

# ARANA

## Contract Bridge Club Inc

*The Friendly Club*

May-June 2009

Vol 23 No 3

### President's Report

Earlier this year I reported that I expected extra car parking spaces would be available behind the building. This is now uncertain due to the access problem. You will have noted that an access road has been formed around the western side of the football oval. This is meant to be a one-way road, so additional parking will not be available until problems with continuation of this access road are resolved. Our application to the Australian Tax Office to discontinue paying GST was unsuccessful. Hopefully we will be free of GST by 2012.

Our major congress is over for another year. While entries were down, you can be proud that Arana staged another successful congress. Thanks go to the convenor, Jan McRobbie and to those many helpers who come forward every year, to make the event a success.

Our next major events are Novice Teams (Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> Aug.) and Club Pairs Championship (Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> Aug.). Please make a date in your diary and get behind these events.

On a matter of etiquette, would members please refrain from highlighting their own, favourable Bridgemate score but you are encouraged to congratulate your opponents for their good score!!

**David Lehmann**

### DIRECTOR'S CORNER

'How about an article on some of the more humorous calls?' requests the editor. Well I suppose there have been a few... most of which I've forgotten. Too many insufficient bids, opening leads out of turn and revokes. Then, at the very next session....

NS bid to 2S when W (pass out seat) raises his partner to 3C. North didn't see this bid and starts putting her 'trumps' (SQ-x) on the table. Director! So now we have **cards exposed during the auction** (Law 24).

North passes and the bidding is passed around to South who suggests that ethically, she should pass (and does).

**Law 24 requires this pass when an honour card is exposed** during the auction. But the **penalty cards mean lead rights**.

Do you accept the lead? No. You may prohibit or demand a S lead from the correct hand. Do NOT lead a spade. Now ALL penalty cards are returned to North's hand (Law 5I).

[Readers of Victor Mollo's books might recall the Rueful Rabbit accidentally putting his whole hand down, thinking he was Dummy. All the honour penalty cards had to be played first and the Rabbit's continual unblocking of his suits defeats the contract.]

A couple of rounds later in the same session... 1C 2H 1D... Director!? **The insufficient 1D bid** was prematurely 'corrected' to 2D (not a good idea – Law 27C) and still rejected (Law 27B). The attempted D bids were replaced by a pass, requiring offender's partner to pass throughout.

And a bit later the same night... the NS bidding had reached 4H when S insufficiently bid 4C. Bidding a sufficient number of Clubs will allow partner to continue bidding. Hang on says East, we all know it was asking for Aces.

Ahh... so 4C was Gerber? Yes. In that case I'll also allow you to bid 4NT (Law 27B1b - **insufficient bids may be replaced by a legal call that has the same, or more precise, meaning as the insufficient bid**).

West was heard to mumble something about some partners only opening their mouths to change feet. NS were so bamboozled by now that the 5D response was passed and a H slam missed.

No... nothing much happens when I'm directing. **A couple of tips:** (1) **opening leads face down please** and (2) **absolutely do NOT bid out of rotation if your partner was to bid before you**.

**Richard McLauchlan**

## **Marièle (Wella) and Ken Hooper**

Marièle (nee Bianchi) was born in 1936, to Italian parents, in Katala, Kenya, an agricultural town between Mt. Elgon and the Charengani Hills, 330 km NW of Nairobi. After the start of WWII her father was sent to the Orange Free State as a civilian POW so her mother had to look after her, her sister, Gigliola and brother Tura. She looked after the farmer's children when the wives came in to shop and made pasta and children's clothes to make ends meet. Her father returned in 1943.

She was sent to school in Eldoret at the convent. Then, in 1946, the family moved to a NZ flax estate of 36000 acres in Kaptagat, where her father was in charge of all machinery. 1952 was the start of the Mau Mau emergency. Her brother, a member of the Kenyan Regiment, was called up and, along with 4 others, was ambushed and killed by the Mau Mau

At 18, Marièle moved to Nairobi and worked for a short time at Barclay's Bank. Her parents took her for a holiday to Italy in 1954 to Lovere, right up north close to the Swiss Austrian border, the town where they had both been born. On her return she started work at the Kenya Police CID headquarters, running the police Gazette, listing wanted people, stolen bikes etc. Later she worked for the police surgeon and photographic department.

