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# 'Table talk'

Franklin Bridge Club Newsletter September 2016

- with Richard Solomon



It's a busy month ... plenty to "talk" about but only one place to start. That is to acknowledge Ron Rooney turning 100. A fabulous milestone with a lovely signed card from the Queen as part of the celebrations.



*Bridge Club members celebrate with Ron*

## **A great international performance**

While we focus mainly on this club, just a word to acknowledge the New Zealand Open Team which has just put in a wonderful performance at the recent World Championships in Poland. To put their reaching the quarter-finals (top 8 out of 51 countries) into perspective, in over 40 years of trying, no New Zealand team, whether Open, Women or Seniors, has ever reached

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the top 16 knock-out stages before. Before losing by a respectable margin to Spain, they had eliminated France, one of the bridge power-houses, in the Round of 16 stage.

Our Women's team also made the last 16 in their event, losing to Sweden. The Franklin Bridge Club was represented in Poland by Trevor Robb and Andrew Janisz in the Seniors' event. This team did not shine, finishing 21st out of 23 countries. Let's just put into perspective the type of opposition they faced. The USA team was Zia Mahmood, Chip Martel, Jeff Meckstroth and Bob Hamman. If they are just names to you, then they are all absolutely brilliant and most successful players. It was no easy ride.

## From the sublime to ... the ridiculous

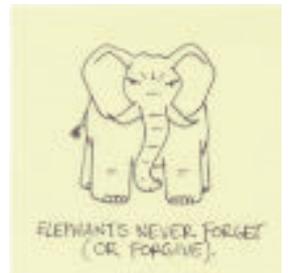
It could not happen at a World Championship. It should not happen at your local club ... but it did! You know how bridge players and elephants have such wonderful memories. Well, not a word of criticism about elephants! Just the elite of our players, the Monday night group. They are playing Teams at present and had a good evening on 5th September and then again a week later on the 12th. Most were there both weeks, some even playing the same direction each time.

Now you would think if they played the same boards two weeks running that all their scores would improve. Maybe some did but only at the end of play on the second night did some get a little suspicious that they had seen the hands before. Our Committee as I write have still to decide what to do about this as really the night should be replayed ... but when?

However, one nice story from the 2 nights. Arie Geursen bid a hand nicely to 6NT on the first week ... a combined 34 high card points, a 6-2 club fit of Q5 opposite AK9874. If the clubs broke, 13 tricks were a lay-down. Arie was delighted when the 4-1 club break (one opponent had JT63) meant that 12 tricks was the limit.

On then to week 2 and Arie bid all the way to ... 7NT!

Apologies to elephants. We will never lump (hump?) you with humans again!



## Plenty of Fun (and the different boards each week!) at the Wednesday Teams.

**Wednesday teams** were the usual fun, with the Gold team (Lorraine Vickers, Jo Griffiths, Jenny Colgan and Rolf Baettig) winning. They raced out to a winning position at Week One and never looked back. As well as their eye-catching sparkly gold wigs, Rolf sported a large gold medallion and several gold chains. He said if he couldn't dazzle opponents with his bridge, he just flashed his bling at them! The Black team was second, Gary Logan, Irene Bronlund, Gloria Pilkington and Stuart Orton. Both these teams were intact throughout the 4 weeks, no substitutes required.

Talking of substitutes, Wednesday night convenor Maureen doesn't enter on a team, so as to be available as "first reserve" (with 48 people in the winter, there's always someone unable to play). Week 2, sporting a large red scarf, she said to her husband at 7pm "Right, I'm off to play on the Red team". "I thought you were playing on the White team" he said. "Oh that was last week. I'm on Red this week" "So are you just a mercenary?" came the reply.

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All the teams wore their "colours" and each team member brought along a bottle of wine to share, so a good time was had by all.



*Those of you who know Ann Anderson may be surprised to see her with a glass of wine in her hand. On the other hand, you may not! What a great way to play bridge and discuss the boards afterwards. Fellow members of the Pink Team were Susanne Radley, Madeline Dodds and Gerald Baptist. Arie Geursen was also listed as being on this team though no doubt knowing about his unsuccessful slam bidding even when he "knew the hands", was dropped from playing this particular evening. The Pink team would have won a big prize for glamour but were nicely mid pack in the bridge event.*



*The winning Gold team, Jo Griffiths, Jenny Colgan, Lorraine Vickers and Rolf Baettig.*

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*If the name of the game is enjoyment, then it looks like Robert Blake is really in the mood.*



## **Members' News**

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to Bob Liddell, who is recovering from a quadruple bypass. We hope to see him back at Friday Bridge soon.

He still has a fair way to go to catch up to Ron Rooney but "President" Chris celebrated a birthday at the club recently. Monday night players were treated to a nice chocolate cake baked by Carol De Luca.

