

'Table Talk'

Franklin Bridge Club Newsletter

April 2019



What is unusual or different about the picture below?



A clue. It has nothing to do with any of the four players in the limelight. So, any ideas?

Well, you may be aware that there were 18 tables for Bridge on Wednesday March 27th at the Franklin Bridge Club. I am seriously worried that I might have promised a huge bonus to Maureen Nelson if she managed to organize 20 tables to play on any Wednesday night. A moment of madness if I did as we are getting very close.

Seriously, it is wonderful to get that number of people playing. In order to make organizing play easier, the table lay-out in the club-rooms has been changed as evidenced by the above photo. The photo was taken on a recent Monday night when less tables are in play. However, even there, we had a good number of 11 teams taking part in the Monday Restricted Teams. It's great to see extra tables in play but we would like even more. More learners becoming more regular players. The increased numbers are a great credit to Maureen and to those who are

teaching and tutoring the newer players, especially Debbie Sullivan and Chris Glyde. Roll on the 20 tables..and I just will have to hope that Maureen will have forgotten about her big bonus when it happens. Please, please do not remind her!



*Wednesday nights now at Franklin...barely an empty seat!
Shh...we are sure Margaret Wilson and Pam Lorimer do really
have opponents!*

The last two Wednesday nights have seen 16 and 15 tables, both still an extra turn-out. We did have this number of table numbers back in the club's early days but then there was only one session a week.

The reason for laying out the present way is to prevent excessive zig-zagging as players move from table to table. There has not suddenly been a change which makes the East Cape the furthest **north** point of New Zealand.

More tables: more changes

Another change is that sometimes we will now have 2 sets of boards in session. This can be tricky for directors, so that in future

- Bridgemates will not be allocated to specific tables -- any Bridgemate can be placed on any table
- Table numbers will then be put out only when the movement for the night is established

- The first action South now has to take when activating the Bridgemates is to put in the table number, then the player numbers
- Because table numbers will not be known early in the evening, we will no longer number the plastic bags for table money. This means that it is important, please, to fill out the table money slip completely:
 - Write the table number into the box provided
 - Circle the night you are playing
 - Write in your names and indicate that you have paid (bridge numbers not needed)
 - It's helpful to write either \$6 or "voucher", and to lay the notes flat, but our long-suffering treasurer says the sky won't fall down if you don't 😊 (actually, it might!)

Inter-Club

April 12th saw the second round of the Inter-Club event. Our Open team had a very high scoring match, losing 76-80 imps (that's 6.5 imps on average traded every board!) and their 9.01vps leaves them 4th place in the 8-team event.

Our Intermediate Green team won big for the second month running, 95-46 over Papatoetoe and have a 10 vp lead already in the 22-team event. Our Purple team came off second best against Royle Epsom 2, 36-91 and are currently 19th. Our Blue team's opponents did not show up which meant they received 12 for a "no-play" and they are currently 10th.

In the Junior event, our Red team celebrated a big win ,77-24 and have moved up to 10th place. Our White team lost to the Waiheke Dolphins, 31-93 and are 19th while unfortunately, our Orange team are involved in 3-way matches spread over two nights. They were awarded an arbitrary 10vps at the half-way point. They are currently 7th on the ladder.

Restricted Pairs Tournament Saturday 27th April

We are very keen to fill our room for this tournament -- please enter it! It is a Restricted Tournament, which means no 2 Open players can play together, so plenty of opportunity for Juniors and Intermediates to enjoy a taste of tournament play. If you need help entering it online, Maria Casci is available before regular club sessions to help you.

New Directors:

Arie Geursen has held a series of lessons for members who would like to know more about directing. As the club grows, we need more people able to both direct the room and to operate the Compscore scoring system. Up to now, we have relied heavily on one or two people. Well done to our **15** "trainees" who are starting this month on a roster as "assistant directors". The experts will still be there if the ruling is a particularly tricky one.

Our President had his first taste of directing on a recent Monday evening. We do not think it was Kevin's fault that the software that evening could not cope with a Howell movement and that we were about 30 minutes' late starting. Nevertheless, if one is looking for someone to blame, then why not blame the director! *(It's OK, Kevin, we know it was not your fault but the director is a very easy person to blame!)*

Once we got going, all was well with play finishing on time. So, Kevin can take the credit for that, too. Maybe, Kevin would like to state which is harder, directing or playing!

It is, seriously, excellent to have so many players putting their hands up. A successful club is one where everyone chips in and helps. That is certainly true at Franklin what with so many helping out whether on the committee, directing, board dealing or doing one of so many other jobs which crop up.

Life members

Our constitution limits the number of life members of our club to five living members. We currently have two, Jim Buckland and Arie Geursen. Both these members have given countless hours and considerable skill in the service of our club over many, many years. The committee resolved at its March meeting that life members will no longer pay table money.

