



ARANA

Contract Bridge Club Inc

March-April 2012

Vol 26 No 2

President's Report



THE Christmas Party went well – everyone had a good time. Our singers were excellent as usual.

The New Year Party was not as well attended as last year – but those who went enjoyed it.

We have welcomed 51 new members during the year. A great effort – thanks to our members who go out of their way to welcome new players.

Sadly since Christmas we have lost three of our long standing members; Daphne Gannon, Alan Box and Ann Wood, as well as Pat Lynch, a newer member. Our thoughts are with their families.

Have you noticed our Solar Panels? They are up and running – we are hoping to reduce our power bill and carbon footprints. The painting and air conditioning is getting under way – All at no cost to the club –

The interesting pictures on the wall were taken by Bob Dancer, giving a warm feeling to the club.

Our congress will be played by the time this goes to press. Good Work Jan !

Val Acklin (President)

Important dates

UPCOMING events of interest to members are shown on the home page of the Club's website. This year's members' booklet has much useful information in it, including a month by month calendar of Bridge events for the year.

(ed.)

Masterpoint movements

NEW rankings for Arana home club members for the period to 31st January 2012

Graduate Master	Marie Gilbert Raymond Skillbeck
Local Master	Ed Chorozyński
*Local Master	Carla Webb Robyn Grills Jan Powell
*National Master	David Lehmann

Robert Matthew (MP Sec)

Ross Shardlow Awarded

IN 1985 the QBA instituted the James O'Sullivan award for the most master points achieved by Queensland players in their respective ranks throughout the year.

For 2011 the Graduate level winner is our own Ross Shardlow. Congratulations Ross. We are sure that when the word spreads and he is eventually interviewed on ABC Grandstand, Ross will happily acknowledge his regular playing partners, including Sue Kennard and Sobana Ponniah.

Ross was recently presented with his well earned certificate.

Tony Agar

Library Notice: e-books

FOR some time the library has offered a few items in electronic form. Of these, the CD-ROM items are for use with computers, thus making possible the bonus of interactivity. This form of coaching by world-class players can be more productive for some than reading a book.

The trend however, is to digitize the most revered Canadian and American books and to sell them as e-books. Of the approximately 200 titles available from Australian suppliers, the first we bought has been out of print for years. It is the Australian Gary Brown's Learn to Play Bridge (for the absolute beginner), and it comes with a small book on play by David Bird. The library is testing the response from those interested in reading a bridge book on Kindle, Ipad, other e-readers or just their computer screens at home, all of which are catered for on the disk you borrow.

The second e-book, at the expert end of the range, is Part 4 of the recently published Rodwell Files: Dos and Don'ts of Card Play by past world champion, Eric Rodwell.

Both e-books are of Book of the Year standard. It should be noted that we also have many other Books of the Year in the library: a list in the library cabinet.

Rosemary Matthew

Director's Corner

ALERTING: Previously, all bids above 3NT were deemed to be 'self-alerting'. The ABF (and QBA) recently changed their regulations, making 'all conventional opening bids (at whatever level) alertable. Any opening bid above 3NT, if it is not natural, must be alerted.

So if you play *Namyats*, where opening bids of 4♣ & 4♦ are transfers to 4♥ & 4♠ respectively, then 4♣ & 4♦ are alertable.

If you play transfer pre-empts where an opening 4♣, 4♦ or 4♥ is a transfer to 4♦, 4♥ or 4♠ respectively, your opening bid is alertable.

If you play an opening 4Nt as game force in a minor, 4Nt is alertable.

A few years ago, the ABF declared 'any 2♣ response to a 1NT opening bid in an uncontested auction is self-alerting.

Uncontested auction means the opponents have not bid, as in: pass 1Nt pass 2♣.

If they have bid, the auction is contested and 2♣ (Stayman) is alertable: *eg*

– opponents open 1♥ 1Nt / 2♣*, or

– 1Nt X 2♣*, but

– 1♣ 1Nt / 2♣ is a self-alerting cue bid!

Note that all other artificial 2♣ openings, *eg* Benjamin two showing any 19+ hcp, Precision 2♣ showing 6♣s OR 5♣s + 4♥/♠s, are still alertable (as are negative responses).

