



# ARANA

## Contract Bridge Club Inc

*The Friendly Club*

November-December 2009

Vol 23 No 6

### President's Report: Xmas 2009

Arana has had a rather busy month with the hosting of our Novice Teams (won by an Arana Team featuring Charles Chambers, Kathy Burgess, Beth O'Reilly and Christine Fatcher), the 3 way Interclub Pairs (won again by Arana) and the Brisbane Zone Interclub Teams (where we were not so successful). I cannot speak highly enough of the effort contributed by our volunteers in organizing and running these events, and in the process enhancing Arana's reputation.

Extra parking is now available at the rear of the clubhouse if the main car parks are full. Access is via the slide gate (on the right as you approach the first car park), and then around the football field. This may be useful on Saturdays during the cricket season.

We are starting to see some new players as the latest graduates conclude their lessons. Please extend patience and courtesy as we welcome them into the playing ranks. Also, would you please continue to promote our Thursday afternoon social bridge session as we would like to make this a permanent session.

Sadly, we have lost two members since my last report – vale Frank Houtt and Patricia Nock.

On behalf of your committee, I extend the very best wishes for the festive season to all members and their families. Don't forget the **Christmas party on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup>**. Remember to bring a plate and to be seated by 12.30 in time to hear the President's choir. Arrange a partner by all means, but you can turn up to play without a partner.

As the year closes so too is the term of your committee. We will be looking for nominations for office bearers, including that of president. Please be prepared to serve your club.

Merry Christmas.

**David Lehmann**

### Master points Movement

NEW rankings for Arana home club members for the period to 31<sup>st</sup> October:

#### GRADUATE MASTER

Richard Dudek

#### CLUB MASTER

Ross Heyde  
Kurt Salzgeber  
Carol Findlay  
Mike Haysom

#### LOCAL MASTER

Sobanna Ponniah  
Samuel Pennisi  
David Reller  
Andrew Sokolowski  
William Herron

#### \*LOCAL MASTER

Christine Fatcher  
Marion Arnold  
Peter Anderson

#### \*\*LOCAL MASTER

Mary Ewing

#### REGIONAL MASTER

Charles Chambers

#### XREGIONAL MASTER

Joyce Collins  
Joyce Riley

#### STATE MASTER

Arthur Pomery  
Sri Sriprakash  
Judy Wilkinson

#### \*STATE MASTER

Gay Hull

#### NATIONAL MASTER

Tony Agar

#### LIFE MASTER

Irena Hall  
Daphne Buse  
Joan Mills

**Robert Matthew (MP Secretary)**

## Tony's Tricks and Trumps:

### OPENING LEADS

A couple of cases of opening leads that are frequently misused, not the least of which is because they do not arise all that often:-

#### The Trump Lead:

We've heard the saying "when in doubt lead trumps". This is not sound advice. Trumps should frequently be led but not when you are in doubt. You should have a reason for doing so. The trump lead is proper when you think dummy has a short suit. You therefore wish to remove dummy's trumps and with it destroy the trumping power, its primary value. How can you tell that dummy may have a short suit? - only by the bidding.

If declarer bids 2 suits, say Spades first and then Hearts (5-4), and dummy prefers Hearts, it is probable that dummy is short in Spades. Therefore lead a trump, Hearts. This being the case, if it becomes clear that declarer has a 2-suited hand (say by rebidding his second suit twice) a trump lead is then indicated. Dummy is bound to be short in the other suits. Thus against 2 suited hands **consider** a trump lead.

#### Leads against slams:

As it takes 2 tricks to defeat a slam, experienced players usually avoid the lead of an Ace. Often an Ace lead makes declarer's job easier. On the other hand he may throw off losers in your suit before the Ace is cashed. But on balance it is better to select another lead and let the lead be made up to your Ace. You then stand a chance of capturing a K or Q.

However there are instances when the lead of an Ace is desirable. That is, if your hand contains the probability of a second trick. Say opponents are playing in 6S and you hold:

♠Q65 ♥A974 ♦532 ♣862

There is a fair chance of making the Spade Q. Therefore cash the Heart A first. Again you're defending 6S and you hold:

♠7 ♥A964 ♦8642 ♣7632

If Spades are not vigorously supported by dummy, one can reason your partner has some strength in Spades. Again cash the Ace first, hoping partner has a potential trick in trumps.

Say you hold against 6S:

♠862 ♥A752 ♦973 ♣Q32

Try establishing a Club winner first. Lead a low club hoping partner has the King.

**Trump leads** against slams have a low success rate unless you hold controls in a second suit bid by declarer. Dummy is likely to be short in that suit. The trump lead will reduce his ruffing power.

#### Leads against NT slams:

Aggressive leads are likely to prove fruitless, unless you hold a complete sequence (say QJ10x). In other words don't try to establish a long suit. e.g. holding:

♠986 ♥J642 ♦Q653 ♣J4

Against 6NT lead the Spade 9 even if the opponents have bid the suit.

