



ARANA

Contract Bridge Club Inc

☺ ☺ *The Friendly Club*

November - December 2006

Vol 20 No 6

From the President

Since my last report Arana has held the Neil Hamilton Memorial Pairs, the Monday Red Point pairs, the President's Pairs (which I regrettably missed as I was away at my son's wedding), and the Arana Novice Teams.

It was indeed pleasing to see so many players attend Neil's Memorial Event, reflecting the respect in which he was held. The attendance was close to a record – Neil would have been pleased. The outright winners were **Jackie Carbone** and **Peita Grant** (North-South) and **Pam Horton** and **Jenny Lewis** (East-West).

A couple of reminders for your diary – both are a must.

Firstly, the **Christmas Party** which is scheduled for Saturday 9th December. If you haven't been before, come along for a fun afternoon – and we even get to play some bridge.

Secondly, and on a more formal note, the **AGM** to be set down for a Tuesday in late February.

Calling all former Wednesday night players – where have you gone? Monday has taken over as the popular choice for night-time play, much to the delight of Ray Cowie.

Melbourne Cup Day – Tuesday 7th November. I trust you enjoy the day and find a winner on the track and at the table.

David Lehmann

**Arana 2006 Christmas Party
Saturday 9th December**



**Play commences at 1:00pm
Presentation of Club Awards
Bring a plate to share**

**Melbourne Cup Day Festivities
Tuesday 7th November**



**Session commences at 9:30
Cup Sweeps & Lucky Door Prize
Bring a plate to share**

♣♦ Important Phone Numbers ♥♠

Clubhouse Phone Number:	(07) 3851- 0299
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:	Carol Wilson 3353-2297

A Profile - David & Mary Backstrom

Mary Kerlin grew up on a dairy farm in Killarney in South West Queensland. Her father bred Jersey cattle with the highest butterfat production for some years. He also bred Clydesdale horses, which were used for farm work. One of these horses was the Champion Clydesdale Stallion at the Brisbane Exhibition in 1945. Mary went to school at Killarney State, Maryborough Convent and Warwick Convent High School. She had three ambitions as a small child – to be a nurse, to be married and have lots of children!

Mary achieved the first of her ambitions on graduating from the Mater Hospital Brisbane with her certificate in General Nursing and then gaining her Certificate of Midwifery at the Royal Women's Hospital, Melbourne. Mary returned to Brisbane and was employed as a Sister in the casualty section of the Mater Children's Hospital.



David grew up in Woolloongabba – his father was the Chief Engineer of the Transport Department of the Brisbane City Council and was a world authority on tram-track design and an expert mathematician. His mother was a gifted pianist.

David went to school at Yeronga State School and Brisbane Grammar School. He then went on to study Medicine at the University of Queensland. He became a Resident Medical Officer at the Mater Hospital in Brisbane. His second term was in the casualty section of the Mater Children's Hospital – where he met Sister Kerlin! This meeting ultimately allowed Mary to achieve her other two ambitions!

David spent two years at the Mater – 1957-58 and in 1958, Mary, having left the Mater, achieved her third certificate by doing her Child Welfare training in Brisbane.

They married in January 1959 after postponing the original date for a week to allow them to watch Australia lose the Davis Cup at Milton!

In March 1959 they bought John Stumm's practice at Pomona. Here they stayed in this solo one-man country town practice for the next six years. In early 1965 they moved to Stafford where David was a partner in a two-man – which later became a four-man practice – then reverted back to a two-man practice, and he remained here until he retired from private practice just over four years ago. He also held an appointment as a Visiting General Practitioner in the Primary Care Section of the Royal Brisbane Hospital for thirty years before retiring from that position just over two years ago.

David has held several executive positions on the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners; was a member of the State Council of the AMA for ten years and was awarded a Fellowship of the AMA. He also held a position on the Medical Defence committee for thirty years as well as other Government committees, which covered medical matters. He was a member of the Anti-Cancer Council of the Queensland Cancer Fund for eighteen years. David was a member of the Queensland Parole Board 1985-1988 and then the Brisbane Community Corrections Board 1988-2003.

Throughout the years Mary has been involved in many voluntary church, community and school activities including religious education at local schools for twenty-three years and still carries out Meals-on-Wheels' duties which she began in 1972.

Mary and David had seven children – five boys and two girls; one of the girls died four hours after birth. One son works for Suncorp, another son teaches visually impaired students at Aspley High School, and one is Brisbane Rugby Manager for QRU. Their daughter completed her general nursing training (as did their two daughters-in-law) before marrying a dermatologist. The next son is a training captain with Virgin Blue, and the youngest son is an actor.