A transfer bid in response to partner's 1Nt is alertable. Acceptance of the transfer, whether or not after interference, is alertable if it conveys any meaning relating to hand strength or length in partner's shown suit, *eg* less than 4 cards in the transfer suit or minimum Nt (15-16) bid.

It is better to over-alert than to under-alert. Informing opponents that 'its on our card' is not a defence to not alerting.

Richard McLauchlan

Tribute – Ann Elizabeth Wood

ANN and I became Bridge partners around October 2008. We had both learned to play Bridge a couple of years before at one of Ray Cowie's classes. We had our moments, as you do, but were very happy to play together every week and enjoy our companionship and the companionship of others. Ann progressed quickly, going to various club congresses, and playing on red point days, keen to amass those points, until she achieved State Master in 2011.

But she was so happy she could still play in the 'novice' teams as her green points were still under 100. Maths was always Ann's best suit!

She also learnt the Bridgmate computer programme and did the computer on a Monday night for years.

Ann was a mentor to the new players, freely giving of her time and experience.

The Club often reverberated to the sound of her laughter during play.

She approached her illness the same way; with pragmatism and courage. It was just something to be managed. Each setback was

fought well, and she put her faith in the good Doctors as they came up with yet another treatment for her and so she bounced back time after time. She was at peace with herself and the world. Her husband, Arthur, her family and friends were her life and her sustenance.

She was a good friend. We shall all miss her.

*"Because I could not stop for death - he kindly
stopped for me-
The carriage held but just ourselves - and
immortality"*

Emily Dickinson

*"Only when you drink from the river of silence
shall you indeed sing.
And when the earth shall claim your limbs, then
shall you truly dance"*

from The Prophet by Kahlil Gibran

Jenny Walker

Tribute - Daphne Mai Gannon



DAPHNE Mai Gannon was born in Yandina on the 16th October 1921 - the first of four daughters of Arthur and Neta Best.

After finishing High School at Gympie Convent she worked in Nambour. She met Paul Gannon when she was 16. With the start of the war Paul joined the Air Force and was posted overseas. Daphne also joined the women's Air Force and was posted to Townsville. She and Paul met again after the war and were married in 1945.

They settled in Bundaberg where Paul was a teacher and there they brought up five children - Gay and Jo are both members of Arana Bridge Club.

Daphne lived a busy life - she was an accomplished dress maker, tried her hand at millinery, knitting, crocheting, all forms of

handiwork. She loved entertaining - many sing alongs were held around the piano followed by a legendary supper. She started playing bridge seriously when her children had left home and she and Paul were foundation members of the Bundaberg Bridge Club. In retirement they moved to Bargarra and started a bridge club there.

In 2003 Paul and Daphne moved to Brisbane to be close to their children and their families and settled in Holy Spirit Retirement Village. They also joined Arana Bridge Club at this time. In her later years Daphne continued to enjoy her handcrafts and cooking but she also expanded her interest by mastering the computer and the internet and in her last year, facebook. She played bridge on line with people all over the world.

Daphne had serious health problems in her later years - this did not stop her walking every day. Daphne died in Holy Spirit Hospice on Christmas morning - in her last few weeks she spoke to many of her old friends and sisters to say goodbye to them. She also saw most of her children, grand children and great grandchildren in her last week.

Biopic of Helen McLauchlan



I was born Helen Lesley Otte in 1947 at a small private maternity hospital in Southport on Queensland's Gold Coast. I have one older sister, Sandra. Dad was a carpenter and Mum, of course, was a full-time mum.

In 1951 the family moved to Toowoomba as there was a lot more work for carpenters in the fast growing town on the Darling Downs. Sandra and I attended South Girls' and Infants State School and Toowoomba State High. I left school after completing my Junior

Certificate (now grade 10) and worked for a small insurance company until I joined the Commonwealth Bank in 1963. The bank was a very paternalistic employer; girls and young women were not allowed to wear slacks in spite of the cold climate in winter (no air conditioning or heating) and had to wear stockings in the summer in spite of the heat. After living in a household where women ruled & attending school mainly with girls, I found the male dominance very trying.

Mum and Dad always played cards and the family played lots of board games together. I can remember from a very young age going out with Mum and Dad for them to have an evening of cards and when the weather was too inclement for tennis, Mum's tennis club would adjourn to our place for more card games. I was still in primary school when I was allowed to join in after school when numbers permitted. I always loved Canasta, and later played Pontoon (21), draw Poker, Up and Down the River, and In-Betweens to mention just a few. After I met my husband Richard I learnt to play 500 and Cribbage and we played these regularly with Mum and Dad. I learnt my competitive nature from my Dad and from these early card and board games.

