
'Table talk'

**Franklin Bridge Club Newsletter
December 2018**



– with Richard Solomon

Annual General Meeting ... And Party Time

The Club AGM and Christmas prize-giving was a popular and most enjoyable late afternoon and early evening. It was great to see a lot of members from each night attending, from grand masters through to those who only learnt the game in July. There were over 60 present.

The message from the AGM is that the club is in good health though would love to attract more new players as the area itself is growing so rapidly. The two issues the club faces are reroofing and the effect asbestos is having on that and the question of council rates.

Kevin Birch made it quite clear that there is no health risk from the discovery of asbestos but the cost of removing it is currently causing the committee some problems. Meanwhile, Auckland Council, beware, because the might of the Franklin Bridge Club will soon descend on them in the shape of Kevin and Arie. We have an agreement with the old Franklin Council that the club would receive a rate rebate. Auckland Council has taken over the commitments of the old council, hopefully including the agreed rebate. If anyone can swing it for this club, it is

Kevin and Arie with their knowledge and experience of Council matters. We will let you know when there is more to report.



Nelda really looked like she was enjoying herself giving out the trophies, one of the pleasant duties of being Club Patron. I was pretty happy too to be presented the trophy.

After a welcome drink, the "business end" of things was efficiently presented, prizes awarded, and retiring Club Captain Linda Thornton and retiring committee member and past President Lynne Geursen were presented with flowers. After that, our usual delicious pot luck meal was shared. The club provided ice-cream and strawberries and then 50 people stayed to play drawn pairs bridge until 10pm. We were delighted that 3 novice players stayed to play, our youngest player Daniel Hall found himself being paired with none other than Arie.



Kevin Kemp, the most improved first year player receives his award from our Patron, Nelda Wormald.



Jenny Colgan and Darren Old display one trophy they had won. Darren has had a most successful year as his winning of the Maria Schintz trophy demonstrates.

Discretionary prizes were awarded as follows:

- T E Welch Trophy for best first year player
- Holwerda Cup for most promising beginner
- Maria Schintz Trophy for most improved player (at any level)

Kevin Kemp
Tricia Balle
Darren Old



Two discretionary prize winners; Darren Old and Trish Balle

"A penny for your thoughts". What are Rolf Baettig and Robert Brake so engrossed over. Meanwhile, Yvonne seems to be enjoying a nice Pinot Noir which Robert probably served her!



Congratulations to all the prize-winners of all the competitions, and many thanks to everyone who worked hard to make the evening a success. A special thank you to David Spencer and Judy Collins, who came very early next morning and spent several hours cleaning up, so that the yoga group would have a shiny clean room for their last session of the year.

Unsung heroes

As well as our hard-working committee, we have many people in our club who "do" things quietly, without acknowledgement or public thanks. Too many to name, but a big "thank you" to the "good fairies" who deal up the boards every week, painted the white lines in our carpark, bring goodies for the Wednesday raffles, keep our club garden looking nice, lock the front door every bridge night, man the bar at our tournaments (and keep the cupboard stocked), went round to Irene Bronlund's garden and spent 4 hours weeding and tidying up ... and all the other people who quietly helped in many, many ways throughout the year.

Carol De Luca's artisan jellies are for sale at the club. These make great gifts, or are a delicious accompaniment to cold meats. Many thanks to Carol for her efforts, which raise more than \$200 per year for the club.

The Cake ... and the fine spread of dinner foods



The lovely rich chocolate cake our President produced for our AGM Christmas party. So, what's the significance of the 7♦ ?

It is referred to as "the beer card" and if you win the last trick with this card, your partner must buy you a drink! There are a few extra rules like that diamonds cannot be trumps while a declarer has to make their contract while a defender has to defeat it ... but the good news is that if the contract is doubled, then the cost is 2 drinks. I will leave you to work out what happens to a redoubled contract! Your partner may be just rather tipsy for the next hand or session!

Alas, no-one successfully claimed the beer card this evening .. .but we all enjoyed the cake!

Inter-Club ... an enjoyable experience.

The lack of a Junior team in the once a month Inter-Club was a matter I brought up at the AGM. I hoped we could get a Junior Team next year for this once a month event. Already, there has been a fabulous response in that 14 Junior players have put their names forward. While teams are of 4 players, not everyone can play every night. Thus, we aim to have 6-7 players in a team.