Even younger still is Diesel who celebrated his 11th birthday on the same day as did Chris. Much to his delight, he was invited to join in and eat the cake. He did not need to be asked twice!

Wednesday night player, Graeme Longdell, has featured in the Franklin County News as he has retired after 8 years as CEO of Franklin Hospice. It quotes Graeme as saying "I look forward to spending time tending my 60 acre property at Bombay with my wife, Susie, golfing and playing bridge ". Now, thanks, Graeme for the "plug". 60 acres will not take that much looking after. We look forward to seeing you even more at the bridge club.

## **Tournament News**

The Ultra-restricted tournament was played on Sunday 7th August, with 17 pairs playing. The "ultra" restriction was that every pair had to include at least one Junior. The usual delicious finger food was brought along by players to share after the tournament and the club provided wine and juice for everyone. Winners were as follows:

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- 1st Intermediate/Junior Ann Anderson and Mae McRobbie
  - 2nd Intermediate/Junior Debbie Sullivan and Maureen Nelson
  - 1st Open/Junior Tricia Logan and Lynne Geursen
  - 2nd Open/Junior Jo Griffiths and Nelda Wormald

Special prizes of wine and chocolates were awarded to the two novice/novice pairs:

- Carolynn and Steve West
- Caroline Griffin and Belinda Summerville

Well done to all!

## That Rubber competition

Through no fault of their own, the Franklin winners, Maria Casci and Chris Glyde, have still to play the Auckland Club winners. To get to the Hamilton finals, they need two wins in the space of a week. Watch this space ... and may all the aces and kings fall into your hands!

## Inter Club

We have had two rounds in the last few weeks. Our Intermediates won a high-scoring battle against a Mt Albert team 76-54 (14.6) and then lost to the leaders, Waiheke 51-71 (5.74). Waiheke have 102.46 vps with Franklin back in 4th place in the 14 team competition on 80.24.

I think the Open team would like me to say very little about their 3 way match with Akarana and Howick. They appear not to have picked up any vps that night. They were a little more successful on the second night but lost to Auckland Watt 43-53 (7.67) and have dropped to 7th out of 9 teams.

## National Congress

This may not mean much to those who just play at the club once or twice a week but the main event on the New Zealand bridge calendar takes place over the last week of this month at the Distinction Hotel in Hamilton. There will be over 650 players there for all or part of the week ... and I would like to highlight a couple of events (3 actually!) which might be of interest to our members.

## **Sunday September 25th Novice Pairs 2pm 1 session 10.00 a player.**

For those who started playing in the last couple of years. You will be playing against others of your own level in a tremendous atmosphere. Got nothing on that afternoon (do not take that too literally!)? Then hop down to Hamilton. Ask Chris or Debbie if you want to know more.

## **Thursday September 29th 10.00am Intermediate / Junior Teams. 3 session. 75.00 a player.**

If you do not have teammates but want to play, just email me and I can help you.  
rksolomon@xtra.co.nz

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## **Friday September 30th 10.00am Intermediate/ Junior Pairs. 2 session. 50.00 a player.**

See ... the Congress is not just for our top Open players. If you have never been, it's worth a look ... and if you have ...

Well, we have a large number taking part. We will tell you next month of any successes.

## **Thursday Nights**

It's great to see Debbie and Chris taking a couple of tables of new players and three tables of Restricted Play each Thursday evening. They aim to continue until the end of November. It's nice that the club is in use for so many sessions ... and hopefully these players will become club regulars.

## **Friday Night Play Sessions**

I ran 6 nights of these during late July and August. Each night we played about 12 boards taking about three hours to do so. "Quite slow" you might say but after bidding and playing them, we looked at points of interest in each deal and focused on recurring themes in play and defence. I hope those who came, usually between 15 and 20, benefited from both the play and discussion afterwards.

## **Wednesday Night Raffles**



Wednesday night players continue to bring beautiful produce from their gardens, flowers, fruit and vegetables, for our Wednesday night raffle. We encourage you to support it. 50 cents buys you two chances. Sometimes members bring along other than produce, the occasional jar of marmalade etc, and recently 4 chocolate bars tied together. Diesel's eyes lit up and he asked permission from Maureen to enter the raffle. She showed him what to do and had a quiet word on the side with Neal Phillips, who does the draw each week. Lo and behold, one very happy little boy's name was drawn out first, and of course he didn't choose the fruit or the flowers.

## **What's Coming Up?**

I have mentioned the National Congress. Straight after that we have a Restricted Pairs tournament on Saturday 8th October. You can play with whoever you want but two Open players cannot play together.

It's early days yet but this website is as I look only showing four entries. Many more please, especially from our club members.

The Club is again having a stand at the Franklin Positive Aging Expo on the 30th September 9.30 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. Anyone who would like to help on the stand is welcome and please contact Jenny Colgan 2388972. New club members are welcome to come too.

That's all for now. Happy Bridging.

**Richard Solomon**

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