



ARANA

Contract Bridge Club Inc

July 1999

Vol 13 No 4

Editor's desk

PARTICIPANTS were generally well pleased with our congress. Twenty-nine and a half tables was not the director's favourite number but everything seemed to go off OK. The venue was eminently suitable for bridge; pity it will chew into the profit margin.

Prize money went mostly to Toowong, QCBC and Northern Suburbs members, but a few Aranans managed bottles of wine for sessional wins. Club helpers ensured everything ran smoothly... well done Arana.

Forest Place pairs day produced a nice round 2 x 7 table movement. The boards posed a few challenges and an error slipped past the scorers on the day, but was later corrected. Winners were Betty Willson-Marj Ryder & Ailsa Smith-Merilyn Wright (tie N-S) and Don Cutmore-Kath Rooney (1) & Jean Parry-Fran Husband (2) (E-W).

Richard McLauchlan

Management committee

ITEMS of interest from the management committee include:

Next classes under Alan Gibson are proposed for early August.

Building: a draft floor plan had been given to Council who projected a building cost of \$800,000. Around \$410,000 might be available from our own funds, BCC and Government grants. Consultation with architect and potential builders will proceed for an alternate project within the \$410,000 cost constraint.

Next year's congress will be held at the Gaythorne RSL on 3-4 June.

New members approved include: Leslie White, Fay Collard, Katherine Patrick, Elizabeth van Hees and Marie Van Der Kamp.

A preliminary web site is ready.

Ernie Harris (sec)

Masterpoint movements

NEW masterpoint rankings as at the end of June for members whose home club is Arana include:

Graduate

Gloria Bissell	Jim Dale
Arthur Green	Betty Green

Club

Anne Harris	Ernie Harris
Jean Hitchins	Kerry Malt
Barry Mitchell	Pat Smythe
Carmel Steer	

Local

Maxime Hoare	Judith Homan
Peter Van Eden	

Local*

Noel Haysom	Darlene Smith
Don Smith	

Local**

Ilene Bishop	Frank Hoult
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Regional

Dot Cain	Fran Husband
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Jennifer Lewis (mp sec)

Important dates

- Sat 17-18/7 Goondiwindi congress
- Sat 17-18/7 Noosa teams
- Sun 25/7 Lockyer pairs
- Sat 31/7-1/8 Bundaberg pairs congress
- Sat 31/7 Moreton Bribie pairs
- Sun 1/8 Moreton Bribie teams
- Fri 13-20-27/8 GNOT zone finals

Northern Suburbs Swiss

Taking advantage of their last chance for some practice before our own congress were Joyce Rosser & Jenny Lewis, Betty Willson, Margaret Joyce, Helen & me at Northern Suburbs 38 table swiss pairs. Board 20 was one that got away.

20/ All/ W		W	E
--	A J 10 3 2	2C	2S
A K Q 7 5 2	9	3H	4D
9 5	K Q 10 6 4 3	4H	4NT
A K Q 7 6	J	5C	6D

Helen (W) opened a forcing 2C (4 losers, any suit). I should bid 3D (2D is negative) but I chose to show my major. Not caring much for her Hs, I showed my Ds; she showed more Hs with 4H; 4NT was RKCB (in Hs); 5C showed 3 (or 0) key cards (HA-K, CA).

Now I was in a bit of a bind; 5D would ask 'do you have the HQ?' and the 6C response would say 'yes and the CK'. Since she had not supported my Ss, she must have fewer than 3S. She had not shown a second suit, so I assumed she was something like 2-6-2-3 and opted for what looked like our best fit and bid 6D. Jim Millar led C10. How do you go about making 6D?

I won the C in dummy and led a D to my K (which held). Ruffing a S takes out dummy's last D and you can't get another lead towards the Q. So at this point, I decided I needed a 4-3 C and a 3-3 H break (in which case we should have been in 6H!). Cross to dummy's AH and discard Ss on the CK-Q and the HK-Q. Bummer! Jim ruffed the HQ and led a D. One down was a common score (mostly 6H one off) and a bit less than average.

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

On the cards, 6D is the only makeable slam if you pick the Ds right. When the DK holds, you have to play for either the DJ to be bare (lead DQ nailing the J) or the DA to be bare (lead low D). Get that right and N can still deny you by leading a H, but that is very unlikely.

6H and 6C have no play losing a H and D. Just to rub the salt right in, two pairs made 6H on a revoke.

Richard McLauchlan

Goodbye Rita

RITA Wood was a very brave lady right to the very end. When I last rang her at home, she told me that she would make herself go out every day to Westfields, just for a cup of coffee or whatever, and just sit and watch the world go by.