Mary and David have seven grandchildren. Helping to look after them, following their cricket and football matches, trying to keep in touch with long-standing friends, Mary's Meals-on-Wheels' duties, David's "hacking" golf and his playing the violin in two community orchestras; as well as their playing bridge together and with other partners, more than overfills every week.

The Backstrom Story continued ...

Mary and David were taught to play bridge by Judy Valentine. Mary joined Arana in 1992 and David joined in 2002.

Barbara Holmes – Editor



LIBRARY LINES Librarian Peggy Whittaker

I recently purchased a number of bridge books, three of which are on back-order from America. After processing, Pam Horton covers the books with plastic. Thank you Pam, it is much appreciated. The books which have already arrived are:

The No Trump Zone	Danny Kleinman
Focus on Declarer Play	Danny Roth
Natural Precision	Rick Brown
Simplified Precision	C.C. Wei
Fun Way to Advanced Bridge	Harry Lambert
Fun Way to Better Bridge Play	Harry Lambert
Five Card Major Stayman	Ron Klingner
Safety Plays	David Bird & Mark Smith
Better Bidding for Improving Players	Ross Dick
I Love This Game	Sabine Aiken
Pre-Empts from A-Z	Ron Anderson & Sabine Zenkel
The Principles of Card Play	Paul Marston
The Language of Bidding	Paul Marston
Opening Two Bids	Paul Marston & Nick Hughes

For players just out of classes, “The Principles of Card Play” and “All About No Trumps” deal with the elements of card play clearly and concisely.

Peggy Whittaker

BOOK LOOK

Our guest book reviewer this edition is Yvonne Auer

“Bridge-Below-The-Belt” by Barry Cohen & Liz Davies

There is more to bridge than meets the eye. On the face of it the title, "Bridge - Below- The - Belt" infers, that this book deals with those practices at bridge that are highly questionable.

Once one begins to read the book, it becomes clear that Bridge-Below-The-Belt is a story of fictitious characters playing the game, whose antics are uncovered by the author. Some who have played in major competitions may have encountered similar people.

It makes one appreciate that bridge is much more than tabling your systems card and counting your high card points.

The author's depiction of psychological warfare, as well as showmanship, bluff, sophisticated cheating, games-men-ship, egos and, occasionally ethics fascinated me.

Several hands were published: each with a story attached that added to the intrigue. Specifically the Question and Answer relating to the hand displayed on page 166.

The author, who has a winning way with words, compared one of the personalities to the cockroach. (p. 86) and that same personality espoused a gem of a comment for novices "take particular care with women". They are clearly more aware of people than their male counterparts, and quite a number of them are pretty smart (p. 114).

The book is a novel, yet, it reads like a true story. I will not reveal the ending. You have to play it out.

I would definitely recommend the book to you all, particularly to those of you who 'play the people' as well as the cards.

Although I have enjoyed reviewing this book, I am happy to return to the personalities and normality of Arana Bridge Club.

Yvonne Auer

Update on Ann and Bob Pearce

The following photos and extract are taken from an email I received from Ann on 16 October.



Bob at Golden Beach

“We're settling into life here in Hong Kong and Bob started his teaching contract today - at last. We have found a nice apartment very near his school and it has a great view of the beach. The area is called the Gold Coast! We are in the New Territories, quite a way from the centre of Hong Kong which we don't mind a bit as it is extremely frantic there. It takes only 40 minutes by public transport though. We won't bother getting a car as the public transport is so good here.”



Ann at the Peak

Barbara Holmes – Editor

Partner Contact

Carol Wilson has reluctantly relinquished this position after a number of years. If you are interested in filling this position contact Carol on 3353 2297 or a member of the Committee.

Editor - “Trump-It” 2007

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time in this position but find it necessary to retire at the end of 2006. I would encourage anyone who may be remotely interested to speak to myself or President David – there is no obligation. I am more than happy to assist with the first publications to ease that person/s into the position. Perhaps there is a husband and wife team or two friends who would like to share the responsibility.

Barbara Holmes

Beginners' Lessons

A new series of 8 lessons are due to commence on 8th February 2007. Cost \$60.00 per person. Contact Tony Agar 3851 1362 or David Lehmann 3205 7276 for further information.

“The Italian Baker”

Deslei Den Haan would like to contact the person who donated this book to the Bring and Buy table. Phone Deslei on 3353 2459.

Paul Lavings

Paul Lavings is coming to Arana on Thursday 28th December. If you are interested in joining in on this lecture please place your name on the sheet on the notice board.

Arana Novice Teams 8.10.2006

Two Arana teams figured in the final results. Congratulations to all winners.

