



ARANA

Contract Bridge Club Inc

August-September 2013

Vol 27 No 4

From the President



BRIDGE! Some of you play it very well, some of us play it very badly. The one certainty is that without Directors none of us would be playing it at all. The Director's job is often a difficult one. It takes a lot of study to learn the plethora of regulations covering our game. A lot of attention has to be paid to setting up correct movements and then there are the often frequent interruptions to the Director's own game. These are all unavoidable facts of the Director's bridge life. It is also sometimes a thankless task. That is avoidable. Our Directors are all volunteers and we should all be constantly grateful for their efforts. That gratitude should not be forgotten just because they make a mistake. We all make mistakes and Directors are no different. When that happens we need to remain understanding and sympathetic. This should be a constant, but is even more important when we have inexperienced Directors in action. At that time we need to add patience to our gratitude. The inexperienced Director will be trying very hard to get everything right and in many cases it will take them a lot longer than their more experienced colleagues. Any sign of impatience from players will only put them under more pressure and either delay them

further or make them more prone to error. Always remember that if Directors are seen to be getting a hard time then our chances of getting new recruits to the ranks diminish appreciably. Let's make Arana a club where our Directors feel really appreciated.

Wednesday the 31st July saw the introduction of our new daytime session. As with our other daytime sessions play commences at 9.30AM with all players to be seated no later 9.15AM. This session is one where you may come either with or without a partner. Those who come without a partner will be paired off on arrival. The Director will act as a standby, so everyone will get a game. This is an ideal opportunity for anyone who does not have a regular partner. You can come along, play with different partners, and if you find someone you are really comfortable with then you can form a regular partnership if so desired.

Happy Bridging.

Allan McIntyre (President)

Tony's Tip

The Backward Finesse

The backward finesse is a valuable type of finesse used for the purpose of keeping one of the opponents, "the danger hand", out of the lead. This play is not made to gain a trick, as is the case with the normal finesse. In fact, you expect the backward finesse to lose a trick to avoid an opponent marked with a number of winning tricks getting on lead.

♣ K J 10 9

♣ A 4 3 2

The finesse can be taken either of two ways. Lead the 2 and insert the 9 if West plays low. Or lead the J and let it run if East plays low. Either play has a 50/50 chance of success. The way you play depends on which hand you wish to keep out of the lead if the finesse loses. It is called backward (or reverse) because it is taken not in the usual way.

	♠ K752	
	♥ 76	
	♦ A83	
♠ QT4	♣ J765	♠ J986
♥ KQJT5		♥ 943
♦ Q73		♦ T4
♣ 82	♠ A3	♣ QT94
	♥ A82	
	♦ KJ962	
	♣ AK3	

You are south playing in 3NT and east leads ♥K. You hold up, taking the Ace on the third round. You need only 4 diamond tricks to make 9 tricks. You are willing to give up a diamond trick immediately to secure the remaining 4. West is marked as the danger hand because of his established hearts. You must therefore play the ♦J from hand and let it run if West plays low. You are happy to let East win the trick as he is now void of hearts. You will note that on this distribution you will actually win all 5 diamond tricks.

However if west held Q10x, no play will work, as he will cover the J with the Q and the 10 is promoted. But again east may hold Q10 alone, so you must play for the 10 to drop on the second round.

Where the opponents cards are 3/2, there is a big advantage in playing the backward finesse. And you will recall from a previous article that when the opponents hold 5 cards of a suit the more likely distribution will be 3/2 rather than 4/1.

Tony Agar

Tony's Friday Lessons

Tony Agar will recommence his Friday lessons on the 2nd of August at 9 am, followed a week later on the 9th. Thenceforth they will be on the first and second Fridays of each month at 9 am, before 10 am play.

Wednesday Play Commences

See the President's Report for details of Wednesday play. It will start on July 31st and continue weekly.

Raffle Winner

The raffle for the rug was drawn Tues, July 9. The winner was Robyn Lander who bought the winning ticket at Thursday social play. \$393.50 was raised for the club. Many thanks to Jean Stone once again for donating this beautiful hand crocheted rug.

Masterpoint movements

NEW rankings for Arana home club members for the period to 30th June 2013

Graduate Master	Robert Winders
Club Master	Barbara Gannon
Local Master	Michael Walker Gerri Hodgson
*Local Master	Cynthia Sharp
**Local Master	Ed Choroszynski Joyce Maris Jim Webster
Regional Master	Gabriel Boross Mary Carton Gillian Lycette
State Master	Charles Chambers Susan Kennard

Robert Matthew (MP Sec)

Dawn Benes – Director

Dawn sat the Directors exam on June 22 and was made a Director in July. The exam is difficult and we congratulate Dawn for her achievement. She will commence directing the new Wednesday morning sessions, with Lorraine Steele doing Bridgemate magic.

My Country Practice (by David Backstrom)

Mary and I were married in January 1959 and I started my first general practice in March 1959 at Pomona - a one solo general practice town - in those days medically reasonably isolated. There was a small private hospital at Cooroy -

9 km south, and public hospitals at Nambour and Gympie - both about 40 km away.

My surgery was a separate building in the back yard of our house. There was a pathology technician in Gympie and I had my own portable x-ray machine which was suitable for taking x-rays of limbs and for some chests. There were no mobile phones and there was a manual exchange at the Post Office. If we left the house, we would let the telephonist know where we were going, so that calls could be "diverted". This was, in fact, against PMG regulations! Later on, I bought one of the first answering machines. I organised a blood bank - collecting blood from "volunteers" one night a month and putting the blood donations on the early morning train to the Blood Bank in Brisbane. Mary did the nursing procedures, and when I was very sick and confined to bed with chicken-pox, she saw my ante-natal patients. When I was a bit improved I did a few consultations in my bedroom!

