



ARANA

Contract Bridge Club Inc

February-March 2013

Vol 27 No 1

From the President



THIS is my last report as president of the Arana Contract Bridge Club and I would like to thank all of those members who have contributed to the ongoing success of the club. The committee has been very active in ensuring that the club facilities have been maintained at a very high standard and that members can play competitive bridge in a comfortable, relaxed and friendly environment. The club also prospers because so many members volunteer to carry out the myriad of other tasks that are required to ensure the smooth running not only of each regular session of play but also of the major events that the club hosts each year.

The Christmas party reflected the strength and character of the club with more than 100 members attending. The choir was again excellent and a great time was had by all. The New Year's Eve games night was attended by a small but hardy group who well reflected the party atmosphere of the occasion.

The Club's AGM will be held at 9am on Tuesday 19th February 2013 before play, and the president and vice-president positions are both vacant. All members are requested to give careful consideration to nominating for these and other committee positions.

Val Acklin (President)

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

Masterpoint movements

NEW rankings for Arana home club members as at 31 December 2012

****Local Master** *Janet McPherson*

Regional Master *Pam Ryan*

***Regional Master** *Charles Chambers*

Robert Matthew (MP Sec)

Tony's Tip

Forcing Declarer to Ruff

AS a general rule it is good practice to throw the lead into the declarer's hand whenever it is possible to do so. The best way to accomplish this is to lead some suit in which declarer's own hand is void. This reduces his trumps and weakens his control accordingly. In one sense it is a negative play in that you are not trying to develop tricks of your own. However frequently there are times when you are in doubt as to what card to play, thus putting declarer on lead solves the problem for you. The rewarding thing is that the play costs you nothing and very often gains something. If the declarer is forced to ruff often enough the defenders may in due course hold more trumps and declarer has lost control of the hand.

This play is called a *force* or "forcing declarer". The following hand illustrates the *force* and has been specifically chosen to do

so. North south are declarers in a Heart contract. In many hands it may not succeed in accomplishing much other than "passing the buck" to declarer forcing him to lead away from his own hand. But as said earlier, the *force* loses nothing and is a good defensive manoeuvre with which to annoy declarer.

	♠8 7 2	
	♥K 3 2	
	♦A 10 5	
♠4 3	♣7 6 4 2	♠Q J 10 9 5
♥10 9 7 6		♥4
♦7 6 2		♦K 8 3
♣A K Q 9	♠A K 6	♣J 10 8 5
	♥A Q J 8 5	
	♦Q J 9 4	
	♣3	

West has good defensive strength - 4 trumps and a strong club suit. Whenever you hold length in trumps - 4 or more - it is always best to open your long suit, even if it is far from solid. You may catch partner with strength in the same suit. (The old adage - if short in trumps lead from a short suit; if long in trumps lead from a long suit).

Therefore you lead your club ace and continue with the king. Declarer can see that if the trumps break 3-2 the contract is safe. He can draw trumps and try the diamond finesse. If it loses he can only lose 1D, 1S and 1C. However once declarer discovers the bad trump break he must cease leading trumps and try the diamond finesse immediately. Now, in with the king, east must ignore his spade suit and continue clubs and the business of forcing declarer shows its advantage. Declarer is forced to ruff the third club reducing his trumps to 1 to your 2. Control now rests with you and the contract is defeated.

Tony Agar

Director's Corner

Q: May a player require that the hand be played out after an opponent has made a claim?

A: No. After any claim or concession, play should cease. If a player contests an

opponent's claim, the Director should be called. But if any play has occurred after the claim this may provide evidence to be deemed part of the clarification of the claim. The Director may accept it as evidence of the players' probable plays subsequent to the claim and/or of the accuracy of the claim.

Q: Must a player advise the opponents that he has made a call that is not systemically correct?

A: No. A player may make any call or play without prior announcement provided that such call or play is not based on an undisclosed partnership understanding. A player may deviate from his side's announced understandings always provided that his partner has no more reason to be aware of the deviation than have the opponents.

