
'Table talk'

Franklin Bridge Club Newsletter December 2015

With Richard Solomon

Just because the Bridge season has ended does not mean you cannot play bridge at the Club. It will be shut on Christmas Day and New Year's Day even though they are Fridays but there is Holiday Bridge each Wednesday evening and on Friday January 8th and the new season starts very soon in the New Year:

Monday January 11th **Wednesday** January 13th **Friday** January 15th

So, hopefully, you all have your bright yellow books (the colour is so that people like me do not lose them, or it reduces the chance and helps them to be found more easily!) and if you have not got a game organised for the first series, then you should contact the appropriate Partnership secretary. I handle Mondays, Maureen Wednesday nights and Madeline Fridays. As most of you now can communicate by email, you can either phone or email us and we will certainly help you out.

Another January date for your diary. Saturday January 16th

Swiss Pairs. Come along and play this fun form of the game. There is no other bridge on in the Auckland area that week-end. Ask a partner to play and give Debbie a quick call or email to enter or even to find you one.

AGM and Prize Giving. The main news is that Arie has finally decided it is time to vacate the President's Chair. We will feature him below. A number of long-serving and very enthusiastic Committee members also stood down, namely David Spencer (Vice President), Teresa Phillips (Secretary), Jim Buckland (Treasurer), Ann Anderson and Trevor Robb. We really hope Nandy will come back onto the Committee when she returns. No pressure, Nandy, but it is now in print! It is wonderful there are others stepping up to fill their places. I am sure all members wish Chris Glyde and the new committee well and will do what they can to support the committee.

It was nice to see a big turn-out of members for the AGM evening who would also have enjoyed the pot luck dinner, prize-giving, AGM, bridge and a little gift from Santa.

Here, then, are a few reflective thoughts from Arie:

How many years has it been as President?

This time round it was five years stint. Previously, it had been a two year stretch.

There have been big changes in that time, in technology, in the club rooms, in those playing at the club. How have you viewed them from the President's Chair?

It was Anne Anderson who pointed out more than once to me and persuaded me to take it on that the Club desperately needed a face lift to make it a more attractive place for people to come and play. These kinds of project are great for Club spirit. Everyone feels good about them and pitches in and helps out where they can. No one batted an eye lid the week the water was turned off and all the toilet bowls that had been pulled out were sitting in the playing room. Once the refurbishment was done, we moved on to introducing new technology (new Computers, BridgeMates, a website with result service, data projectors etc). The past couple of years we have been really focused on promoting the Club and growing the membership. I think it has been an exciting time for the Club and I have really enjoyed it.

What has been the most satisfactory achievement at the Club in that time?

When you walk into the rooms today, they look great and you get a sense of a great Club spirit, but undoubtedly the most satisfying thing for me was walking into the first beginners' class this year and seeing 8 tables!

Any unfulfilled business?

Yes, I also set myself a goal of doubling our membership (back to what it was in its heyday). Although I am sure we are on the right track, this has taken much longer than I expected. It will remain a goal for the new President, Chris Glyde, and his committee.

What is the outlook for the Club in the next 5-10 years?

In terms of club spirit and financially, we are in great shape. However, as I said in my annual report, we can expect to have to paint the outside of our rooms within the next year or two and that the roofing iron will need replacing in the next 5-6 years at a cost of around \$40,000. So we cannot afford to rest on our laurels when it comes having on going fund raising activities.

Any message for our club members in looking towards 2016?

Yes, particularly to those new players who took the beginners' classes this year (or last year). Bridge is not an easy game to master but don't get disheartened. Keep persevering. You can still come to Supervised Play on Thursday when that and the Beginners Lessons start on 25th of February. Alternatively if you want to do the beginners' classes again, you are most welcome to do so. All of which is included at no extra cost if you renew the subscription that came with this year's lessons.

The committee is also making arrangement in 2016 for one-off tutorials on specific topics. These will be pitched either at "Improvers" (those who learned this year) or at "Intermediate" players (those who have been playing club bridge for more than a year).

and any humorous story from your time as President?

Hmmm ... Me and my wallet have an uncanny habit of parting company. At one point, I lost it 3 or 4 times in the space of a year. Thankfully on all but one occasion it was found but not before all the bank cards etc. had been cancelled. The last time I lost it was on my way back from Wellington and I knew I had paid the cab to the airport and put it my travel bag. It was nowhere to be found when I got home and unpacked. Lynne found it days later in my toilet bag! She got so paranoid about all this drama that she started to keep a keen eye out for it and if she couldn't see it, would ask me where it was. Sometimes up to 3 times a day!

One fine Sunday morning, I ducked out to get some milk and I couldn't find it, again! Mortified, I had to admit to the "CEO" that it had happened again! Adamant she had seen it on the kitchen bench before she went to Bridge the previous day, the house and cars were turned inside out and eventually the bank was as called, yet again! Despite my protestations that I had not left the house on Saturday, I was barred from ever being allowed to have a wallet.

That Monday night I was playing with Richard Solomon. Reaching into my pocket to get the \$5 per diem that I was now allowed to carry, he generously volunteered "Don't worry, I'll pay for you!" and pulled out his wallet (you know the one you will have seen lying around the Club on numerous occasions, I am sure). "What's this?" he said sheepishly "I didn't think I had any \$50 notes!". He had my bloody wallet on him and was generously offering to pay our table money out



