
'Table talk'



Franklin Bridge Club Newsletter December 2017

– with Richard Solomon

AGM report:

More than 50 club members attended our AGM on Sunday evening 3rd December, a really good turnout.

Our Patron, Nelda, Secretary Jenny and President, Lynne preside over the meeting. It does look as though Nelda is the one who does all the work as she has her glasses on while the others have theirs off ... or are they just posing!



President Lynne Geursen kept the meeting running smoothly, and prize-giving has never been better organised after sterling work by Chris Glyde over the past few months. Chris has catalogued all past winners from the time the trophies were introduced. Thus, we have a complete history of each cup, tray or jug. "The usual suspects" won quite a few of the prizes and the 3 discretionary prizes were awarded as follows:

- T.E. Welch Trophy for best first year player (2016 entry) Caroline Griffin
- Holwerda Cup for most promising beginner (2015 entry) George McDonald
- Maria Schintz Trophy for most improved player Roni Bistricher

Poms Cup Wednesday night winners, Maria Casci and Chris Glyde



Inaugural winners of the Wormald Cup for winners of the Howes Championship on handicap. Very appropriately, there is Nelda along with Maureen Nelson.



+++ Life membership for Arie Geursen:

On behalf of the committee, Chris Glyde outlined the many reasons why the committee proposed life membership for Arie. The reason we have such wonderful club-rooms is because of his diligence and determination some 25 years ago in his dealings with the local council. He has subsequently contributed very positively to the running of the club in many ways during his period as a club member and as past president and the honour is richly deserved. The secret-ballot vote was put to the meeting and carried unanimously.



New Committee

Retiring from the Club Committee are Lynne Geursen (though she is nevertheless Immediate Past President) and Diane Conroy. Kevin Birch is the new President with Arie Geursen returning as Vice President. Jenny Colgan and Maureen Nelson remain as Secretary and Treasurer respectively. Caroline Griffin and Judy Collins are the new Committee members while the important jobs of Club Captain, Catering, Computer, Property and Tournaments remain as before under the control, in order, of Linda Thornton, Christine Lyons, Chris Glyde, David Gardiner and Maria Casci. Debbie Sullivan looks after the new players.

Partnership Officers remain as Maureen Nelson for Wednesdays, Madeline Dodds for Fridays and myself, Richard Solomon for Monday nights.

After the formalities

After the formal meeting and prize-giving, everyone enjoyed a potluck supper. The club provided yummy strawberries and ice-cream, and later in the evening everyone enjoyed some of Judy Collins' fabulous home-made Christmas cake. 12 tables stayed on and played bridge (one board per table), so that everyone was home by 10pm. The partners were drawn randomly. It was wonderful to see the mix of Monday/Wednesday/Thursday and Friday players – beginners/juniors/intermediates/open players/ grand master all mixed up and playing together. This is what our club is all about. A special "well done" to Kevin Kemp, who has only just completed lessons, and who with his partner finished 2nd N/S with 60%.

The AGM saw Lynne Geursen step down as President with Kevin Birch taking over. Kevin looks pretty relaxed about this. He has his cup of herbal tea, his 2018 club book and some light reading material. I know all members wish Kevin well in his new position and will do all they can to support him. ... and thanks, Lynne, for all that you do for the club. Your contribution stretches back a very long way.



Other Events

Babich Wines New Zealand Wide Pairs – Friday evening 3rd November

Our club has always held a heat, always had a pot-luck dinner in advance and has always had a social/competitive evening. This year, with 13 tables, the club had its largest ever heat in the event's 18 year history. It was a great night too for Julie Quilty and Jim Buckland who were the highest scorers at the club, 23rd overall out of 1018 pairs with 65.368%

Melbourne Cup Day (November 7th)

We had 7 tables for this fun event on the Tuesday afternoon. Two sweepstakes were held, plus you could "back" which of the players you thought would win the bridge. Lynne auctioned off the various players and as usual had put a lot of thought into names for them. Some of our favourites were:

- French Beauty by Ooh La La (Jackie Treppass) – playing with Nelda (Our Patroness by All Class). The comment for this pair was "will be a pair to watch, at very good odds, worth a wager"
- **Secretary Secrets by Cruising Dancer** (Jenny Colgan) playing with Sweet Belinda by Lives by the Ocean – (Belinda Summerville) – "definitely worth a little wager on previous form"
- **Blonde Bombshell by Steel Miller** (Maria Casci) and White Charger by Computer Wizard (Chris Glyde) – "well-practised pair and will be at good odds"
- **Rose Lover by Where's My Glasses** (Lynne Geursen) and Kevin Birch (Steady Surveyor by Jaguar's Fury) attracted the comment "unpredictable, looks like needing a few more runs"

On the day, the North/South winners were Bev Henton and Carol De Luca (On form pair, fresh from congress meeting and will be close at finish), who had been "purchased" by Diane Conroy, and East/West winners were visitors Henrietta Poelman and Bob McCarthy (Won last year, should be hot favourites), who are regular visitors to this event. They had been purchased by Carol.