Q: A player has opened 2NT to show 8-11 hcp and 5+ in both minors. LHO bids 3D showing a good hand with spades. Does 3D require an alert?

A: No. QBA Alerting Regulations lists cue bids of an opponent's denomination/suit as self-alerting and says, "For the purposes of these Regulations, a cue bid of opponent's suit is defined as a bid of any denomination bid by the opponent or of a suit shown by the opponent's bid."

Q: Declarer tells dummy to "play anything" to a trick. May a defender now tell dummy which legal card to play?

A: Yes. If declarer indicates a play without designating either a suit or a rank (as by saying 'play anything' or words of like meaning) either defender may designate the play from dummy.

Val Cran (Director)

Arana Bridge Club History – (Part 2)

Researched and written by our Historian*, Deslei Den Haan. (*This position was continued by Liz Marshall in 2004).

IN 1987, the pilot edition of the club's newsletter was produced, which in May became known as the "Trump-It". Judy Valentine designed the logo, of which our Club is very proud. The club's 5th birthday was celebrated on Wednesday the 13th March 1991 with a "fun-play" competition followed by supper and a large birthday cake. The club's membership now stood at 125.

By April 1991, the committee started seriously talking about the need for our own premises. A sub-committee was formed to investigate the feasibility and financing of the purchase of club premises. Members appointed to this committee were: Bob Pearce, Peter Nottingham, Neil Orford, Pam Horton and Judy Valentine. At that time the club had a total of \$17,612 in cash and investments.

The Pine Shire Councillors informed the committee that a site in Chinook Street, Everton Hills, at the time occupied by a sewerage treatment plant, would soon become available. In May 1992, the Pine Shire expressed doubts about the suitability of the site in Chinook street, and asked the committee to look at land in the James Drysdale Reserve, at the time being used as a tip.

Richard McLauchlan became President in February 1993, and suggested that steps should be taken to have a formal set of plans drawn up at least to the stage where should suitable land become available the club could act immediately.

The Club's first inaugural congress was held in the Pine Shire Hall on Saturday and Sunday 5th and 6th June 1993. Players were offered a glass of champagne each day and special wines with a commemorative label were given as prizes. Most players participated in some form or another to make the event a success. The need for our own premises became even more obvious.

(To be continued)

Doors – Guilty!

Ever walk into a room with some purpose in mind, only to completely forget what that purpose was?

Turns out, **doors** themselves are to blame for these strange memory lapses.

Psychologists at the University of Notre Dame have discovered that passing through a doorway triggers what's known as an **event boundary** in the mind, separating one set of thoughts and memories from the next. Your brain files away the thoughts you had in the previous room and prepares a blank slate for the new locale.

It's not aging; it's the **door!**

Whew, thank goodness for research studies.

Why Attend Congresses?

(This article, originally under the heading of "Busch's Basch", seems particularly relevant with the Gold Coast Congress scheduled for the end of February. It is however applicable to all congresses. Apparently the author is from the Sunshine Coast area. (ed))

NORMAL bridge sessions are the bread-and-butter of most bridge clubs. Bridge players on the Coast can choose from numerous sessions six days a week and some Clubs attract up to 30 tables to their regular sessions.

Unfortunately, only a small proportion of regular players play in bridge congresses, and I think that's unfortunate. So let me tell you why congress bridge is different (and I think better) than normal club bridge.

Congress attendees are drawn from all over, and the fields tend to be stronger. This is good for stronger players, but it's also excellent for improving players. Also, you're going to meet players you don't meet every day at the club, and this is good for your bridge, and enhances the social aspect of the game.

If you're avoiding congresses because you don't want to get beaten up by stronger players, don't worry. Almost all congresses are run on the "Swiss draw" principle, which means that

except for the first round, you only meet opponents who are doing as well as you are. Less experienced players will, in the main, meet players of a similar standard, though if you do particularly well, you will be tested with your next draw, but of course if you're doing badly, you should end up with an easier draw.

