

ARANA

Contract Bridge Club Inc

February-March 2015

Vol 29 No 1

From the Vice President

WELCOME to the first newsletter of 2015. Already as I write this it is February and many dates are being taken up on the Bridge Calendar.

Our President Alan is still holidaying in some far-flung destination enjoying himself. I am hoping he will be back by the AGM to nominate again as President. **The AGM is being held at the clubhouse on Tuesday 17 February before play.** All positions are open for nomination and we are seeking new committee members. Please consider offering some time to the running of the club and place your nomination with the secretary.

The 2014 Annual Christmas Party was kindly convened by Dawn Benes. With other loyal helpers she made this day a success, the proof of which can be seen by viewing photos on our Facebook page. A good time was had by all including the President in his special Santa outfit - the usual T shirt and shorts but a different colour.

Upcoming events to place on your calendar are:

Sunday 15 February: Arana Teams Congress held at our club and I encourage all members especially those newer members, to get a team together (4 persons) and participate in an event which offers a good first experience for this type of event.

Friday 20 February to Saturday 28th February: Gold Coast Congress at the Gold Coast Convention Centre. Discounted entries close on 7th February.

Lessons for beginners commence Thursday 12th February and run for nine

weeks in both day and evening sessions. Please spread the word to friends, family and neighbours about these FREE lessons as it is a great way to experience Bridge for the first time. Thanks must go Jo McKitrick for ably running these classes so successfully.

As many members may be aware Andy Hung, professional player, teacher and coach, has been giving intermediate lessons to our members on bidding systems. We are fortunate to have Andy offer his time and expertise to the club. Those members who have been attending these classes I am sure have gained much from Andy's expertise. I have received great feedback so if you did not attend this time keep an eye out for future sessions with Andy.

A big thank-you to Michael Walker who puts a lot of time and effort into editing and producing our newsletter, the "Trump.It" which is always a good read.

Terry Nowitzki (Vice-President)

Masterpoint movements

NEW rankings for Arana home club members as at the end of December 2014:

Club Master Wilhelmina Kranenburg

Local Master Norma Hansen

***Local Master** Agnes Boross
Kurt Salzgeber

****Local Master** Odette Valmas
Liane Morris

Regional Master Robyn Grills

State Master Sally Cox

***State Master** Carmel Steer

Robert Matthew (MP Sec)

Brother Hugh

An update from Pam Feehely

I have been in contact with my ex-partner Brother Hugh Reilly. He has settled well in his new accommodation at Sunshine Beach. After our conversation Brother Hugh was planning on going fishing; unfortunately, so far he has been unsuccessful in catching a fish from the beach up there. A true blue fisherman - still optimistic!

Hugh does not play Bridge anymore from the lack of a permanent partner and I say what a waste - almost feel like travelling to the north coast once a week to oblige. The good man spends 5 days a week at Oz Care helping others.

He did request that I remember him to all and pass on his good wishes.

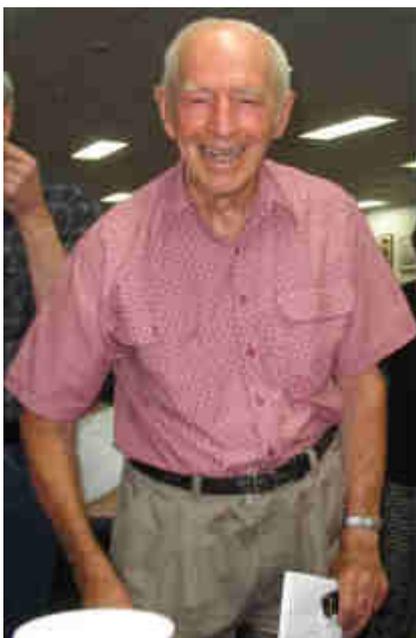
Good Bridging, Pam

Member Booklet Correction

THE Australia Wide Open Pairs will commence on Tuesday August 25, **NOT ON** Wednesday August 26 as shown in the Green 2015 Member Booklet Calendar of Bridge Events.

Happy Birthday Arthur

Arthur Pomery recently celebrated his 96th birthday at the clubhouse. He is pictured below, and also across with his Bridge partners for the last 12 years, John Martin and Alan Ray.



Dawn Benes, who brought him to Bridge that day, finished getting some stuff from her car and found Arthur was already well on his way into the clubhouse. She says, “Arthur still sets one hell of a pace, he has a spring in his step like a 20yo. What a man.”

Welcome

A warm welcome is extended to new members; Jo Mammen, Berrice Good, Robyn White and Rosemary Roy, who have recently joined the club.

Profile: Sri Sriprakash

I was born into a middle class family in India during the Second World War. My father was a textile chemist. Our family moved from Bangalore to Rajahmundry, a small town in the east coast of India where my father was a manager of a handloom company. As with many anxious parents in those days, the only expectation of me was that I do well at school. This was the only way known to my parents for uplifting into upper middle class within the social strata. Hence, my father tried to enrol me at the age of 6 into first form (6th year) without me going through the first 5 years of schooling. Fortunately no school would heed to his request and reasoning. However, he was satisfied when a girls' school finally agreed to take me into year 5. My classmates were at least 5-8 years older than me, and I was the only boy in the school. As it happened, I flunked that year. I repeated the year in a different school, – a co-ed school. Because of this “jump” start, I finished Secondary School Leaving Certificate (year 11) when I was barely 14.

