

ARANA CONTRACT BRIDGE CLUB



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EDITORIAL

The visit by the QBA President, Keith McDonald, to our Club did not achieve the reaction from members as I had hoped for. He covered some of the aspects and benefits but I feel he failed in convincing members of the importance of being affiliated with a parent body.

The obvious answer to "what does little old me get for my money" is "sweet nothing". On the surface this appears correct, as it would, for any club member of most sporting or recreational bodies. What would a golf club member gain by being a member of the Queensland or Australian Golf Association? It has no effect on the player's normal game or match, so why join?

Simple. All sports (and we are considered to be a sport) have rules. These do not just appear, but have been written and modified over the years by parent bodies. They are continually updated and member clubs are therefore kept abreast of these changes. State organisations print and produce sporting aids in bulk, often at lower costs to be used by member clubs, e.g. cardboard wallets and in fact, most of the stationery we copy has come from the QBA who pay wages to a part-time Secretary. The different movements we use in clubs games - all designed and calculated by members of the parent body. The bridge scoring program we are now using was set up because of the need and demand by the QBA and its affiliates to have a quicker and easier method of scoring up club games. I could go on further, but I think you will understand the important role that the parent body plays in the administration of the sport.

The QBA is not out to make a massive profit from its members. Queensland is the only state where much of its revenue is returned to members. Sure, some of the money goes to sending State Teams away to National Events. I can't think of any sporting body that doesn't try and help in some way with costs for their representative team or participants. Even if there is no direct subsidy from the parent body, the members themselves help raise money via stalls, raffles or sponsorship.

I have heard some members comment unfavourably concerning money spent on country player subsidy as well as State Team subsidy. In many cases, this financial assistance given has resulted in further education of the players, and has been repaid ten-fold in later years.

Sean Mullamphy, as a Junior in Townsville received assistance when representing the Youth Team. From knowledge gained, he is one of the voluntary convenors of the 1989 National Championships to be held in Sydney later this month. This would involve hundreds of hours work.

Richard and Lindy Ward ex Townsville, received various subsidies. Richard served a three year term as President of the QBA and still represents Queensland as an ABF Councillor. All voluntary work. Lindy was, until recently, Secretary of the QBA. She served approximately 6 years with a small remuneration.

I received financial assistance as a country player and later on as a State Team member with Jessica Mortess of Bundaberg when in 1986 the Queensland Women's Team, for only the second time ever, won an Australian Championship. Participation in National Events continues to educate and this knowledge is being passed on to players at the Arana Contract Bridge Club in my role as honorary teacher. I also served a 5 year term as secretary of the QBA with a small remuneration.

Some revenue is returned to the grass-root player via way of organised teaching tours. From time to time, Ron Klinger is invited by the QBA to give intermediate and advanced lesson to all affiliated clubs through-out Queensland. The cost factor for clubs is kept very low due to the subsidy injected by the parent body. Paul Lavings is another teacher who has been employed by the QBA to conduct a teaching tour.

It is too easy to sit back and say I can see no tangible benefit for my \$15, apart from Masterpoints, of being a member of the parent body. The QBA needs revenue to exist, and there are many benefits, although not obvious. You must look behind this small annual fee to appreciate the numerous hours of work performed by many all in the interest of fostering and promoting bridge.

Some of the tangible benefits of affiliation.

1. Masterpoints. This is probably the most obvious. No they are not essential but they do generate much interest.
2. Advisory. The QBA produce a Newsletter advising of changes to Laws and Rules for club play and tournament events.
3. Special Events. There are a number of special events held where member clubs are able to participate. Two of these events which may interest club members are -

Queensland Wide Pairs (written about last issue of the Trump-It).

Australian Wide Pairs (run on the same format as the above).

4. Teaching Tours. Ron Klinger/Paul Lavings as mentioned above.

5. Director's Seminars. The QBA from time to time run Director's Seminars to help the club Director with rules and movements.

In conclusion I would like to reassure the club member that the friendly atmosphere which is paramount in our Club will not be threatened by an invasion of "undesirable bridge players" if affiliation is proceeded with. Members of the Committee have already proved that they are prepared to act quickly when a genuine complaint is lodged through them by a member. In the case in question, the Committee unanimously agreed that the rude behaviour of one member against another was not in the spirit of the club and that member was asked to appear before a Special Committee to show reasons why membership should not be terminated. As most of you know, the meeting never took place, and the member left. It is unlikely that our club will change very much at all. Our club was started for the sole purpose of fostering the beginner and providing a nice quiet haven for the student to learn the game. This reputation, of which we are so proud, is well known in Brisbane bridge circles and clubs. It is each member's attitude towards the game and his fellow member that will dictate the tone of the club.

It was my intention to keep a low profile on this matter, but I did not feel that Keith presented the QBA in its true light. From my own personal experiences with other clubs, although I have to admit they were all country clubs, I have never heard one regret being voiced against their being affiliated with the parent body.

Judy Valentine
Editor

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THE BUNDABERG CONGRESS

8 of our club members made the trek to Bundy to participate in this most relaxed and enjoyable congress. For our President, Adrienne Brougham and her partner Merilyn Wright it was a first, but for the others Pam Horton, Jenny Lewis, Ailsa & Philip Smith, Ann and Bob Pearce, it was their second visit. All will be able to tell you what a great week-end they had.

