



February 2023

Franklin Bridge Club



In the midst of the tournament: Bev Henton, centre, with Linda Thornton, versus Margaret Gardiner, left, and Belinda Summerville. At the left-hand table were the eventual tournament winners, Blair Fisher and Patrick Carter, back to camera.

Successful First 2023 Tournament

There was nearly a full room for our first tournament of the year, the 8B Summer Swiss Pairs on Saturday 21 January, which attracted 26 pairs including a strong clutch of grandmasters, who as expected took away the top prizes.

But there were also category prizewinners and Franklin did well in those.

Pictured are the winners of the 101-200 combined rating points category, Barbara Lockyer (left) and Henriette Annabel, playing against Ratilal Ranchhod and Teresa Green.



At right are the winners in the 0-100 rating points group, Margaret Gardiner and Belinda Summerville. Winners in the 201-400 rating points category were Neil Beckett and Shirley Xu from Papatoetoe.



The main prizewinners were:

1 Blair Fisher, Hamilton, and Patrick Carter, Auckland

2 Gary Chen and John Wang, Akarana

3 Clair Miao and Jeremy Fraser-Hoskin, Akarana.

Top Franklin pair were Lynne Geursen with substitute partner Wendy Morris in fifth place (Lynne's partner was supposed to be Trevor Robb: see Members' News, page 5).



Many thanks to Linda Thornton whose law firm Lyall & Thornton was the tournament sponsor.

And as with all these events, there was a hard-working team behind the scenes. Pictured is scorer Jonathan Taylor who worked all day in the

office. Assisting the director Tony Morcom from Akarana was Arie Geursen. And after welcoming the participants, our president Neil Miller spent the rest of the tournament presiding over the kitchen: there seemed to be food available all day!

Other Tournament News

Our highest ranked member **Grant Jarvis** finished 2022 and started 2023 on bridge highs! He ended last year with a win in the Papatoetoe Christmas Pairs 5A, coming first with Patrick Carter, winner of our January tournament above. **Kevin Birch** and **Carol De Luca** came fourth in the strong field of 32 pairs.

Then Grant was runner up in Auckland club's New Year 5A, with his partner Geo Tislevoll (our former member Richard Solomon took first place). On to the Thames festival teams for Grant, winning that (with his team including Blair

Fisher, co-winner of our January tournament). And in mid January Grant and Patrick won the Waitemata Open 5A.

At the end of January **Kevin Birch** and **Mereana Cullen** came third in the Tauranga Congress Restricted Open Pairs, while in the congress's Consolation Pairs **Bev Henton** came fourth with her Mt Maunganui partner Frances Ball.

Beginners and Improvers – Thursday Nights Are On Again!

Holidays are over – and improving your bridge starts again this week!

John Fergusson and his team are back at the club on Thursday evenings with friendly supervised play for all improvers, from novices up, starting on Thursday 2 February. The sessions are 7- 9pm, and cost is table money, \$6.

The first night is Hello Pairs: you'll play a variety of boards, with no set theme, after a short useful guide to procedures and behaviour at the bridge table. Stayman will be the topic for 9 February, and Transfers on 16 February.

So come to the club on Thursday evenings to enjoy playing with members of around the same level as you, with helpful advice from experienced players.

Invitation To Take A Walk

Next month is beginners' month – this year we have only one course of novice lessons and so we need all potential 2023 bridge players to be at the club when classes start on Thursday 23 March.

Hopefully some of you have lined up a possible new player to join our lessons. If you haven't yet, think who you can invite.

And you can still help with publicity to attract new players to our club. John Fergusson is organising flyers which will be available for all of us to drop in local letterboxes in early March – good for our health and good for our club!

We'll need a team of volunteers to do this, so have a think about which area would suit you. Expect to hear announcements this month about this, with a clipboard being passed around before some sessions so you can write in the neighbourhood you will cover.

Plus give the lesson invitations to any friends, colleagues, neighbours and relatives who you think might be interested, and put our posters on any noticeboards you have access to. The first two sessions are free, so people can try before committing – a great idea for friends who are unsure if bridge is for them.



It's Fri **Yay!** day ... for Junior, Intermediate and Novice Players

More for improvers: NZ Bridge's weekly Friday deal for less experienced players is also back from holiday!

Every Friday is improvers day, and you will find a really useful commentary on how to play a hand, covering some common bidding and playing problems. Although officially retired from his NZ Bridge role, prominent former longtime Franklin member Richard Solomon is still writing these, and you will find his explanations easy to understand and entertaining.

Go to www.nzbridge.co.nz and just scroll down a bit and you'll see a lot of Daily Bridge In New Zealand entries – all the Friday dates are for your level.

