



# ARANA

## Contract Bridge Club Inc

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### Editor's desk

FIRST time Aranans at the QBA Gold Coast congress included Jan Rae and Kath Rooney who competed in the 0-149 masterpoint pairs. They were joined by Ailsa Smith and Lillian Kemp for the teams.

A welcome contribution in this issue from Bob Dancer who writes about his experience in last year's Arana congress. This year's congress ain't that far away either.

A good roll up for the '97 classes. Thanks to all who helped with publicity.

**Richard McLauchlan**

### Management committee

ITEMS of interest from the management committee meeting of 25 February include:

The investment account with the Bank of Qld now stands at \$130,000 for 6 months.

The Brisbane City Council will be approached for possible clubhouse sites.

Forrest Place retirement village has supplied bidding pads and will be approached for sponsorship of our congress. A flyer re bridge lessons was forwarded to them.

Welcome to new members Alan Free, Carmen Walker and Jill Ray.

### Gold Coast Gold

JAN Rae and Kath Rooney joined Helen and me in the restricted pairs (0-149 masterpoint) which attracted 30 tables at the QBA Gold Coast congress. Judy Valentine & Jessica Mortess and Val Acklin & Lorraine Fredericks were among the 12 sections contesting the open pairs.

Qualifying was kind to us, as we managed to win the opening session and finish second in the next to qualify top overall. Jan and Kath also had top half results to make the major final. Best in

the open field was the great effort from Val & Lorraine to qualify for the plate.

We played the ultimate winners in round 6 of the first final session. I remember it well because they were the only pair to bid board 1 to 6H.

1/ N/ Nil	8 7 6 2	
	Q J 5	
	10 8	
A 10 4	7 6 5 2	3
K 9 7		A 10 9 8 3
A Q 5		K J 3 2
10 8 4 3	K Q J 9 5	A K Q
	6 4 2	
	7 6 4	
	J 9	

Looks all very straight forward, doesn't it? Good Hs, Ds & Cs with a singleton S - no problem. Take another look. There are two H9s in the game. When dummy went down, declarer asked her to move the D9 back where it belonged (out of the Hs and into Ds). They had bid small slam on an a supposed 5-3 fit which was in fact 5-2. The suits all dropped kindly and the slam rolled in. Score 26-0 to them with most of the rest of the field in 3NT making 11.

After being well placed through the first 2 finals, we had a very ordinary last session. Even with some help from a Kath Rooney revoke, we could only manage 5th. Val & Lorraine found the plate much tougher, finishing just below average, a mighty effort given the class of the field.

One feature of the pairs was the number of boards where a trump lead seemed the best defence and we often led trumps to cut declarer's ruffing power. After 5 sessions of pairs, an ever increasing contingent of 212 teams went to battle in a 6 session (2 x 14 board matches) swiss.

Our first match featured a board with a 7-6 trump fit, both sides bidding to, and making, 7H. When Helen led a D, dummy won with a bare A

and declarer called for the trump 2. I discarded, declarer played the 3, dummy's jaw fell to the table, the floor and basement, and Helen also discarded. "That will be something to write about" said declarer, "the first round of trumps won by the 3!"

Board 20 in session 5 was instructive. Sitting W, Helen, who had been reading Marty Bergen's *Points Schmoints*, opened 1D (10 hcp + 8Ds + 2Hs = 20 opening points). N doubled and I bid 1H. S passed; Helen bid 3D and N bid 4S. At this point, I counted Helen's jump bid for 16 hcp which, with my 7 points, meant that N held a lot of Ss but a lot of side suit losers. I doubled!

20/ W/ All	A K Q 8 6 5 3	
	A 5	
	--	
7	A K 9 3	J 10 9 2
6 2		K Q J 8 4 3
A K Q 9 8 6 5 4		10
J 5	4	7 4
	10 9 7	
	J 7 3 2	
	Q 10 8 6 2	

With a natural trump trick, I should lead the HK every day of the week, but like half the field, I led the D10 and they made 12 tricks for 1190. That did not seem so bad with slam worth 1430, although the H lead keeps it to 11 tricks.

The other point about this board is that Marty Bergen would never open the W hand 1D, especially at teams. I am sure he would open at least 4, and probably 5D. Sure enough at the other table, W opened 5D and N had to guess. She bid 5S and made 12 on the D lead. While the S slam should be defeated, 7C makes on any lead but is very hard to find, especially after a high level pre-empt.

The Valentine team had some good results and alternated between the 2nd (top half of the field) and 4th (other half) floors. Most teams won around half of their 12 matches at 1.12 gold points per win for a tidy swag of gold. We are all going to do it again next year.

**Richard McLauchlan**

## Trick one tragedy

NOTHING like following a week's bridge at the Gold Coast with a swiss pairs at Buderim where Muriel Anderssen & Joan Sadleir and Vonnice Wallace & Margaret Joyce were also amongst the 36 table field. Most got a good start, Muriel and Joan going to table 5 for a couple of rounds. We too started nicely, but faltered on board 14.

14/ E/ Nil	A Q 3 2	
	K Q 8 5	
	Q 6 5 2	
7	9	K J 9 8 5
A 9 3		7
10 8 3		K J 9 4
J 8 7 6 5 2	10 6 4	10 4 3
	J 10 6 4 2	
	A 7	
	A K Q	

We bid to 4H after W overcalled my 1H opener with 2C (on quite a load of rubbish). With My C holding, W must have long weak clubs so his S7 lead had all the hallmarks of a singleton.

