

'Table Talk'

Franklin Bridge Club Newsletter



November 2019

It's that time of year again where the trophies need their annual polish before the AGM!

Come along to help polish the trophies on Saturday 7th December from 10am until midday.

All polishing equipment will be supplied.

Bring something for a shared lunch afterwards.

Babich Wines New Zealand Wide Pairs – 1st November

This club was one of 57 which ran heats playing the same 24 deals, the event being a fund-raiser for youth bridge in this country (raising about \$17,000), but also an opportunity for players to compete against about 1,000 other pairs. There were 1012 pairs in total with 15 of them at Franklin.

The nationwide scores change from those at the club with Grant Jarvis and Lynne Geursen top-scoring in our heat with 69.44%, though that reduced to 66.27% when scored across the whole field. That equated to 13th nationwide and third in the Auckland-Northland region. Older members may recall Bill Humphrey who, many years ago, lived in Tuakau and played at the club. He now lives in Kerikeri and came 2nd overall in this event with a huge 69.42% nation-wide.

The other session winners at Franklin were Teresa Phillips and Arie Geursen who scored 63.89% locally and 60.19% nationwide, a very creditable 95th place.

We also had a pot luck dinner beforehand, chocolate prizes and hopefully everyone enjoyed the evening. If you did not come, the event will run at the same time next year. Make a diary note and come along.

Final Night Inter-Club Blues

The final night of Inter-Club action did not pan out well for most of the Franklin teams. We had high hopes that either Franklin Blue or Green might win the Intermediate section but while Royle Epsom 3 picked up the maximum 20vps, our Blue team lost 50-87 (3.23) to Papatoetoe. Our Green team did beat Waiheke Seahorses 58-42 (13.53) but that was not enough. The top three positions finished:

- | | |
|-------------------|--------|
| 1. Royle Epsom 3 | 130.06 |
| 2. Franklin Green | 118.81 |
| 3. Franklin Blue | 111.39 |

Our Purple Team lost narrowly to Auckland Force 33-34 (9.75) and finished in 22nd place.

Open

Two matches this evening for our Open Team. Nothing went right against the eventual winners, Akarana, 1-66 and a contrasting 6-8 (9.29) loss to East Coast Bays left Franklin in third place. 24 of those imps against Akarana were lost on one board. The gory details are in the “top secret” drawer!

Junior

Franklin Red recorded a good 68-40 (15.54) win over Mt Albert Paul but there were losses for Franklin Orange (42-93 to Papakura 1.71) and Franklin White (44-104 to Auckland Wes 0.94). Franklin Red finished 13th with the Orange Team 17th and the White team 21st.

After standing up and extolling this once a month competition at last year’s Franklin AGM, I hope all those who played in our seven teams enjoyed their experience. Not everyone can win but we can all enjoy the atmosphere of a full room and in meeting and playing against those with a similar interest. Some of our keener players will be changing grades next year. Hopefully, Franklin players will continue to participate in this excellent event.

In too much a hurry for bridge?

The intermediate school headmaster has said there is sometimes a car blocking the entrance to the school in the evenings and asks it be left clear so a car can get out after hours.

If the car is yours, please take note and park elsewhere. Thanks.

A scene at the table before a slam was played on a recent Monday night at the club.



Something was missing. What was it? All will be revealed very soon.

The Melbourne Cup afternoon

9 1/2 tables of players took part in a fun afternoon on Tuesday 5th November, many wearing hats to suit the occasion. Random teams were drawn and then "sold" to the highest bidder, top bid being limited to \$10. 3 sweepstakes were held and a beautiful afternoon tea was consumed. There were raffles, spot prizes and prizes for the best hat. All the sweep money was returned to the participants as prizes.

The race results were:

1st Australian-owned" Vow and Declare", netting winning sweepstake tickets for Tina Webb, Frances Gale and Audrey Barnett

The 3 second-places went to Dennise Biddick, Faith (Lynne) and Henrietta Annabel
3rd prizes to Teresa Phillips, Trevor Robb and Alice Linn

Best hat results: The winners were very, very difficult to choose but in the end the judges chose Caroline Griffin, followed by Yvonne and Rolf Baettig.



Kevin and a very "flowery" Caroline



Yvonne and Rolf Baettig

The "random teams" result was as follows:

3rd Caroline Griffin and Jenny Colgan, plus Kevin Griffin and Arie Geursen. This team had been purchased in the auction by Carol Moore

2nd Carol Moore and Hennie Annabel, plus Margaret van der Coer and Roger Gregg, who had been purchased by Hennie herself

1st Diane Conroy and Lynne Geursen, plus May McRobbie and Alice Linn, who had been purchased by Kevin Birch



Dennise Biddick, Heather Walden and Bev Donaldson



Judy Collins and Lynne Geursen

A word from the Treasurer

Here is her nomination for the most battered table money voucher presented during the year -- presented during November. You have to wonder what some people DO with their vouchers!

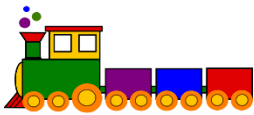


and we can reveal the winner in the competition for the most battered table-money voucher for 2019. The owner of the note cannot, however, be revealed.

