



ARANA

Contract Bridge Club Inc

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Editor's desk

WE are the champions and have the trophy to prove it. Just ask Sunnybank whom we rather soundly thrashed on 10 September. They did have the best performing team that won the champagne. Joan Fitz-Herbert and Lorraine Steele put on a super supper to top off a good night.

The hall will be air-conditioned later this year. That should make summer a little more pleasant, but we don't know yet if the rent will increase.

The Redlands club has invested in a club room (carpeted and air conditioned) with space for 24 tables in one of the local shopping centres. Membership has doubled from 60 to 120 with 4 sessions per week. They intend playing there until the local council provides land in 3-4 years. Might be something for Arana to consider if a suitable venue becomes available.

The interclub teams is on the last Sunday in November at Toowong. We hope to field the strongest possible open, restricted and novice teams (1 in each grade) to represent Arana.

Congratulations to Val Acklin and Joyce Rosser in winning the president's Pairs. Their first round 70% made life rather difficult for the rest of the field. Handicap winners were Betty Willson and Rita Wood. The Pairs Championships are on the first 3 Wednesdays in November.

Richard McLauchlan

Management committee

ITEMS of interest from the management committee meeting of Tuesday 21 October include:

Carol Wilson takes over from Joan Sadleir as stock controller.

Forest Place have agreed to provide a trophy and \$200 sponsorship for a club competition, the format of which is yet to be decided. They are also

running day tours and Christmas lunches on Sunday 30 November and 7 December.

Welcome to new members Thelma Bell and Maxime Hoare.

Current funds are \$1,250 in cash and \$139,500 invested at 4.8%.

The BCC has sent us a form for expressions of interest for use of their Tramway Street land.

Vehicle access to the Drysdale Reserve site should be provided within 2 years.

The club officially goes into recess following break-ups on 15, 16 & 17 December but the hall is available if anyone wants to play Mon/Tue 22 & 23 and 29 & 30 December. Normal play resumes 5, 6 & 7 January.

Helen McLauchlan (vp/treasurer)

Laws of contract bridge 1997

THE new 97 Laws are now in force. There are a number of changes relating to authorised and unauthorised information, conventional, insufficient and inadvertent bids, as well as dummy's rights. To most players, the changes will be relatively painless but the insufficient (conventional) bid may cause problems.

While the Laws make a poor attempt to define a conventional bid, they do make it quite clear that if an insufficient bid could have been conventional, or would be conventional if made good at the next level, then partner is barred. So be careful when replying to 4NT (Blackwood), because an insufficient 4 level response could get you into plenty of trouble... unless you can convince the Director that the bid was inadvertent.

Dummy now has the right to call the Director, but only after another player has called attention to an infraction. Dummy is still not allowed to call attention to an infraction during play. He can do so at the end of play as he is no longer dummy.

Festival Pairs

Helen & I were the only Arana entrants in QCBC's Festival (formerly Warana) Pairs in September. Having played no serious competition since Bundaberg, we were a bit rusty and scored accordingly on Saturday. Sunday was better but we had given too much start away to be any threat. Board 26 in the second last round was some help.

26/ All/ E	Q 8 6 3 2		S N
	K		1D 1S
	A J		2C 2H*
J 9 7	A K J 5 2	K 10 5 4	3H 4NT
Q J 8 6 4		9 7 5 2	5H 7C
8 7 5		Q 9 6	
10 7	A	4 3	
	A 10 3		
	K 10 4 3 2		
	Q 9 8 6		

Thee first 4 bids were common at many tables, N's 2H being fourth suit forcing. In our system, my 3H bid showed my distribution as 1-3-5-4 or 0-4-5-4. Many pairs bid 2NT over 2H to show a H stopper. That was often followed by some cue bids leading to slam. Of the 19 tables, only 5 bid the grand, most subsiding in 6NT or 6C, with a few wimps in 3NT and 5C.

I received a suspicious S7 lead, surely not 4th highest from the K or J against a freely bid slam? If singleton, E held lots of Ss so I suspected a doubleton. I did not want to guess where the DQ was (I can finesse either way). If Cs are 3-1 then Ds are likely 4-2 and I may need to ruff Ds twice in dummy to set up my suit, so I can not have more than 2 early leads of trumps. I decided on a dummy reversal.

Win the S in hand, H to dummy, ruff a S, W playing the 9(!) so the opening lead should not have been doubleton (lead 9 from 9-7) and can't be middle of 3 (E played 4 & 5). The D2 to dummy's A, then another S ruffed (W's J making the opening lead look like 4th highest from K-J-9-7), HA discarding dummy's DJ, ruff a D, ruff another S with the CQ and finally lead trumps with dummy's SQ taking the last trick.

Although I made the contract, I felt that I had made overly hard work of it. The other half of the field played this board on the last round and I was able to watch Ralph Parker put Peter Hainsworth into 7C. Peter received a more standard HQ lead, thought about it for a couple of minutes, won the H, had 2 leads of trumps, AD, KD, ruff a D dropping the Q and claimed – all too easy.

