



# ARANA

## *Contract Bridge Club Inc*

April-May 2017

Vol 31 No 2

### From the President



WE are now in May and the club continues to grow. The lessons that started in March are attended by more than 20 persons who want to learn to play Bridge. Please make them welcome when they start playing at our weekly sessions.

Trish Lye has joined the committee as our new Secretary. We welcome Trish who brings a lot of experience with her. The committee has decided that we will hold monthly meetings on the second Friday morning of the month.

Phil Chappel as the marketing committee member had a great success with a radio interview with the ABC Saturday morning show which resulted in several new people deciding to attend the lessons .

Dawn Benes is organising and directing the Australia-Wide Novice Pairs on Wednesday the 31st of May. Players with less than 50 points can play and for those not registered for the event, regular play will also be available. Our club will host the GNOT zone final this year and the Arana Congress is on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of June. Alan Norman again requests assistance in food donations and help on the 2 days.

At the moment we are getting several quotes for maintenance and improvements for our clubhouse. We have applied for a grant for a new airconditioning system and as soon as we have confirmation we will go ahead. As a result of the kitchen improvements we now store all the consumables in the kitchen plus the tablecloths.

Please consult the website to follow the latest updates and read the committee minutes to follow what is done for the club so everyone can enjoy their Bridge.

**Robert van Beest (President)**

### Masterpoint Movements

NEW rankings for Arana home club members for the period to 31st March 2017

Graduate	Yvonne Stalling Kathleen Fahy
Local Master	Bruce Hutson Philip Saunders
*Local Master	Ben Ludik Mike Le Voi
Regional Master	Ivo Giacheri Maureen Pears
*Regional Master	Jim Webster
State Master	Carol Bellis
*State Master	Trish Lye
National Master	Marion Richardson
	<b>Robert Matthew (MP Sec)</b>

### New Members

The following members have recently joined the club. A warm welcome to them all. My apologies if I have missed any. (ed.)

Eva Manathy,	Judy Carr, (again)
Pam Wheatley,	Gayle Boddice,
Tony Boddice,	Helen Hornibrook.
Jack Griffiths,	Di Griffiths

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## Jo Mammen - a look at my life Part 1

I was born in England in the middle of WW2. In the first 2 years of my life my mother, my older brother and I moved 18 times criss-crossing the length and breadth of the country, following my father's postings with the RAF. At my kindergarten I remember singing 'Kookaburra sits in the Old Gum Tree'. I learnt that kookaburras live in Australia, which was then one of the big pink splotches on the globe, but I wondered how a bird could laugh.

In 1947 we moved to Germany where my father was with the post-war Control Commission. My first brush with bridge was at the Beehive Club, which was then at the centre of my parents' social life. I was not at all interested in the cards, but rather in the chocolate éclairs served at tea time. It was a time of upheaval in Germany with the division into West and East becoming a political reality in 1948. We lived quite close to the border and I have vivid memories of straggling groups of refugees passing along our street. On one occasion our maid passed a hunk of bread spread with jam outwards through the letter flap in the front door to a wild looking man outside, whom I could see through the glass panels.

We returned in late 1949 to an austere England still recovering from war, with food rationing continuing well into the 1950s. My parents started a small private (unlicensed) hotel in a seaside resort on the south coast. Think: Fawlty Towers! But we did not have Manuel to help. All the family had to pitch in. I enjoyed using the heavy rotary iron, but hated all the washing up. My father used to categorise our guests as various forms of peas: 'fresh peas', 'tinned peas', 'mushy peas', 'peas in the pod', etc, while the really nice ones were 'sweet peas'. I was 9 when I saw my first movie at the local cinema: it was 'Where No Vultures Fly'. Later in my life I was to stay at the lodge where the filming had taken place.

