



ARANA

Contract Bridge Club Inc

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Editor's desk

THE hall air conditioning is finally up and running but not before some damage was done. With some sessions lost, several members visited other clubs for their weekly bridge game. Unfortunately, some decided to transfer their memberships to those clubs. I can't really blame them. An established clubhouse with carpets, kitchen staff, permanently set up tables etc is a big inducement.

On the subject of a clubhouse, the Brisbane city council has asked for an expression of interest in sites on the old Ferny Grove dump. The committee is checking out the area (site plan on notice board). The sooner a suitable site becomes available, the better. A proposed sporting complex seems based on outdoor sports, *eg* cricket, football, basketball, netball, tennis *etc*. That may not be entirely suitable for our needs but many sporting groups are interested. Parking also seems a problem.

The suggestion box is not being over-used, but all ideas for improving the club are welcome. The suggestion for a better looking suggestion box has been noted.

My own suggestions would be for more people to provide articles, points of view, items of interest, book reviews *etc* for the Trump-It. Another thought would be how can we attract new members and students. Should members letter box drop around their local area?

On the subject of students, the Wednesday night classes have been cancelled due to lack of numbers. Judy will try again later in the year so keep an eye out for any prospective customers.

Seems there was insufficient interest from the daytime players in the Australia-wide multi-pairs so a planned daytime session has been cancelled. You will have to come on the Wednesday night of 29 April if you want to participate.

Richard McLauchlan

Management committee

A NEW Year, a new committee and a lot of new ideas. Items of interest from the management committee meeting of 10 March include:

Welcome to two new members, Penny Barrs and Doug Little. We are happy to have you join us and wish you many successful bridge sessions.

Welcome and a grateful thank you to the new provedore - Carmel Steer.

Building plans - many sites are being looked at, both in regard to new construction and/ or the possible purchase of existing buildings. If and when anything really promising eventuates the membership will be kept informed via the Trump-It.

We are looking into the feasibility of assisted play sessions for newer players in the small room.

We strongly encourage all members to wear their name tags, not only for our own benefit but especially for the benefit of visitors.

A suggestion box has been created and will be kept at the front of the hall on the stage. All suggestions, ideas, or items of concern received will be addressed and responded to at the next committee meeting.

Darlene Smith (Secretary)

Important dates

- Sat 4-5/4 Qld seniors teams trials
- Sun 5/4 Redlands novice teams
- Sat 11-13/4 BBC pairs & teams
- Sat 18-19/4 Gympie congress
- Sun 19/4 Northern Suburbs swiss pairs
- Sat 25/4 Director's course (QCBC)
- **Wed 29/4 Aust-wide multi-pairs**
- Sat 2-4/5 Toowoomba congress
- **Wed 6-13-20/5 Gold KO teams**
- Sat 9/5 Surfers Paradise swiss teams
- Sat 16-17/5 Qld mixed pairs (Toowong)

Hazel Bitomsky

WE were all deeply saddened to hear of Hazel's death on 1 April. I was very privileged to have been her partner.

I had completed Judy's classes and ready to join the 'good players'. The Melbourne Cup was traditionally the day for this transition. Hazel Bitomsky was one of Arana's early members and I was fortunate to have been partnered with her on that day. We thoroughly enjoyed our first day's partnership and I was invited to become a permanent partner. That was about 8 years ago and as a bridge partner, Hazel epitomised Judy's slogan 'Partner is Perfect'.

Hazel was a wonderful confidante and over the years we shared many confidences about business and family. We each knew our discussions would go no further. I know other members would have shared this special quality. It never occurred to me to wonder how old Hazel was; she had such a young outlook. I learned of her age only after I heard she had died.

As I write this contribution, I am filled with enormous emotion for a gentle beautiful woman who never had an unkind word to say, always had a warm greeting for anyone who joined our table, displayed perfect bridge etiquette, and was aptly asked to welcome our club's visitors.

I am sure all Arana members and friends will remember Hazel for her lovely smile and warm friendly nature and join with me in extending our heartfelt sympathies to Ron, Marilyn, Greg and their families.

