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THE CONTRACT BRIDGE GROUP.

It was in the July number of the Bulletin that we published a letter from Mr. W. J. A. van Langenberg which resulted in the forming on August 28th, of the Contract Bridge Group. Mr van Langenberg was associated in this by Dr. F. J. T. Foenander and Dr. H. T. R. Koch.

The organisers thumbed their noses at the tradition that the moment any form of spontaneous activity at the Union was regularised and dressed up it died an unnatural death. The idea behind the Group was to get together on a particular day in the week the many bridge-playing members who otherwise did not play regularly at the Union because they were rarely sure of finding a four.

If you come in now of a Friday evening and go upstairs you will find a dozen or more fiercely-concentrating members sitting around, four at a table, smoking thoughtful or feverish cigarettes, alternatively glaring and smiling at each other, and generally having a lovely time. You will hear the shuffling of cards, the peculiar noises that indicate the breaking of suspense at the end of a game, the mutual recriminations that are bandied about (this is called discussion and is within the rules of the Group) and a strange babbling about conventions.

If there are any contract-bridge flies who have not yet walked into this particular parlour, here is the opportunity. You pay Rs. 2/- as an entrance fee to the Group and -/25 cts. table money each evening you play. Stakes are -/10 cts. a hundred, but you surrender to the Group -/10 cts. out of every rupee of your winnings.

The Group meets Fridays at 6 p. m. Guests are welcome. Any member or guest of a member is entitled to cut in at any table at the end of a rubber.

At the start, attempts were made to coach and assist novices and teach them the intricacies of the game, such as finding out, without taking a quick look at your opponent's badly-held hand, whether he held the Ace of Spades. But these attempts have been abandoned in favour of the less painful method of advising them of the best books to read on the subject.

The average attendance has been 12 against a membership roll of 26. There is room for many more. Those members of the Union who frown on the lighter activities of the Union which entice our youth away from the more serious side will be interested to hear that the Contract Bridge Group has attracted very few of the younger members. Perhaps they are just too dumb to play bridge, perhaps they are too busy. But the Group is anxious that they should also join, and as a special bait, will begin shortly a competition in team duplicate bridge.

NEWS FLASHES.

The St. Nicolaas' Fete Committee has recommended that in future the closing date for sending in the names of children should be strictly observed. We have a suspicion that this is not the first time this has happened. But the scale on which late entries were received on the last occasion has made it clear that drastic measures are necessary to disabuse parents of the idea that having a closing date is a piece of unnecessary red-tape. The fact is that hurried last minute purchases have to be made, often of toys inferior to those bought earlier, and in the luck of the draw it can, and does, happen that children whose names were received in time very often get these toys.

The last Fete was more crowded than ever before, or so it seemed. Over 230 children were catered for. Earlier in the evening, while the games were in progress, the atmosphere, though stifling, was tolerable. But when St. Nicolaas entered the hall and gave the signal for the hand-out of toys to begin, it became reminiscent of a textiles day at Kundanmal's. It is on occasions like these that the serious limitations of our premises become very apparent.

There was a slight mix-up in the age groups. The original age group 0—4, for which tickets were issued, was later sub-divided into two sections 0—2 and 2—4. The result was that many of the children under 2, but holding 0—4 tickets, were taken by their parents to the 2—4 table, which soon ran out of its supplies. Many children between 2—4 eventually had to go to the 0—2 table and be content with stuffed bunnies and other babies' toys. This was unfortunate, but one cannot help thinking that a slightly greater use of intelligence by some of the parents would have averted this.

Mr. C. E. Foenander's article "On Behalf of the Burghers Young and Old" (Bulletin December 1945) projected a scheme under which each settler on his farm would be given "2 good cows and 24 laying hens". The absence of the mere male in this quota of livestock made us inquire whether they were deliberately excluded with a view to forestalling the dismissal of the plan by airy critics as a cock-and-bull affair. Mr. Foenander was at first a little perturbed, but later rose nobly to the occasion with the triumphant shout "Artificial insemination!"

NEWS FROM HOLLAND.

"Let me tell you that the Records at the Hague are in excellent condition". This news comes in a letter from Miss M. W. Jurriaanse, written to a friend in Ceylon recently. Continuing, she says:—"Our poor country has not lost those treasures of the past. We are slowly getting on our feet again, but the job will be hard".

