

ARANA

Contract Bridge Club Inc

The Friendly Club

March - April 2008

Vol 22 No 2

From the President

PRESIDENT'S REPORT MARCH 2008

Welcome to Lynley Mason who has bravely agreed to take on the role as your new Trump It editor. To our outgoing editor David Backstrom, thank you for your contribution and innovation in the role over the past year.

In my yearly report for the AGM, I alluded to a likely increase in table fees. This has become an emotive subject and has given rise to two issues – (1) whether the management committee has the power to increase fees without the need to put the decision to the vote at a general meeting of the club (as has been the case in the past), and (2) the fee increase itself.

Before I discuss these two issues let me assure all members that there will be no move to increase table fees in the short term.

- (1) Whilst there is a specific clause in the constitution requiring an increase in membership fees to be voted on at a general meeting, it is silent on the issue of table fees. Your committee has sought direction from the QBA which confirms that the management committee has the power within the constitution to increase table fees. Some members have expressed the view that your committee is exploiting a loophole in its interpretation or that it would be underhand for the management committee to circumvent the previously accepted practice of holding a general meeting. Your committee is not using an

imaginative interpretation of the constitution nor are we intending to be sneaky or underhand - as evidenced by my raising the issue in this forum. The only ambiguity in the constitution is that it does not specifically address table fees, but it does confer on the management committee the right to institute the "powers" of the club - one of which is to raise funds. It also states that the management committee "shall have the authority to interpret the meaning of the Rules and any matter... on which these rules are silent".

- (2) The view has been expressed that a fee increase is unjustified due the financial position of the club and the fact the club records a surplus each year. Please do not consider the sinking fund when making decisions about our financial position. As regards the annual cash surplus, I erroneously reported a surplus of \$17,300 for the 2007 year. My report was based on the un-audited accounts. The actual cash surplus was \$15,700, which compares with \$13,300 in 2005 and \$12,200 on 2006. The 2007 result was higher for three reasons (i) we purchased no new cards during the year (\$1,000), (ii) outgoings on Audrey Grant books were down by \$1,500 and (iii) we received a \$1,000 sponsorship for our June congress for the first time which may or may not be repeated. Take off these three items and the cash surplus amends to \$12,200. Thus, at a time of

increasing inflation, our surplus remains relatively static. In real terms, we are going backwards.

Table fees were last increased around 5 years ago. An increase now represents an annual increase of around 2 %. At some time fees will need to be increased, or is it proposed that your club absorb all cost increases when all other costs are increasing until we record a loss? If no fee increase this year, what about next year, or the year after, or is it no year? I make no secret of the fact that I am the key driver for this fee increase. The views expressed here are mine. It is up to each committee member to consider the issues and vote according to their conscience My interest is in prudent fiscal governance of the club and its long term future. Any decision that delivers a long term benefit to the club must surely deliver a benefit to its members. Planning for tomorrow is done today – not in the future. At some time in the mid term future we will need to extend our clubhouse. I anticipate that it will happen within 8 years. Our building plans have made provision for this. We need to plan ahead for that now, not leave the burden on future members.

Quite apart from how much easier it would be for all concerned to process a table fee of \$5 is the issue of what we all get for our \$4.50 (or \$5.00 – which incidentally has been charged at most other clubs for some time now). We get 4 hours of entertainment in air-conditioned comfort, a cup of tea/coffee, a choice of biscuits and most of us never have to lift a finger other than to put the chairs in and empty the rubbish bins. My rationale for an increase is not based on a whim – it is based on a 4 year forward projection taking into account the recent need to provide a tea lady for Friday sessions and other forecast cost increases.

And finally, the issue of the clubhouse itself which is constructed on a reclaimed

dump site: We face the very real prospect of site movement, and if anybody has any doubts, you only need to look at either the inside door of the entrance to the ladies toilet or on the outside wall near the entrance door where cracks have occurred in both walls. If these worsen, we may be up for some unforeseen costs.

Should any member wish to discuss either issue with me I invite you do so.

There are two other important issues I bring to your attention:

(a) Disabled parking. Our disabled and incapacitated players have insufficient parking spaces on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays. Please leave the 3 nearest parking positions free on either side of the top car park on those days – i.e. 6 car parking spaces. Also, would the able bodied players leave the top car park available for our less mobile players on those days.

(b) New Event – National Gold Point Pairs. Heats for this new event will be conducted during May and will comprise a series of 3 sessions over three consecutive weeks for the days of Tuesday, Wednesday night and Friday sessions and is restricted to players with less than 300 master points. Arana will host the zone final in October. With gold points awarded to 75% of the field in the club selection sessions, here is your chance to earn gold points.

Full details and nomination forms will be available nearer to the sessions. Cost will be higher than standard table fees. Please get behind this event and nominate your pair for your selected session (either Tuesday, Wed PM or Friday). For those not wanting to participate in the gold point pairs on those days, a separate movement for normal play will be available.

