

## Table Talk May 2021 with Richard Solomon



### Bridge, more Bridge... and Plenty of it!

Well, that is just as well as that is our main role as a bridge club! You will not be short of a game if you are a member of the Franklin Bridge Club!

### Franklin Restricted Pairs – 24<sup>th</sup> April

15 tables..30 pairs and the usual Franklin “top top” hospitality for the day. Thanks to all those behind the scenes who contributed to another neat day of bridge. Carol Moore and Lynne Geursen had an OK first session scoring 55% and a “very OK” second session scoring a touch over 70%. Unfortunately, they gave Papatoetoe’s Val and John Tetley a near 10% advantage in the first set and therefore had to be content with second place, 3 and a half % behind the winners but well clear of 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Sue Spencer and Henriette Annabelle were 6<sup>th</sup>, and were another pair who did considerably better after lunch. They just beat Bev Henton and Jim Buckland who were 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Inter-Club Round 3.** It was “dog eat dog” (maybe “bird eat bird”?) for our two Junior teams as they played each other in the May round with our Bellbirds winning the “home town” battle 49-24imps over the Fantails, 15.08 to the winners. The win saw The Bellbirds jump over the Fantails into 4<sup>th</sup> place in the 15-team competition. They are just 2.5vps behind the second placed team. The Fantails are in 5<sup>th</sup> place.

Just so you know who our representatives are. The Bellbirds are:

Belinda Summerville	Margaret Gardiner
Dennise Biddick	Jo Griffiths
Delwynne Homewood	

while the Fantails are:

Teresa Green	Judy Collins
Tina Webb	John Fergusson
Kevin Griffin	

Meanwhile, in the Intermediate event, it was 1<sup>st</sup> v 2<sup>nd</sup> as our second placed Franklin Kiwis took on the narrow leaders, Papatoetoe Rob. Unfortunately, that

lead has increased as "Rob" won the match 47-35 leaving the Kiwis with just 7.25vps from the match. Nevertheless, they are still second, 7vps off the pace... and the Kiwis are:

Jonathan Taylor  
Carolyn Griffin  
Linda Thornton

Jennifer Colgan  
Roni Bistricher

### **Southern Clubs Ultra Restricted Tournament, Sunday 23rd May**

We had a great turnout of 15 tables for this tournament, including 2 pairs from Papakura and 5 pairs from the Papatoetoe club. It was billed as "Southern Clubs" tournament, and Ultra-restricted meant that every pair had to include a Novice or Junior player. The novice players were allowed to use their notes, and they were also issued with 2 Joker cards, which they could use to ask advice from a senior player, Carol De Luca. It was very pleasing to have 13 novices playing, and getting a taste of "real play". John Fergusson addressed the room before start of play, asking all players to be kind to the novices, and reminding them that there was no doubling for penalties allowed against novice players.

The room was abuzz with excitement. 22 boards were played and at the end the results were:

- Top N/S pair with 64.7% Teresa Green and Diane Conroy
- Top E/W pair with 65.6% Jessica and Lance Bowden (Papatoetoe)
- Top pair including a novice Tina Webb and Maria Casci

### **Birthday Boy**



*David Gardiner*

### **The "life- saver"**

*(well, she knows the right bid to make!)*



*Carol De Luca*

It was also David Gardiner's birthday. He was presented with a birthday card wishing him well for the year ahead and hoping that "all his finesses would work"!

### Meet some of our newer players



*Mandy Rusk and Wayne Rogers*



*Grace Huang*

Thanks to our Tournament Secretary Maria Casci, and to everyone who brought along beautiful food for the supper after completion of play.



*Teresa Green with the wine won in conjunction with Diane Conroy*



*and that fabulous Franklin food just a little snack!*

### Monday Night Restricted Teams

Recently concluded, "Restricted" means no two Open players can play together. The series was won by Team Janisz with 2 Grandmasters and 2 Intermediate players. Second were Team Henton, 3rd Team Nelson and 4th Team Geursen. Team Geursen were somewhat disadvantaged in the playoff for 3rd/4th, because South had completely rubbish cards, and Silver

Grandmaster Lynne didn't play a single contract. Team Nelson had the same cards, of course, but Maureen (also South) said that in her case it didn't matter! Well done to Team Janisz.



