



# ARANA

## Contract Bridge Club Inc

November - December 2005

Vol 19 No 6

### From the Vice President

Arana Bridge Club has gone hi-tech! Thanks to Robert Matthew we can now check our results at the flick of a switch. See page 2 for details.

Our balance sheet is quite healthy and we were able to pay an extra \$3,000 off our loan.

The Novice Teams event was quite successful with 12 teams competing. The Hull team narrowly missed 1<sup>st</sup> place - Arana teams coming 2<sup>nd</sup> and equal 3<sup>rd</sup>.

If you know of a Club member who is ill please let Liz Marshall or a committee member know so that we can show we care.

Our Christmas party is fast approaching. Hope to see everyone there.

Val Acklin

### Arana 2005 Christmas Party Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December



Play commences at 1:00pm  
followed by presentation of Club  
Awards and light supper  
Bring a plate to share

### Articles of Interest

If you have any articles that may be of interest to Club members, or you wish to contribute personally to the Trump-It, please contact me to discuss.

Barbara Holmes – Editor

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### Melbourne Cup Day Festivities Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November



Session commences at 9:30  
Cup Sweeps and Hat Competition  
Bring a plate to share

### ♣♦ Important Phone Numbers ♥♠

Clubhouse Phone Number: (07) 3851- 0299

Email address: [aranabridge@netspace.net.au](mailto:aranabridge@netspace.net.au)

Vice-President: Val Acklin 3851-3059

Secretary: Tony Agar 3851-1362

Treasurer: Gay Hull 3300-2050

Partner Contact: Carol Wilson 3353-2297

## Solemn Bridge Oath

I'm giving up bridge – tonight's my last night  
It's 'amen' to Stayman, I give up the fight.  
The insults and muddles are giving me troubles  
And I can't sleep at night for thinking of doubles.

My cards are all rotten and who's played what?  
What the heck's trumps? I think I've forgotten  
So for now it's all over – I'm off to the back wood  
I'm bidding good-bye to Gerber and Blackwood.

I can't stand the hassle, I can't stand the pain  
I'm picking up bad cards again and again.  
I'm giving up bridge – tonight's a bad night.  
Declarer is horrid and nothing's gone right.

My partner's a dope and I'm losing hope  
And when he says 'double', I know we're in trouble.  
My points are not high, and I'm wondering why  
He kept on bidding right up to the sky.

We're in seven spades and all my hope fades  
When surprise, surprise, his high bidding pays.  
We're winning all tricks, the defenders feel sick  
And I have to admit my partner's a brick.

But I'm giving up bridge – tonight's my last night  
Farewell to conventions – I give up the fight!  
So I leave with few words but some that are true,  
Bridge is a game not for me but for you.

So be kind to your partners  
And don't mind their cheek  
For it's only a game –  
Oh, I'll see you next week.

Author Unknown

Thanks to Kathy Burgess for this article.

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## QBA Open & Novice Pairs Championship

Congratulations to **Peggy Whittaker** and **Peter Van Eden** who finished a creditable 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Plate Section of the Qld Open Novice Pairs held on the weekend of 15-16 October.

## Club Director Accreditation

Congratulations to **Peter Fredericks** on receiving accreditation as a Club Director.

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## Winners - President's Tuesday Red Point Pairs

**Val Acklin** and **Joyce Rosser** were the outright winners of this event. **Joan Mills** and **Barbara Holmes** were the Handicap winners. Well done.

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## McCutcheon Trophy

**Richard McLauchlan** was ranked No 10 in Australia in the category of **Best Performing: Gold Life Masters** as at 31 August 2005. Congratulations Richard.

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## James O'Sullivan Awards Most MPs earned this year as at 30/9/2005

Congratulations to **Geoffrey Gulley** who was ranked No 9 in the category \***National** and **Richard McLauchlan** who was ranked No 8 in **Gold Life**.

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## Club Results

Thanks to the great efforts of **Robert Matthew Arana's** session results are now available via the Internet. The electronic website link is:

<http://aranabridge.customer.netSPACE.net.au/>

If you are using this website for the first time, you need only type in the words:

**aranabridge.customer.netSPACE.net.au**

**Comments and feedback from club members is most welcome.**



tricks). The net result is -20 which equates with -1 IMP for your side and +1 IMP for them. And, so on, for each board played.

Next, the IMP scores for each side are totalled and the overall difference noted. If your side has recorded 32 IMPs and your opponents have say 18 IMPs you have won the match by +14 IMPs.

Finally the IMP difference is converted to Victory Points (VPs) according to a scale related to the number of boards played. The World Bridge Federation (WBF) scale is commonly used. In an 8, 9 or 10 board match, for example, a +14 IMP difference would convert to a 19-11 result: 19 VPs to your team and 11 VPs to your opponents.

Since the early 1970s the most popular type of teams movement has been the Swiss.

