We will also need 10 more bridge tables for the week-end. See me if you are prepared to lend one - make sure you write your name on the bottom so we can return it. Some more good news reached me today. At the next QBA meeting, the Executive is recommending that the loan of boards and pre-dealt

hands be reduced from 40c to 30c per board. This will result in a saving of \$40 - our budget is looking better all the time.

I approached some members in March to take on the positions of supervisors for the different areas and was pleased when all accepted willingly.

BOB PEARCE agreed to do the Congress scoring. We have asked Joan McPheat, who wrote the Congress programme, to assist Bob with the Barometer scoring on the Sunday and she has agreed to do this for a small fee. At the present moment, Bob will have to use his own computer for the scoring. As most would know, moving a computer is not a good idea. Does anyone have a laptop computer they would be prepared to lend Bob for the week-end? The computer would be insured, whilst in our care, and would not be left at the hall overnight. See Bob if you can help out.

JENNY LEWIS, as Club Masterpoint Secretary, will collate all final results and send them off to be masterpointed.

TED McGRATH will be Floor Supervisor. He needs 4 helpers to reset tables between sessions and pack up after the Congress is over. These helpers can be Congress entrants if need be. We will also need to launder lunch table cloths and bridge table cloths after the Congress is over. Maybe someone would be prepared to do this - see Ted.

RICHARD McLAUCHLAN will be Bar Supervisor. We have obtained a licence to sell alcohol between 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. on both days. The Alcohol Licensing Department have also agreed to extend our Licence to cover the sale of Commemorative Wine at no extra charge. Richard will need one (1) non-congress player to man the bar during each of the 4 sessions. At the conclusion of each session, he will need two (2) or three (3) extra hands. These extra people needed can be congress players. If you are prepared to run the bar for a session, or help out at the conclusion of each session - see Richard. Richard will need a couple of big eskies to store drinks. If you have one to spare for the week-end, please let him know - make sure your name is one the bottom so it can be returned.

Whilst on the subject of alcohol, I would like to say thank you to all members who have supported the sale of the Commemorative Wines and Port. When I originally came up with the idea of providing wine and port with a special label to mark our Inaugural Congress, I approached Farmer Bros. and a local supplier for prices on the best possible wine available in a reasonable price range. Since taking orders, the local distributor has eventually got back to me and has come up with a better-quality of wine at the same prices as Farmer Bros. [except for the red]. The wine is now coming from the S/E corner of South Australia. The red is a McLaren Vale 1990 Cabernet Shiraz [a particularly good year for reds from this area], the white is a 1991 Semillon/Chardonnay with a blend from Langhorne Creek, Barossa Valley and McLaren Vale, the Champagne is a Wilton Estate from the Griffith's area and is offered at a promotional price by Adrian Sheridan, ex-winemaker for Hungerford who is now in business for himself (hope I have spelt his name correctly). I am assured that this Champagne is exceptional. The port is a Penfold's Club.

MARIAN RICHARDSON has agreed to be provedore on the week-end of the Congress and this is the area where we need the most help from members. We are providing 2 luncheons - Saturday and Sunday. Saturday's luncheon will be soup, sandwiches and tarts. Marian needs 6 people to help prepare the sandwiches on Saturday morning and tidy up when lunch is over. We need 20 tarts for this luncheon. Are you prepared to make one and donate it to our Congress? We are serving two (2) varieties of soup - pumpkin and potato & leek. If we supply the ingredients, is there anyone who would be prepared to make up 10 litres of either variety?

Sunday lunch will be quiche & salad with a breadroll and fruit salad for dessert. Marian needs 6 people to help out. The quiche will be pre-cooked but help will be needed to prepare the salad, breadrolls and fruit salad and tidy up after lunch is over. Are there any members who will help make quiche. We have 200 small quiche to make [pastry shells & eggs will be provided]?

All helpers for the Saturday and Sunday luncheons will need to be non-congress entrants. We are using disposable plates, cutlery etc. so the only washing up to be done will be cups and saucers. We are using trays to serve the 4 players at each table for both lunches. A player from each table will collect the tray from the kitchen servery. We are doing it this way to provide a quicker and easier service for players. The only item that will not be on the tray will be the tarts and these will be served from a table set up in the room.

It is now customary that tea/coffee and biscuits/cake are provided at throughout all sessions and that nibbles are provided at the conclusion of the congress. Bridge players have now come to expect it and consume very large amounts of homemade biscuits, pikelets, cakes etc. during playing sessions. Are you prepared to make something in this line and donate it to our congress? While final results are being tallied and presentations are made to the winners, nibbles are served. Are you prepared to donate something in this line?

As I was preparing this Trump-It, Marian rang to say that she had an opportunity to holiday in USA. She arrives back the week before our Congress and will take charge from then. Pam and I will do the preliminary work. We are very anxious to take your name if you are willing to help out. Marian does need help on the Saturday and Sunday. Marian also needs eskies to store milk and other items - see Pam or Judy - make sure your name is on the bottom so it can be returned.

HAZEL BITOMSY will be on the registration desk. She will welcome players as they arrive, collect any outstanding money (if any) and generally do PR work that Hazel is so good at.

AILSA SMITH will be making our hall a little more presentable by adding a touch of greenery. Ailsa will also be checking on toilets to see that they are clean and tidy for our visitors.

TREVOR CULLEN will be running our Congress raffle with the help of the Fund Raising Committee. We have purchased a bottle Chivas Regal as 1st prize, 2nd prize will be a basket of chocolates made by one of our members, Val Cran and 3rd prize will be a bottle of port with our special label. We intend to sell tickets during our Congress to visitors and the raffle will be drawn during Sunday lunch. Members will have the opportunity of purchasing tickets during the month of May before the Congress starts.

Last but not least is PETER NOTTINGHAM, Treasurer who has to balance the books and try to show a profit at the end of the day.

The old saying of "Many hands make light work" is very true. If everyone does a bit, it spreads the work-load. Staging a congress gives our club credibility and announces that we are now truly part of the bridge scene. We have high standards that we are proud of - let's make sure we put on a memorable Congress.

Judy Valentine (Congress Convenor)

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BIDDING SEMINAR

The Seminars (Tuesday and Wednesday) were well attended this year with most of the regular club members present. Tuesday attracted 51 members and Wednesday night 28 members.

The subject matter recovered was "Balancing in Pairs" and feed-back has been favourable with most saying the Seminar threw light on this most difficult area of competitive bidding.

INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIP

The Individual Championship that was to be held on Wednesday night the 5th May has been cancelled. The large number of tables we are now attracting on Wednesday nights, makes it difficult to arrange a suitable and sensible movement.

SWISS TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP

Strong support from Tuesday members to hold a Teams Championship was approved by the Management Committee at their last meeting. To add variety to our programme, this event will be conducted as a Swiss Movement. This means instead of playing every team [a Round Robin], you play the team with the closest score to your own. The team with the highest score at the end of the 3 weeks is the winner. Teams may consist of 6 members and the event begins on Tuesday 6th July.

CLUB DIRECTORS

We are still looking for members to direct bridge sessions. As stated many times, you will get all the help you need from experienced directors. Please, please, give it a go!!