She had received the card we sent by the time I rang her in the palliative care unit last Wednesday. Rita said she was reading all our messages and to thank you all. She kept telling me that she was all right and I kept telling her that we were all thinking of her.

On the day she died, there was a Chinese proverb on the calendar which said...

There are many paths to the top of a mountain, but the view is always the same

Let's hope Rita has reached the top of her mountain and that she has a beautiful view. We will miss you Rita.

Muriel Miller

ARANA congress

QUITE a good field made up an awkward 29½ tables at our own congress. A mix-up by the council regarding the hall booking for the weekend saw the event moved to the Gaythorne RSL club, quite a good venue but tough on the profit margin.

There were the inevitable surprises after qualifying but most of the major seeds made the championship, where Arana were represented by Jenny Lewis & Ailsa Smith, Val Acklin & Joyce Rosser, and Bob Pearce & yours truly. Bob and I got away to a shocker, no help from this.

3/ E-W/ S	A K J 8 2	
	J 6	
	9 8	
Q 10 9 6 4 3	K J 10 4	5
A K 10 9 7 4		3
Q		A 10 5 4 3 2
--	7	A 9 6 3 2
	Q 8 5 2	
	K J 7 6	
	Q 8 7 5	

The S hand was uninspiring and I duly passed. I would open the W hand 1S every day of the week, but Geoff Toon chose 2H showing Hs and another, at least 5/5. Now it doesn't pay to enter the auction too quickly against 2-suited openings unless you have a strong (16+) hand. It is often better to let the opposition tell you what they have and then take action.

With his opening hand, Bob reasoned that W was likely to hold Hs and Ds (Hs and Cs should be

Ok too) and bid 2S which was quietly passed out. Three off and -150 was not good. Had Bob and E (Dawn Cullen) passed, I would have automatically doubled for take out and we still may have ended up in trouble.

But Dawn was not going to pass. She hated Hs and would have bid 2S to get Geoff to show his other suit, hoping like hell it wasn't Ss. Unfortunately, it was, and Geoff would have jumped to 4S which gets doubled and goes off... ah well... such is life.

This round put us on the back foot for the rest of the day. The added weight of secretary Ernie Harris telling us the honour or Arana was in our hands was all too much. When we played Val and Joyce late in the day, there was talk of wooden spoons which the president managed to avoid. Best finish was from Jenny and Ailsa but that too was not exciting. A few Aranans were variously in the placings in the consolation during the day, but none at the finish.

The championship was keenly contested with 5 pairs in contention with 1 round to go. Poor last rounds saw McDonald-Pryde and Parker-Mills drop out leaving a slightly surprised Ross and Diana Dick narrowly in front.

Championship

1. Ross Dick – Diana Dick
- 2= Dorothy Cunliffe – Geoff Olsen
- 2= Adrienne Kelly – Arnold Remedios

Plate

1. Audrey Stitt – Lorna Newnham
2. Jean Foxton – Margaret Drewe
3. Ian Halford – John Rose

Consolation

1. Pat Buch – Rosemary Crowley
2. Mira Rosenblum – Lorraine Cochrane
3. Connie Schoutrop – Albina Smith

Richard McLauchlan

Asking questions

THERE were a couple of complaints after our congress about unauthorised information. This is usually the result of asking questions during the auction *when you had absolutely no intention of bidding, eg...* 2C (alert) 2D (alert)

... you ask about the 2D and are told that it is a negative (less than 8 hcp) and not promising Ds. Now you pass! To the opposition, you might just as well have said... partner, lead a D.

That may or may not be so, but that's the way it appears, and the irrelevant (because you were never going to bid anyway) question constitutes

unauthorised information for which you could be penalised. And rightly so if partner does lead a D, even if it is her best and obvious lead.

First rule in the book, **do not ask during the auction if you have no intention of bidding.** Wait until it is all over then ask for an explanation of all the bidding.

Another classic... 1NT... is that weak or strong?... strong... pass! This infers that you might have bid over a weak NT (partner I have some values) but not over the strong NT (I'm not that good).

Playing Jackman-Cuppaidge the other day, in 4 rounds of bidding, they had 7 alerted bids. We did not ask about any of them. I was on lead and before I could say anything, George said... Tony has 12-14 hcp and a 2-3-3-5 distribution. We did not disrupt their bidding with irrelevant questions but still got all the information we needed for the defence... a perfect example of active ethics.

Occasionally, you may be interested in a bid because it is a convention you are not familiar with and would like to know more about. The auction is not the time to ask. Wait until the board, or better still, the round is over.