After the first round (which can be drawn in a number of ways) successive draws match the leading team against the one running 2nd, 3rd and 4th play each other, 5th vs 6th, and so on with the proviso that no team can meet another team twice.

The overall effect is that after a few rounds teams generally are matched against others of about the same standard, ie good vs good, medium vs medium, and so on.

## 2. Some Guidelines for Teams Play

Basically teams strategy is guided by the distinctive scoring approach.

### (i) The top priority is making your contract.

Avoid seeking overtricks if this could endanger your contract.

At teams the difference between making 4♥ (10 tricks: +420) and 4♥ (11 tricks: +450) is only 1 IMP while the difference between making +420 and going off by 1 trick for -50 is 10 IMPs. Seek overtricks only if your contract is secure.

The technique of safety play (involving the play of a specific suit to cope with a possible unfavourable break) to minimize the danger of losing the contract, is commonly appropriate in teams play. The method is seldom advisable in matchpoint pairs.

### (ii) As defenders your key aim is to defeat the contract rather than simply to try and limit the number of overtricks.

In a pairs contest an overtrick may be the difference between an average score or a top (or

near top). In a teams game an undoubled overtrick cannot change the score by more than 1 IMP.

### (iii) Play in the safest contract and not necessarily in one with a higher-ranking denomination.

At pairs the quite small difference that can result from playing in no-trump or a major suit rather than in a minor suit contract is often significant. In teams, however, with IMP scoring the effect is negligible.

An 8-card or better trump fit will usually be safer than 1NT or 2NT. If you bid 6♦ when 6♥ also makes, you will only lose a small swing in IMPs. However, if your opponents go down in 6♥ while you make the 6♦ the swing will be large.

At pairs you avoid 5♣ and 5♦ contracts if at all possible – preferring 3NT. At teams, however, there is no reason to avoid a minor-suit game if this is likely to be safer than 3NT.

With only a part-score potential don't worry at teams about being in a minor suit contract if it appears safest.

### (iv) Maintain an aggressive approach to bidding game.

When not vulnerable be a trace more optimistic than when playing pairs.

When vulnerable, however, stretch to bid game if you have a 40%+ chance for success. In practical terms this means that games needing 25 points (a 50% chance) should be bid with 24 points when vulnerable. If there could be 24 points in the partnership, game should be invited.

For example, you open 1♥ with -

♠A102 ♥KJ862 ♦KQ8 ♣75 and partner gives delayed support showing 10-12 points. With this borderline hand in teams play, bid 4♥ if vulnerable but pass if non-vulnerable.

### (v) Slam bidding considerations are more or less similar to those at matchpoint pairs.

Bid a small slam if it has a 50% or better chance for success. With less than 33 points use the losing trick count as a guide to the likelihood of making 12 tricks.

Bid a grand slam only if you can count all 13 tricks. Don't risk a disastrous result by bidding a marginal grand slam unless you believe your team is already in dire straits!!



## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

There are two ways to look at life.  
One is as though nothing is a miracle;  
the other is as though everything is.

**Albert Einstein**

## In Your Own Defence

By Ron Klinger (May 2000)

Dealer: W Vul: EW	<b>North</b> ♠ AQ75 ♥ 54 ♦ KQJ106 ♣ 85	<b>East</b> ♠ J64 ♥ 8 ♦ A73 ♣ KQJ1063	
<b>West</b>	♠ K103 ♥ J632 ♦ 95 ♣ A974	<b>South</b>	♠ 982 ♥ AKQ1097 ♦ 842 ♣ 2

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♦	3♣ <sup>1</sup>	4♥
All Pass			

<sup>1</sup>Weak jump overcall

West leads the ♣A : N5 – E3 – S2.

East-West play low encourage on partner's lead.

How should West continue?

## Solution

It always pays in defence to see where your tricks might come from. When dummy has a long suit on which declarer can discard losers, it is urgent to attack to take your tricks or set up your tricks as quickly as possible.

You need four tricks and have one so far. From the bidding, partner should have six clubs and so it is clear that you have no more club tricks coming.

South figures to hold at least six hearts and so unless East has the ♥A, you can score only one trump trick. Two more tricks are needed. Where can you score two more tricks? At most one from diamonds and at most one from spades.

To score a spade trick you will need partner to hold the jack and it is imperative to lead a spade at trick 2. Then if East has the ♠J plus either red ace and returns a spade upon taking that ace, you should win the race to score a spade trick before declarer can discard a spade on the diamonds.

If West shifts to a spade at trick 2, the defence can come to one trick in each suit. Play any suit other than a spade at trick 2 and declarer succeeds.