Finding Partners Reminder

Another reminder on how to find partners this year: we now use WhatsApp for that. To join the club's WhatsApp group, just text Neil Miller on 027 275 7569 and he will add you to it. A lot of people have been using it and so far it seems to be working well.

For those unfamiliar with WhatsApp and without a handy relative or friend to help, bring your phone in and talk to Neil. Or just let the partnership secretaries know that you're wanting a partner and they will do it for you! The partnership secretaries are still available to help – their names are on the front cover of your programme booklet. Remember to tell them what session(s) – ie just one day or evening, or a whole event – and what level of player you are looking for.

Missing Page On Noticeboard

Our 2023 programme booklet is missing the last page of the rules governing our club competitions. The complete rules have now been posted on the club noticeboard so you can refer to them or take a copy for yourself.

70% Club

This partnership had an outstanding start to the new year:

Holiday Bridge	Fri 6 January	73.8%	Lynne Geursen-Trevor Robb
New Year Prs	Fri 13 January	71.2%	Lynne Geursen-Trevor Robb

Photograph Your Bridge Bookings

This is a tip worth repeating that came from Kevin Griffin. Hopefully by now your bridge booklet is pretty full of names for the coming months' play. But what happens if you are away from home and need to check your bookings? Or worse, you lose the booklet. No problem: now would be a good time to photograph your bookings pages, and you then have a copy on your phone, which will be probably be with you wherever you are!

Member News

from Our Roving Reporters

Carol Moore and **Henriette Annabell**, very experienced cruisers, enjoyed their Christmas cruise around NZ. And what luck: they encountered two other bridge players, from Orewa club, so among other delights were able to play bridge every day!

Trevor Robb had a rocky couple of weeks before his planned cruise to Australia, having a serious fall which broke his shoulder and prevented him playing in the Swiss Pairs tournament. Luckily he got the medical clearance to go off on his trip: by ship to Sydney, followed by a coastal journey north, ending at the Gold Coast Congress which he and **Lynne Geursen** will play in mid February.

Probably most people who know him have already read the reminiscences from and about our prominent and longtime former member **Richard Solomon** on the NZ Bridge website. But for anyone who missed it:

www.nzbridge.co.nz/user/file/4546/STORIES%20ABOUT%20RICHARD.pdf.

Online Bridge At 100

Congratulations to Auckland Bridge Club player Sybil Cornell who last month turned 100. Sybil is pictured at a celebration held at the club with her son Michael Cornell, one of NZ's top players. Michael said in his speech at the celebration that he owes it to her that bridge became rather more than just another card game for him.

Auckland Club president Neil Stuckey commented that radio was in its infancy in the early 1920s when Sybil was born. Now, 100 years later, she is playing regular online bridge and loving it.



Wrong Call

A wrong call, other than an “unintended” one (as described in November), could be a result of forgetting the system, mis-sorting the hand, not seeing or misreading another call on the pad, or similar.

A player who makes a wrong call must take care to avoid giving any indication of what has happened.

It is important to note that making a wrong call is NOT an infraction. If the opponents are damaged, solely as a consequence of the wrong call, they are not entitled to any rectification.

However, the offender and partner must avoid making use of any unauthorised information to help them extricate themselves from the pickle they are likely to be in.

Some examples:

1 N: 1NT E: 2H S: X W: 2S
 N: pass E: ??

West alerted and (correctly) explained as showing hearts and spades. East had forgotten and has hearts only. West’s alert of 2H, with or without the subsequent explanation, is unauthorised information to East.

Although East knows hearts is likely a better contract than spades they must bid as if West was showing a good spade suit (as would have been the case if 2H wasn’t alerted). So with, say, six hearts and three spades East must either pass or raise spades, not repeat the hearts.

2 N: 1NT E: X S: 2H W: X
 N: 2S E: X S: ??

North alerted and (correctly) explained as showing hearts and spades. South had forgotten and has six hearts and one spade.

This is different because here South has authorised information (from the 1NT opening and their own spade shortage) that hearts is a better contract than spades.

Provided both North and South maintain a neutral expression they are free to do whatever they think will work.

3 N: 1NT E: pass S: 2NT W: pass
N: ??

NS play 12-14 1NT (as South correctly announces) but North thought it was 15-17 and has 15 points.

South's 2NT asks North to bid 3NT with a hand at the maximum of the indicated point range, and otherwise pass. That "indicated point range" must remain as what North thought it was (15-17) because South's announcement is unauthorised information to North. Fifteen points (or even a mediocre 16) would not be maximum so North must pass here.

Sometimes 2NT might be the only makeable contract. That would be an excellent result with others failing in 3NT. The result must stand in that case. NS just got lucky (like the golfer who slices a shot into the trees and the ball bounces off a branch and rolls into the hole).



Any contributions to the newsletter, please email Wendy Morris,
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And if you want copies of any newsletter photos, please email.