♣ ♦ Important Phone Numbers ♥ ♠

Clubhouse Phone Number:	(07) 3851 0299
Website:	www.aranabridgeclub.com
Email address:	aranabridge@netspace.net.au
President:	David Lehmann 3205 7276
Vice-President:	Barbara Holmes 3300 6654
Secretary:	Tony Agar 3851 1362
Treasurer:	Jan McRobbie 3355 2425
Partner Contact:	Betty Willson 3355 2519

New Editor

Lynley Mason

e-mail: domason@bigpond.net.au

Phone 3300 6171

Any and all contributions gratefully accepted as this is a steep learning curve for one who has never so much as done a "cut and paste" before!

My thanks to Barbara for showing me the difference between a left double click and a right click!

For May-June Issue

Copy deadline:

June 18th 2008

Committee 2008 - 2009

President:	David Lehmann
Vice President:	Barbara Holmes
Secretary:	Tony Agar
Treasurer:	Jan McRobbie
Committee:	Ray Cowie
	Gay Hull
	Liz Marshall
	Terry Nowitzki
	Carole Vardy
	Vonnie Wallace

A Turkish Proverb:

"Who gossips to you will gossip of you." But I **do** enjoy chatting to everyone as we change tables!

Book Review

25 Bridge Conventions You Should Know By Barbara Seagram & Marc Smith

Here is a terrific book, which is part of a great series, designed as its title suggests, to present you with 25 conventions that you should know. It has been written in a clear, logical manner and is very user friendly. The book has been broken up into three sections with different chapters within the section.

The first section is titled "**Learn First**" and this deals with such topics as Takeout Doubles, Reverses and Jacoby and Texas Transfers. The next section is titled "**More Complicated**". This includes such topics as Cuebid Raises, Michaels Cuebids and Unusual NT. The final section is "**Sophisticated Stuff**" which includes conventions such as Lebensohl, Responsive Doubles and Roman Keycard Blackwood.

Here they are very encouraging saying you only need to be able to count to 5 to remember this convention (if only). Another strategy for this is to remember 1430 (which is the score you will be lucky enough to make if vulnerable and making 6H/S) so 5C = 1 or 4 keycards, and 5D = 3 or 0 keycards etc. Each technique is discussed, summarised and a quiz presented to test your knowledge.

I would recommend this book to all keen novice players and those intermediate players who wish to improve their skills by reinforcing their knowledge of these 25 conventions.

Judy Carr

New Members

A very warm welcome to the following new members:

Ken Collins

Jennifer Cray

John Murphy

Lorraine Paterson

Hugh Reilly

Kurt Salzgeber



Live well in your retirement

Set high on a hill, with sweeping views and gentle breezes, Aveo Albany Creek is distinguished by beautifully landscaped gardens and well established trees. Enjoy relaxed living in a complete community, where extensive facilities and social activities create a friendly, welcoming atmosphere.

Choose from contemporary 2 or 3 bedroom units, each designed for your independence and freedom. It's also good to know Serviced Apartments are located right on site should you ever require daily living assistance.

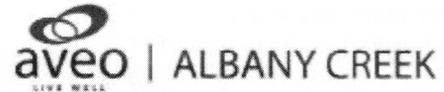
Whether you're partial to security, peace of mind or just enjoy a fantastic range of leisure facilities, you'll find it all at Aveo Albany Creek.

Come and see how a secure home base can make all the difference.

*Price correct at 25.08.07. To be eligible to reside in a Serviced Apartment residents must be medically assessed.

Independent Living Units
from **\$338,000***

Call **13 aveo** (13 28 36)
61 Explorer Dr Albany Creek
07 3264 0919
www.aveolivewell.com.au



Australia's leading provider of retirement lifestyles

April		
Wed	16	PM Arana GNOT Heats Week 2
Thu	17	ABF Senior Playoffs
Sat	19	19-20 QBA Selection Trials Seniors Days 2 & 3
Sun	20	Cards Pairs with Restricted Section
Wed	23	PM Arana GNOT Heats Week 3
Fri	25	QCBC Anzac Teams 25-7 Cleveland Bay Pairs & Teams
Sat	26	26-7 Caloundra Teams 26-7 QBA Selection Trials Senior Days 4 & 5
Wed	30	Red Points

May		
Thu	1	1-7 ABF Bridge for Brain Research
Fri	2	Red Points 2-5 Mackay Congress
Sat	3	3-4 Hervey Bay Pairs & Teams 3-5 Toowoomba Pairs & Teams
Sat	10	Surfers Swiss Teams Redland Novice Pairs
Sat	17	17-8 QBA Open Teams - Toowong
Sun	18	Toowong Novice Mixed Pairs
Sat	24	24-5 Goondiwindi Congress
Sun	25	BBC Graded Butler Pairs NSBC Novice Pairs
Sat	1	Arana Pairs
Sun	2	Arana Swiss Teams

Quote of the Day:

Oh to be in England now that April's there.
Robert Browning