

Table Talk – October 2019



National Congress Review

Whether one had a successful time or not at the bridge table, we hope that all club members who attended all or part of the 8 days of bridge enjoyed themselves. I was one of those who played all 8 days during which I played 558 deals. Yes, I enjoy playing! Let's record some of the better results by Franklin players.

New Zealand Open Pairs.

Trevor Robb and Lynne Geursen finished half way in the Plate section while

Grant Jarvis also made the top 78 after Day 1 (my name was in bold in the Congress Bulletin for being the top "non qualifier...79th...not a position I really wanted to be!)

Novice Pairs Kevin Griffin and Ratilal Ranchhod had the top East-West score, 63.89%.



A great afternoon for Ratilal and Kevin

Matchpoint Swiss Pairs Sue Spencer and Bev Henton finished a very respectable 18th in the 144 pair field with 55.5%.

New Zealand Open Teams Grant Jarvis and I were teammates. After 6 of the 10 Swiss qualifying rounds, our team lay a very low 70th, needing to finish no lower than 16th to qualify for the knock-out stages. We rallied, had 2 big and 2 smaller wins and qualified 14th. Unfortunately, two of those wins were against teams which included Franklin players, Lynne Geursen, Andrew Janisz, Sue Spencer and Bev Henton. Our team was then knocked out in the Round of 16.

New Zealand Senior Teams. This was a good event for Franklin players. Bev Henton and Sue Spencer's team finished 4th, only 1 vp behind 2nd place. Carol De Luca's team finished 6th while Lynne Geursen and Andrew Janisz's team were 11th in the 36- team event.

New Zealand Senior Pairs. Lynne Geursen and Trevor Robb finished 4th with a 58% average. Sue Spencer was close behind in 8th place.

Intermediate Swiss Pairs. Chris Glyde and Maria Casci finished a very respectable 9th in the 70 pair field.

Apologies if I missed any good performances by Franklin players. With record numbers at the Congress, there was a goodly representation from Franklin Club players.

More Success for Kevin

Rumour has it that Kevin Griffin was "dragged" along to the Hamilton Intermediate Pairs on 27th October by Caroline. The morning was indeed no "drag" as they scored a very respectable 63.19 %. Going was a bit tougher in the afternoon session though they would be very pleased with a 5th overall finish.

On the same day, Grant Jarvis rather distinguished himself in the morning session of the 10A Open event, scoring 71.96% with partner GeO Tislevoll. Even though they only averaged about 52% in the other two sessions, they had just enough buffer to win the event by 0.60%.

Inter-Club Update

Pride of place to two of our Intermediate teams who are hotly pursuing the top slot. Here are the latest results:

	Franklin vps
Franklin Blue 77 Waiheke Seahorses 31	17.79
Franklin Green 64 Mt Albert Babs 36	15.54
Franklin Purple 45 Auckland Crafts 57	7.25

The top 4 places one match left are:

1. Royle Epsom 3	110.06
2. Franklin Blue	108.16
3. Franklin Green	105.28
4. Mt Albert Marlene	95.94

The Blue team is Chris Glyde, Maria Casci, Jenny Colgan and Caroline Griffin. The Green team is Roni Bistricher, Kevin Birch, Julie Quilty, Linda Thornton and Darren Old. Let the battle continue. The final round is on November 8th.

Open

Franklin's Open team are involved in a top 4 battle for the title. They looked very well placed after an excellent 35-16 win (15.37) over East Coast Bays but fell off the pace when they were beaten 20-48 by Auckland Carter (2.92). They lie 3rd, 18 and 10 vps behind Akarana and Auckland Carter.

Junior

Franklin Orange 50	Royle Epsom 1	51	9.75
Franklin Red 89	Franklin White	42	17.89 2.11

Franklin vps

Franklin Red and Orange are 15th and 16th respectively in the 21- team field with just 0.37 vp separating them in their bragging rights for being the top of the three Franklin teams, with just one match left.

Dudley Husband turns 90

Dudley had a happy day at bridge on the Friday before Labour Weekend, to celebrate his 90th birthday. What a milestone -- to be still driving his car and playing bridge at 90. Friends brought along a shared lunch, and Dudley was presented with a gift basket -- not your usual flowers, but a bottle of his favourite Gordons Gin, a selection of tonic and some lemons -- a gin and tonic in the making. And for "afters" some chocolate. Caroline Griffin baked a huge birthday cake for everyone to share.

GIN and some tonics....



.... courtesy of Caroline



as was the cake

Dudley made a speech in reply and said how much enjoyment and friendship he'd had in our club, but thought he probably wouldn't play again next

year. The offer has been warmly extended that if he'd like a "guest game" anytime in the new year, he only has to ask. Many happy returns, Dudley.