Do not disrupt their auction with questions that have absolutely no bearing on the bidding. Ask for explanations of all the bidding before you have to lead. If you are not on lead and partner has not asked, wait until the lead card has been selected and placed face down on the table before asking.

There are no secrets in this game. You are entitled to know what the opposition are doing. It's simply a matter of going about it in the right manner.

Richard McLauchlan

More on the net

THE ABF web site contains some links to bridge convention sites that are worth checking out. One site had 15 conventions for interfering over a 1NT opening, *eg*

Astro

- x = 13-14 hcp and a decent 5 card suit
- 2C = 5⁺/4⁺ H/ minor (at least 5 H)
- 2D = 5⁺/4⁺ S/ minor

Aspro

- 2C = H/ other (could be S)
- 2D = S/ minor

Becker

- 2C = minors (5⁺/4⁺)
- 2D = majors (5⁺/4⁺)

Brozel

- x = single suiter coming, please bid 2C

2C, 2D = C/ H, D/ H (5⁺/4⁺ either suit)
 2H = H/ S
 2S = S/ minor
 2NT = C/ D
 3 any = 3 suiter with singleton/ void in bid suit

Cappelletti

x = penalty
 2C = single suiter
 2D = H/ S
 2H, 2S = H/ minor, S/ minor
 2NT = minors

Crash

X = 2 suits same Colour (C/ S or D/ H)
 2C = 2 suits same RAnk (C/ D or H/ S)
 2D = 2 suits same SHape (C/ H or D/ S)
 2H, 2S = natural

Dont

x = single suiter coming, bid 2C
 2C = C/ other
 2D = D/ major
 2H = H/ S
 2S = S single suiter (6-card or strong 5)
 2NT = Major/ minor, very strong (min 6/5)
 3 any = pre-emptive (7)
 3NT= strong H/ S 2 suiter

And so on with *Hello, Landy, Mohan, Ripstra, Roth-Stone Astro, Suction, Trash and Woolsey.*

Richard McLauchlan

Forest Place pairs

A TIDY 2 x 7 table movement with preset boards and equal strength in both sections and both directions should have made for a close contest.

Don Cutmore & Kath Rooney had different ideas and pretty much blew the E-W field away. Jean Parry and Fran Husband finished second with a score that would have won N-S.

At N-S, Betty Willson-Marj Ryder & Ailsa Smith-Merilyn Wright tied for the win, narrowly beating the also tied Allan Box-Ted McGrath & Bob Dance-Gary Lynch in the other section. Board 17 seemed to pose the most problems.

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

E-W have a S game but the fit is very difficult to find if N starts with 3, 4 or 5C. (Un)popular

contracts were 5Dx by W and 3Dx by S, going for -500, -800 or -1100. That left the 4S bidders (3 tables)feeling robbed at only +420 or +450.

A special thanks to Bob Pearce who set the boards and directed the event.

Richard McLauchlan

Knowing the play

I WAS playing a swiss pairs recently when we bid a somewhat iffy 6NT. When dummy went down, I had 9 tricks cold and had to bring in the club suit (below) for 1 loser. Is there a play of this distribution for 1 loser?

J	9	6	2
A	8	7	4

Scratching through the memory banks, I knew I had to nail the 10 and an honour, but I couldn't remember exactly how to go about it. The next day was a swiss teams so I asked several top players for an answer.

Tony Jackman and Adrian Mayers (after some thought) suggested the 10 had to be with LHO as did either the K or Q; Neville Francis hoped for a singleton K or Q; Mike Robson for doubleton K-Q; Ralph Parker had played it yesterday and like me got it wrong with a small card to the 8.

Top kiwi player Ashley Bach had no hesitation in saying LHO must hold K-10 or Q-10 doubleton and the lead should be small from hand playing low if the K or Q appears, but the J if the 10 is played. 100% correct... the cards were...

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

If the K is played, win the return, cross to dummy (there was plenty of transport to and from dummy) and lead the J, finessing the Q and dropping the 10. If the 10 is played, cover with the J losing to the Q, win the return and bang down the A dropping the K. That play would have gained me another 30 (of 36) matchpoints.

All very interesting, but how often is that going to happen? Later that morning, Ralph and Ash both came up to me and said... did you see that distribution on board 17 (I didn't because the opposition had played it). The suit was ...

J	9	5	3
K	10		Q 8 2
		A	7 4 3

... and low towards the J might have gotten declarer home in 3NT instead of going 1 off. Indelibly imprinted now.

Richard McLauchlan