#### Reference: Goren's Bridge Complete.

**Be prepared!** Once bidding is concluded, the player on opening lead should have selected a card and be ready to play it, unless the bidding is complex or requires explanation. Don't be heard to ask, "Who's on lead?"

#### Tony Agar

#### ♣ ♦ Important Phone Numbers ♥ ♠

Clubhouse Phone Number: (07) 3851 0299

Website: [www.aranabridgeclub.com](http://www.aranabridgeclub.com)

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

Results: [www.aranabridgeclub.com](http://www.aranabridgeclub.com)

President: David Lehmann 3205 7276

Vice-president: Val Acklin 3851 3050

Secretary: Tony Agar 3851 1362

Treasurer: Gay Hull 3300 2050

#### Committee members:

Gary Lynch 3300 9472

Jan McRobbie 3355 2425

Terry Nowitzki 3851 3363

Carole Vardy 3366 5397

Liz Marshall 3511 7791

## NEED A PARTNER??

### Contact-

Monday a.m.	Carole Vardy	3366 5397
Monday p.m.	Ray Cowie	3359 6162
Tuesday a.m.	Helen McLauchlan	3263 9024
Wednesday p.m.	David Lehmann	3205 7276
Friday a.m.	Lorraine Steele	3351 6173
Saturday	Val Cran	3300 1447

## BOOK REVIEW

### CARD PLAY TECHNIQUE (The Art of Being Lucky)

By Victor Mollo and Nico Gardener

This book covers 21 chapters spread over 381 pages. Don't be daunted by its size, as it is one of the most informative bridge books I have read. If you want to take your play and defensive skills to another level, this is one book you should read.

Chapters deal alternately with individual subjects based on either declarer play or defence. The writing style is not only quite instructive, but is always entertaining and humorous. It starts with the basics (finessing, leads) and moves on to the more complicated techniques like end plays and squeezes (and how to avoid them as a defender). There are chapters devoted to safety plays, deceptive plays, signals and defending with bad cards. Each chapter ends with a summary, followed by a series of exercises – with answers at the back of the book.

The authors use their wit not only to entertain, but to enforce their message. As an example, the chapter on "Playing Safe" opens with the following line: "Losing with bad cards is only monstrous. Losing with good ones is humiliating." - very strong motivation indeed for the reader to improve his or her play.

As you work your way through this book you will learn some new skills, make some

revealing discoveries and be genuinely entertained by these witty authors.

Index C3 in the library – recommended.

**Reviewed by David Lehmann**

## THE LANGUAGE OF BRIDGE

An earnest, church-going young woman was looking for a job as a waitress. When asked why she had left her former place of work, she replied: Well, Madam, I liked the place and they paid well but it was the most shocking place I have ever been. They played some kind of game there called "Bridge" and lots of men and women were there. Just as I was about to take in the refreshments, I heard a man say to a woman,

"Take your hands off my trick!"

I very nearly dropped my tray when I heard another man say,

"Lay down and let's see what you've got." Then a woman said,

"You've got length but you haven't got strength!"

Then another said,

"You forced me and I had to do it."

Then bless me Lord but another woman said,

"You jumped me twice when you didn't have the strength for a raise!"

When someone else said something about covering her with an honour... Well! I just up and left for I knew that that was no place for me! And just as I was leaving, I hope to die, if some man didn't say, "I guess that's all for tonight as this is the last rubber."

No madam, **no way** was I going to stay on there!

EDITOR

**Lynley Mason**

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## **CLUB WINNERS**

### **Club Teams Championship:**

1. Craig Francis, Murray Perrin, Joan Mills, Errol Miller
2. Jo McKitrick, Judy Carr, Terry Nowitzki, Joan Hill

### **Club Pairs Championship:**

Outright: Richard McLauchlan, Helen McLauchlan  
Handicap: Gordon Broadley, Val Cran

### **Tuesday Teams:**

1. Bob Dancer, Gary Lynch, Julie Cutmore, Yvonne Auer
- 2= Don Cutmore, Ailsa Smith, Val Cran, Frank Hoult
- 2= Richard McLauchlan, Helen McLauchlan, Irena Hall, Peggy Whittaker

### **Wednesday Pairs:**

Outright: Natalie Bloch, Richard McLauchlan  
Handicap: Jenny Lewis, Pam Horton

### **Wednesday Teams:**

1. Jan Rae, Kath Rooney, Daphne Buse, Errol Miller
2. Richard McLauchlan, Natalie Bloch, Irena Hall, Helen McLauchlan

### **Arana Novice Teams:**

1. Charles Chambers, Kathy Burgess, Christine Fitcher, Beth O'Reilly
2. Peter Ebert, Pauline Ford, Julie Brook, Carol Findlay