The hotel was sold due to my mother's poor health, and my father took up poultry farming. We moved to the country, and I was now heaving bags of chicken food and shovelling s\*\*\*. The daily journey to school was by bicycle, train and foot. We had no holidays as a family. A highlight of these school years was a language exchange programme that I took part in with a German girl. On the outward journey to Germany the train was very late, arriving at 3am. My host family was not there to meet me. The station quickly

became deserted and it seemed an eternity before a Railway Policeman took me under his wing, and I was marched through the dark, deserted streets to the address I showed him. I spent a month with my German family. Everything stopped daily for Kaffee Trinken (Drinking Coffee) at what I called Tea Time. Coffee beans were ground by hand in a little wooden grinder, and every day there was a rich creamy cake. Luxury.

School years rolled into university years. In between I took my first job, for 6 months teaching girls with disabilities, who were living in a hospital environment. Student years were fun. I found myself often travelling in Europe in the holidays, with one friend or another. We called it Youth Hostelling, now it is Back-Packing. I hiked in the Alps; went skiing; got around Greece using a wide variety of transport, including hitching rides across the Aegean Sea on a grain carrier and a luxury yacht; slept in the luggage rack on the train through communist Yugoslavia to avoid lecherous locals drunk on slivovitz; slept on restaurant tables and in a goat byre; rode a Vespa scooter through 7 countries with our luggage packed in a parachute bag (purloined by my father from the Luftwaffe), sometimes one of us walking behind the 125cc scooter up steep hills. One summer I got a job in Switzerland selling watches to tourists in a dodgy backstreet shop. On these trips, I would visit the main tourist attractions, and always as many museums and art galleries as possible. My travel was funded by Christmas jobs in the Post Office and waitressing - and more waitressing.

(To be continued)

**Jo Mammen**

## Congratulations

Arana's winning team at the Sunshine Coast Graded Teams (Grade C) on Sunday March 26 is pictured below. From the left, Carol Bellis, Cynthia Sharpe, Robyn Grills and Jenny Walker.



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## Directors' Corner

THE usual time allowed for play of a board is six minutes. This means that the clock will be set at 18 minutes [sometimes 19 minutes] for a 3 board round, and 24 minutes [sometimes 25 minutes] for a 4-board round.

To give players a warning, a **2-minute bell** sounds, and it is expected that **a bid, or call** [pass] **should be written** on the bidding sheet by this bell, to allow the game to continue.

By **the second warning bell, for the final minute**, there **should be a card faced**, for play to commence. At this time the clock will be counting down in 2-second intervals.

There will be times, perhaps with less experienced players, or even those taking a little extra time for a slam bid, or where the director has been called to a table, when the board may run overtime; hopefully the table can make this up during the following rounds. However, it is frustrating for a pair to be following a very slow pair throughout the session, and they find themselves to be constantly waiting around.

At this time the Director may remind the slow players of the need to keep within the set times, and if slow play does continue, the **Director may request that, if it happens again, a 0 be entered into the Bridgmate, and the hand be passed in.** When you receive a *0 not played* you will be automatically awarded the percentage at which you are running for the session

**Robyn Grills (Director)**

## More from Directors

*Further to the above, the following is relevant to maintaining timely play. (ed.)*

If you are to make the opening lead – the lead **MUST** be your priority.

If you have other tasks, like entering the details to the Bridgmate or writing on your personal scorer, you **MUST** make your lead first.

Same applies to dummy if they are on Bridgmate duty – please spread dummy before fiddling with the Bridgmate.

**Dawn Benes (Director)**

**Editor:** Michael Walker ph 3359 8907

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

## Name badges for Club

\$10 PER BADGE

To order:- please place correct payment & preferred name in a sealed envelope. in the wooden box on front counter.

*Many thanks*

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## ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ Is Better Minor Better? ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

*(Mike Le Voi has brought his training as a Statistician to this analysis of an oft-discussed matter. (ed.))*

BRIDGE literature emphasises that accurate bidding and clear communication gives partners a winning advantage. When you bid an opening hand in a major suit, your partner knows the minimum number of cards you hold in that suit. A problem arises when you have an opening hand but no 5-card major and no 4-card minor and you have insufficient HCPs to open in No Trumps. When that happens, there are two standard conventions for solving the problem:

### 1 Better Minor

With no 4-card minor, bid the better minor. This will always be a minimum of 3 cards.