*Those two grand masters, Andrew Janisz and Trevor Robb on either side of Linda Thornton. The fourth team member, Wendy Morris, was absent for the photo.*

### **Tops at Te Awamutu**



*That's a successful day out for Prem Soundra and Kevin Birch who won the Open/Intermediate category at the club's recent Restricted Pairs*

### **What does “Naust” mean?**

A huge thank you to our Building Manager, Kevin Griffin, who worked for a whole day this month replacing the broken and leaking cladding on our back porch. It is now watertight and windproof and ready to face the winter. Kevin said he had hoped to finish the job in a half- day, but the construction was irregular to say the least and it took him a lot longer. Stephen Stafford Bush said it sounded as though it met the criteria for the description “Naust”. Coined by his Scottish grandfather, Naust means “Nothing is Accurate, Upright, Straight or True”!



*“Nothing”? We hope these photos are “accurate, upright, straight and true”!*

### **Changes in Pukekohe**

Have you noticed that close to our parking area, the 3 small old brick houses between Birch Surveyors and the Farmers (nos 6, 8 & 10 Wesley Street) are now cordoned off by the "fence of doom". They are to be replaced by 3 and 5 storey Kainga Ora apartment blocks, providing 20 one-bedroom and 11 two-bedroom apartments. At the corner of Victoria and Seddon Street (opposite Pukekohe Reformed Church), a similar build will provide 25 additional homes.

And the old Franklin Council buildings also have the "fence of doom". Auckland City Council advise that the site has been sold (in February) and is to become a medical centre, possibly including day-stay surgery, but not A & E, which is catered for by the Glasgow Road medical centre.

And in the main street, King Street has been closed off from Manukau Road roundabout up to the Town Square, as a "temporary trial" of pedestrianisation. Gary Logan says that Auckland City Council overrode all objections by the retail owners in that part of Pukekohe. Why pedestrianize the end of the street

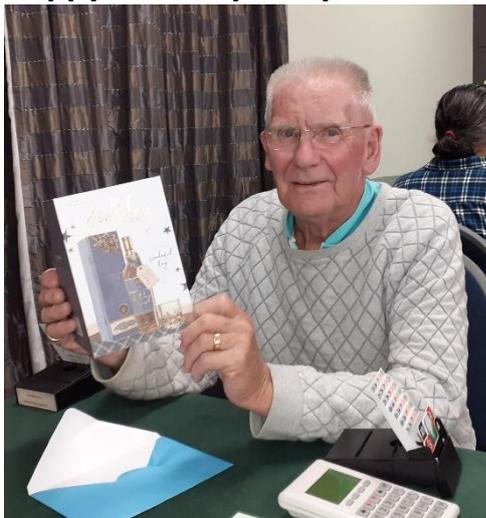
where there are no cafes? And it's hard to get "out" of the bottom end of King Street, as the roundabout only has 3 entries. If you wish to give feedback to Auckland City Council, you can do it via their website [panuku.co.nz/pukekohe](http://panuku.co.nz/pukekohe) or email them at [info@panuku.co.nz](mailto:info@panuku.co.nz). If you want to leave a comment on their website, you have to register as a user.

### **Proud Grandad**

Since our April Table Talk, Ken Craze's granddaughter Liana has swum the length of Lake Taupo (40.2km) and then successfully resumed her April attempt to swim Cook Strait (26km). All this without a wetsuit, and we know what the temperatures have been like for the last few weeks. Ken is quite rightly very proud of her. Next target, to complete the Triple Crown, is Foveaux Strait, in about 2 years.