### **Neil Hamilton Memorial Pairs:**

N/S Jenny Lewis, Pam Horton  
E/W Richard McLauchlan, Helen McLauchlan

### **Friday Pairs:**

Outright: Liz Marshall, Helen McLauchlan  
Handicap: Joan Hill, Judith Homan

### **Tuesday Pairs:**

Outright: Bob Dancer, Gary Lynch  
Handicap: Judy Wilkinson, Betty Willson

***Arana Leagues Club  
Community Courtesy Bus  
Now Available:  
To book, telephone 3354 1333  
the day prior to when transport is required.***



***Members who live within a 5 km radius of the Leagues Club  
may arrange transport from their home to  
Arana Contract Bridge Club***

## The Wedding

I would not have imagined in a million years that I would be a bride at 70! Reactions have ranged from "you're kidding, right?" to "How fantastic!" It took 4 weeks from the day of the proposal under the Mulberry tree on the farm to the day of our marriage, October 4<sup>th</sup>. This quick-fire decision making has been a hallmark of our brief relationship to date.

Flemming and I met 18 months ago through a friend of mine. We hit it off straight away and in that short time we have been on a cruise around the Baltic Sea, visited his friends and relatives in Denmark, and spent time in Hong Kong and London. Shortly after our return he rented his house and moved into mine. Soon we were off again on an 8 week road trip through Victoria and South Australia, exploring the Warrumbungles, Flinders Ranges and Grampians. On the night before our return home we stayed in Stanthorpe, a place and area I raved about because of its cooler climate, Girraween National Park and wild flowers. Little did I realise that Flemming had taken note of all I said and within 2 days of our return he said, "Why don't I sell my house in Brisbane and buy a farm in the Granite Belt area?" I could hardly believe my ears but responded positively. The next weekend we returned to Stanthorpe where we set up appointments with 3 real estate agents. After looking all weekend we finally arrived at a property we immediately knew we wanted. An unconditional contract was signed on the spot even though Flemming's house still had tenants. After moving the tenants out, the house sold quickly. Within a couple of months we had bought furniture and moved to the farm.

We have loved every minute of this new life which includes 2 horses, 2 alpacas, 9 sheep, 6 chickens, 9 geese and 2 dogs, to say nothing of the wild birds who share in all the bounty. I have a lovely vegetable garden, a variety of fruit trees and garden beds to maintain while Flemming busies himself, renovating a cottage on the property, building chicken houses and keeping the fire trails in good order.

Flemming was born in Denmark and after doing his Bachelor of Commerce, was sent to Ghana to manage a Danish timber company. He, his wife and 2 sons returned to Denmark for a few years before they decided to relocate to Australia, finding life in cold and dark Denmark, too unforgiving. They settled here happily but sadly for his family, his wife developed cancer and passed away two and a half years ago. As most of you know I was happily married to David Marshall for many years and lived in Kenmore where we raised 3 sons. Shockingly, he developed Alzheimer's disease at the age of 52 and passed away in 1997 after a long and difficult illness. As Flemming and I have both experienced long and happy marriages followed by the pain of loss, we consider ourselves very lucky to have found happiness in each other at this stage of our lives.

The wedding took place at the farm and included only family. Nearly all of us, 27 altogether, stayed at the farm. We had 6 in the house, 8 in the cottage, with the rest camped out on the front lawn in A vans, camper trailers and tents. Everyone was involved in the preparations which resulted in deeper bonding and in a lot of fun and laughter. The ceremony took place under the same Mulberry tree with our 4 granddaughters as flower girls and bridesmaids while my eldest son gave me away! After a few glasses of bubbly, a bus arrived to take us to Mason's Winery nearby for the reception. Memorable speeches, good food and wine, dancing and entertainment by my sons who all play guitars and sings, made for a happy occasion.

Being unwilling to give up my life and Bridge in Brisbane altogether, I managed to get Flemming to agree to my returning to the city once a fortnight for a few days. The balance of rural and city life has been wonderful and I love coming to Arana to see everybody and to have a game with my 3 long suffering partners Bob, Helen and Val.

Thank you all for your good wishes.  
Liz Marshall





**Melbourne Cup Day** at Arana was an enjoyable day with various degrees of success experienced at the bridge table and in the sweepstake. Everyone contributed to the lunch-time feast and lots of ladies looked

elegant in hats but Tony Agar and Lynley Mason took the prize (a very nice bottle of Red each) for being silly enough to follow the criteria of the competition... to wear a **“Silly Hat/ Costume”**.



**From the Pocket Book of Quotations:**

‘Most all the time, the whole year round, there ain’t no flies on me,  
But jest ‘fore Christmas, I’m as good as I can be!’

Eugene Field, “Jest ‘fore Christmas”

SEASON’S GREETINGS TO YOU ALL AND EVERY  
GOOD WISH FOR THE COMING YEAR