If you are interested in playing in a Junior team for Franklin (the event starts on 8th March) and you have not yet contacted me, please do so by January 6th. It looks like we will have 2, maybe 3 Junior teams as well as one or two Intermediate and one Open team. Inter-club is a really enjoyable experience, social and a little competitive too.

My contact details are: richardharoldsolomon@gmail.com (09) 232 8494



A word from the Treasurer

(since when do we only hear "one" word from our Treasurer?)

The club appreciates early payment of your sub. The bank account number is displayed at the top of your invoice if you wish to make a direct payment. Please ensure your name accompanies the payment.

Maureen forgot to mention you save yourself \$7.00 if you pay by the end of January 2019.

Important news for Monday night players:

Please note that because of the decision to make the Monday night teams a 5-session competition, the following changes have been made to your programme book:

- The President's Pairs competition will be reduced to 3 nights
- the fourth night (17th June) will be played as the **first night of the Danes Cup**
- Monday September 23rd will be the 5th night of the Teams Championship

Important news for Wednesday night players

Please remember that the Individual Pairs, 4 weeks starting on Wednesday, 11th September, requires you to have 4 different partners.



Holiday Bridge (This is important news for ALL players.)

There is Holiday Bridge on Wednesday evening 19th December. Normal programme resumes on Wednesday 9th January. There is no Holiday Bridge on 2nd January as it is a public holiday.

There is Holiday Bridge on Friday morning 21st December and on Friday 4th January. Remember to bring your lunch.

No Underbidding Strong Hands, please.

Are you strong and balanced ... or maybe strong and a little bit unbalanced? Oh, it is your hand to which I refer not you! If you have 20 or more high card points, you should normally open at the 2 level, indicating a strong hand, unless you hold a singleton king, queen, or jack in your 20 count (then, open at the 1 level). This is especially true if you hold both major suits as there is a good chance, you can make game even if your partner has only 2 or 3 high card points. Yet, if you open 1 of a major, you could well play there.

The following 2 boards occurred on the same recent Monday night at this club. Each time, only two out of the six North-South pairs reached game, several wallowing at the one level.

Board 6 **North**
 Dealer ♠ 654
 East ♥ K9762
 E-W Vul ♦ 53
 ♣ 1094

West	N W E S	East
♠ AJ7		♠ Q8
♥ J8		♥ 105
♦ Q9874		♦ KJ1062
♣ 732		♣ QJ85

South
 ♠ K10932
 ♥ AQ43
 ♦ A
 ♣ AK6

West North East South

Pass 2NT
 Pass 3♦ Pass 4♥
 All Pass

If South opens 1♠, East might balance with 2♦ but North will take a lot of persuasion that game is there to be bid and made. You

should not worry about having every suit well held, even a 20-22 2NT opening.

North would be aiming to play the board in 3♥ when they bid 3♦, transfer, but South just loves hearts and should "super-accept" or jump to game. You can actually make an over-trick in 4♠ but playing 4♥ is fine too ... just 10 tricks, but so much better than playing 1♠.

A few minutes later came this:

Board 10 **North**
 Dealer ♠ J1053
 East ♥ 1032
 Both Vul ♦ J10853
 ♣ Q

West	N W E S	East
♠ 842		♠ 6
♥ A97		♥ KQ854
♦ K92		♦ 764
♣ K764		♣ J1095

South
 ♠ AKQ97
 ♥ J6
 ♦ AQ
 ♣ A832

West North East South

Pass 2NT
 Pass 3♣ Pass 3♠
 Pass 4♠ All Pass

This time, there would be no saving a South player who opened 1♠ (unless North-South were playing Bergen Raises where North bids 3S to show 4 spades and 0-5 high

card points). However, after 2NT (20-22), North is just strong enough to go to game. South's 3♠ may either show 5 spades or just 4, depending on the meaning of 3♣. Either way, South should raise to 4♠. The easiest way to make 4♠ is to win the trump lead in hand and play ♦ A followed by ♦ Q. Even taking a finesse is unwise (in case you lose ♦ K and say a ruff). Just lose a trick to the ♦ K and discard clubs on diamonds.

In our first example, South had a dangerous diamond hold and in the second no heart hold at all. In both cases, it was absolutely correct to open 2NT. Be strong, be balanced (well, almost), be confident, be successful!

We wish all our members a happy Christmas and good health and happiness (and 7NT bridge) in the New Year.

Richard Solomon

