



# ARANA

## *Contract Bridge Club Inc*

September 2007

Vol 21 No 7

### From the PRESIDENT

In my last report I mentioned that the club pairs championship would be held on Sunday 30th September. As the GNOT finals are on that day, the pairs have been brought forward to Sunday 23rd September. I'd like to see a good roll up for this event so please come along and show your support.

Congratulations to John Martin and Ray Cowie who recently passed the director's exam and have joined the director's roster.

Don't forget to nominate your partnership for the interclub teams scheduled for Sunday 11th November. Nomination form is on the notice board for the three divisions.

For our novice members, The Arana Novice teams congress will be held on Sunday 7th October. The event is open to all comers, so get your team together and support the event.

**David Lehmann**

### BIRTHDAYS

If you know a club member is turning the big 80 or the big 90 please let a member of the Committee know so that we can organise a small celebration.

**Barbara Holmes** – Vice president – on behalf of the Committee.

### ETIQUETTE

As a matter of courtesy, a player should refrain from:

1. Paying insufficient attention to the game.
2. Making gratuitous comments during the auction and play.
3. Detaching a card before it is the player's turn to play.
4. Prolonging play unnecessarily (as in playing on although the player knows that all the remaining tricks are won **for certain**).
5. Summoning and addressing the director in a manner discourteous to the director or other contestants.

### BOOK REVIEW

#### NATURAL PRECISION

By Rick Brown

(New Book February 2007)

I really enjoyed reading this little book. It is a credit to Peggy Whittaker that she tracked down anything at all on Precision bidding, given its current lack of popularity in top level bridge. But it seems Precision is not dead altogether.

Once a convention enthusiast, who gradually fogged up in a mushrooming confusion of artificial bids, it was truly liberating to start afresh with a new simple bidding system. As Rick Brown states, the emphasis in Precision is on minimizing artificial bids, employing instead a strategy of light openings and an aggressive style in some situations. Mind you, you sometimes suddenly sense that you have entered the high risk zone of tops and bottoms, since no one else is likely to have arrived at your particular contract. And our scores do tend to be a mixture of tops and bottoms, the balance determining our place in the field.

The author has long established credentials in teaching college students "recreational bridge" and his huge workshops have spawned this written version of his structured workshops covering all the areas where Precision and Standard American differ.

The conversational style of writing makes progress comfortable. There are no summaries, rules or even an index. If one were converting to Precision, and this seems to be the purpose of writing the book, it would require making notes as you went along. What I particularly like, though, are the insights woven throughout, especially on those matters of judgment - where my partner and I tend to come unstuck - on the fundamental question to answer in a bidding battle: do you bid up, sacrifice or double for penalties?

This book has given me some hope we might get it right eventually.

**Rosemary Matthew**

## RUFFING - IT'S ALL IN THE TIMING!

Vul: Both

Dlr: East

|        |        |
|--------|--------|
| ♠A63   | ♠J84   |
| ♥943   | ♥AK765 |
| ♦105   | ♦A62   |
| ♣AK742 | ♣98.   |

|    |   |                 |   |
|----|---|-----------------|---|
| W  | N | E               | S |
|    |   | 1♥              | P |
| 2♣ | P | 2♥              | P |
| 4♥ |   | All pass        |   |
|    |   | Opening Lead ♦Q |   |

Commentary by Bobby Wolff:

*"All great discoveries are made by men whose feelings run ahead of their thinking."*

---C.H. Parkhurst

South leads the ♦Q. East refused the first diamond and won the second with the ace. How should East proceed?

|        |        |        |
|--------|--------|--------|
|        | ♠Q52   |        |
|        | ♥Q108  |        |
|        | ♦K73   |        |
|        | ♣J1053 |        |
| ♠A63   |        | ♠J84   |
| ♥943   |        | ♥AK765 |
| ♦105   |        | ♦A62   |
| ♣AK742 |        | ♣98    |
|        | ♠K1097 |        |
|        | ♥J2    |        |
|        | ♦QJ984 |        |
|        | ♣Q6    |        |

East was so engrossed with the need for a diamond ruff that he neglected to consider other dangers. Not only did he need the diamond ruff, but he needed it at the right moment.

He proceeded to ruff a diamond in dummy and cashed his two top trumps. The top clubs were followed by a club ruff, declarer hoping for a 3-3 club split. Had this been so, East would enjoy a spade discard on a long club, using dummy's spade ace as an entry. When clubs split 4-2 (the more likely distribution), one down was destined.

East was right not to win the first diamond. This allows him to choose the timing for the diamond ruff; but before he ruffs a diamond, he must assure himself of a discard on one of dummy's clubs.

At trick three, East should cash his two top trumps and play three rounds of clubs. If they split 3-3, he ruffs a diamond and plays clubs, enjoying an overtrick.

When they break 4-2, the diamond ruff provides the vital entry for another club ruff and the defenders get only one spade, one trump and one diamond.

Incidentally, you might have noticed that a spade switch by the defence at trick two would scuttle the contract by prematurely removing a vital entry to dummy.

