



ARANA

Contract Bridge Club Inc

The Friendly Club

July-August 2009

Vol 23 No 4

President's Report

On Sunday October 25th we will hold the Arana Novice Teams. Last year the number were down for this event and thus we would like to see our novice players get behind it this year. So come on all you novice players, get a team together and nominate.

There are two issues I would like our members to consider. The first is parking where I ask that our able bodied members leave the top car park nearest the club house to those of our members who are less active. In this regard, please leave the first four car parking spaces on either side for our members who have a disability. This is particularly important on rainy days, when our less active members should be given priority to car parking spaces nearer to the club house.

The second issue relates to bent cards. Over the last few months we have replaced most of our old card packs. Regrettably, most of those new cards are already bent which causes problems with the dealing machine. The main cause of bent cards is the habit of some players who forcefully flick each card on the table. So if you are a card "flicker", please make a conscious effort to gently place your cards on the table. If you are playing with a "flicker", please take the opportunity to remind them to change their ways.

Sadly we have lost our oldest member. Vale Pearl Cowie. Our sympathy to Ray and the Cowie family.

David Lehmann

DIRECTOR'S CORNER:

John Martin

The best bit about being the Director is that you get to play for free! !

Some of the problems are as follows:-

Getting Started

1. Sometimes there is no-one else to confirm that the table setup that you think is appropriate, is A-OK – it is good to get confirmation that the movement you have decided on is right.

2. You have put the Table Numbers out, just about got it ready in Bridgemate... and a new pair arrives... or a partner doesn't turn up... or someone gets a phone call and has to leave. You're back to square one. You have to work out a new set-up, maybe shift a pair or two to different tables and start Bridgemate all over again – Bridgemate doesn't like starting again!!

3. You are just about ready to start when you discover that you have told Bridgemate the wrong info or at the last minute, Bridgemate is not working properly and it has to be started again – trouble is, neither Bridgemate **nor** the players like that !! You apologise, tell the players that there is a problem, and 'pray'.

During Play – DIRECTOR called

4. 'DIRECTOR' is called just as you are about to play the crucial card in the rubber you are playing – when you get back your mind is a not quite blank BUT WHAT WAS IT you were going to do??

5. When you get to the table you find that the relationship between the pairs is NOT GOOD, usually it's harder than normal to understand the issues as there is often distortion of the facts and interruptions from the agitated players. You stay calm, try to get the true story and make your impartial decision – sometimes you can calm the players, sometimes you can't!! This situation doesn't happen very often.

6. The same player calls you for the 3rd time that day!! It's not funny!! Yes it IS - but they still need your help.

(Continued on back page.)



Through Rose Coloured Glasses

In 1927, after a wait of nearly 20 years, a little bundle of joy arrived on the doorsteps of my parents' home at Ascot and they were so thrilled, they called it Vonnie.

They thought they were blessed but not as much as I did. A baby brother came along, but, unfortunately, he has passed away.

Little Precious was sent off for Ballet Lessons for 15 years and to Art of Speech so she would "speak proper". At 17, off I went for Singing Lessons and was told I was a mezzo contralto, so that might be the reason the Indians who phone me call me **Mr. Wonnie**. I added Drama School to the list. So combine all those and I was dancing and prancing and singing on the Amateur stage for donkeys' years.

I loved Primary School, then on to Brisbane Girls' Grammar where I knuckled down to more difficult subjects, but still managed to be part of the Swimming, Tennis, Netball and Athletics Teams. To-day all that would be called Hyperactivity and "maybe this child needs medication"... Not in those days. Why spoil a girl's fun?

I spent a couple of years on board HMAS Moreton, at the Naval Base in Brisbane toward the end of the war and I was there for the demobbing and decommissioning of naval ships. Later, I spent some time as a Secretary with Legal Firms. Variety is the spice of life!

Sport can't be forgotten. I played Tennis until I was about 50, Lawn Bowls for some 20 years and competitive Swimming until I was 63. Then it was a bit like, "When I'm Sixty-Four".

Somewhere, I met a man called Don and found myself married and was given the gift of four lovely daughters who deserted me and went to the sunshine of Victoria. So they were either very clever, or just lucky in getting away from this perpetual-motion mother. "Let them suffer," is what I say, but unfortunately for me, they love the four seasons.

Along the way, you'll find I seemed to take all the Arts and Craft Lessons I could get, so the charities have had a bonanza with all the gifts I've given them... but it did lead to my having a very eclectic collection of art pieces on the walls of my home, mostly done by others more gifted than I... but there hang a few pieces of my own to remind me of my dream of being another Picasso or Van Gogh. I have long run out of flat surfaces on which to plant my Venetian glass and Fine Bone China ornaments, amid my failed pieces of craft. I even started an Interior Decorating business on Park Road, which lasted 12 years and, Oh! How I loved the glorious fabrics.

Through no fault of his own, the love of my life passed away. Grieving was not much fun, tho' it's hard to do anything about it; it isn't much fun for him either, up there, without me. To help my recovery, I went travelling to wondrous places with names like Eastern and Western Europe; North and South America; Russia; Kazakhstan; Mongolia and part of Trans Siberia. Heavens! What next?

How about Bridge? Might as well give that a go, a couple of lessons and I'll be on my way.

You all know the end of that story! The circle turns and I am now "aged" they tell me, so I've taken up the sport of Giving Cheek. Now, that's really good fun. Ain't life grand?