Many congresses are run as Teams events. This means that two pairs enter together as a team of four (they don't need to have played as a team before, but are usually of a similar standard). For each match (usually 8 boards), your team is drawn to play another team. The team-mates of the pair you are playing are at other table playing your team mates, but your team mates sit in the opposite direction to you, so that they hold the cards that your opponents at your table hold. Scoring is done solely on how your table result compares to their table result - what happens at all the other tables is irrelevant. This is a very different method of scoring from what is used at regular Club sessions, and many people believe this makes for much more enjoyable bridge. But don't worry if you don't understand how to score this way - the Bridgemates and scoring program work everything out for you.

Pairs Congresses are either Matchpoint or Butler scored. Matchpoint scoring is the method used at club sessions, but Butler is more like teams scoring, and many people find this an enjoyable alternative to club sessions.

Masterpoints at congresses are red or gold, and are awarded at a higher rate than normal green point club sessions. Further, the way points are commonly awarded at congresses means that it is unusual for any player to walk away empty-handed, so your Master rank promotion gets just a little bit closer with every congress you play in.

Congresses are run by non-playing qualified Directors, who will have the time to ensure issues at the table are properly dealt with, and that justice is done. This is not always possible at club sessions when playing directors need to get back to their table.

Let's not forget the prize money! Congress fields are usually divided into categories for

prize purposes, so that lesser players aren't competing with the strong players for minor prizes. And there's often a special group at the tail of the field for newer players, so everyone in the field stands a chance of getting a prize.

Congresses represent excellent value for money. For an entry fee of usually \$30 a player per day, you get a full day's enjoyment, a very nice sandwich lunch, coffee, tea and snacks throughout the day, and a beer or wine with hot snacks at the end.

If, as a new player, you are still a bit uncertain about all this, dip your toe in the water at one of the Novice or Graded congresses. Noosa, Sunshine Coast and Caloundra Clubs all run one or more Novice Congresses each year, which are specifically for players with less than 100 Masterpoints. Many new players find this more enjoyable than open events, but it doesn't take long for them to want to move on. In Graded events on the other hand, the field is divided into groups at the outset, and players only play with their group. This is another way newer players can play in a congress knowing they will only meet players of a similar standard.

In the same way that Congresses are different from normal club sessions, major gold point national congresses are different again. These are very professionally run events, and draw top players from Australia and overseas. The biggest in Australia is undoubtedly the Gold Coast Congress — it is quite something to sit in a room with over a thousand other players all focusing on the play of their hands. You could hear a pin drop! Other top events include the Barrier Reef Congress (North Queensland) and the Summer Festival in Canberra every January, but all States hold at least one gold point event each year.

And finally, let's not forget that congresses represent a way for Clubs to earn money - money that ultimately benefits its members.

Next year (year unknown! (ed)), there are 14 one and two day congresses on the Sunshine Coast, and many more in surrounding areas. In our immediate vicinity, clubs at Gympie and Maryborough in the

north, and Brisbane, Gold Coast and the Darling Downs to the south and west, all host excellent congresses. Sunshine Coast players have been known to travel far and wide to attend congresses.

Upcoming congresses are listed on the QBA web site (www.qldbridge.com). Entry forms for all regional congresses are also displayed on your Club's notice board. You can usually enter by email or regular mail, and most clubs will accept payment on the day.

Dorothy Jones: My Life, (as told to Jenny Walker)



Instalment 1: where the Jones's move to New Guinea.

I was born and bred in Mossvale, NSW, the youngest of 6 children. My father died when I was 3 and my mother worked at the Mossvale Railway Barracks making up the beds for the overnight railway staff and cleaning the floors etc. to support her family. She died at 56, utterly worn out.

