



ARANA

Contract Bridge Club Inc

August-September 2015

Vol 29 No 4

From the President



You will all presumably have noticed the improvement to the ramp leading up to the clubhouse. The work was carried out by Robert Van Beest and Jim Webster. Our thanks go to both guys who have done a great job and saved the club a lot of money.

Thanks also to Dawn Benes who has donated two new paintings to adorn the clubhouse walls.

The club teams championship event was held on Sunday 12th July. The Lehman team was victorious. David played with Gayle McCarthy along with Richard and Helen McLauchlan. Congratulations to all. Second place went to the Gary Lynch team including Tony Agar, Joyce O'Brien and Terry Nowitzki. Third place went to The Val Cram team including Ross Shardlow, Gordon and Ian Broadley.

Natalie Bloch has been coordinating a program to ensure we have contact numbers for every member to be used in the event of some emergency occurring at the club. Where your emergency contact has a mobile, that will usually be the best choice as they can be

reached even if not at home. We regard this as very important. If you have not yet provided a contact please do so as soon as possible. The best way to do this is by email to Natalie at natalie.bloch.equipage@gmail.com. Make sure you include your name, the name of your emergency contact and their phone number. If you do not have email you can give the information to me and I will pass it on by email.

Happy bridging

Allan McIntyre (President)

Masterpoint movements

NEW rankings for Arana home club members for the period to 31st July 2015:

Graduate Master Raymond Cooke
Janet Cooke
Ivy Woodrow
Yvonne Zande

*Local Master Carol Bellis
Glenda Heyde

**Local Master Lyn Holden

Regional Master Lynley Mason
Joyce Maris

National Master Lyn Haysom
Phillip Smith

Bronze Life Julie Cutmore

Silver Life Kath Rooney

Robert Matthew (MP Sec)

Editorial

What do you want from your TrumpIt?

It is the club newsletter, published every two months and has maintained a predictable format for many years.

It consistently has a message from the Club President, advice about Bridge rules or behaviour from a Director, an article about a club member (when available), tips for better bidding and card-play (for example Tony's Tip), results of major events, news of upcoming events, and sometimes advertisements or recognition of club sponsors. I really want to know what you want from your newsletter, and what you enjoy getting.

Please give me your feedback, either by email to the address in this issue or by a note in the Box on the counter-top in the clubhouse.

Michael Walker (editor)

Tony's Tip

Hand Evaluation- Loser Trick Count

Many players are introduced to Loser Trick hand evaluation to identify in one bid a hand of game (3 losers) or near-game (4 losers) strength. This simplifies the bidding process particularly in both game and slam going hands.

As is the nature of bridge, players often take a simplistic approach (for sake of memory perhaps). This applies to point count method also. How many players, once a trump fit is found, count 1 point for the fifth trump and 2 points for each additional card? There are many other add-ons; e.g. with a 5-4 trump fit the distributional points change from 1,2,3 to 1,3,5 in the view of some experts.

The basic Loser Trick count is:

Void = no loser x = 1 loser xx = 2 losers
xxx = 3 losers. No more than 3 losers per suit.

Ax, Kx = 1 loser

Axx, Kxx, Qxx -2 losers.

This seems just too simplistic so it was to Wikipedia I went for further research. There are several pages on this topic "Losing Trick Count". I will cover some key points and recommend for those interested enough to visit this site on your computer for a full comprehensive coverage.

Interestingly the origins of LTC can be traced back to 1910 although the term "Losing Trick Count" was originally put forward in 1934. The basic count was as expressed above. Believing the method tendered to overvalue unsupported Queens and undervalue Jacks, a refined scale was put forward by combining the views of several bidding experts. Some of these refinements include:

AQ = 1/2 loser

KQ = 1 loser (obvious)

Kx = 1 1/2 losers.

AJ10 = 1 loser

KJ10 = 1 1/2 losers

Qxx = 3 losers (or 2 1/2 if Q is in the trump suit)

Subtract 1 loser if there is a known 9 card trump fit.

NB: You need at least an 8 card trump fit and LTC does not apply to no trump contracts.

As usual in bridge where we try to condense literally billions of possible hand combinations to a usable system much is left off. However a too simplistic system magnifies the errors. This in turn frustrates finding the best contract. So whatever count is used, point, loser or a combination, endeavour to apply as many refinements as the partnership can comfortably handle.

Tony Agar

My Story – Carol Bellis



IF I had not chosen to strike up a conversation with a woman in the park in front of our home

in South Africa we may never had made the momentous decision to migrate.

This meeting was serendipitous because in those days, late '60s to early '70s, white South Africans were not noted for friendliness towards strangers. One would never greet a stranger and ask, "How are you?"

This lady was walking in the park opposite our home and I struck up a conversation with her. What she had to say interested me, so I invited her in for a cup of tea – also very unusual. She spoke of unrest and rumblings going on underground illegally. There were very strict laws regarding subversion in SA at that time.