### 2 Short Club

Only bid 1♦ when you have 4 or more ♦. In all other cases, bid 1♣. This may mean that 1♣ has as few as 2 ♣. This article will show you that Better Minor is preferable to Short Club because the bidder can communicate more certainty as to the shape of the hand. This improved communication improves the partner's chances of finding a fit, or not, at the lowest possible bidding level.

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## Hand Distribution Probability

There are many combinations of hands, ranging from 4-3-3-3 (balanced) to 13-0-0-0 (unbalanced). Using probability theory, it can be shown that distributions ranging from 4-3-3-3 to 7-5-1-0 account for 99.5% of all hands. The web page for these probability tables is given below:

[http://www.bridgehands.com/P/Probability\\_Hand\\_Distribution.htm](http://www.bridgehands.com/P/Probability_Hand_Distribution.htm)

I have made an analysis of these tables and it shows that we can expect that 35% of all hands will have a 5-card major and 65% of the hands can only be opened as a minor or as No Trump. At first sight, it would appear to be a 50/50 choice whether you choose Better Minor or Short Club. However, the choice is more complicated than this.

There are only 2 hand shapes without a 5 card major that do not contain a 4 card minor: 4-3-3-3 and 4-4-3-2. With 4-3-3-3, there is a 50% probability that you will have a 4-card minor. With 4-4-3-2, there is an 83% probability that you will have a 4-card minor.

You do not have the problem of a 3-card minor when you bid a Strong No Trump or an artificial bid like 2♣. Most people bid a Strong No Trump/2♣ when they have 15-17 or 20+ HCP, but this occurs only 18% of the time. So, 82% of the time you will have 12-14 or 18-19 HCP. When we combine all these probabilities together, we can derive the following table:

Opening Hands	%	Comment
5-card major, 12-14 or 18-19 HCP	28.7%	
5-card major, 15-17 or 20+ HCP	6.3%	Possible NT Opening or very strong
<b>4-3-3-3 minor, 12-14 or 18-19 HCP</b>	<b>4.3%</b>	
4-3-3-3 minor, 15-17 or 20+ HCP	0.9%	NT Opening or very strong
<b>4-4-3-2 minor, 12-14 or 18-19 HCP</b>	<b>3.0%</b>	
4-4-3-2 minor, 15-17 or 20+ HCP	0.6%	NT Opening or very strong
4-card+ minor, 12-14 or 18-19 HCP	46.1%	
4-card+ minor, 15-17 or 20+ HCP	10.1%	NT Opening or very strong
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	

Using Better Minor, let us now assume that partnership agreement is to bid 4-3-3-3 hands as 1♣ **unless** the ♣ cards are very weak e.g. ♦AKQ and ♣432. If the cards are more like ♦AK10 and ♣Q73, always bid 1♣. You can assume that this will be true almost all of the time. Therefore, almost the only time you will bid 1♦ with less than 4 cards is with 4-4-3-2 (3♦ and 2♣). This type of hand only occurs 3.2% of the time when opening in ♦.

So, using these probabilities, we can state that when bidding a minor suit using Better Minor, one can expect the following:

### Opening 1♣

3-card 1♣ 12-14 or 18-19 HCP	12.6%
4-card+ 1♣ 12-14 or 18-19 HCP	87.4%

### Opening 1♦

3-card 1♦ 12-14 or 18-19 HCP	3.2%
4-card+ 1♦ 12-14 or 18-19 HCP	96.8%

If you play Better Minor with the above partnership agreement, in almost all cases you will be holding 4 or more cards in the minor suit when you open 1♣ or 1♦. For this reason, you should always be using Better Minor rather than Short Club.

**Mike Le Voi**

16/03/2017

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