Pam and Jenny have worked very hard on their system and developing their playing skills over the past two years and have been rewarded by winning the Plate Section in this congress. They were both on cloud 9, and rightly so, but none was more proud of them than I. Congratulations!! Pam and Jenny.

To me, the most exciting part of directing this congress is the Friday night pre-congress match when my friendship with my partner Jessica is put on hold and we sit down to do battle. A casket ticket is the stake, bought by the loser. Jessica plays with her regular partner Peter Young and I play with Jessica's husband Ian. Ian and I were having quite a good round and I was

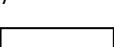
feeling rather confident that this year the casket ticket would be bought by Jessica when it was time to play against her and Peter. OH! How that girl can wound!!!

K 6 5	Q 9 7 4 3 2	<u>The Bidding</u>
A Q 9 2	K	North East South West
8 7 2	A Q 10 6 4	NB 1S 3C 4S
K 10 3	9	5C 5S NB NB
		NB
(Ian)	(Judy)	Lead - 7C

I played low on the lead of the club 7 and Jessica, sitting north won with the club queen and returned the diamond jack. What card do you play?

I am looking at two losers, at least, via the club and the spade. Peter can't have more than A J in club values and it is quite possible for him to hold the stiff king of diamonds. This so called "friend" of mine has executed what is known as "a pressure play". She has made me make a decision at trick two before I have had a chance to work out any distribution and find out who has the high cards in spades. Because Jessica is a passed hand, Peter could very well pre-empt in this position holding the ace of spades just to be a nuisance, but if this were the case, he certainly would not hold the diamond king as well. She knew it and I knew it. I turned to her and smiled, called her a few names and played the ace. I decided it was more likely that Peter would hold the diamond king (which could very well be singleton) than the spade ace. I also knew that Jessica would play the jack from any combination of cards in her hand. She had the king and Peter the ace of spades. Had Jessica returned a quiet club, I would have ruffed and led a low spade towards the dummy. Either this round of spades or the next would have told me Peter held the ace thus also telling me where the king of diamonds lay. No wonder I partner her. It is easier to play with her than against her.

This hand appeared in the second qualifying round and was brought to my attention by Jessica when she and Peter failed to reach more than 4S. They play a fairly complicated form of Precision and they simply lost themselves along the way.

A K 9 6 5	Your bidding should be	
A K Q	North	South
K Q 6 3	2S (1)	3C (2)
7	3D (3)	4D (4)
	4S (5)	6D (6)
	7D	
J 10		
10 7	(1) Game force, no more than 3 losers.	
A 9 7 5	(2) Positive bid showing 2 controls made up of aces, kings or queen of the trump suit.	
A 9 7 4 2	3C shows either the ace or king of clubs.	
(3) Shape showing bid of at least 5 spades and 4 diamonds.		

- (4) Shows either the ace or the king of diamonds.
- (5) North now knows South holds both aces, as aces must be shown before kings and queen of the trump suit. 4S is simply a waiting bid to find out which slam partner prefers. It does not show 6 spades and 4 diamonds as, if this were the case, spades would have been rebid in preference to showing a 4-carded diamond suit. There is no danger of South passing this bid because the two positive controls have indicated slam will be reached.
- (6) 6D shows there is no queen of spades and also denies the holding of the queen of diamonds. It also shows, at the most, a doubleton spade.
- (7) North is hopeful that the spade suit can be ruffed high and with no other losers bids the Grand Slam.

By the way, Jessica had to buy the casket ticket this year.

Judy Valentine

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AN INTERESTING HAND USING 4TH SUIT FORCING

This collection of cards was dealt in the student class on Wednesday night.

Dealer West

A K 8 2	6 4
A 7 6 5 4	K Q J 10 9 3 2
A 7 4 3	9
v o i d	A 8 4



West open 1H.

East's hand is too good for a direct raise to 4H. A launch straight into Blackwood will not give you enough information to bid the cold Grand Slam. If you bid it this way, then it is by guess only.

We need to find out the shape of West's hand if possible and should West's second bid be a new suit, then we are able to apply the 4th suit forcing bid to find out about the rest of his cards.

Firstly, change suit. 2C is the only bid I can find. Yes, it would normally show a 4-carded club suit, but this is not a normal hand.

West now shows a second suit. For those of you who wish to be honest souls, then 2D is your bid. It shows 5-carded heart suit, 4-card diamond suit and a hand in the 12-15 point count range. Your bid is correct. For those of you who feel that the hand is better than the 15 points, then your bid is 2S. This is a reverse bid showing a 5-carded heart suit, a 4-carded spade suit and 16+ points. This bid is also correct.

Once the change of suit by opener is made, East must now bid the only remaining suit - the 4th suit. This bid is artificial asks West to describe the remaining 4 cards held in his hand.

(1) If the bidding went -

1H	2C	2S** 4th suit forcing
2D	2S**	3S*** shows at least 3 spades thus
3S***		no more than a singleton club.

(2) If the bidding went -

1H	2C	3D** 4th suit forcing
2S	3D**	4D*** shows at least 3 diamonds thus
4D***		no more than a singleton club.

The bidding would then proceed with an ace ask by East and when it was established that all four aces were held, East would then ask for kings.

Knowing that there is no more than a singleton club in the hand makes the Grand Slam a very good proposition. Whether partner holds the king of diamonds or the king of spades is good enough to access the hand for no losers. The only flaw in West's hand would be if he held the singleton king of clubs. When bidding a Grand Slam, provided you know the shape is good, look positively at the high card values being in the right place.

Judy Valentine

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