

ARANA CONTRACT BRIDGE CLUB

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EDITORIAL

No doubt about the members of the Arana Contract Bridge Club - they certainly know how to put on a great Christmas Party. Me, I am still trying to lose the 4 lbs I put on from indulging in the delicious array of goodies at both the Tuesday and Wednesday parties.

Both Christmas break-ups were well attended and I am sure all members enjoyed themselves. The traditional "draw for partners" added to the light-hearted atmosphere of the break-up and we all extend our congratulations to those who took home the champagne.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking members for the lovely gift of a portable vacuum cleaner and gift voucher on Bookworld. For those who did not see, I bought the "Complete Works of Shakespeare". I thank you all most sincerely for your kind thoughts.

J. Valentine
(Editor)

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BIDDING SEMINAR

This Seminar which was set down for March has had to be changed due to my being away at this time. Please note that the new date set down for this Seminar is now -

23rd April, 1989

I apologise for any inconvenience I may cause members.

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BEGINNERS CLASSES

Due to the size of the room, we are forced to restrict the numbers in beginners classes. Any person wishing to enter these classes must give their name to Judy. Please note that the Tuesday class is now full, however, there is still room in the Wednesday night class. Beginners classes start on the following dates -

Tuesday - 7th March, 1989

Wednesday - 8th March, 1989

BOOK REVIEW by Deslei Den Haan

"MURDER AT THE BRIDGE TABLE" by Matthew Granovetter.

If you are into tongue-in-cheek whodunits and would like to learn some bridge at the same time, I strongly recommend "Murder at the Bridge Table".

Matthew Granovetter is a New York bridge teacher and book writer with a passion for Agatha Christie and apparently reads that illustrious author while playing dummy to his students - or so he says - but in this book there is a lot that is not quite what the author says.

Marcel Moskowitz was found dead in his hotel room after a night of duplicate bridge. Clutched in his hand was 21 funny looking diagrams which turned out to be the list of hands from the previous night's game. From this list it is soon obvious that Marcel must have been the world's worst bridge player and his long suffering partner had done the deed - but did he or she do it? And who really was his partner.....

Interwoven throughout this spoof is an analysis of the hands and a few others are thrown in for good measure.

I found the bidding sometimes a little difficult to follow but God knows I'm far from being the world's best bidder! The playing of the hands is extremely well explained and analyse.

It was my noble intention to do the hands as I read through the book but soon the mystery was so absorbing that I forgot all about the hands and raced through the book to see who had killed Marcel. When my curiosity was satisfied I dutifully reread the book and did the hands.

Perhaps the bidding is too difficult for beginners but everyone should enjoy the story and learn a few hints along the way - like being a perfect bridge partner or else.....

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CARD COMBINATION

How would you play this card combination? A Q 10 opposite x x x

Your correct play is low towards the 10 - if opponent plays low insert the 10.

(a) A Q 10

x x x x K J x
x x x

(b) A Q 10

K x x x J x x
x x x

(c) A Q 10

J x x x K x x
x x x

(d) A Q 10

K J x x x x x
x x x

(a) You have to lose 2 tricks no matter what card is inserted.

(b) You have 1 trick to lose no matter what card is inserted.

(c) You have 1 trick to lose no matter what card is inserted.

(d) This is where you gain if you always play this combination correctly.

If you insert the queen in the first instance you **WILL** lose a trick as when you play low towards the A 10 on the next play, West retains the K and J to force your ace.