My admission into College of Pharmacy following year 12 (pre-university as it was known then) was a slight disappointment for my father in the initial years. He was expecting me to be either an Engineer or a Doctor. But his opinion of the pharmacy course quickly changed as soon as he learnt of the job prospects for pharmacy graduates. After graduating in 1963 at the age of 20, and specializing in Pharmaceutical Chemistry in 1965, my interests changed – I wanted to study in what was then a new and exciting science, molecular biology. I could feel that this decision did worry my parents, though they never admitted it to me. They did not want me to be an academic, which was a relatively poorly paid profession. The saving grace in their view was that I was good enough to win a prestigious scholarship and obtain admission into a PhD program at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore - a premier research institute in India.

My research project on tubercular bugs at the Institute whetted my appetite in the field of molecular genetics. It was during this studentship I learnt Rubber Bridge. We used to commence the game by 10 pm in my room, and often our sessions continued into the small hours of the morning.

I obtained my PhD in 1970, and soon after was offered a fellowship to work on genetic recombination at the Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven, USA. My beginnings in the States were not without hurdles. This was my first overseas trip, and my first ever flight. My parents could not afford my airfare. I could barely pay my way to the States from my savings. The Indian foreign exchange rule then was that you are officially allowed only \$8 to take with you. I did not know anyone in New York or in New Haven. I had to find my own way to New Haven from the JFK airport. Upon checking into a YMCA accommodation for \$3, I was left with only a few coins to get “dinner” from a vending machine, again completely new to me. Added to this, next morning I found that my mentor at Yale was away in Paris. Fortunately, my new colleagues lent me some money. When my mentor returned a week later, he discovered that my file at Yale was lost, and they had to recreate it. This took months, but thankfully I had kind colleagues. Hippy culture was still in vogue among the young then.

Although I did not take up many of its attributes, for looks I could be taken as one of them. It was also a cheaper option for me.

Despite all the initial stress, I had a great time in the USA. My friend and I hitchhiked most of the country and Canada. During the 3 years stint there, I became interested in the area of biogenesis of mitochondria – the powerhouse of cells. In those days, there were only a few laboratories specializing in this work, and Monash University, Clayton, Victoria was among those. Upon overhearing my phone conversation with my potential employer at Monash University, our laboratory technician at Yale virtually lead me to a floor above us in the Hunter Building and introduced me to a researcher there. The next thing was that she spoke to me at length enthusiastically of a strange country (to me anyway), of strange landscape, and in an accent quite different to what I am used to (Indian, British or American). That encounter helped me in my decision-making, and I accepted the offer at Monash University. It was nearly a couple of years before I realized that the lady who was speaking to me about Australia was a celebrity – Colleen McCullough.

On my way to Melbourne from New York, I stopped by in Bangalore, India in September 1973. My family introduced me to a beautiful girl, Geetha. We were engaged in a week and were married in October before boarding our flight to Melbourne – that was our honeymoon. I must add that our marriage was quite shocking for some who were in our social circle. Why on earth did such a sweet girl as Geetha agree to marry an unspeakable hippie (it was looked upon so then in India), and who chose to work in, of all places, a distant god-forsaken country called Australia. Interestingly USA, though much farther than Australia, is acceptable!

My work at Monash University was very interesting. Despite permanent residency and better prospects of employment, I was keen to return to India. In 1976 I took up a position as the Head of the newly established Molecular Genetics group in a pharmaceutical industry in Baroda, India. While the projects, as could be expected, were of industrial nature and interesting, unfortunately there was only a marginal support for any serious research.

This forced Geetha and me to return to Australia in 1978. By then our first child, a son, was born.

I took up a position at the Australian National University where I returned to work on yeast mitochondrial DNA. We spent 7 years in Canberra. Geetha worked at the Bureau of Flora and Fauna, Canberra. During this time we had our second child – a daughter this time. In 1985, I was appointed to Head of Molecular Genetics Laboratory at the Menzies School of Health Research, Darwin. I worked on bacteria that causes strep throats and thereby associated with heart and kidney diseases, Chlamydia and other pathogens. Geetha joined the Department of Education, Employment and Training after a short stint with the Northern Territory Department of Health.

I developed a renewed interest in Bridge. I joined the Arafura Bridge Club. My partner, Mr Selva Ratnam and I were regulars at Monday evening sessions. The club was very small and often we used to have less than 10 tables.

Although life in Darwin had several positives, Geetha never liked the place for its remoteness and weather. When we heard of an offer at the Queensland Institute of Medical Research in 2001, Geetha started packing even before the news was official. I continued to work on Streptococcus in Brisbane and have had several successful international and national collaborations in this field. Geetha too joined the Institute. Thus for some years we used to travel to and from work together.

Since our move to Brisbane we have two grandchildren through our son. They are in Sydney. We also have a grandchild from our daughter. She and her family have just moved to Cambridge, UK.

A few years ago, Geetha retired and has taken an interest in craft. She is keenly involved in various workshops and teaching in church groups. Recently she was picked to be on a craft-cruise despite a long waitlist. So, she goes on the newly refurbished Voyager of the Seas. I have my Bridge friends at Arana C.B.C., and enjoy the challenge of partnering Lorraine, although I know there are many reasons why she should drop me.

I have recently retired. However I still have a couple of collaborative projects in India, which keeps me reasonably involved in research.

It is hard to drop it all at once after nearly five decades of involvement.

Sri Sriprakash

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

New Scoring Program

LAST December, the management committee meeting approved purchase of the Compscore2 bridge scoring program. This program offers a much improved web-based display of session results and, hopefully, fewer traumas with Bridgemates.

A training session was held on Saturday 10 January to familiarise scorers & Bridgemate operators with its operation. Many remained for the afternoon session (of 19½ tables) where Compscore2 was used. Some teething problems with handicap results need to be sorted out.

Results from the last few weeks have been processed by Compscore and uploaded, so check out our Results page for the extra information (full details on every board for every pair) now displayed.

Richard McLauchlan

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