Richard McLauchlan

Masterpoint movements

NEW masterpoint rankings for members whose home club is Arana include:

Graduate

Pat Curran Anne Harris
Doreen Van Wunnik

Club

Beryl Bell Kathy Carrol
Lorraine Steele

Local

Bob Dancer Joan McDonald

Local*

Carolyn Garden Mary Wilson

Local**

May Hassum

Regional

Liz Marshall Muriel Miller

State

Gary Lynch

State*

Rita Wood

Jenny Lewis (mp sec)

Sydney... sharks and gadgets

WHILE recently in Sydney, we decided to tackle a swiss pairs and teams at the Lindfield club. The pairs was a very strong field, including the current Australian men's champ, Peter Newman. On a table was an electronic scorer (large pocket calculator size) which nobody seemed to know much about, as well as a list of instructions.

There were to be 7 rounds of 8 board matches with scoring on an IMPS basis, *ie* strategy should be similar to teams. On each board, the top and bottom 3 scores from the 37 tables were dropped, the rest averaged, your score was compared to the average and the difference converted to IMPS. The total IMPS for the 8 boards was then converted to VPs.

As if that wasn't mind-boggling enough, after playing the first board, we all had to stop while the electronic scorers were explained. Press any key to start, enter the board number, the contract, declarer, number of tricks made and the score is automatically displayed. Show this to your opponents and let them press 'ENTER' to transmit the data to the radio receiver attached to the scoring computer. Easy, but time consuming.

Just to add to the fun, several spot prizes were awarded. We scored the first one, awarded to the pair who had travelled furthest to attend, and that included \$5 in an envelop marked 'lunch is on us'. By lunch, we had sort of figured out the scoring

system. I overdid it a bit on board 1 in the afternoon session, but it paid off.

1/ Nil/ N	A J 10 2	
	9 3	
	J 8 5	
K 8 7 5 4	K 6 5 2	Q 6
A 7 5		J 8 6
A 10 9 6		K Q 3 2
Q	9 3	A 9 4 3
	K Q 10 4 2	
	7 4	
	J 10 8 7	

N passed and I (E) opened 1C; S bid 1H; Helen 1S; N passed. All this looked very unexciting. My next bid should be 1NT (not necessarily promising a H stopper) but I passed to see what would happen. What happened is that S passed and Helen berated me for opening if I was not prepared to bid after she changed suit.

N led the H9 and Helen struggled to make 1S for +80. I had the last laugh when the average for the board turned out to be +30 to N-S (from 3NT going off) so we scored 110 against the average for 3 IMPs to us. We managed a couple of wins and a draw for a top half finish, the last round finishing at nearly 7 pm after a 9:30 am start, thanks to those time-consuming scorers.

Sunday, we lined up for another dose in the teams (7 x 8 board matches), minus the electronic scorers. The morning session was Ok with a win and a draw. Our (Surfers) team mates' lack of recent competition started to tell in the afternoon and even some friendly opposition resulted in narrow losses.

9/ EW/ N	8 2	
	K Q 8 6 4	
	10 9 5 3	
Q 6	A 5	A J 10 9 7 4 3
3 2		A 7
A Q 7		6 2
J 10 9 7 6 2	K 5	Q 8
	J 10 9 5	
	K J 8 4	
	K 4 3	

N passed and I opened 1S; S doubled and Helen bid 2C (long Cs, less than 10 points); N's 2H got 3S from me and 3H from S. Director! S changed her bid to pass and N was barred from the auction with lead penalties when she first got on lead. Helen's 4S was passed out.

The HJ went to my A; my CQ was won by S who led a small H won by N. Director! I enforced the lead penalty and asked for a H lead, discarding the C8 and ruffing in dummy. I ruffed out the CA,

conceded the KS and did not have to worry about the D finesse as all the Cs were good.

The bridge was tough with a lot of strong players. At least the teams finished at a reasonable hour without the electronic scorers. Sydney? Great place to visit but...

Richard McLauchlan

Redlands swiss

REDLANDS is a smallish club on the southern bayside. They recently invested in club rooms in a local shopping centre until council land becomes available for a clubhouse in 3-4 years. Playing 4 sessions per week, the club doubled from 60 to 120 with the new rooms. They held their annual swiss pairs in October with a strong 29 tables competing. Our 1st round was against the ultimate winners Ivy Siow and John Luck. We won this encounter 146-134, no thanks to board 3.

3/ EW/ S	10	
	8 5	
	Q 10 9 7 5 4 2	
K 9 8	A K 5	A J 5 4 2
A J 6 4		K 10 9 2
A J 6		3
10 7 6	Q 7 6 3	J 3 2
	Q 7 3	
	K 8	
	Q 9 8 4	

The bidding: / 1C 4D X. My SA lead got the 3-8-10. I did not want to risk another S, possibly setting up the Q. I switched to a C won by N's A. The D2 went to dummy's K and Helen's A. Unfortunately, she returned the SK, N losing only the DJ, discarding Hs on the 4th C and SQ.