Dudley, the speechmaker



and in careful thought

Player News

- Congratulations to Jenny and Dan Colgan, whose new grandson Miles was born in Invercargill on 4th October
- We hear on the grapevine that congratulations are due to Neil Miller, who also had an auspicious birthday in October -- no, he hasn't turned 90!
- Nice to see Maggie Urlich back at the bridge table after a stay in hospital
- Irene Bronlund writes from Taumarunui to say "I have joined the women's club in Taumarunui which plays bridge on Fridays. It isn't contract, something like rubber bridge where we deal every hand and keep our own score. About 3 tables each week and very enjoyable. Otherwise I read a lot and the days fly by."
- We have welcomed Ilian Trifonov to the table on recent Wednesdays. He's part of the lunchtime bridge group at NZ Steel and has been partnered by Jon Taylor. Ilian is Bulgarian. Isn't bridge a wonderfully international game, and a great entry into a new community.

An accident at the club

We send our best wishes to Jacqui Treppass, who had a nasty fall in the foyer of the club on a recent Friday and has broken her hip. Several members rushed to help her. We were fortunate that Ratilal Ranchhod was playing on the day and able to supervise first aid until the ambulance arrived. Someone brought a blanket from their car to keep Jacqui warm in the meantime (do you have a spare one at home which you could gift to the club?). If we get more than one or two, we will take the spares to the Salvation Army. If in doubt, please see Maureen Nelson. Jackie has always greatly enjoyed walking, including to bridge. So, we hope she will be back on her feet soon.

Farewell to Merle

In mid-September we welcomed Merle Edwards back for a morning tea to celebrate her 90th birthday. She had a great day, was presented with flowers, and promised to come back in November to polish our trophies ready for the AGM" That's always been my job". That weekend she had more celebrations with her extended family but sadly two weeks later had a stroke and died. At the funeral gathering, her daughter said she'd asked Merle the week before" What's that cross on your calendar in November, Mum?"

"That's when I have to go to the bridge club and polish the trophies". Several bridge friends attended Merle's funeral and a short eulogy was presented on behalf of the club.



Merle enjoying more than a cup of tea....with Jim looking on.

COMING UP...Very Soon

Babich Wines New Zealand Wide Pairs, Friday November 1st

As usual, the club will host a heat of this nation-wide event. It is preceded by a pot-luck shared dinner at 6pm with play starting at **7.15pm**. Cost is 10.00 per player with all the table money going to support the development of Youth Bridge in this country.

At the end of the session, every player gets a booklet covering all the hands played in the event. We expect about 1,000 pairs to take part in the event nationwide (not all those at Franklin!) with the event taking place at 56 clubs around the country.

If you have not got a partner but would like to play, let me know (rksolomon@xtra.co.nz 232 8494) and I will try and help you find one. Intermediate level systems only are allowed in this event.

Melbourne Cup afternoon, Tuesday 5th November



We last held this popular event 3 years ago. Please put your names down on the whiteboard now -- don't wait -- this is so our clever Mistress of Ceremonies, Lynne Geursen, can create "parentage" for each player. Various forms of gambling will be held -- including a sweepstake, which will start shortly. You don't have to be present on the day to enter.

Also, everyone is invited to buy by auction the rights to any other player. Buy the player you expect to win the day. Play starts promptly at 1pm. Please bring a plate of finger food to share for afternoon tea, and the afternoon ends with watching the race on the screen at 5pm. **Hats are encouraged but are not absolutely compulsory -- be creative 😊** Last time's winner, Yvonne Baettig, came along in a home-made hat.

A Doubly Good Lead

When do you **not** lead partner's suit against 3NT? One time is when you are void in the suit! Another is when you have a potential source of tricks of your own and an outside entry.

The “doubly” in the title refers to the fact that both Carol De Luca and I ignored the fact that our partners had overcalled 1♠ on the following deal....and the effect was quite devastating!

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

As West, both Carol and I led the ♦J. East took the first trick with the ♦A. Really, East should return the ♦3 thus beating the contract by three tricks.

However, the East players got greedy..and this time greed really paid! At trick 2, they played ♥Q. South was then subjected to one heart, five more diamonds and then four more heart tricks.... 11 tricks in all for the defence...or 7 down vulnerable!

That far eclipsed the score of any East-West pair who bid to the making not vulnerable heart game (4♥ makes an overtrick and 5♦ too makes).

Actually, playing Pairs, +700 is an excellent score as the score for 4♥ doubled (it is only 17 hcp game after all!), with one overtrick is 690. 7 light in a freely bid to make 3NT is not a bad return for the defence.

Oh, did you notice what happens on the ♠5 lead from West? In theory, declarer can make 5 club and three spade tricks.... but East would not enjoy finding 4 discards on the run of the clubs....and any slip could see 3NT make.

So, this time, our partners did not mind their suit **not** being led. Hopefully, they are always as understanding when the lead of a different suit is not so spectacularly successful.

Richard Solomon