*I have similar aspirations with a small exception. I would like to complete them by ferry!*

### **Happy Birthday Terry**



Terry Evans turned 80 during May and hired our clubrooms for "a bit of a do". Everyone had a great time and on the previous Wednesday night, we presented Terry with a card and best wishes from all of us. Unfortunately, a week later Terry was in Middlemore Hospital, with an infected leg caused by a fall in the Bay of Islands. We wish him a speedy recovery and a fast return to the bridge table ♠️♥️♦️♣️

## Other Health Issues

We have several members who are unwell and send our warmest wishes for a full recovery. We look forward to seeing you all back at the bridge table.

**Covid Vaccinations** -- some have had them. Some don't want them. Some would like to have one but haven't been "invited" yet by the DHB. There is an 0800 number where you can request an appointment, but sometimes there's a queue for your call to be answered. Short queues should be endured -- at one stage, our Roving Reporter's husband was informed that there were over 100 callers ahead of him! He abandoned that one, but tried again, successfully, at a less busy time. **0800 282 926**

## Safety and Signals: Two "Wrongs" make one "Right"



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Some of you have been to the two Friday evening improver sessions recently (there is one more on 28<sup>th</sup> May). Two topics have been signalling and safety plays.

South Deals

None Vul

♠ 10 9 4 2

♥ 10 9 8

♦ A J 8 5 4

♣ 9



♠ A Q 8 7 5 3

♥ A 7 2

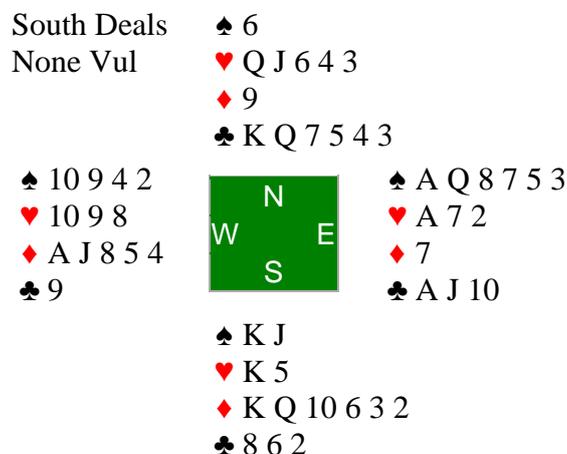
♦ 7

♣ A J 10

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 ♦
Pass	1 ♥	1 ♠	2 ♦
2 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	All pass

How would you play the above 4♠ contract as East on the lead of the ♥K from South? East appears to be in a fine contract as they can ruff both their small clubs in dummy. The only losers outside trumps appear to be two hearts and the contract looks favourite to make.

East won the heart lead and played a diamond to the ace and then a small spade...to the? ...well, would you finesse?  
 If you finessed and South won their king, should the contract have made? Take a look.



<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 ♦
Pass	1 ♥	1 ♠	2 ♦
2 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	All pass

The answer should be “no” but it did! The ♠Q lost to the ♠K and South continued their small heart with North winning the next two heart tricks. On the third round of hearts, South discarded ♣8 (high card discouragement). So, what did North continue, ♣K..contract made! North had only one other suit to play, hearts and a fourth round of hearts would have promoted South’s ♠J for a trick and thus defeating the contract.

East would have made the contract very comfortably had they ducked ♥K at trick 1 and won the heart continuation. Nevertheless, they could still have made the contract even with a spade loser. The **safety play** declarer missed was in not playing ♠A at trick 2. They could then only lose one spade trick.

However, North disregarded South’s **signal**. North could not know for sure that a fourth round of hearts would defeat the contract but they did know that South did not have ♣A. Therefore, a club continuation could not help the defence.

So, watch out for safe lines to make contracts. They can sometimes involve **not** taking finesses, especially trump finesses, especially when a ruff threatens. Take account of your partner’s signals, too. They might just help you in finding the best defence.

Two wrongs did make a right: 4♠ made.

*That’s all for May: as I said plenty of Bridge.*

*Richard Solomon*

