

# 'Table Talk'

Franklin Bridge Club Newsletter

May 2019



**Who are they? Where are they? What are they doing? What are we good at?**



*Read on and you will find out.*

## **New Zealand's First Emerald Grand Master**

He's Number 2 on the all-time Master-Point listing and recently, our own Grant Jarvis became the country's first Emerald Grand Master. To achieve that award, you need a minimum of 8,000 A and B Points combined with at least 6,000 of them ...yes, you read correctly, 6,000 of them as A Points. Grant's current master-point totals are:

A 6126.49                      B 2675                      C 88

That's a great achievement. It is nice to be able to report that Grant will be in one of our Inter-Club teams this coming weekend. He will not increase his A Point total this weekend. He just wants to play and help his home club.

Congratulations, Grant.



*Grant with his new certificate, presented to him at Easter this year.*

**Franklin Restricted Pairs. April 27<sup>th</sup>.**

34 pairs contested this event including many of our club members, of all levels of ability. It was great to see pairs who had only learnt last year mix it with some quite experienced partnerships, even though two Open players could not play together. While the top score and best Open-Intermediate result came from a Howick pair, Franklin had a good say in the rest of the categories.

**Open Junior** Robin Baird played only in his second tournament ever and with a bit of help from his partner, averaged over 55% to win this category.



*Robin Baird and his partner*



*Bron and John Fergusson (with Kevin Birch)  
Their day certainly improved!*

**Junior/Junior** Bron and John Fergusson had a morning that they would prefer to forget. However, an excellent score of nearly 58% saw them win this category. I am going to remind John of one hand from the morning where he did rather well (see below).

**Best Novice Pair** That category was won by two of our newer players, Frances Gale and Tina Webb.

**Best Intermediate-Junior** Congratulations to Debbie Sullivan and Jo Griffiths.



*Sponsor for the day as well as a player was Julie Quilty. Here she is with top Intermediate/Junior, Jo Griffiths. Jo's partner, Debbie Sullivan had made a quick exit.*



*Job well done? Certainly. The director, Tony Morcom relaxes at the end of the day.*



*One of our visitors, Jess Morris, just looks so happy that I had to snap her.*



*He may be clutching a bottle of beer but our barman supreme, Robert Brake, is recommending we all try some Fresh-Up.*

Thanks to Julie for her sponsorship, to all those who worked in the kitchen, to those who brought morning tea, to Chris and Maria for scoring and taking entries, to Tony the director and others who helped behind the scenes. Also, for the first time in 100 years (only a slight exaggeration!), I was sitting in the right seat to win a



spot prize (those who know me know that I have a slight hatred of . )  
 Fortunately, there were other nice vegetables in the large boxes we got from Balle Brothers. Thanks, Judy..... for organising those spot prizes.

All up, a most enjoyable day.

### **Blue is the Inter-Club Colour**

That was certainly the case at the May Inter-Club competition with only our Blue Intermediate team recording a win. They scored an excellent 16.38vps off Auckland Crafts to move into 4<sup>th</sup> place just 7 vps behind the leaders....

And the leaders are still Franklin Green though now by just 0.62 vp after losing 7.25-14.75 to Waitemata. Our Purple Intermediate team scored 8.10 against Papakura and are 20<sup>th</sup> in the 22-team field.

Our Open team suffered against the strong Auckland Carter team scoring 1.1vps and are currently 4<sup>th</sup> out of 8 with some ground to catch up. Meanwhile, there was no joy for our three Junior teams:

Orange	6.10 vps	
Red	1.35vps	v Howick
White	2.42 vps	v Royle Epsom 3

And our three teams are currently 15,16 and 20<sup>th</sup> respectively in the 21-team field.

Here's hoping all enjoy themselves in the Clubs competition on 25<sup>th</sup> May. Franklin has two teams of 4 each Open, Intermediate and Junior players.

### **That Photo**

Who and where are they and what are they doing? Well, the Auckland-Northland Regional Inter-Provincial Trials took place in mid-May at the Auckland Bridge Club. Several Franklin players took part (myself, Grant Jarvis, Lynne, Andrew, Kevin, Julie, Carol De Luca, Bev Henton, Chris, Maria) but none of us finished in the top two of our respective grades. However, it is possible that two of the above were more successful in rescuing a large pagoda which the wind had picked up from a neighbouring property and dumped in the bridge club car park.