- 1st Ray Cowie/Gay Hull
Beverley Quine/Alan Norman
- 2nd Ron Khaled/Deirdre Giles
Bruce McDougal/Thelma McDougal
- 3rd Peter Van Eden/Peggy Whittaker
Andrew Guminski/George Macionis

BBC Qld Novice Pairs C'ship

Peggy Whittaker and **Peter Van Eden** came a creditable 4th in this event which was held on the weekend of 14 - 15 October at the Broncos Football Club. Congratulations.

GNOT Qld Representative Teams 2006 - National Final

Helen and **Richard McLauchlan** are members of one of three Brisbane Zone teams representing Queensland at the Nationals to be held on 17 – 20 November at Tweed Heads.

Deborah Dwyer, a former member of Arana, is a member of the Wide Bay Zone team.

James O'Sullivan Awards - Most MPs earned this year as at 30/9/2006

Congratulations to **Alice Brown** and **Julie Brook** who have both received rankings in the categories of ***National** and **Club** respectively.

Winners - President's Tuesday Red Point Pairs

Bob Dancer and **Gary Lynch** were the outright winners of this event. **Lyn Haysom** and **Barbara Holmes** were the Handicap winners.

Did You Know !

Each King in a deck of playing cards represents a great King from history:

- ♠ Spades - King David
- ♥ Hearts - Charlemagne
- ♦ Diamonds - Julius Caesar
- ♣ Clubs - Alexander, the Great



FUN QUESTIONS

1. Which has the highest percentage chance of happening?
 - A. A finesse for a queen
 - B. Six cards dividing three - three
 - C. Taking two tricks with 432 opposite the AJ10
2. Which U.S President achieved near expert status as a bridge player?
 - A. John F. Kennedy
 - B. Dwight D. Eisenhower
 - C. Harry S. Truman
3. Which of the following holdings represents ONE QUICK TRICK?
 - A. QJ10
 - B. AQ7
 - C. KJ7
 - D. KQ6
4. If you open three spades when vulnerable, how many tricks should you expect to take in your own hand?
 - A. 6
 - B. 7
 - C. 8
 - D. 9

Answers on page 8

The Psychology of Bridge

by Ian Price

(Taken from "Mind Games A Biographical History of Bridge in Queensland" {in Library})

Anger

How often have you started to sit at the next table and you find the opponents arguing? "Wadyadothatfor?", "Whyncha do this?", they cry at each other. A small twinge of delight sneakily pierces your consciousness. For when one opponent is haranguing the other, neither can play at their best. The haranguer is so intent on winning the argument that his arousal level is beginning to peak at the flashing red light level. The haranguee is ducking for cover and his arousal level is also high, partly from making the mistake in the first place and partly from copping a public nagging from his or her partner. Again concentration and judgement go out the window. The nerves are jangled. "Will I make a mistake this time?" "Which bid does he want me to make this time?"

Control your own anger and dissipate partner's!!!

An angry partner implies that something negative has happened to them but for which you were responsible! What is it that they didn't like? The chance of winning? In the end, with no chance of winning, I doubt that anyone would play bridge. But, in bridge everyone makes mistakes sometime. Part of the obsessiveness in bridge is in fact due to a perception that infallibility is attainable. If I just learn a bit more, concentrate a bit harder, find a better partner, then I just might be perfect. The real self melds with the ideal in a blissful union. Fortunately, the reality is that there is enough of a random element and things that you cannot control, that being mistake-free remains a dream and, occasionally, an obsession. The expert will make fewer mistakes than the novice, but the mistakes will still be there. Some people develop a hair-trigger on their anger, but there is no place for anger and partnership abuse at the bridge table. I suggest you avoid partners with such a trait.

Unfortunately, however, it does happen occasionally in the midst of a session. What can you do about it? If it is you getting angry, remember that bridge is still a game, the enjoyment of which is paramount. Enjoyment for yourself, your partner, and those around you. Not always that easy, mind you. If it is your partner getting angry at you, don't enter into arguments. Go for a walk. Make a conciliatory gesture – get the other a drink. It takes courage to not get involved in emotive arguments. Sometimes an agreement

before the game that enjoyment is the objective, and although winning or doing well is nice, it is but a bonus. Anger, accusations, and tense post-mortems will be avoided. The idea is of course to interrupt the like of the emotion and the thought processes that go with it and so return to a more optimum level. The things that interrupt an angry, aroused state in yourself will usually have the same effect for your partner.

Bridge Addicts Need Their Fix

Addicts, be they addicted to marathon running, gambling, or chemicals, are striving to induce and maintain prolonged states of relative euphoria or good hedonic tone. The state achieved by the addict serves as a means of dissociation from the tiresomeness and predictability of everyday life. The *bridge* addict becomes so absorbed, that for a few minutes, the realities and urgencies of the day become non-existent. The leaving behind of the day's problems and hassles even for a few minutes is relatively euphoric. Once achieved, the day's activities become a faint memory, which can only be recalled by deliberate effort. The focus is on the game – the bidding, the play, the social occasion.