While this lady was still visiting, my husband returned from a meeting with our bank manager. He was turned down for a loan on our mortgage. We wanted to build extensions to our home. How fortuitous! Who knows, if the manager had granted us the loan, we may not have decided to emigrate. There were too many unusual signs happening that day for us not to take notice. After she left, we discussed migration as I now believed there could be much unrest in SA in the future and I worried for my young family. Another major concern was the fact that conscription was law and my young son would have to serve in the army upon reaching the age of 18. Not necessarily a bad thing, but he would likely be sent to Angola where SA was engaged in fighting the Border War. A cause we had no belief in.

We applied to migrate to Australia which took approximately 3 years to be approved by the Australian authorities. We were so happy. We totally committed to making Australia our home, so we sold up nearly everything and boarded the Italian cruise boat Galileo Galilei from Cape Town around July 1975. This sea crossing was no cruise holiday! This was not a luxury ship. We paid our own way and so could only afford a family cabin with a communal bathroom in the bowels of the ship. The swimming pool was emptied as they were expecting a rough passage, which was indeed the case. Each morning, we would read the weather report with much hope only to read that it was going to be "molto grosso", which

meant very large seas. Despite the weather we were happy and could not wait to reach Fremantle. One of the more memorable things about this Italian ship was that red wine was served free by the carafe for each meal except breakfast!

We arrived in Fremantle at 4am and Australian Customs officers boarded the ship to process our entry into Australia. They were so helpful and friendly! We could not believe it! They offered helpful suggestions about work for my husband and suggested that Sydney would be the best city in which to find work. However, we had decided that we wanted to live in a smaller city and we had contacts in Brisbane.

We eventually arrived in Sydney after another week's voyage and disembarked at the wharf with our luggage. My husband left his little family sitting on our large cabin trunk and went off to seek a taxi to take us to we knew not where. We had no accommodation booked and knew no one in Sydney. While Chris was away, a cab driver approached me offering us a ride. I was so wary of this man and being true South Africans, we were mistrustful! But he was very kind and said he would give us a quick tour of the city for a set price before taking us to a reasonable hotel.

He took us on a quick tour and drove us to a type of large boarding house on Elizabeth Bay, called The Beauregarde. The hotel was not the smartest place but it was clean and the friendly manager gave us a large room with a view of the bay and told us we could watch TV downstairs in the lounge. He informed us that we could walk to Kings Cross and buy reasonable meals at a particular café. We knew nothing about Kings Cross but soon discovered the type of area it was when we noted the posters in the windows of some of the establishments! We rushed our children passed these. We had never seen anything so racy because SA censored nearly everything, even Harold Robbins novels! Needless to say Chris' eyes were agog. It was truly amazing taking in all the differences that surrounded us.

Each night when we returned to our room at The Beauregarde, we went into the communal

lounge to watch TV. South Africa had just introduced TV in 1975; just before we left, and we would only get the news in English one night and Afrikaans the next. As you can imagine, our family was glued to the box!

The next night there was a knock at the door of our room; the kindly wife of the manager had brought along a tray of scones which she said were 'leftover' and offered them to us. We could not believe the kindness that we encountered in those first few days in Sydney.

It took 3 or 4 days for our car to be offloaded from the ship and cleared through customs. We were told that we had to reach Brisbane, our destination, in 3 days so that our vehicle could be licensed in Queensland instead of NSW.

We were met in Brisbane by relatives of friends in South Africa who took us in and offered board and lodging for our family of 5 until we could rent a place of our own. And so we settled in The Gap, sent our children to the local school and now my daughters' children (my grandchildren) attend the same school they did.

After finding accommodation, my husband began to seek work. He made applications to several companies for structural drafting positions, but was unsuccessful. He eventually applied to the Commonwealth Employment Service (CES) and was told that there was a high percentage of unemployment in 1975, and so there was not much work about. However, there was a drafting firm in Brisbane that was on the lookout for good draftsmen. He called on BDS the next day and was immediately offered a position. A week after my husband started, the director of his new company sacked 4 draftsmen! My husband felt very bad about that, but times were tough. He was with that company for 20 years and retired as a director in October 1995 before passing away suddenly a month later.

I suffered some homesickness for the first 3 years we lived in Australia, but after our first visit back to South Africa in 1979, it never returned. We don't always make the right decisions in life but this was one of our best!

Carol Bellis

WEDNESDAY MORNING BRIDGE

Sessions 9:30am to 1:30pm

For a friendly and relaxed game

Morning tea/coffee provided

NO PARTNER REQUIRED

Phone Dawn Benes 0411 468 722, or

Lorraine Steele 3351 6173

Help With Play

BRIDGE ETIQUETTE

THE dictionary defines etiquette as "an established code of behaviour for any occasion."

In the March edition of the ABF Newsletter an article on ethics and behaviour stated that "fewer and fewer people are playing at Bridge Clubs – while the game is gaining in popularity at a social level". Also "a few regular duplicate players put newer players off by their rude, officious, critical and even intimidating behaviour"

A large part of any Club's success is largely due to the welcoming atmosphere generated during its activities. Most Bridge Clubs will have displayed, on their notice boards, an etiquette guide including do's and don'ts to create a friendly and harmonious yet competitive environment. The rules governing Duplicate Bridge can only go so far to govern behaviour at the table and many of these are incorporated in the suggestions below.