I saw patients one afternoon a week at Kin Kin - in the CWA hall. Later I did the same at Cooran. I drove to Boreen Point on Wednesday morning to make house calls to the patients wanting one. They let the local postmistress know and I would collect the list from her. They were mostly gravel roads, and one day on the way to Boreen Point, I changed one wheel after a puncture, and on the way home had another puncture and had to flag down the cream truck to hitch a ride back to Pomona. Four of us drove to Cooroy on Saturday afternoon to play golf at the pleasant 9-hole course there. I had an arrangement with the Cooroy taxi-driver that Mary (who had to stay at home to take calls) would ring him if I was needed, and he would drive to the course and blow his horn. I eventually gave that away because I was called away so often. About 12 months later my two sisters-in-law visited us one long week-end and suggested a game of golf. We arrived on the first green and I was called away - a boy had fallen and suffered a supracondylar fracture of his humerus - I had to go to the hospital to fix him up.

Unhappy memories - a woman committed suicide by shooting herself on a back road. The police contacted me and I arrived on the scene first - at 1 am - a bit stressful in the dark! On another occasion a 14 year-old boy shot himself in the head accidentally, leaning over a rifle in a box.

On a happier note, I had my one and only experience of domiciliary obstetrics when a woman, who had been attending the Gympie Public Hospital and was not my patient, went into early labour (her 3rd or 4th) late one night and decided to wait until morning - but the baby decided otherwise. I received a frantic phone call about 5 am. I was not prepared for such an event but duly delivered the baby, and then, in retrospect rather stupidly sent them on to the hospital. There was no real need, but I am sure Mum would have appreciated a few days' "holiday". In those days, obstetrics was a pleasant and rewarding integral part of general practice.

Being on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week is a strain - as is doing night calls and then doing a normal day's work the next day - but that goes with the territory. I often wonder if our hard-working politicians, on waking, routinely check if their phone is working if it has not rung during the night!!!

We had a happy social life in Pomona. No baby-sitters - we all took our young babies and children - for card nights at friends' houses, progressive dinner parties, etc. We made life-time friends. I was on most committees in town - a habit I continued in Brisbane. Mary was treasurer of the Kindergarten (25 cents per child per half-day!) and, of course a member of the CWA.

We have many happy memories, and a few sad ones of our time in Pomona. I often wonder why people think living in a small country town would be the end of the earth. Little time wasted getting to and from work - more leisure time. Our house was never locked; the ignition key was never taken out of the car. When the Anglicans had their planned-giving dinner, the Catholic nuns minded the children; and when the Catholics held theirs, the Anglican and

Methodists mothers did the same - ecumenism before anybody knew of that word.

I am eternally grateful - medically, socially and experience-wise in many ways for our 6 years in Pomona.

Trivia (So called because it doesn't matter if the quote is true or false!)

A cat has 32 muscles in each ear.

A goldfish has a memory span of 3 seconds.

A shark is the only fish that can blink with both eyes.

A snail can sleep for three years.

Vale

Alison Fulwood

Les Gilson

Kath Downs

Jennifer Jenkins

It is with sadness that we note the passing of these people.

Alison will be remembered as being always a happy and bright person.

Les played at the club till recently and was well liked. Les was Val Cran's brother-in-law.

Kath played at Arana until 2009, when following a fall, she disappeared from the Arana bridge tables. She was a School Teacher at Grovely State Primary School, for some years, during 1970's/1980's.

Jennifer played at Caloundra before joining Arana and played here with Jo Quinn from July 2011 till recently.

Changes to the ABF Alert Procedures

As of **August 1st 2013** there will be two significant changes to the current alerting procedures and both of these changes will have an impact upon the average club player.

The first is that when a player opens the bidding with 1♣, his partner will no longer need to alert it. This is irrespective of whether the 1♣ opening is natural or conventional. Instead the responder will be required to make a prescribed statement (otherwise termed an 'announcement').

The actual 'announcement' required will vary depending upon the nature of the 1♣ bid:

- For natural (Green) systems; the appropriate minimum length of the club suit (i.e., 2+, 3+, 4+, etc.) should be announced.
- For Strong Club (Blue) systems; the word "Strong" together with the minimum HCP holding (e.g. "16+") should be announced.
- For system options other than those above (e.g. a Polish 1♣); the word "Unusual" should be used.

The second area where an announcement will be required is after any natural 1NT opening. The responder will now be obligated to state:

- The appropriate HCP range (e.g. "12-14" or "15-17" etc.).

All such announcements will need to be made consistently in the prescribed manner. Alternative designations or terminologies should not be used.

It is the responsibility of the Responder to make the announcement whenever their partner opens either 1♣ or 1NT. Either call will now trigger the prescribed announcement, or in the case of a conventional 1♣, the announcement will replace the current requirement to alert. These are the only two calls that will lead to an announcement, the Alert Regulations remain unchanged in respect of all other actions.

After any announcement, the opponents will still be able to ask supplementary questions, however hopefully the basic information already conveyed will obviate much of that need. A side benefit of this new approach is that many of the problems currently created due to inopportune (and sometimes pointed) enquiries will now disappear.

Announcements have been used in both England and the United States for a number of years and it is felt that the above application of the same approach will also be beneficial in Australia.

(Provided by Richard McLauchlan)

<p>Editor: Michael Walker ph. 3359 8907 Email: mandjwalker@tpg.com.au Contributions may be by email (preferred) or by placing a note in the ideas box at the clubhouse.</p>
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