As the weekly game comes around, tension and anticipation increase. Thought processes relating to bidding and play intrude more regularly into the daily chores: admonitions about not making the same mistakes as last time, remembering what systemic changes you made last week, rehearsing the meaning of a particular bidding sequence, mental notes about counting trumps more carefully and watching discards. Only when you sit at the table and pick up that first hand is that weekly withdrawal syndrome finally relieved.

The bridge addict, therefore, must return to be able to get their fix. Long-lasting enjoyment depends on a sense of improvement, and on a pleasant, encouraging environment for that improvement to occur. Most improvement comes from an upgraded concentration and vigilance which, in turn, occurs most often in an optimal emotional state. Above all, it is the enjoyment of the moment, which encourages us to return.

This is the final instalment in this series.

Definition of a Psyche Bid:

A brilliancy when made by you, an idiocy when committed by your team-mates, and unethical and unsporting when made by an opponent.

Ron Klinger

Director's Corner

Slow Play

When we run a Bridge session, six minutes is allocated to play each board. The average player can handle this quite easily often with time to spare.

For those of you who struggle to play within these boundaries, an average can be awarded for any boards unplayed. They say if you receive an average on **every** board, your place in the overall field would be quite respectable.

For the day sessions, players should be able to make appointments, etc after play with the confident knowledge that they will arrive on time. For the night sessions, some players work or have early appointments and wish to arrive home at a respectable hour. This cannot be achieved if players repeatedly hurry to start a game before the final bell.

It is not fair to hold the rest of the field up, while you play that board. Not only that, the players following, who may need the full six minutes to play, find themselves with only three or four minutes to play, because of your inconsideration.

Please call the Director for an average, if you know you cannot possibly finish playing the last board by the final bell.

Val Cran – Head Director

Club Directors Course

To be held on Saturday 9th December. This course is suitable for Directors working towards Club Level Accreditation and new and intending directors.

Please see Val Cran if you are interested in attending this course.

New Members

A very warm welcome to the following new members:

Brian Berney
Alice Brown
Graeme Detering
Patricia Hay
Ann & Doug Heidke
Carla Hynes
Kevin Morgan
Peter Moritz
Steve Roach
Jenny Walker
Michael Walker

Masterpoint Movements

NEW rankings for Arana home club members for the period to 31st July 2006

Graduate Master

Jeanine Mewburn
Ian Franklin

Club Master

Alexander Croot

Local master

Ian Broadley
Geoff Doyle

**Local Master*

Julie Brook
Gordon Broadley

***Local Master*

Murray Perrin
Alan Rae

Regional Master

John Black

State Master

Carol Vardy

**State Master*

Tony Agar

**National Master*

Irena hall

Robert Matthew (MP Secretary)

Important Dates

November		
Wed	1	Wednesday Red Point Pairs (Wk 1)
Sat	4	Northern Suburbs Pairs
Sun	5	Cleveland Bay Anniversary Pairs
Tue	7	Melbourne Cup
Wed	8	Wednesday Pairs (Wk 2)
Sat	11	Colin Stone Teams 6
Sun	12	Warwick Pairs; Coral Coast Teams – Bowen
Fri	17	17-20 GNOT Final
Sat	18	QBA Seniors Teams; Townsville Novice Teams
Wed	22	Queensland Wide Pairs
Sat	25	25-26 Noosa Butler Pairs
		25-26 Central Qld Teams – Mackay
Sun	26	QCBC Novice Teams (<100)
December		
Fri	1	QBA Mixed Teams (Rd 4) – QCBC
Sun	3	Toowong Teams
Sat	9	Christmas Party
Sun	10	Redlands Graded Teams
Sun	17	QBA Individual
Mon	25	Christmas Day No play
Tue	26	Boxing Day
Wed	27	27– 29 Brisbane Festival of Bridge
Thur	28	Paul Lavings
Sun	31	New Year's Eve



ANSWERS

- Which has the highest percentage chance of happening?
 - A finesse for a queen: 50%
 - B. Six cards dividing 3-3: 35%
 - C. Taking two tricks with 432 opposite the AJ10: 75%**
- Which U.S President achieved near expert status as a bridge player?
 - B. Dwight D. Eisenhower**
- Which of the following holdings represents ONE QUICK TRICK?
 - D. KQ6**
- If you open three spades when vulnerable, how many tricks should you expect to take in your own hand?
 - B. 7**



SWITCH OFF THOSE MOBILE PHONES



Club Results

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

Copy Deadline

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