Readers will recall that Miss Jurriaanse spent some years in Ceylon, translating and compiling a "Catalogue of the Archives of the Dutch Central Government of Coastal Ceylon, 1640-1796". On the termination of her agreement she left for the United States of America, but would appear to have returned to Holland on the 15th of August, and assumed duties as Archivist of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

"My room", she says, in her letter, "is beautiful, and furnished with the furniture formerly belonging to Seyss Inquart, the tyrant of Holland". She ends up by saying: "I long for your beautiful Island where there is no winter and the hardships of life seem easy compared with what is going on in our crowded bombed towns".
Communicated.

Personal.

S/Sgt. Bennie van Rooyen of the Royal Army Service Corps who recently returned from the Middle East is now serving with HQ. ALSFEA in Singapore.

We regret to record the death on January 26 of Henry Ludovici.

Meetings for February, 1946.

Monday, 11th	6-15 p.m.	Genealogical Committee
"	"	6-45 p.m. Finance Committee
Tuesday, 12th	6-00 p.m.	Education Committee
"	"	6-30 p.m. St. Nicolaas' Home Committee.
Monday, 18th	6-15 p.m.	Social Service Committee
"	"	6-45 p.m. Entertainment and Sports Committee
Tuesday, 19th	6-15 p.m.	General Committee.

St. Valentine's Day Dance.

There will be a dance on Thursday, February 14th from 9 p.m. to 12 midnight. Tickets will be priced at Rs. 2/- per head. Names of guests should be with the Hony. Secretary before 6 p.m. on Tuesday February 12th.

Extracts from the Minutes of a Meeting of the General Committee held on Tuesday the 15th January 1946, at 6-15 p.m.

Literary and Ethical Purposes. Dr. Spittel commented on the inactivity of this Committee. Mr. H. E. S. de Kretser said he would try to arrange another lecture before March.

St. Nicolaas' Fete. The report of the Committee was read. The following recommendations were accepted:—

- (a) The St. Nicolaas' Fete Committee should be appointed earlier in the year, for example, in June.

- (b) The closing date for the receipt of children's names should be strictly observed.
- (c) The practice of providing each collector with a list of members in his or her area should continue.

The Committee favoured the importation in bulk of toys, surplus toys to be sold after the Fete. A vote of thanks to the members of the Committee was passed.

Other Business:—

1. The resignations of Mrs. L. E. Thomas and Mr. C. E. Hatch were accepted.
2. Letter from Col. V. H. L. Anthonisz regretting inability to attend further meetings as he had left Colombo, was read.
3. The President mentioned the receipt of a letter from the Dutch Consul conveying the thanks of H.M. Queen Wilhelmina for the congratulations sent on the liberation of the Netherlands and the Netherlands Indies.
4. The President reported that Mr. Leembruggen had agreed to continue to edit the Bulletin.
5. Decided that the Annual General Meeting should be held at 5 p.m. on Saturday March 23rd. All meetings in March would be advanced by a week.

A Sub-Committee of Dr. Sam de Vos, Messrs. C. A. Speldewinde, F. R. Loos, T. B. Collette, and the Hony. Secretary was appointed to run the "At Home".

Education Fund 1946

(to 22/1/46)

	Rs.	c.
Mr. W. E. V. de Rooy	10	00
Mr. C. A. Speldewinde	8	00
Mr. P. S. de Kretser	25	00
Mrs. B. C. Kelaart	2	00
Miss A. Spittel	12	00
Hon. Mr. A. E. Keuneman	250	00
Total	307	00

Social Service Contributions

(from 17th December 1945 to 21st January 1946)

		Rs.	c.
Mr. F. H. C. Foenander (refund)	...	10	00
Mrs. B. C. Kelaart	...	2	00
Mrs. S. V. vander Smagt	...	10	00
O. A. Speldewinde	...	10	00
Collections at Nativity Play	...	95	32
Mr. J. R. Toussaint	...	4	00
Rev. Fr. D. J. M. Berenger	...	3	00
Mr. W. W. Beling	...	2	00
Mr. C. P. Brohier	...	4	00
Miss A. M. vander Straaten (refund)	...	20	00
Mr. Alex vander Straaten	...	2	00
Dr. E. R. Loos	...	1	50
Mr. L. E. Blazé	...	2	00
Per Mrs. A. L. B. Ferdinand	...	26	00
Mr. H. B. G. Kresser	...	5	00
Mrs. M. B. Christoffelsz	...	1	00
Mr. R. D. P. Paulusz	...	18	00
Mr. and Mrs. A. N. Weinman	...	32	00
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	Total	242	32
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