All Players:

- Be seated 15 mins before play allowing Director to plan the movement.
- Have a system card ON the table – opponents may want to check your system details without alerting you or your partner before or during play of a hand.
- Answer questions about the bidding, leads etc in FULL – e.g. instead of just saying "weak" say "6-9 points and a 6-card suit" if that is the partnership agreement.

- Courteously agree to any requests by the Director e.g. moving tables or direction.
- Avoid comments on seeing Bridgemate results e.g. you may say “that’s a top partner” but would you say “that’s a bottom” to your opponents”?
- Never touch the cards in the opposition’s dummy.
- Thank opponents when the round has finished and welcome the next pair.

Declarer:

- After playing a card, wait until your left hand opponent has played their card before calling for a card from dummy.
- Withhold negative comments on seeing dummy e.g. “why didn’t you bid?” Keep a record and discuss it later with partner.
- “Thank you partner” on seeing dummy is all that is required. Ron Klinger says he never thanks partner for their dummy “In case I’m actually disappointed”

Dummy:

- Withhold comments about declarer’s play e.g. “didn’t you know that was the best spade?” This sort of comment can embarrass and distract declarer when they need total concentration especially in the hands to come.
- Never touch a card in dummy unless declarer has called for it. The card may be obvious but do your right hand opponent the courtesy of allowing them to play their card first.
- Lay out dummy’s cards neatly, facing declarer with a space between suits.
- As a trick is won or lost keep your played cards in the correct orientation and (unless the next card has been led) tell declarer if you see they have made a mistake with theirs.

Finally, we have all felt the sting of someone’s comments or actions at the Bridge table. If we all try our best to avoid offending partner or opponents we will help our Club maintain its harmonious atmosphere.

Jim Taylor

Bridge Jargon

Reproduced from a “Busch Basch” – with permission from the author.

Newcomers to bridge are often confused by the terminology encountered. New words, strange meanings for existing words, and more.

Not just convention names (but they can be pretty weird in themselves), but also words to describe hands and plays.

This article is aimed at newer players and provides a potted summary of some of the words and expressions you are likely to encounter at the table.

LHO, RHO – left hand opponent (the opponent sitting on your left), right hand opponent (the opponent sitting on your right)

Honours – A, K, Q, J and T. Many people forget that the Ten is considered an honour.

Tenace – a non-contiguous holding like AQ or KJT

Part-score – a contract that is below game e.g. 2S

Singleton (slang terms include “stiff”) is one card in a suit, and **doubleton** is two cards in the suit

Psyche – a bid that is not in accordance with the hand but is made with the intention of disrupting the opponents’ bids. There is also a term “fielding a psyche” where the psycher’s partner knows that partner has psyched and acts accordingly, and while psyching is legal, fielding that psyche is not.

Cue bid - a bid of a suit bid or shown by the opponents. This is often used to ask partner if they have a stopper in that suit when heading towards no trumps but can also have other meanings like Michaels Cue Bid or Ghestem showing specific suits. Cue bids are not alertable. Bids showing first or second round control in a suit are also termed cue bids but this is a quite different meaning for the word.

Arrowswitch – a board that is played such that the NS players hold the EW cards and vice versa. This is sometimes a mistake but other times the movement might require it.

Average-plus and average-minus – some situations call for the awarding of an artificial score in lieu of an actual bridge result. The side/s that are not at fault will received an

“average plus” which is 60% of the maximum score available, and an “average minus” (40%) will be applied to those side/s that are at fault.

Fouled board – a board where the hands in each of the 4 pockets are not the way they were when played at other tables e.g. the North and East hands got swapped. These are scored either in a separate group or by assigning an artificial score, depending on how many tables played the board in that fouled state.

Pass-out seat – the 3rd player to call after a bid or double or the 4th player to bid when no bid has been made is in the pass-out seat. It is called that because if that person passes, the auction is over.

Moysian fit – a “fit” in bridge is an 8 card suit between the two hands. A Moysian fit is a 7 card fit and is sometimes the right place to play when there is no practical alternative.

Loser count – a method of valuing your hand to count losers – basically a 3+ card suit with AKQ has no losers and for other suit holdings,

every missing A K or Q up to the number of cards held in that suit is a loser e.g. Qx is 2 loser, Jx is a 2 loser and Jxx or xxx are all 3 losers.

Ruff and sluff – when declarer and dummy are both void in a suit but both hold trumps, they will gain a trick if either defender plays the suit they are void in because declarer can ruff in one hand a discard a loser from the other.

Peter Busch

(Peter is a member of the Sunshine Coast Bridge Club)

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Contributions may be by email (preferred) or by placing a note in the ideas box at the clubhouse

From Our Sponsor

Health & Hearing is an independent audiologist with clinics in Ashgrove, Chermside, Chapel Hill, Lawnton and Caunon Hill.

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The advertisement features a photograph of a smiling man, a young child, and a woman. The man is holding the child, and the woman is standing behind them. The background is a soft-focus outdoor setting. The text is overlaid on a red and white background.