With 2 tricks in the bag, Helen had a 2nd D trick (unless declarer crosses to dummy and finesses against her DJ). So she should have led the HA to set the contract. That will get encouragement from me and N is 2 down for +300, a fair score considering 4H and 4S are iffy. Conversely, if I lead the SJ at trick 2, N will ruff (either J-Q-K or J-6-9) and Helen may be forced to a H lead when in with the DA, because a 3rd S lead will set up dummy's last S.

Those small defensive errors dropped us to the middle third (the plate) at lunch. The afternoon was a lot better as we climbed to 5th in the plate (14th overall). The good news was that 1st and 2nd in the plate finished 2nd and 3rd outright, so our 5th got us the 3rd place prizes. It is well worth the drive to Redlands, many pairs using this event as a warm-up to BBC's congress.

Richard McLauchlan

BBC/ Queensland pairs

SOME rather substantial prize money as well as the Queensland pairs title ensures BBC's congress attracts the top local and interstate players. Helen and I were the only Aranans at the Souths Leagues Club. We started well in qual-1 but life got tougher as the top seeds played through.

Board 16 was typical of the spot-on judgment needed to land many contracts.

16/ EW/ W	10	W N E S
	4	1S 2NT 4H 5D
	A Q 9 7 4 2	
Q J 9 8 2	J 10 6 3 2	6 3
A 3		K Q J 10 8 7 2
K 5		10 8
Q 9 7 5	A K 7 5 4	K 4
	9 6 5	
	J 6 3	
	A 8	

Over Siggy Konig's 1S, Helen's 2NT was for the minors. Jim Wallis pre-empted in Hs and a rush of adrenalin got 5D from me. At the vulnerability, I should double, lead a trump and put them 2 down for 500 to us. Instead, Siggy led HA, followed by the H3 ruffed. The S10 was won in hand and D3 to the Q followed by DA cleared trumps. How do you tackle the Cs?

I led C2-4-8-9, won the S return, led CA felling the K but they had to win another C trick. One off. Had I led the CJ, Jim said he would not cover and Siggy wins the Q. Again I win the S return and the CA fells the K, but now the C10 wins and a C ruff cleans E, setting up dummy's 5th club for the contract. If Jim did cover the CJ-K-A-5, I should always manage only 1 C loser.

Qual-2 was much better (3rd) and we made the plate, where only Parker-Hainsworth and Wallis-Drake were mis-qualified. Con-1 was far worse with Robson-Lee, Dahler-Mayers, Siow-Luck, Fredericks-Ben Ezra, Butts-Dodd in the field.

We started badly in the final and continued throughout the session. The afternoon was better but we never threatened. The Qld pairs title went to Richard Ward and Lindy Vincent. This is as tough a field as you will find in Brisbane. The leagues club was better than last year's Gap High School venue but still left a little to be desired

Richard McLauchlan

Qld graded teams

ARANA was solidly represented in the middle (state-national, 18 teams) section of QCBC's Qld graded (swiss) teams. Pam, Jenny, Joyce and Joan (Sargent) made up the HORTON team, while Betty and Rita were in the SANDILANDS team, with

Helen and me in the BLICK team. We drew Pam's team in round 1 and had a tidy win. Guess what? The SANDILANDS team also won its 1st match and drew us in round 2. Our club mates were all very kind as we completed our second win. We lost the next match narrowly to lead at lunch.

The afternoon was a bit rougher – there are few easy matches when you are leading a swiss. We slipped slightly to 3rd with one match to go. We had all been on the wrong end of some doubles (always risky in teams) during the day, so the tactic was definitely no doubling... then board 16 arrived

16/ EW/ W	J 6 5 4	
	K J 8 6	
	Q	
Q 9 8 2	K 9 8 3	A K 10 7
7 4 3		Q 10
J 10 9 2		A
10 4	3	A Q 7 6 5 2
	A 9 5 2	
	K 8 7 6 5 4 3	
	J	

After 2 passes, I (E) opened 2C – 4 losers, any suit and forcing. S chimed in with 3D, passed around to me. I really, *really*, **really** wanted to double but wasn't game. Reluctantly, I bid 4C (I couldn't bid 4S when Helen had shown nothing) which eventually went 1 down (2C & 2H losers).

With the nasty breaks in the black suits, 4S is not much better, but if you win the C lead, have 1 lead of trumps, and cross ruff Cs and Ds, you just might manage it. Our team mates duly defeated 4S by 2 tricks. 3D should be at least 1 down.

Despite narrowly losing this match, we climbed back into 2nd spot, thanks some other friendly results. With only 3 wins (they were big) from 7 matches, we were happy to take the prize money, even if we didn't score that many MPs. The other Aranans finished mid-field.

Richard McLauchlan

Important dates

- Sat 1-2/11 Northern Suburbs congress
- Tue 4/11 Melbourne Cup day
- Wed 5-12-19/11 Pairs Championship
- Sat 8-9/11 Noosa congress
- Sat 15/11 Surfers Paradise novice teams
- Sun 16/11 Western Suburbs novice teams
- Sun 23/11 QCBC pairs
- Wed 26/11 Queensland-wide pairs
- Tue 8/12 Management committee meeting
- Mon 15, 16, 17/12 Christmas break-up