Deborah Dwyer

Hesitation

A RECENT article in the Directors' Bulletin (1997, 16: 9) covered hesitation in the bidding. This is an area that can cause problems for directors and players alike.

Take the scenario where partner thinks, almost bids, thinks again, puts pencil to bidding slip, withdraws, thinks and finally passes. Right hand opponent passes and you hold:

(a) A K 3 J 10 9 7 K J 8 2 A 4

(b) J 8 2 K 10 7 A 5 4 Q 10 9 6

Partner obviously has something (perhaps a marginal 1 level opening, or weak 2 or 3 preempt), but all that hesitation amounts to unauthorised information, so should you bid?

Hand (a): unequivocally yes. You have enough to substantiate a bid and 100% of the field (barring those who miscount) would bid.

Hand (b): you are on dangerous ground if you open. You can support any change of suit from partner (assuming she does have some values) but you are not entitled to bid on that basis. The majority of the field would not open, even in third seat, and the board may well be passed out.

There is not necessarily anything wrong with bidding after partner has hesitated, provided you can justify it. Law 16 covers unauthorised information and partly says 'After a player makes available to his partner extraneous information... by means of a remark, a question, or by unmistakable hesitation, unwonted speed,... partner may not choose from among logical alternatives, one that could reasonably have been suggested by the extraneous information'.

The ABF has instructed directors to apply the '75% rule' in such circumstances, *ie* if 75% of players of the same standard would have taken the same action, then that action is Ok.

A Q 10 9 7 2 A Q J 9 5 4 3

As dealer and non-vul in a teams match, you hold the above hand and open 1S. LHO bids 3D (vul) showing 5+D & 11-15 hcp, and partner thinks for 10 seconds before passing. RHO passes. Now what? Pass, X, 3S, or 4S? With 6 losers non-vul, you could have opened 4S (good teams tactics), so you duly make that bid now. RHO calls the director to establish partner's hesitation. You make 4S and the director is called again; partner had:

5 4 3 10 6 2 A 6 3 Q J 10 6

He has checked the board and suggests the contract should be 3D, down one for +100. You appeal. He accepts that 3S making 10 for +170 is reasonable. You try to convince the director that partner's hesitation had no bearing on your bid. He accepts that, but says he believes that 75 % of the field would not bid 4S and will not allow the 420 score to stand (he may have if you held S A-Q-J rather than A-Q-10).

Partner (everyone) is entitled to thinking time, especially after an unusual bid. He did nothing wrong (although a quicker pass or 3S bid would have alleviated the problem). Your bid was based solely on your hand, not partner's hesitation, and seemed reasonable. However the director has little option under the 75% rule.

If you feel you have been disadvantaged by any player's hesitation, call the director to establish the facts and preserve your rights. No one is being accused of cheating. You may be subconsciously influenced by hesitation, but the director has the final say. Strive to bid and play at the same tempo.

Richard McLaughlan

Best bridge books

THE American Contract Bridge League surveyed expert players and writers in 1994 to name the best 20 bridge books written on bridge. Several of these are in our library. While many of these books relate to 4 card ACOL systems rather than 5 card Standard American, they still contain a wealth of information on bidding, playing and defending. Some are an easy read, some are quite difficult, others are humorous. The top 20 list (* indicates a copy is in our library) is:

1. Why you lose at bridge. S.J. Simon
2. Killing defence at bridge. H. Kelsey *
3. Right through the pack. R. Darvas, N.deV. Hart
4. Reese on play. T Reese *
5. Bridge in the menagerie. V. Mollo *
6. To bid or not to bid. L. Cohen *
7. Adventures in card play. G. Ottlik, H. Kelsey *
8. The expert game. T. Reese *
9. Defensive bridge play complete. E. Kantar *
10. Play bridge with Reese. T. Reese
11. How to read your opponents cards. M. Lawrence *
12. Card play technique. N. Gardener & V. Mollo
13. Five weeks to winning bridge. A. Sheinwold
14. Bid better, play better. D. Truscott *
15. Bridge squeezes complete. C. Love
16. Matchpoints. K. Woolsey *
17. Bridge with the blue team. P. Forquet
18. The official encyclopedia of Bridge. H. Francis
19. All 52 cards. M. Miles
20. The play of the hand at bridge. L. Watson

Gold Coast 98

A SMALL contingent of Aranans contested an ever-increasing QBA Gold Coast congress. At pairs, Judy Valentine & Jessica Mortess and Helen & I entered the open, while Jan Rae & Kath Rooney contested the restricted (0-149 masterpoints) section.