Thanks for your Donations

A big thank you to everyone who contributed to our collection of toiletries and cosmetic samples last week. Some people brought truly lovely things and we made up a very big box which will be taken to the local Police station for handing on to Victim Support, who will in turn pass it along to Women's Refuge and Rape Crisis. Lovely toiletry items are such a luxury for women who are going through tough times. Thank you to everyone for your kindness which has been very much appreciated.

FOR ONCE MERLE IS WAITED ON!



Nelda presents Merle with flowers and a gift basket. Meanwhile, we hope she did not have to make her own tea on this occasion!

A happy Friday lunch was held on 29th March to celebrate the retirement of Merle Edwards, our Friday stalwart who has looked after the kitchen on Fridays for decades. She remembers the days of Dr and Mrs Howes, so that's going back a few decades! As well as the shared lunch, there was a beautiful cake, a card and a gift basket. Merle will turn 90 on 14th September this year, and decided that with decreasing mobility, she would prefer not to come out on winter days. She has volunteered to come back for a Friday in November and polish the returned trophies ready for the AGM, a job she has done for many years. She also said that she had always put her earnings from the club away in a separate bank account, and a couple of years ago used it to add a wee conservatory to her little townhouse. We wish her all the very best and will remember to send her a birthday card in 5 months' time.

Player News:

- Table money vouchers are increasingly popular, so much so that a brand-new box has had to be bought. A very senior player has recently been converted to the joys of table money vouchers. He's a natty dresser and always very well turned out. Last week he bought five more vouchers from the treasurer and proffered \$30 cash. "I hope you're going to give me clean ones" he said" You gave me some tatty ones last time!"
- Latest news (early April) from Irene Bronlund in Taumarunui "Life goes on here. I am getting more movement in my arm now. Keeping up the reading and crosswords. The mornings are growing chilly and we have lit the fire a couple of nights. "

“Two wrong actions equal one bad score”

I mentioned that the Open Inter-Club team traded 156 imps in a 24 board match this month. One hand was particularly interesting and instructive:

<i>Board 9</i>		♠ 8	
North Deals		♥ Q 7 4 2	
E-W Vul		♦ A 8 6 5 3	
		♣ J 9 7	
♠ K J 10 9 6 3	♥ —	♠ Q 5	♥ 9 8 6 5 3
♦ Q 10 9 2	♣ Q 8 4	♦ K J 7 4	♣ 6 5
		♠ A 7 4 2	
		♥ A K J 10	
		♦ —	
		♣ A K 10 3 2	
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	Pass	Pass	1 ♣
2 ♠	Dbl	All pass	

West made a weak jump overcall which caused North to make a negative double, showing 4 hearts and 8+ high card points. With a really strong hand, plus a void in diamonds, South decided to pass, hoping that their vulnerable opponent would go down two or three tricks.

That was an unwise presumption especially as they held a nice four card heart suit of their own. South should have bid 4♥. Against 2♠x, North led a club to South's king and South continued without a great deal of thought

with the ♣A and a third round of clubs. (*hands repeated for your convenience*)

Board 9		
North Deals	♠ 8	
E-W Vul	♥ Q 7 4 2	
	♦ A 8 6 5 3	
	♣ J 9 7	
♠ K J 10 9 6 3	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid black;"> N W E S </div>	♠ Q 5
♥ —		♥ 9 8 6 5 3
♦ Q 10 9 2		♦ K J 7 4
♣ Q 8 4		♣ 6 5
		♠ A 7 4 2
		♥ A K J 10
		♦ —
		♣ A K 10 3 2

West won to lead a spade to the queen and South's ace. Only then did South play a high heart. It was too late. West ruffed and drew South's 3 remaining trumps before conceding a trick to the ♦A.. but West still had a trump left to regain the lead and score three more diamond tricks. Five spades, three diamonds and a club amounted to one overtrick...+ 870. So much for beating the contract by a trick or three.

South made two mistakes , one in the bidding and the other in the defence. With 4 good hearts, South should have called 4♥ after North's double. In the defence, at trick 2, South should have cashed a high heart even though they should have known West had no hearts (they knew North had 4 and dummy had 5). Unless South could reduce West's, trump holding, West would make their contract easily.

When South won the lead with ♠A, they needed to play another heart. Even then, the contract only fails by one trick.

4♥ might seem a difficult contract to make with East having 5 trumps. However, as long South counts tricks and remembers that West has shown a 6- card spade suit, the contract can be made easily. Win the spade lead and cash ♣ AK (when you are going to do some ruffing, cash your side-suit tricks first) and ruff a spade low. Now, ♦A, a trump to hand and ruff another spade with the ♥Q. Declarer thus has 4 trump tricks in their own hand, ♠A, two spade ruffs in dummy, ♦A and ♣AK...10 tricks, with East helpless.

Franklin gained 13 imps on this board though could have gained more had 4♥ made. We will say no more! Looking forward to seeing you all at the tournament on April 28th. *Richard Solomon*