Yvonne Baettig won the best hat for the second year in a row. Everyone brought afternoon tea plates to share and watched the race on the "big screen" at the end of the day. Thanks to Lynne for all her work organising the day.

Money Matters ... especially to our Treasurer!

Subs are Due ... for 2018



Invoices are enclosed in your programme booklets. The sub is the same as last year, \$67 for home members, with a \$7 discount if paid by 15th January 2018. (same day as for some GST to the IRD ... and they do not give you a prompt payment discount!) The club appreciates your prompt payment. (Your Treasurer does too!)

Miscellaneous Matters

Do you know your own phone number?



Are your contact details in the programme books correct? Especially those who had Vodafone email addresses? Please advise Chris Glyde if your details need changing. And while we're on the subject, if something happened to you at bridge, would we know who to contact? We have the ability to register an emergency contact in our Compscore system – one or two of our older members have taken advantage of this. Please let Chris know if you would like an emergency contact listed.

Air conditioning. Some like it "hot". Others like it "not".



Our heat pumps are set at the optimum level for the whole room – 20 degrees, Please don't change them. We all have different comfort levels, but the draughtiest tables are numbers 1 and 2, which are the nearest to the heat pumps. If you are worried about being cold, please sit at the north end of the room – it's warmer up there! When the pumps are turned off, the northern end of the room becomes very stuffy.

Good wishes to:

Sean Wilson, who was in a nasty car accident in mid-November, and spent a few days in hospital with broken bones and major bruising from his seatbelt. We look forward to him coming back to bridge soon.

Dudley Husband spent some time in Middlemore Hospital in late November with a nasty infection. Dudley retired from Wednesday nights a couple of years ago, but has continued to enjoy his Friday bridge.

Dudley could not be at the AGM but later was presented by Kevin Birch with the Watkin-Andrew Cup for the best Handicap individual score for play on a Friday. Kevin said Dudley was in good form and is currently in Pukekohe Hospital. He would appreciate visitors.

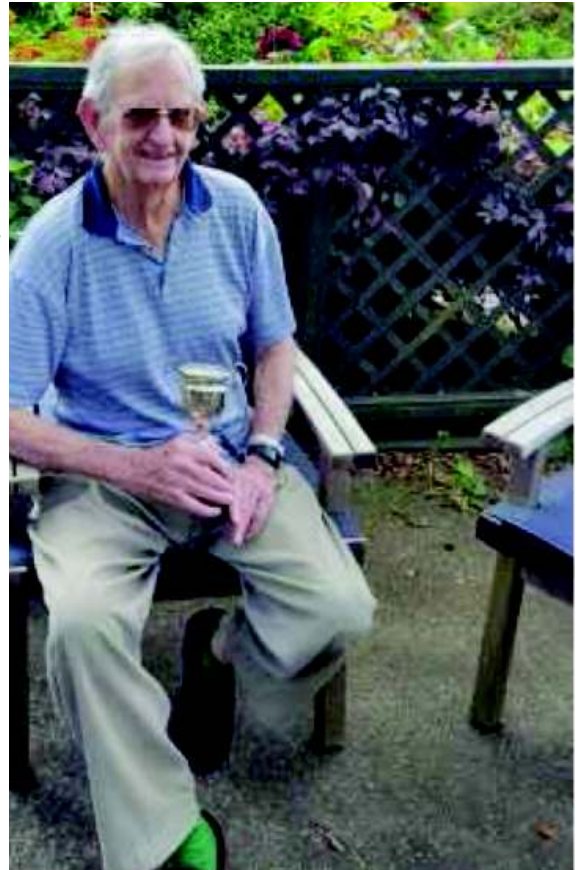
He and his wife came from Zimbabwe to New Zealand when life under the Mugabe regime became impossible, and joined Franklin Bridge Club along with his fellow Zimbabwe friends Wendy and Terry Prior, of whom we have recent news

Dear Maureen

Thank you very much for letting us know about Dudley. We did not know. I phoned the hospital and spoke to Dudley. He is obviously out of intensive care but very weak and was very pleased to get my call.

About our lives in Bay of Plenty. We left Pukekohe last year in April and had a very stressful year with no home of our own. We moved into our little cottage in June this year. Now we are very happy and settled.