We see (the back of) Kevin and Julie doing what all good bridge players are taught to do...plan! That is something that comes naturally to Kevin because of his

profession (surveyors “plan” too!). We believe that the return of the pagoda was Franklin’s only success of the weekend. Nice to know we are good at something!

**To those who do not see or listen to your partner’s bidding...**



Take a look at the club’s Lost Property Box. We have:

- a man's folding umbrella (well, it never rains in sunny Pukekohe)
- two pairs of inexpensive glasses,
- a black glasses case (Optik Pukekohe) and
- a set of earbuds and cord.

No wonder with all the above “lost” we are having trouble communicating with our partners!

### **Programme Change**

A reminder to Monday night players that Monday 17th June is **NOT** the 4th week of the President's Pairs. The Teams Championship in September has been extended to 5 weeks, and the President's Pairs was reduced to 3 weeks to accommodate that. 17th June is now being played as **Week 1 of the Danes Cup**. The balance of the Danes Cup is to be played in September/October as usual. A reminder that you need 4 different partners for the 4 weeks of the Danes Cup.

And an early reminder to Wednesday night players that you should have booked **4 different partners** for the four-week Individual Pairs in September/October.

### **Behind the Scenes**

As well as our hard-working committee, many other club members work away behind the scenes to make sure our club runs smoothly. It was "all go" at the clubrooms one Tuesday . . . . .

First to arrive were two members of the dealing team, using our dealing machine to set up boards for the coming week. They were joined by the Property Manager and another club member, there to trim back our trees so that our advertising sign is more visible to passers-by. The Treasurer was there -- ("no", she said, "not to supervise the tree-trimmers") along with the Secretary -- they were sorting out a banking issue, and rejoicing in our newly-fast Broadband which had caused our Vice President many hours of anguish, but is now working well.

Finally, the Club Captain turned up to send an email to all the interclub members. So, thank you Carol, Trevor, David, Keith, Arie, Maureen, Jenny and Caroline. And all the other members who contribute their many talents and time.

### **Mother's Day**

We hope that all our mothers, grandmothers and great-grandmothers had a happy Mother's Day on 12th May. We heard on the grapevine that one mother was given a farm bike . . . . .

### **Is Bridge Good for You?**

We have all read the evidence that cognitive tasks are good for staving off dementia -- bridge, crosswords, sudoku etc., but in early May one of our number was caused by his GP to wear a blood-pressure measuring device for 24 hours. Coincidentally this was from early on a Wednesday afternoon to a Thursday afternoon, which encompassed Wednesday night's bridge. At approx. 8.30pm, there was a sharp upward spike in blood pressure level . . . . .

### **Table Money Vouchers**

The Treasurer has received enquiries about whether members can pay for these online. The answer is "Yes, please". \$30 for 5 or \$60 for 10. Deposit the money in our bank account **01 0403 0040699 01** and send Maureen an email or a text drawing her attention to it. Collect the vouchers on the next club night or day session. It's helpful if your deposit shows "Table Money" in the details. We take all forms of payment for these vouchers -- cash and cheques as well as online deposits.

**Well Guessed, John.**

I said I would come back to a hand played by John Fergusson at the club's Restricted Pairs tournament. The fate of his 3NT contract depended on which defender held the ♣Q...and both defenders should have realised that, even the opponent who did **not** hold that card. Watch:

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

Bron opened 1♦ and John made a good practical 3NT call, denying a 4-card major but with holds in both major suits and in the 13-15 point range.

The defence led three rounds of spades, giving John his first trick. He had 5 diamond tricks and two top clubs but could not afford to give up a trick to the ♥A as the defence would take 4 spade and one heart trick before he could make 9. That extra trick had to come from clubs.

John discarded two hearts from the dummy on the spades. Next, he cashed 5 rounds of diamonds and hoped the defence's discards might help him locate who held the ♣Q. West, who had to keep 3 clubs and both spades, threw all four of their hearts. East threw 2 hearts and a club. That club discard gave John the clue he needed and he successfully finessed West to make his contract. Note that East should have thrown three hearts. If no clubs had been discarded by either defender, then it would be a pure guess which way to finesse. Note that John could have finessed either way. Nevertheless, John did well and drew the correct conclusion to make his contract.

See you next month.

*Richard Solomon*