After a return boat trip from Mombassa to Cape Town, she moved into Kirk Rd house where she made many friends. It was just 100 yards from work and that is where she met Ken. After dating for 5 years she finally agreed to marry him so he got a special licence and they were married within 8 days before she could change her mind!

Ken was born in 1927 in Tunbridge Wells, Kent, and began his travels early. At only 3 months old, he moved with his mother, to Malta, to join his father who was in the Royal Navy. Two years later, back in the UK, they lived in Chatham then Rainham. In 1939 he and his sister were evacuated to Llanharan in South Wales. Ken returned just before his 15<sup>th</sup> birthday to start an apprenticeship as an armature winder. They repaired such things as Submarine armatures and all types of electrical motors. He joined the Air Training Corp. In 1947 he worked for Butlin's Holiday Camp at Skegness, repairing motors for all the camps and hotels in the UK. In 1956 he went to Nairobi as a foreman and in 1958 became a workshop manager and took a directorship with Auto Armatures East Africa and stayed with them till 1968. It was in this time that he met Marièle.

With the birth of their children Antony and then Lynda, Marièle gave up work. Each year they would go down to the coast to go deep-sea fishing for billfish like sailfish and marlin. They also went fishing on Mt Kenya for trout. They have been

chased a few times by lions, charged by elephant and had to do a quick tyre change as a rhinoceros moved toward them. They have taken their children to visit grandparents in England and Italy, (Marièle's parents having returned there after 42 years in Africa).

In May 1968, they were again on the move: Dar es Salaam, on to Mauritius, where they had a 24 hour stop-over, then to Perth and 12 hours later, on to Adelaide where they were met by Ken's sister and family. Staying in a RDC hostel they had a look around for 3 weeks then moved into a house. Marièle suddenly had to learn to cook and clean and look after 2 kids as previously they had always had home help for that. Having arrived at the start of winter, and owning very little warm clothing, they found it very cold. Ken found work within 5 days.

Two years on, they moved to Mildura and loved it there. Marièle worked picking grapes and in the Grand Hotel. Another move in 1972 saw them in PNG Panguna on Bouganville. They had a good life up there with many friends, spending a lot of time at the beach, swimming and playing tennis. Bridge was played at each other's houses- about 2 or 3 tables with lunch put on. They had their ups and downs- been evacuated 3 times, first a 7.4 earthquake, a riot and then a flood.

Eleven years later they returned to Brisbane to be nearer their children and joined the Arana Bridge Club. Ken's last 9 years of work were with Dowding and Mills, setting up a high voltage coil shop for their use and for export, all over the Pacific region.

In 2000 Ken won a "Panasonic" trip for 2 to the Sydney Olympic Games. "I must say, we have had a good life together!"

Marièle and Ken.



## Book review:

### Don't Love No Trumps?

Why, nothing should make you feel more alert and alive than a tough "no trump" contract!

Paul Marston's quartet of bridge books for newer players includes two dealing with no trumps. **All about No Trumps** is about bidding in the main and is, like the others in the series, clear and well sequenced. Don't be put off by the plain presentation of these books. They cover more than the basics and there is not a word wasted. **The Language of Bidding** reviewed by Judy Carr in a previous issue is another of the four.

If it is the play of no trumps that you find the most problematic, then I think Paul Marston's **The Principles of Card Play** is the more helpful, even though only one third of it deals with No Trump declarer play.

Step-by-step the first eight chapters take you through the tactics and mental habits you must develop in order to mine the most tricks taken from the combined 26 cards. Forget those 9 easy tricks off-the-top you hoped for.

If you really take this book to heart, soon you will be **counting winners**, choosing the **best suit to develop**, **holding up** winners to **cut communications** between the opponents, **preserving entries** to the long tricks, **ducking** to dig down to those last tricks in your long suit, sensing **the danger hand** and giving up the lead to the more favourable side for your plan. Not all are intuitive. hence the need to read about them.

Here is a hand that was bid to 2NT the other day. There are 9 tricks to be made, according to the hand analysis.