## DEADLINE OCTOBER 31 2007

Editor

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## IMPORTANT DATES

| September |    |   |
|-----------|----|---|
| Mon       | 3  | <b>Monday red point pairs</b> (week 1)                            |
| Sat       | 8  | 8-9 Brisbane festival pairs & teams (QCBC)                        |
| Mon       | 10 | <b>Monday red point pairs</b> (week 2)                            |
| Fri       | 14 | 14-17 Surfers Paradise super congress                             |
| Sun       | 16 | 15-16 Caloundra pairs & teams                                     |
| Mon       | 17 | Surfers birthday teams; Caloundra Swiss teams                     |
| Fri       | 21 | QBA mixed teams (round 2)   |
| Sun       | 23 | Noosa Swiss teams; Tamborine Swiss teams                          |
| Sat       | 29 | 29-30 Dalby Swiss pairs & teams; GNOT zone final Northern Suburbs |
| October   |    |   |
| Tue       | 2  | <b>President's red point pairs</b> (wk 1)                         |

### ♣ ♦ Important Phone Numbers ♥ ♠

**Clubhouse Phone Number:** (07) 3851 0299

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

**Results:**

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**President:** David Lehmann 3205 7276

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**Secretary:** Tony Agar 3851 1362

**Treasurer:** Jan McRobbie 3355 2425

**Partner Contact:** Betty Willson 3355 2519

## EDITORIAL

The card game of bridge means either of two card games, auction bridge and contract bridge, that are derived from whist and retain its essential features. The whist and bridge family of games is of English origin, having evolved gradually from several other games, principally one called triumph, a name that became corrupted to trump. The name whist probably originated in the early 17th century, and by the mid-18th century whist had become the pre-eminent card game among the upper classes in both western Europe and North America. Whist was supplanted by bridge whist in the 1890s. The latter in turn evolved into auction bridge in the first decade of the 20th century, and contract bridge was developed in the 1920s and '30s.

From the early 18th century, whist, bridge whist, auction bridge, and contract bridge have each reigned in turn as the most intellectually stimulating of all card games. Successive improvements in various features of the games have greatly enlarged the scope for inferential reasoning, psychological stratagems, and partnership cooperation

### Contract bridge

Contract bridge was developed from auction bridge by Harold S. Vanderbilt of New York in 1925-26. Auction bridge was greatly superior to its forerunners in its use of competitive bidding to establish a contract, but a further great innovation remained: the principle that only the number of tricks contracted, or bid for, could count toward game; With this innovation, accuracy in bidding became immensely more important; the object now was to bid what could be made rather than to outbid the opponents as cheaply as possible. At the same time, a more definite goal appeared in the play of the cards; the aim was to make or defeat the contract rather than simply to make as many tricks as possible. Vanderbilt also introduced the new and intriguing element of vulnerability.

What gives contract bridge its real point is the bidding auction, for which elaborate systems have been developed by which partners convey information about their hands in order to bid a macabre contract. Ely Culbertson in the late 1920s and '30s developed the first comprehensive bidding system and also launched a publicity campaign that made contract bridge the most popular card game on both sides of the Atlantic. In 1949 Charles H. Gore proposed a new bidding system and a new method for valuing one's hand called a point count. Gore's hand-valuation system measured in identical terms both the power of long suits and trumps as well as high cards.

Contract bridge takes longer to learn than any other card game but is by far the most challenging one. It has spread all over the world and constitutes a social phenomenon that is in some respects unparalleled in the history of games. More than 5,000 books on it have been published, and there were an estimated 100 million bridge players throughout the world in the late 20th century.

**David Backstrom.** (Information gleaned from Encyclopaedia Britannica).

### PETER'S PIC

A new graduate from the Police Academy is posted to a small Queensland country town for his first experience.

A week after he commences work, he is sent out to the highway to book motorists who exceed the speed limit. During a busy morning, he flags down a speeding motorist, who, unbeknown to the officer was the son of the town Mayor.

The police officer requests the driver to produce his driver's licence. The driver hands his licence to the officer and aggressively asks the police officer "Do you know who my father is?"

The police officer replies "No, I have absolutely no idea who your father is; but I suggest you ask your mother!"

Thank you to **Peter Anderson.**

### AN APOLOGY

In my last editorial, I paid tribute to those people who make possible the functioning of our bridge club.

Inevitably, I suppose, I forgot to mention one group of people that is vital to the continuation and flourishing of the club in the future.

Of course, I refer to the teachers, who prepare learners of the game, some of whom have not played cards at all, or at the most simple games. (after all, they are all relatively simple when compared to Contract Bridge!)

Again, my humble apology to Ray Cowie and his predecessors.

**David Backstrom.**



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## DIRECTOR'S CORNER

### Named or Designated Card

A card must be played if a player names or otherwise designates it as the card he proposes to play.

### Correction of Inadvertent Designation

A player may, without penalty, change an inadvertent designation if he does so without pause for thought. But if Declarer leads up to Ace-Queen, in dummy, calls for the Queen, then changes it immediately to the Ace, he has **not** made an inadvertent call. He meant to play the Queen, doesn't matter how quickly he changes his mind

**Val Cran**

Director

### **HANDY HINT**

From Darlene Smith

Subject: How to disable a stolen mobile phone.

To check your Mobile phone's serial number, key in the following digits on your phone;

**\* # 0 6 # (star, hash, zero, six, hash)**

A 15 digit code will appear on the screen. This number is unique to your handset. Write it down and keep it somewhere safe. If your phone is stolen, you can phone your service provider and give them this code. They will then be able to block your handset so even if the thief changes the SIM card, your phone will be totally useless. You probably won't get your phone back, but at least you know that whoever stole it can't use/sell it either.

If everybody does this, there would be no point in people stealing mobile phones!