♠♥♦♣♠♥♦♣♠♥♦♣♠♥♦♣♠♥♦♣♠



### 1. Answer

The most common contracts are, in order: 3 NT, 4 ♠, 4 ♥, 2 ♠, 2 ♥, 1 NT. As the least common contract most people would guess one of the grand slams (say, 7 ♣) but that is wrong. Think about it. When was the last time you played 5 NT?

### 2. Answer

(A) because it is one specific hand. Note that “13 cards in the same suit” comprises *four* specific hands, hence it is four times more likely, and “13 black cards” comprises millions of hands.

### 3. Answer

(A). The probability percentages are: 9 HCP = 9.3562, 10 HCP = 9.4051, and 11 HCP = 8.9447.



## LIBRARY LINES

Librarians Jan Rae & Kath Rooney

Jan and Kath are preparing to carry out an audit of the library. Please ensure all books and videos that are outstanding are returned to the Library as soon as possible. This will make Jan and Kath's job much easier.

Thank you.

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## BOOK LOOK

Our guest book reviewer this edition is John Martin

### “Eddie Cantor Teaches MODERN BRIDGE DEFENSE”

Summary – this is a great book and is really well laid out as each topic is covered in the same way i.e.:-

1. What are the issues and how to tackle them;
2. Practice Hands;
3. Test Yourself;
4. Solutions;
5. Key Ideas.

Its not easy as testing yourself and then understanding the solutions will be a challenge. Then deciding what is to be adopted for your partnership may not be simple as you will finish up with a lot to remember if you adopt everything Cantor has included.

If however you like a challenge and want to improve your play this book will help a great deal, you will probably need to document what

you want to adopt as you can't remember everything or carry the book around with you all the time (hope that doesn't breach the copy write rules)?

Doing the Test Yourself and Solutions sections is fun and if you just read it all, do the Tests and Solutions and then remember what is important you will almost certainly finish up a better player for the experience.

It's a must book for those that want to improve-hope you enjoy it-I certainly did!!

Chapter Headings and Summaries are:-

1. Leading Against No-trumps - How to pick the right suit and the right card to lead;
2. Leading Against Suit Contracts - How to pick the right suit and the right card to lead;
3. The Third Man - What do you do when 3<sup>rd</sup> in hand following partner's lead and Dummy's play. Topics covered are:-
  - i. Partner leads low
  - ii. Rule of Eleven
  - iii. Unblocking and Overtaking
  - iv. Watch partner' spot cards
  - v. Third hand not-so-high
  - vi. 9 more reasons not to play high
  - vii. Returning partner's suit
  - viii. When 3<sup>rd</sup> hand plays before Dummy i.e. partner is on lead
4. Signalling against Suits-Attitude, Count and Suit preference signals are discussed;
5. Signalling against No-trumps – Attitude, Count and Suit preference signals are discussed;
6. Under the Gun i.e. 2<sup>nd</sup> hand play – when dummy or declarer leads a low or an honour card and when to play high;
7. Making the Winning Discard

At the end of the discussion outlined above each chapter then has Practice hands, Tests and Solutions followed by Key Ideas.

**John Martin**

## Important Dates

### November

Tue	1	Melbourne Cup
Wed	2	<b>Wednesday Red Point Pairs (Wk 1)</b>
Sun	6	QCBC Pairs; Cleveland Bay (T'ville) Pairs
Wed	9	<b>Wednesday Red Point Pairs (Wk 2)</b>
Sat	12	Redlands Graded Teams Townsville Novice Teams (<100MPs) 12-13 Coral Coast Teams - Bowen
Sun	13	Warwick Pairs
Fri	18	18-21 GNOT National Final - Sydney
Sat	19	19-20 Qld Seniors Pairs Championship
Mon	21	<b>Red Points</b>
Wed	23	<b>Queensland Wide Pairs</b>
Sat	26	26-27 Noosa Butler Pairs 26-27 Central Qld Teams - Mackay
Sun	27	<b>Arana Club Pairs Championship</b> QCBC Novice Pairs (0-99)

### December

Fri	2	QBA Mixed Teams Championship (Rd 4) - QCBC
Mon	5	Toowong Swiss Teams
Sat	10	<b>Christmas Party</b>
Sun	11	Brisbane Zone InterClub Teams
Sun	25	Christmas Day - <b>No play</b>
Mon	26	Boxing Day
Wed	28	28 - 30 Brisbane Festival of Bridge
Sat	31	New Year's Eve



## Queensland Government

Getting more people  
active through sport  
and recreation

The **Queensland Government** provided \$263,900 to the Arana Contract Bridge Club for the development of the Ferny Grove Sports and Recreation Centre to get more Queenslanders active through sport and recreation.



## Mitchell Brandtman

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*...is pleased to be involved in the  
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Mitchell Brandtman has 31 years experience in providing innovative cost solutions to the construction industry.

Mitchell Brandtman's Asset Services Division advises investors on maximising returns on property investments using effective **tax depreciation schedules**.

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