♠ Q 9 6 4 2	♦ A
♥ 10 2	♥ K J 9 6 4
◆ A J 2	◆ K 5 4
♣ K Q 4	♣ 8 7 5 2
Bidding: N	E S W
1C	1H P 1S
P	2Nt all pass

Lead by South: ♦10. You are an optimistic sort and, as you often find, this is again your lucky day: all top honours are favourably placed - except the ♦Q - and there are 3-3 breaks in hearts and clubs.

Even so, it's not easy, and a cool head definitely helps; enlist the principles above and make a plan before you play the first card. This will beat the doomed "I think I'll start here" approach.

Paul Marston's books are available for borrowing from the library and you can buy them at QCBC for about \$20 each - which is very good value.

'Never giving up (?)'

Arana Hills

Arana Contract Bridge Club

## Tony's Tricks and Trumps:

### Odds on a suit breaking evenly or unevenly.

The principal of playing the odds simply means selecting that play which offers the greater chance of success. One need not be a mathematician to work it out. Here are two simple rules to add to your declarer play techniques.

If there is an **even number** of cards out against you in any particular suit, then **they are more likely to break unevenly**, thus 4 cards will split 3-1, 6 cards 4-2 etc. Say you hold these 2 suits in a NT contract and the DK is your only entry to that hand:

♥ 7 6 5	A Q 2
♦ K 5	A Q 7 3 2

Which play offers the best chance of winning the most tricks?

You hold 7 Diamonds so there are 6 cards out against you, an even number. The odds are they will break unevenly, 4-2. As your DK is the only entry, play low towards it and finesse the HQ. If it holds you cash the A and then AQ of diamonds. If you first play for Diamonds to break 3-3 you can no longer finesse in Hearts (a 50% chance) if this line fails. Ignore possible 5-1, 6-0 breaks, as there is no play for these.

Of course if there is good reason to play for an even break, say it is your sole chance of making your contract, play for the drop.

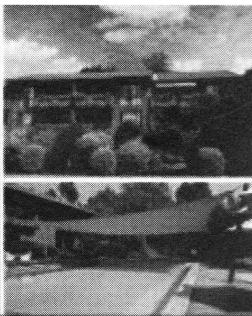
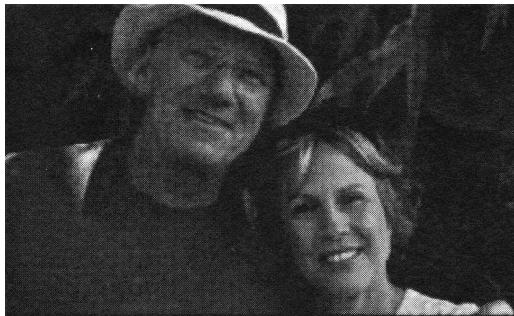
The opposing rule is that when there are an **odd number** of cards out against you **they are more likely to break as evenly as possible**, 3 cards (2-1) 5 cards (3-2) 7 cards (4-3) etc. Say you hold 5-3 or 4-4 in a suit (often the case in your trump suit) plan for the outstanding 5 cards to break 3-2. Eg:

A K J 6	8 5 4 2
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There is a fundamental principal of playing the odds. The hand with the greater number of cards is more likely to hold the card you are looking for. Therefore as the Q is probably in the 3 carded hand playing the AK will not drop it. The best chance to capture the Q with 5 missing cards is the finesse.

Playing the odds gives us the best chance over an entire session for a positive score. If you gain 100% on 2 hands and a bottom one hand (0%) you score 66.7% over 3 boards, well above a 50% average.

Tony Agar



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### ARANA CONTRACT BRIDGE CLUB

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



Gambling  
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For our 2008 Bridgemate project

### Congress Raffle:

Congratulations to the winners and many thanks to all the Arana members who gave their gilts to make the Arana Congress Raffle a great success. A big thank you also, to all the ticket buyers...Much appreciated.  
**Kath Rooney**

Check out our club web-site at-  
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### Joke for the week:

Giving a man his physical, a doctor noticed several dark ugly bruises on the man's shins.

"Do you play hockey, rugby, any physical sport?" the doctor asked.

The man replied, "No. I just play Bridge with my wife."

...N.Gold, Nathan