

## TABLE TALK – SEPTEMBER 2021



### Things We've been Doing this Lockdown

Some of the good cheer and Blitz spirit that we all exhibited 18 months ago seems to have evaporated a bit, and we're irritable and wish it to be OVER!

But we've been keeping ourselves busy in many ways, not least playing bridge online, although that is no replacement for a cheerful and friendly session in our clubrooms. Some of the things known to be keeping us busy are

Ordering "things" online -- not just supermarket shopping, but read on . . . .

Online coffee "Your Local", a truly local shop previously occupied by Albert's Patisserie. <https://www.yourlocalcoffeeroasters.co.nz/collections/coffee-blends> and one day when "they" let us all out, try them for their cabinet food and great coffee. Biggest problem is finding parking.

Drinking too much coffee -- did you know there's a word called "anxiogenic" - no explanation required, brought about by among other things drinking too much caffeine.

Online booze -- especially wine, although one of our regular readers is anxious about running out of gin. Another reader got a bottle of swanky "Juno" gin for her birthday, distilled in New Plymouth and delivered to your door.



*maybe there are some advantages about being at Alert Level 4?*

Online cheese -- multi-award-winning Whitestone Cheese in Oamaru make a fabulous "Drunken Windsor Blue"

Making marmalade (tired of marmalade? try preserved lemons (great in a tajine, or chicken casserole), or brandied oranges (really easy and delicious with cream, or ice-cream, or custard or creme caramel . . . . .))

Baking bread/chocolate cake/muffins/

Watching far too much rubbish on tv (Exception - the Paralympics! maybe the Bledisloe Cup? maybe the US Open tennis?)

Listening to music -- try the free live concert videos on the Auckland Philharmonia website [www.apo.co.nz](http://www.apo.co.nz)

### **Player News**

Many of us encountered Teresa Phillips over the bridge table in recent weeks, her index finger badly bent after being smashed while drafting sheep. Our Roving Reporter asked her how things were going, and they were ticking along with the help of their farm worker, but then . . . . . the farm worker badly cut his hand with a skilsaw, doing his woodwork hobby, and ended up in Middlemore under the same Hand-care team as Teresa had been. Under Level 4, Teresa had to apply for travel exemptions so that daughter Kylie and her husband could come up from the Bay of Plenty to help with docking 1500 lambs!

Neil Miller has been safely tucked away down at Wanaka since 1st August, looking after his daughter and her family. He said the house is centrally heated, has a spa on the deck and stunning views of the snow-covered mountains. They will all be down to Level 2 as we publish, so ski-training will have resumed for Neil's 2 granddaughters. We have not yet heard whether he's tried out the Wanaka Bridge Club. He earlier said he had sussed it out.

Kath and I are camping out of boxes in our Onewhero house, waiting to move to Te Aroha, which can take place at Level 3. Will I need a passport to cross the border on Monday nights?



*camping in one's lounge. Kath is surrounded by piles and piles of boxes as we await Level 3*

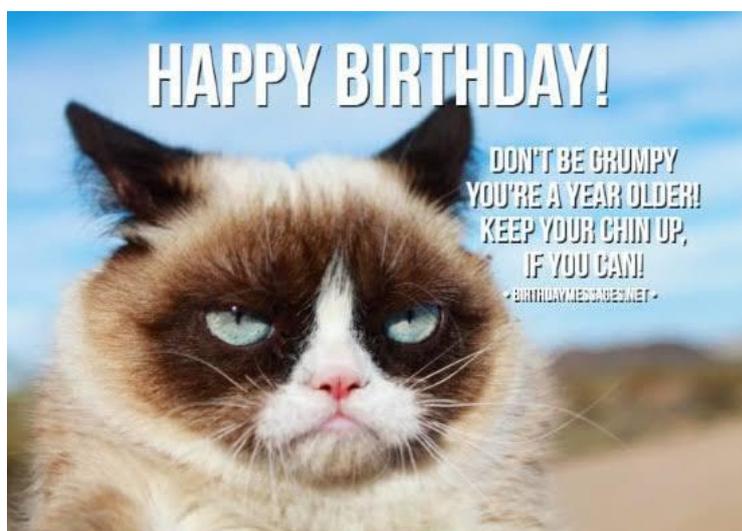
Maria and Chris have become interim dog-owners for the duration of the lockdown. Maria's son's 1 year old dog Lucca has joined the family, and needs daily exercise. Maria's daughter-in-law is Italian, and Lucca's commands are all in Italian, so Maria is sticking to that. "Corriamo, Lucca" she says "Let's run!".

## Lucca's recuperating from his exercise



We empathise with Friday player Audrey Barnett, a committee member of the South Auckland Orchid Society, who were to have their big regional orchid show at the Pukekohe Town Hall the first week in December. We know what it's like to work hard for a whole year and then have your event cancelled.

