

TABLE TALK – June 2021 with Richard Solomon



Sunday Bridge

Following a request at last year's AGM, we are trialling Sunday bridge over the winter. We started off with a Mid-Winter Christmas on Sunday 20th June, and 7 tables of players enjoyed a relaxed afternoon, followed by mulled wine and Judy Collins' famous Christmas cake. Do support this initiative if you can -- weekly sessions starting Sunday 4th July (2pm start be seated by 1.45pm \$6 no partner needed). Jim will be directing.

Interclub



The June Inter-Club round was not a great one for the three Franklin teams with no wins recorded. However, our Intermediate Kiwis only lost 38-42 to Mt Albert Dave (9.01 vps) and although they slipped from 2nd to 3rd in the 19- team ladder, they are only 6 vps off the leaders who also lost.

30-51 and 35-54 were the rather similar imp losses for the two Junior teams with the Franklin Fantails scoring 5.57vps and the Bellbirds 5.92. The Bellbirds are slightly better placed in 7th spot, only 10 vps behind 2nd, while the Fantails are in 10th place in the 15- team competition.

Wednesday Teams

Names are being taken for those who wish to play Wednesday night teams. Always one of our most colourful events, players put their names down and are assigned to a team. Team colours are worn, everyone on the team has to play with everyone else. It's great fun and very social. There's a clipboard circulating with entries closing on 1st July so the compiler has a chance to sort out "balanced" teams.

Other Celebrations

Margaret van der Coer's family got together recently for her sister Cynthia's 90th birthday. Until Covid shut down overseas travel last year, Margaret and Cynthia were frequent international travellers together, including to quite a few exotic places. They're all wearing well, aren't they!



Margaret with her brother and sister

(it seems that on some devices, you may need to stand on your head to see this photo. If so, apologies.)

It's good to see Belinda Summerville back at bridge after several months away due to Kerry's health. Just in time for her to attend a Pink Breakfast Celebration at the Auckland Museum, with her daughter and two of her sisters-in-law. The rural Summerville contingent hired a limo to get them into the Museum and wore their best party frocks.



A Face from the Past

Jenny Colgan recently played at Orewa and there met our former member Father Peter Gray, who's still playing and Orewa is his home club. Here's Jenny's report.

“I visited the Orewa Bridge Club with Julie Quilty recently and met up with our much-loved ex member Father Peter Gray.

Father Peter still loves his bridge and plays a lot and his name was called out for his good result the previous week. *(It seems that familiar touch of his left shoulder before playing a board for good luck still works a treat!)*

There was comment that he drives very slowly these days but still drives himself to Bridge.

He sends his kind regards to the members of the Franklin bridge club and said he had very much enjoyed his time at the club.”

Unearthed in Orewa



Peter in Orewa with Julie Quilty and Jenny Colgan. Julie now lives on Auckland's North Shore.

How high do you play take-out doubles?

The answer I heard from my opposition when the following board came up recently at the club was “up to and including 3♠”. Alas, the pair involved recorded a very poor score when West felt they were not being asked to bid:

South Deals

None Vul

♠ 9 7 5 4 2

♥ 4

♦ 7 2

♣ K Q 5 4 3



<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			2♥
Pass	4♥	Dbl	Pass
?			

2♥ was a Weak Two in hearts while 4♥ could have been any number of high-card points, either as a nuisance bid or with a real intention to make game. North would have several hearts for the bid. East-West were not playing take-

out doubles at the 4-level and thus West passed the double of 4♥ with disastrous consequences.

South Deals None Vul	♠ Q 3 ♥ Q J 10 9 5 ♦ Q J ♣ 10 9 7 2		
♠ 9 7 5 4 2 ♥ 4 ♦ 7 2 ♣ K Q 5 4 3		♠ A K J 6 ♥ 7 ♦ A K 8 6 5 ♣ A J 6	
	♠ 10 8 ♥ A K 8 6 3 2 ♦ 10 9 4 3 ♣ 8		
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	4♥	Dbl	2♥ Pass
?			

There were two spades, two diamonds and a club for the defence (+300) but at either Pairs or Teams, that was a terrible result for East-West who could make 12 tricks in either black suit.

West should bid 4♠ since they should recognise their partner's double as being for take-out. Reaching slam would be a gamble on the East cards (you have to find the ♠Q though that would not be hard on this day) but at least 480 would not have been a bottom score (it was Pairs). Only one pair actually bid slam.

It is wise to play that a double of any suit up to and including 4♥ is for take-out when it is a player's first chance to bid. A double of 4♠ shows a strong hand (strong no-trump or better), not necessarily many spades, but is not for take-out since it is not always a good idea to go to the 5-level unless your hands are quite distributional. However, a double of 4♥ as shown above is similar to a double of 1♥ where you will either hold 4 spades or be very strong.

You may say that precludes you doubling for penalties and indeed there will be a few hands where you wish you could do that. However, on balance, playing take-out doubles as indicated is a winner.

Remember, the double can be passed for penalties if West chooses to do so. Had West held ♠ 975 ♥Q54 ♦752 ♣Q543, they would not bid 5♣ but would

pass for penalties hoping to defeat 4♥x. Such decisions are not always straightforward but it helps a lot to know what partner's double means...and to recognise that in essence, if of 4♥ or below on the 1st round of bidding, it is for take-out.

Like an opposition's pre-emptive bidding: Beware!



Well, it is not only the opposition's pre-emptive bidding you have to be careful about. It may seem to be such a pretty specimen but it is best you leave this toadstool alone. What has it to do with this bridge club? Well, it took up residence on the club's lawn and was photographed by Carol De Luca. Beware pre-empts and toadstools...and see you in July. *Richard Solomon*