Three times a week, the Treasurer counts up and banks the table money -- vouchers, notes (thank you to the people who do lie them flat), and sometimes lots of coins. After the NZ-Wide Pairs, she collected the funds from the safe thinking/hoping that, seeing everyone knew in advance it was \$10 per head, that just maybe there would be 30 x \$10 notes, or maybe some \$20s. Well, there was \$20 all in coin, including \$5 in 20 cent pieces, \$3 in 10 cent pieces and \$5 in 50 cent pieces, the rest in gold coin. When confronted, the suspect (male, Caucasian, approx. 185 cm tall, approx. 70 years) confessed. "For years and years," he said "I've had a container in my car which I throw all my "shrapnel" into" Madam Treasurer replied "Well take it to the bank yourself, don't make me do it!!". They parted friends 😊

News of Jacqui

Jacqui Treppass was glad to have visits from several FBC members during her stays in Middlemore and Pukekohe hospitals. As we write, we can report she is back home recuperating.



Boys' Toys

Robin Baird encountered one of our members at Mitre 10. "Why are you buying so much spray paint?" he asked.

Turns out Lukas Logan was just about to celebrate his 5th birthday and his Dad had bought him a train set. Not much room at their house, though, to set it up. So, it was decided that Poppa would set it up at his place. Cue for much making of

landscape, figurines, 3 tracks, etc. etc. -- this all takes a lot of loving care and spray paint! Tricia thinks Gary has had nearly as much fun as Lukas 😊 And David Gardiner, on hearing this story, unearthed train pieces from **his** boys' childhood and handed them over to Gary (and Lukas). David's boys are now in their forties. Some things like train sets stand the test of time.

The unanswered question is what was Robin doing at Mitre 10. Maybe we should check to see if he, too, had a train set at home....for those rare nights when he was not playing bridge?

What was missing?



The opening lead had been made. Dummy had been spread. Declarer looked a little confused. Was it that contract looked impossible? Maybe but our declarer had an additional problem. He had lost his hand!

The bidding box cards were there to remind him but his whole 13 cards were missing!

Fortunately, an observant defender spotted some, about 13, strange objects in declarer's bidding box tray. They had been placed there instead of the bidding box cards. Declarer was delighted to find his real 13 cards! They are the East hand in the story below.

The True Value of a hand bridge hand.

Hand Valuation is one of the key aspects of improving one’s game, knowing when to value a hand more favorably than the number of high card points held...or knowing when to devalue a hand.

Sometimes, we even change our view of a hand from good to bad or vice versa...all in the space of a couple of bids.

Take a look at the following from a recent Monday night at the club. I held the following as East:

♠ T8742

♥ A96

♦ AJ3

♣ K9

12 high card points and I was first to speak. The hand has poor shape and a really poor main suit, spades. While, the 2 aces and ♣ K are good aspects, the hand itself is not good, and should not be opened 1♠ if you are playing a 12-14-point 1NT opening. Open 1NT because you would be embarrassed if you opened 1♠ and partner bid 2♣. What would you bid next? 2♠? That’s horrible. Avoid the problem by opening 1NT.

However, the bidding took a strange turn.

West	North	East	South
		1NT	Pass
2♥	Pass	?	

2♥ was a transfer showing 5 spades. That’s not my bid. That’s partner! We have at least 10 cards in spades. Suddenly, my hand looks a lot better. Playing in spades, those 2 aces and the king are excellent cards. I have a special hand even though I am minimum in high card points.

Therefore, my next bid was 3♠, called a “super-accept” saying that if partner is close to bidding game, they definitely should.

My partner, Sue Spencer, had more ambition than that!

West	North	East	South
Sue		Richard	
		1NT	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♠	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

One tip: never lie about the number of aces you hold. Sue thought I was maximum, which I was but not in high-card points. I felt nervous but owned up to having 2 aces. 5♠ showed 2 aces and the ♠Q. Remember my spade suit...♠ 108742. No queen there. So, why did I say I held it?

The answer is because I knew we had at least 10 trumps between our two hands and if Sue was not looking at the queen herself, I needed to tell her that the absence of the ♠Q should not deter her from bidding the slam. The ♠Q should fall under the ace or king. Take a look. I was intrigued to see what Sue's hand was like:

North Deals	♠ 6		
None Vul	♥ Q J 10 7		
	♦ 9 7 6 5 4		
	♣ A 6 3		
♠ A K J 5 3		♠ 10 8 7 4 2	
♥ 3		♥ A 9 6	
♦ K Q 10 8		♦ A J 3	
♣ Q 10 4		♣ K 9	
		♠ Q 9	
		♥ K 8 5 4 2	
		♦ 2	
		♣ J 8 7 5 2	

What a neat hand. South led their diamond. I won and could draw trumps in two rounds and then played a club towards my king. Had North not taken their ♣A then, I would have made all 13 tricks (discard a club on the 4th round of diamonds). Bidding and making 6♠ was still a good result.

My point is that I devalued my hand by opening it 1NT (not worthy of a 1♠ opening) and in my next bid, I used a super-accept, so good a hand it had become. **Hand Evaluation.** Every hand, every sequence is different.

SEMINAR ON HAND EVALUATION

I will be running two seminars in January or early February on "Hand Evaluation". I will give the exact dates and times in the December edition of "Table Talk". I hope some of you will like to attend.

Richard Solomon