Gary and Tricia Logan were glad not to have to have "passports" for travel from home to work under the current lockdown. The previous one had been something of a nightmare. Gary was one of a group of Franklin Bridge Club members whose late August/September birthdays have had to be put on hold. At last count, these included Gary, Sue Helleur, Bron Fergusson, Caroline Griffin, Maureen Nelson, Chris Glyde, Carol De Luca, Christine Egelmeer and Linda Thornton! And possibly others whom we don't know about. Happy birthday all of you.



## LOCKDOWN AT LOGAN'S



*Setting a good example for Gary and Trish and their customers. If they can "bear" to wear their masks, then we all can.*

*What every healthy chemist wants for their birthday cake. No sickly chocolate mud cake but a healthy orange.*

*and:*

## LOCKDOWN IN TAUMARUNUI

We had a cheerful email from former club member Irene Bronlund, who now lives in Taumarunui, wishing Jim a belated happy birthday and saying how much she'd enjoyed reading about it in last month's Table Talk. She went on to say "He doesn't look any different than when he first came. All the family came for my recent 90th birthday, so it was lovely. My daughter Linda came over from Oz, beating the closures both ways. She lives in WA and just got back when they shut down again. I can't believe I am that old. I am still playing on a Friday at the women's club and thoroughly enjoying it. Mind you the lockdown has put a finish to that in the meantime. "

## News of the Fultons

And a lovely email from the Fulton family. Tina describes how well the twins, Poppy and Logan, are doing in their respective flats in Wellington and then brings us up to date with Harri:



*James, graduation boy Harri and Will Fulton*

“Big Harri (now 6ft 3) is back in Auckland having graduated in April this year. After taking the summer off and working as a paid lifeguard, he started applying for jobs once the season finished in Easter. He came home to live with us during this time and it was again, awesome to have him back and get some one-on-one time with him, not something that’s been possible since his first 21 months of life. He got a job and beat 480 other applicants to it. Harri is a production engineer and has quite the variety in work. He’s just recoded a second- hand machine that used to be in a bagel factory to be able to automate the cleaning process on the production line - it’s way over my head!

Our renovation has started (and now stopped) and thankfully we’re still living at a friend's place while they’re overseas to be with their daughter, who sadly has just passed from cancer, so very, very sad. They did make it back before lockdown but are now stuck, happily, at their bach in Pukawa where they went to collect their dog before making their way home. We were quite delighted

about that as when we move out of here, it's going to be full-time in the camper van we purchased for this very reason. Our renovation is going to take 6+ (+++ with lockdown) months and as it's a full-on gutting and redoing, we can't stay there. So Big Bertha boardroom is going to be parked up on the driveway (to the side so the builders can come and go) and will be our cosy abode for the duration. Will is dreading having to work in there as well as everything else and I will be clearing off each day to leave him to it ... will become a lacky on the building site.

Gosh you'll miss Richard ... we miss the Franklin club immensely, playing here is just not the same, as I'm sure many people find when they leave. James has joined a Wellington Club and is loving it ... the wines every session are definitely his thing."



*Will, Poppy, Harri, Tina and Logan*

### **What are we all looking forward to?**

**Bridge!** of course - the resumption of our sessions, resumption of lessons and supervised play. Bring it on! Make sure you support the session you usually play at

AND:

- meeting up with friends
- the libraries reopening
- haircuts
- the lawn mowing man coming round again
- real coffee

- daylight saving starts on 26th September and more Bridge!



### **Our 3A Pairs .... and the National Bridge Congress**

Alas, our 3A Pairs scheduled to take place on Saturday September 18<sup>th</sup> is one of many victims of Covid. There is no way Auckland will be in Level 1 next week.

Another victim of Covid has been the National Congress, scheduled for the last week of September. This has, though, been delayed not cancelled and will, we hope, take place between February 10<sup>th</sup> and February 17<sup>th</sup> 2022 at the same Bay Park venue in Mt Maunganui. There will, thus, be two National Congresses in 2022.

Thus, what about a day or three or even longer at the Mount in February? The Intermediate/Junior events are during the week-end (well, Saturday, Sunday, Monday). So, you could just go down and play in one of them for the day. Also, the Novice Pairs will take place on the Sunday afternoon.

For further information, press this link.

<https://www.nzbridge.co.nz/brochure.html>

### **Memories, Good Memories of bridge in Pukekohe by Richard Solomon**

I first started playing at the Franklin Bridge Club when Kath and I moved to Onewhero back in 1988. Monday nights were always very good and rather busy evenings for me as that was a night when the then thriving Onewhero Tennis Club played..and tennis was my active sport.

So, it was tennis at 6pm for an hour and sometimes a little more than an hour and was followed by a mad dash down the hill to my game at the club. Oh, somewhere after tennis (no time before as I dashed home from work), I fitted in something to eat. (I will not elaborate in case I get dobbed in for dangerous driving...that big sin is not “drink and drive” but “eat and drive”!) I usually

arrived late for bridge and hence got that reputation which took decades to remove, if ever. Those at the club always knew I would arrive even if my first couple of boards were somewhat rushed. I was always seated by 7.25pm, except my seat was in my car!