Mum, Dad, and I moved to Brisbane in February 1966. Sandra was married by then. I transferred with the Bank and stayed with them until the travel bug hit in a small way. After returning to Brisbane I worked in the computer centre of the University of Qld and then the accounts department of the AMA's retail wing. In December 1970 I met Richard on a blind date arranged by a work mate of mine who was married to a work mate of Richard's and we married on 15 January 1972. We now have two adult children who are both in permanent relationships &, of course, our grandson Zachary who turned one on 5 February.

After moving to Carseldine in 1985 Muriel and John Miller moved in next door the following year. We used to play Canasta and 500 with them. In 1989 Muriel convinced Richard to go to bridge classes with her (Richard had been playing socially at university and work since he was at UQ) and

so started a long and happy association with the Arana Contract Bridge Club for both of us. It was 1994 before I learnt to play but I had been helping Pam Horton at the congress for a few years before that & knew quite a few members. As Judy Valentine had retired and gone travelling I took classes from Ross and Diana Dick at Northern Suburbs and Richard and I started playing there on Saturday afternoons which we still do most weeks. I took to bridge in my usual competitive spirit and landed in the "familiar", though uncomfortable, hot water. It was a big advantage to learn in my 40's and to have Richard as a regular partner from the beginning. He encouraged me to read books and then to play with other people. The bridge playing world and especially Arana Bridge Club is now the source of most of my close friends and has helped keep our marriage well glued.

Thanks especially to all those who supported me through my troubles; you know who you are, and are, thankfully, too many to name.

That Christmas Spirit

Many of the members at the 2011 Christmas Party chose to lend a real note of festivity to the occasion with fancy hats and decorations. The following pictures were taken there.





particularly where a doubleton has been led against a trump suit contract. Firstly of course one has to determine the card led is from a doubleton and not a singleton. Frequently the bidding will provide a clue. However let us assume you have diagnosed that partner has led from a doubleton and **that you hold the ace in the suit led.**

You will be frequently rewarded if you duck the first round so that partner will retain a card of the suit to return to you should he retain the lead before trumps are drawn. Example:

	N		
	♠ 1094		
	♥ A863		
	♦ Q102		
	♣ AJ6		
W			E
♠ K75			♠ 83
♥ K1042			♥ Q975
♦ 85			♦ A943
♣ 9743			♣ K85
	S		
	♠ AQJ62		
	♥ J		
	♦ KJ76		
	♣ Q102		

South is playing in 4 Spades and West leads the 8 of Diamonds. If East wins with the Ace and returns the suit it will be won in dummy and the Spade finesse taken. West will win and switch to a Club in an effort to reach East's hand for a Diamond ruff. Declarer will rise with the Ace (properly refusing the finesse-something players should consider more often), draw trumps and so make his contract. Consider what happens if East refuses the first trick but instead plays an encouraging card to signal partner to continue the suit. Now when West wins the Spade finesse he will have a Diamond to lead and a ruff is obtained.

Note, if East has a quick entry card the holdup is not necessary. In the above hand should East hold the Ace of Clubs he could afford to win the first Diamond trick and return the suit. His partner will deduce that a quick entry card is held otherwise the holdup play adopted.

Diagnosis and deduction are the essence of successful defensive play and very rewarding when the cards lie favourably.

Tony's Tips

Cooperating with the leader of a doubleton

IN defence one is often called upon to cooperate with partner's opening lead

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

Please support those who support our club and its members.

AVEO, and Arana Leagues Club, provide aid to the club (funding or goods), while Flight Centre and IGA SUPA, both at Brookside, provide discounts to club members who identify themselves as members of Arana Bridge Club by showing a club ID Badge. Any badge used to identify a member at Bridge which has the club name on it will suffice.

I am also advised that purchases at this IGA SUPA are tracked by them and an annual gift made to the club based on member purchases through the year. (ed.)

Q&A

Q. If you were to spell out numbers, how far would you have to go until you would find the letter 'A'?

A. One thousand

Sri Lanka Bridge holiday

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