Qual 1 was a stinker for all of us, E-W generally having no cards, or finding rotten trump breaks and losing finesses when we did manage to play a hand. Qual 2 was better; our main claim to fame was clobbering Grosvenor-Richman, the ultimate pairs winners, for 500 after bidding of 1H X 4H X.

Consigned to con 3 (of 7), we had an ordinary start but gradually worked our way up the field.

With one round to go, we were 7th and due to play the leaders who really choked on board 9.

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

Helen opened 2S (a weak 2 suiter), E doubled, I bid 4S and again E doubled. Holding all 4 aces, EW should put us off, but E got hung up on ruffing a D. He led the DA and D8 won in dummy. He won the SK lead and tried to get into W's hand by underleading his HA. Helen won the HQ, finessed against the SJ and made 10. Our 63-15 win cost them first place and helped us to 5th.

Meanwhile, Jan and Kath were fighting out the restricted plate. They won one session and ended up in 2nd spot which was worth some cash and gold mps. Judy and Jessica were just practising for the teams (with Pam Horton & Jenny Lewis).

Betty Willson, Julie Cutmore, Joyce Rosser & Joan Sargent formed another team. Helen & I partnered Robyn Kelly and Pat Mackie, the 2 ladies from Sydney we were teamed up with in 1996. Last year we didn't quite make it off the 4th (also-rans) down to the 2nd (top half) floor, so this year I insisted we try harder to get downstairs. Along with Judy's team, we managed that after a few wins but promptly hit:

4/ All/ W	A Q 10 8 4 3	W N E S
	6	1D 2S X /
	10 3	3H / 4H
7 6 5	9 7 4 2	9 2
Q J 7 5		A 10 9 8 3
A K Q 4		J 5
J 8	K J	A Q 10 3
	K 4 2	
	9 8 7 6 2	
	K 6 5	

This was the first board of the match against 2 complete strangers. After I (E) doubled N's weak 2S bid, S (with heavy glasses and not too good eyesight) picked up Helen's system card, squinted at it and asked 'are you playing better minor or what?' 'Short club'; 'Oh short club, Ok'. We duly bid the heart game and N led the C9.

I would like to report that Helen won the CA, played the HA, DJ, DA, DK (discard S), DQ (discard S) and made 11, losing HK, CK. But in

real life the C finesse lost to S who led SK; SJ to N's A; another S ruffed with the 10 and over-ruffed saw us 1 down. I pointed out to S that his question about Helen's D opening was quite improper. He had no intention whatsoever of bidding at any stage. If he really wanted to know, he should have waited until his partner had selected his lead card. His question could be construed as prompting for a C lead (which could have given us the beatable contract).

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

We lasted 2 matches on the 2nd floor before being unceremoniously marched back upstairs while Judy's team remained downstairs. One wild board (9) we struck was reported by Tony Jackman in his *Courier Mail* column.

No need to reach for a calculator, there are 30 hcp in my (E) hand. At our table, N passed and I opened 2C (maximum 4 losers or 23+ balanced), expecting a 2D negative (less than 8 hcp), then 3NT showing 25+ (then 4S 6S?). Not so... S tried 2Nt (minors) passed round to me. My **double** (S is a minimum 5 down on any lead) drew 3C, pass, pass, 3Nt, making 12.

One E I met opened 4NT (ace ask), 5C, 5NT, 6C (no aces/ no kings, what a surprise), 6NT (was he going to bid 7NT if W held the missing K?) and went off! Tony reported that **North** opened 1H, X, 4H, /, /, X. E led trumps holding them to 3 tricks and -1700. N said he hadn't psyched for years and probably wouldn't psyche again for many more.

The traditional dinner dance to end the week seemed a bit flat this year but was still good fun. We'll be back again next year.

Richard McLauchlan