Vonnie Wallace

ARANA CONTRACT BRIDGE CLUB

Gratefully acknowledges funding grant of \$17,007 provided by



Gambling

Community Benefit Fund

Queensland Government

For our 2008 Bridgemate project

Masterpoint Movements

NEW rankings for Arana home club members for April and May:

GRADUATE MASTER

PATRICIA NOCK

RICHARD PIASECKI

ROBERT VAN BEEST

CLUB MASTER

ALAN BOYCE

LES GILSON

BRUCE HUTSON

LOCAL MASTER

JENNIFER WALKER

**LOCAL MASTER

JACQUELINE CARBONE

CHARLES CHAMBERS

BETH O'REILLY

JEAN STONE

REGIONAL MASTER

ALAN RAE

**NATIONAL MASTER

IRENA HALL

Robert Matthew (MP Secretary)

TONY'S TIPS:

Partnership language.

It is equally important to know what a bid means as to how much strength it shows. As the bidding develops, the **responder** assumes the duty of directing the partnership into the proper contract as well as calculating the combined strength of the hands. For example constant repetition of the same suit indicates great length but limited strength. For instance:

Opener Responder

1D 1H

2C 2H

2NT 3H

WHAT IS THE
MEANING OF THIS 3H BID?

Responder is showing a long heart suit and a weak hand and even the hearts cannot be strong. If they were then responder could bid 4H or 3NT if headed by AK.

In cases of misfits

We have all listened to (or been involved in) the classic misfit bidding like this:

Opener Responder

1S 2H

2S 3H

3S 4H (X)

4S (X)

WHO SHOULD QUIT FIRST? There is no 100% correct answer but as a guide:

1. The player who can buy the contract at the cheapest level should have right of way. An inferior contract, undoubled, is better than a superior one that is doubled and down.
2. The player with the high cards (most points) should be willing to become dummy, permitting the player with the long suit with no outside strength to be declarer. Eg

♠ KJ10xxxx

♥ x

♦ xx

♣ xx

♠ Qxx

♥ xx

♦ QJ9x

♣ Jxx

♠ Ax

♥ K10xxx

♦ xx

♣ Q10x

♠ x

♥ AQJxx

♦ K10xx

♣ x

Bidding:

South

North

1 Heart

1 Spade

2 Diamonds

2 Spades

What should South do? More often than not South will continue bidding the two suits as is the tendency of most players with two five carded suits. South should have realised that game was hopeless when North failed to support one of the red suits and also was unable to bid NT. Despite shortages in Spades South should pass 2 Spades, knowing that game is not on. South's hand makes a good **dummy** because of its high-card content whereas North's hand is virtually trickless as dummy. Note – North would have taken into account the shape of the hand before responding 1 Spade initially.

Note also, that had N opened with a pre-emptive 3S then South would have been hard pressed to continue the bidding and should pass.

Being able to apply your powers of deduction and diagnosis to interpret misfit hands is essential and can be developed by any reasonably proficient player. It is not the domain only of the expert. With practice your standard of accuracy will improve.

Tony Agar

DIRECTOR'S CORNER Contd.

7. 2 (or more) calls come together, there's no other Director to share them with, never mind – morning tea can be shortened and/or you just make sure that there is no extra time added between the rounds. Your contract – BAD LUCK – you went 1 off in 5C's !!

8. You're not sure what the right answer is and you've already looked it up in the rule book but you are still not sure – you make the decision and leave the table. When you get home or after play has finished you discover that you're decision was incorrect – too late to change the result. You're up for apologies to the players concerned next week !

After Play

9. Not much happens here except for putting the microphone, cards and table numbers away. Sometimes though, the results are not coming through with Bridgmate and you and the Bridgmate operator try to judge whether it will have to be sorted out by Robert or Richard – when they are not around that's a problem! When they are, they always get you out of trouble – THANKS to BOTH of them.

REQUEST to ALL Players – please make sure you are at your table AT LEAST 15 MINUTES BEFORE the SCHEDULED START TIME. If YOU are running late PLEASE MAKE SURE your PARTNER IS NOT and knows that you are.

**Check out our club web-site at-
www.aranabridgeclub.com**

A Bad Night at the Bridge Club

I'm giving up Bridge – tonight's my last night
It is Amen to Stayman, I give up the fight.
The insults and muddles are giving me troubles,
I can't sleep at night for thinking of doubles.
My cards are all rotten and I have forgotten
Who played, and what's trumps, and
What's gone on my right!

So now it's all over, I'm off to the back wood.
I'm bidding goodbye to Gerber and Blackwood.
I can't stand the hassle, I can't stand the pain.
I'm getting those bad cards again and again
I'm giving up Bridge – tonight's a bad night.
Declarer is horrid and nothing's gone right.
My partner's a dope, I'm losing all hope.

When she says "double", I know we're in trouble.
My points are not high and I'm wondering why
She keeps on bidding right up to the sky.
We're in 7 spades and all my hope fades
When, surprise, surprise, her high bidding pays.
We are winning all tricks, the defenders feel sick
And I have to admit, my partner's a brick.

But I'm giving up Bridge – tonight's my last night.
Farewell to conventions, I give up the fight.
So I leave with a few words but they are all true.
Bridge is a game not for me but for you.
So be kind to your partners and don't mind their
cheek,
For it's only a game...
Oh, and see you next week!!!
(with thanks to Val Atkinson)

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