With losers in Ss, I decided to let W get his ruff on those losers and played low. E won the J and returned the S5 ruffed. I won the C return and led a H to the K and another to W's A. W now led a D to the 2 J A. With very few options, I led my top Cs, followed by all my trumps, trying to squeeze E. Unfortunately, dummy has to discard first so E simply discards in the same suit.

The 3 card ending saw dummy with SA SQ DQ while I held S6 H2 D7. On the last H, I threw the DQ and E followed with the DK, hoping I did not hold the D10. Still having to lose the SK, I was I down.

In retrospect, I blew it at trick 1. Win the SA and lead a trump to W's A. W cannot get into E's hand for a S lead and ruff. I win his C exit and clear trumps. Discard Ds on my Cs, take the DA and exit with a D to W who is now end played for a S trick or a D ruff and slough. Who said the most important trick is trick 1?

Not much excitement for Arana in the final results but it was a relaxing day compared to the previous week at the Gold Coast.

**Richard McLauchlan**

## Library update

NINE new library purchases include:

Master bridge	Nicola Gardener
Play better bridge with Rixi Markus	Rixi Markus
How to defend a bridge hand	William S Root
How to play a bridge hand	William S Root
Double trouble	Sally Horton
Step-by-step signalling	Mike Horton
50 more winning bridge tips	Ron Klinger
How to read your opponents cards	Mike Lawrence
Winning decisions in competitive bidding	Paul Marsden
	<b>Pam Horton</b>

## Congress blues

WITH Arana's congress rapidly approaching, I thought a few tales from last year's event might help get you into the mood. As always, the disasters make the most interesting tales and teach the best lessons. Here are two....

### *Brain fade*

It is early in the first qualifying session. My LSP (Long Suffering Partner) and I are playing a pair rated much higher than us. We are vul, they are not when this board arrives.

E/N-S	J 6		
	Q 8 2		
	A 8 6		
K 10 8 5 4 3 2	K 10 8 6 5	7	
A 5		7 6 4 3	
5 3 2		K J 9 7	
3	A Q 9	Q J 9 4	
	K J 10 9		
	Q 10 4		
	A 7 2		

East passes, I open 1NT, 3S on my left, 4C from LSP, and 4S on my right. Do I double or bid 4NT (to play, with no danger of being mistaken for Blackwood)? With the likelihood of a favourable lead and a good club fit, I decide on the latter and the 5S is led.

When dummy goes down, this all looks very promising and the SJ is a real bonus. If LHO has a 7 card suit, there can be no embarrassing S leads from my right and a 3-2 C split will make the contract almost lay down. Encouraged, I congratulate myself on the bidding and win the first trick with dummy's J. The C5 to my A is followed by the C2. Sadly, LHO shows out discarding a S as I play the 10 taken by RHO's J.

They have a double stop in Cs and things could get difficult. After some thought, LHO leads the D7 and I interpose the 10. It holds and I think hard about my next lead, bringing on an attack of the dreaded brain fade. Forgetting that the opposition are impotent if I duck another club, I lead the HJ won by LHO's A. He of course, leads Ds, not Ss, and I can no longer establish Cs.

Down 1 for a bottom where most others double the pre-empt. The sad thing is that once the D10 held, I had done all the hard work. If I had stuck to my original plan and kept RHO on lead, they were powerless.

### *Final round fatigue*

I regularly hear of players whose standard of play remains constant throughout, but they don't seem to be normal mortals. On the last round of the consolation 2 final, the current 2nd (us) and

3rd placegetters met. Not knowing that the leading pair were having a rough time, the result determined the ultimate winner.

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

Contract 3NT by E. S's opening lead was the C3 won by dummy's Q. Playing N, yours truly slumbered on and played the C7, potentially blocking partner's suit. Declarer led the DK, I played the 3 and E risked blocking this suit by playing the 8. S, also slumbering, withheld the A, finding the only way for declarer to clear the suit. (Best defence was to recognise that the suit was securely blocked, take the A and return a S to kill the likely entry).

[Ed: best offence was to lead a small D towards the J, but this contract is a wing and a prayer job anyway.]

At this point, the only player who had not erred was dummy. When the D10 forced the A, S still had a chance by leading a H, but A and another C saw declarer home with a top. The H lead would have been a killer if I had pitched a high C on trick 1. As is, a H to the A followed by the CJ will block the suit if E (luckily or with second sight) covers with the K, but this was still our best shot.

On the actual play, a bottom dropped us to 3rd while our opponents scored a well-deserved win. Anyone for tennis?

**Bob Dancer**

## Important dates

- Sat 30-31/3 BBC easter congress
- Sat 5-6/4 Qld teams trials (senior, youth)
- Tue 8/4 management committee meeting
- Sat 12-13/4 Gympie congress
- Sun 13/4 Director's course
- Sun 20/4 Northern Suburbs pairs
- Sun 27/4 ANZAC teams (QCBC)
- Wed 30/4 Australia-wide multi-pairs
- Sat 3-5/5 Toowoomba congress
- Sat 10/5 Surfers Paradise teams
- Sun 11/5 QCBC novice pairs
- Sat 17-18/5 Qld mixed pairs (Toowong)
- Sat 24-25/5 Caloundra congress