I remember those early days (well, not “early” for the club which had been in existence for many years before I arrived) upstairs at the Recreation Centre with the band practising next door.. and practising often continued well past the 7.30pm start of bridge time. It was not the quietest of sessions!

Then, we or to be more exact, Arie, found our new home and what a lovely place for bridge our premises are. Everyone at the club owes a huge debt to Arie who delved through old Council records as only Arie could to discover money “lying in the vault” donated by a bridge player but seemingly forgotten. With the help of the then club President, Martine Cameron, Arie badgered and shamed the Council into awarding the bridge club its current premises. Thanks, Arie, for all you have done for this club, both in the directing and scoring area and in getting us our fabulous home.

I will relive some more memories next time but for now, one special one for me. Many of those who were playing when I first joined are no longer with us. We bridge players have great lasting power but eventually even we have to move on. However, one still very much with us is the Club Patron, Nelda. She has always been a strong, cunning player and still is. One evening, she was on lead to my diamond part-score contract and led the D9. I held all the missing high diamonds in my hand except for the queen... and the success of my contract depended on finding this lady and preventing her from winning a trick. I won the opening lead with ♦10 in my hand and lost the lead to Nelda's partner who returned a low trump. I put in my jack... which lost to the queen! The hand collapsed for me with Nelda's opening lead coming from a holding of ♦ Q9 doubleton. I finished a couple down!

Ever since then, I try to avoid having Nelda on my left for fear of some other cunning lead. She has trained Maureen Nelson too in the art of such devilment! So, it is with great pleasure that I dedicate this hand below to Nelda. It occurred only a week ago when I was playing on-line bridge...and my opponent was a top NZ international.

South Deals Both Vul	♠ A 10 4 2 ♥ 8 7 5 4 ♦ 10 8 2 ♣ 10 4		
♠ K J 7 5 ♥ Q 9 ♦ K Q 7 ♣ K Q 7 2		♠ 9 3 ♥ 6 3 2 ♦ J 6 5 4 3 ♣ A 6 3	
	♠ Q 8 6 ♥ A K J 10 ♦ A 9 ♣ J 9 8 5		
<i>West</i>  Pass  All pass	<i>North</i>  2 ♣	<i>East</i>  Pass	<i>South</i> 1 NT 2 ♥

1NT was 15-17 and sitting West, I kept very quiet in the bidding. I did not want to risk giving away a side-suit trick with my opening lead...and so led ♥9. Declarer won in hand to lead a low club, won by East's ace. Back came a second trump...and you can guess what happened. The defence took two spades (declarer played a spade to the ace and then towards the queen), a diamond, two clubs, and one heart! Thanks, Nelda. Happy memories. More of them next time.

### When I Leave

We have a succession plan! Wendy Morris. Stand up and take a bow...or take over "Table Talk". Wendy has volunteered to take over after my move. She has a background in publishing and journalism and published the newsletter at the Rotorua Club for four years.... and she is demonstrating she can play good bridge too. We are not sure yet when the hand-over will take place but in good hands you will be.

### Prayer at the bridge table

Let's use the words "wish" or "hope for" but the message is the same. Sometimes, you play for the opponents' holding in suits to be what you want...and good play is thus often rewarded. This deal also occurred recently on-line.

South Deals ♠ 10 7 6  
 E-W Vul ♥ A 9 8  
 ♦ K 8  
 ♣ A K J 7 6

♠ J 8  
 ♥ Q 6 5 3  
 ♦ Q 9 5 4 3  
 ♣ 8 5

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A 4 2  
 ♥ K 7 4 2  
 ♦ A J 6  
 ♣ 9 4 2

♠ K Q 9 5 3  
 ♥ J 10  
 ♦ 10 7 2  
 ♣ Q 10 3

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	1 ♣	Pass	Pass
Pass	1 NT	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	3 ♠	All pass	2 ♠

Wisely, South turned down their partner's game invitation, very wisely in view of the way they played the board! West led the ♥2. South won in dummy with East encouraging hearts. Next declarer played a small spade off dummy and inserted ♠9 from their hand, losing to the ♠J. West cashed the ♥Q and with the club suit looking ominous, tried the ♦3. ♦K lost to the ace and ♦J and ♠A were two further tricks for the defence, contract down 1!

Yet, South should have made an overtrick! The West hand was a danger hand for South since, although they did not know which defender held the ♦A, if it was East, they did not want West switching to a diamond. So, they should try to keep West off lead.

South went wrong at trick 1. They should allow East to win the first heart, since East cannot harm the declarer. East will continue hearts. Declarer wins in dummy to play a spade to the queen. Play a club back to dummy to play a second trump. If East plays low, then play ♠Q. It is indeed your lucky day, but you have earned it. Exit with a trump to East's ace and all the defence can now take is one diamond trick, along with one trick in each major.

Trying to keep a danger hand off lead is a good technique and can lead you to a successful line. Of course, had West held ♠A, you just have to hope for good luck with respect to ♠J and ♦A. Today, though, all your wishes came true.

*Until October..... and we trust live bridge. Richard Solomon*