I was educated at nearby Bowral High. At that time, there were lots of great romances at Bowral High. I met Glyn Jones at school there, a tall and very handsome young student. We married a few years later in Mossvale after I had received my nursing Certificate, and we moved to Sydney, where I worked as a registered nurse at St. George's hospital, Kogarah.

When our eldest child, Karen, was just three weeks old, we went on a big adventure. We had applied for and been appointed managers

of a cocoa plantation in the mountains of SE New Guinea at Kokopo, so we moved to Papua New Guinea. We didn't have a clue how to grow cocoa. We didn't know whether it grew on a bush or a tree or under the ground. We had to look up the Encyclopaedia to find out how to do it!

Our shift to PNG was a culture shock and a big move in those days. The week before there was snow in Mossvale. Then we got to Brisbane, yes, rather warm. Then Cairns, a bit hotter. Finally Port Moresby, so hot we thought we'd die!

The prior plantation manager had an old Haflinger (a German all-terrain vehicle) with no roof. We inherited this as our transport in Kokopo. We did the rounds of the plantation on a motorbike. At harvest time, the local boys picked the big round seeds off the trees with long cocoa hooks and dropped the seeds on the ground. They then manually picked up all the seeds and put them on the back of a tractor. The tractor would take its load to the plantation sheds made of corrugated iron (a bit like an aeroplane hangar) with a mesh floor. The boys would then stamp, stamp, stamp on the seeds with their dirty and scabby bare feet, the seeds would break and the cocoa beans would be raked across the mesh, drop onto the solid floor below, be graded, bagged and sold. I could not eat chocolate for years! After two years at this plantation, I was a bit lonely, for I never saw another white female in all that time.

We were offered a position managing the biggest cocoa/coffee plantation in the southern highlands at Numa Numa. There, two more children, Michelle and Paul, were born in the Kokopo hospital which was the closest hospital to Numa Numa. Every Sunday morning, the men used to get up early to go fishing. I would be waiting on the wharf to collect the fish after they were scaled and gutted by the men. I then cooked the fish in beer batter for everyone's breakfast. For beer batter, just add beer to white flour ----- no salt. Make it as thick or as thin as you like. I still make beer batter the same way today.

Karen, my eldest, started correspondence school at Numa Numa when she was 7 and I taught her there for two years.

We then moved to Bonis Cocoa and Coffee Plantation on a white sandy beach. This would have to be the most beautiful place in Papua New Guinea. The sand beach was unusual as most beaches are pebbles. Correspondence lessons continued with Karen and Michelle at desks on either side of me. We rigged up a little desk for Paul too, off to one side, so he could pretend to be at school. There was a three week turnaround after sending off completed lessons and getting the results back. Completed lessons were sent off every week, and new lessons came every week in a brown paper parcel tied up with string, so the schooling was continuous. At Bonis, we had our own wharf. The bags of beans were taken across the Buka passage to Wong Yu, who was a big fat old Chinaman. He was the middle man who onsold to Cadbury or the highest bidder. We had a wonderful social life at Bonis. There was a guest wing at the homestead where visitors would stay when they came to the beach. There were always visitors too from the other plantations on Sundays.

Everywhere, the crops were continually sprayed year after year. We blame this for the deteriorating health conditions suffered by my husband and myself.

By the time Karen was nearly of secondary school age, we chose to return to Bowral rather than send her to boarding school.

Next issue..... Instalment 2: More of Dorothy's overseas adventures.



Happy Christmas

A right good time was had by those at the 2012 Christmas Party. The selection of pictures below (for those who were not present – or whose memory of the occasion is impaired) are of:-

Top: some of our able choristers,

Middle: our staff photographer, Lorraine Steele,

Bottom: Val and Maureen.

At the bottom left of the page we have Charlie Chambers.

May 2013 see more of the good things for all of us. Thanks to all who have provided material, ideas, feedback, or other assistance to the editor in producing the TrumpIt.