The year in between we stayed with our children here, two months with each. Then went to spend two months with our son in America. After that we had enough of staying with children so rented a granny flat for 6 months in Waihi. We played bridge at the Katikati club last year for 3 months before we went to America. By the time we got back and settled into our rental place bridge was finished for Christmas and not starting until February. So we had 5 months without. Then played in Waihi for next few months. We were terrible after 5 months no bridge. Anyway it soon came back and we enjoyed it. Now back to Katikati and here we stay. These



clubs are much smaller than Franklin. We are slowly getting to know people.

Please give our regards to everyone at bridge club.

Wendy and Terry

Farewell Sue

Good wishes to Sue Walls, who will take up a new position at South Brighton Primary School in January. She is delighted to be going "home" to Christchurch, but we will miss her.

Holiday Bridge:

Monday night and Thursday night Bridge has finished until the New Year. Thursday 30th November, the last night of supervised play, was celebrated with a glass of wine plus nibbles before play started. Debbie and Chris have done a terrific job this year (and last year, too) and we hope to see some of these players filtering through to Wednesday nights later in 2018. When they do, please treat them with the greatest of TLC (that means being friendly, being nice as bridge can be a tough game at times ... but you all know that – remember what it was like when you were a nervous beginner).

There will be Holiday Bridge every Wednesday evening and Friday morning over the holidays, except where those days fall on a statutory holiday, which thankfully, this year, none do. Christmas Day and New Year's Day are both Mondays. You do not need a partner, as there will be a "spare" – usually Jim Buckland or Chris Glyde – in case we have odd numbers.

So just reiterating, there will be play on:

- Wednesday 13th, 20th and 27th December plus 3rd January
- Friday 15th, 22nd and 29th December plus 5th January

And speaking of holidays ... Christine and Robert are away. (yes, again!) Christine said to Robert "I fancy a white Christmas this year" to which he replied that the last white Christmas in England was 2010, and prior to that was decades ago. "Well I'll settle for a cold Christmas" she said, so off they have gone. We hope that Christine's Christmas wishes come true.

Rug has been found



The red mohair rug, which has been the subject of search parties over the last week or so, has been found in a cupboard – a case of mistaken identity.

It would be interesting to know for what the rug was mistaken. It sounds the searchers may have had a little too much Christmas spirit before searching. "Red" is such a dull colour after all!

A Proud Aunt

I'm sure members will want to join a very proud aunt in congratulating Wayne Benefield on achieving Grand Master status this month. Wayne has played several times at our club, and

he is the nephew of our Treasurer, Maureen, who enjoys playing at North Shore with him 3 times a year – their two birthdays plus Christmas bridge.

That Blue Card

I've got to leave you with a hand. It's a story about a blue card which you have every time you play and which rarely gets used, certainly for its original purpose of saying you think you can make a redoubled contract. Yes, that's right ...

Redouble

An opportunity to use this card came recently in a tournament. You hold as North:



♠ K432
♥ AKQ74
♦ KQ94
♣ —

and hear your partner open 3♦ and your right-hand opponent double. What should you bid? At the very least, you should bid 5♦ but, just a minute, have a think. You know from West's double where the ♠A is ... In the right position so that you would score your king. You have no heart or club losers. Surely your partner has the ♦A? They better had as you are going to bid 6♦. OK ... use Blackwood first if you want.

And what do you do when West doubles 6♦? Get out that blue card! You are or should be that confident.

But ... Not one North player who was doubled in 6♦ or even in 5♦ redoubled! What a shame as these were the four hands:

Board 7	North	West	North	East	South
Dealer	♠ K432				3♦
South	♥ AKQ74	Dbl	6♦	Pass	Pass
Both Vul	♦ KQ94	Dbl	Rdbl	All pass	
	♣ —				

Maybe West should not have doubled but North should have called for the "blue card". I am sure you would have done.

West	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td>N</td></tr> <tr><td>W E</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	East
N					
W E					
S					
♠ AQ10		♠ 765			
♥ J1085		♥ 96			
♦ 3		♦ 2			
♣ AK95		♣ Q1087642			
South					
♠ J98					
♥ 2					
♦ AJ108765					
♣ J3					

Have a lovely Christmas and make sure you are back at the Franklin Bridge Club very early in the New Year. It's a fun place to be.

Richard Solomon



Ps. Please remember Beginners' Lessons start on Thursday February 8th. Not for you, of course, but for your friends and relations. You have told them what a wonderful game Bridge is ... haven't you ... and how easy it is to learn? Shhh ... it is not too hard!