

'Table Talk'

Franklin Bridge Club Newsletter

September 2019

Our New Zealand Bridge Volunteer of the Month



That's our own Chris Glyde. Some of you know that I work full-time for New Zealand Bridge. One of the most pleasant jobs I do is to organise the monthly presentation to a valuable volunteer nominated by a bridge club committee. The Franklin Bridge Club Committee nominated Chris. Hence, on the evening of Monday September 23rd, Chris was presented at our club session with a certificate and a small gift to acknowledge all the work Chris does for this club.

That is not to say that Chris is the only valuable volunteer at our Club. Far from it. Yet, Chris is so helpful and knowledgeable re our scoring software and helps with the teaching and development of new players to the club that he is really deserving of this award. It was great to be able to make the presentation myself.

Whose arm is this and what is he doing?



Two clues. It's a "he" and "he" is right-handed!

Open and Restricted Tournaments – 21st September

These two tournaments went off extremely well at the club with 18 pairs in the Intermediate competition and 34 in the Open. Club members really pitched in to help with a huge selection for morning tea and even more at the end of play. Thanks to Margaret Wilson and You Travel Manukau for their sponsorship and to Balle Bros for the spot prizes of vegetables. On the organisational and directing side, thanks to Maria, to Tony Morcom (director), to Chris for scoring and those who helped behind the bar, in the kitchen, the "vegetable arrangers" (no quick job sorting them out) and generally those who rolled their sleeves up.

The Intermediate event was won by a pair from Waitemata though look who came in 5th, the top Franklin pair....Darren Old and Tricia Balle, the latter a Junior player. A fraction behind in 6th were Kevin and Julie.

Meanwhile, Sue Spencer and Bev Henton were having a practice in advance of the National Congress. Sue's normal partner cannot play in Hamilton because of ill-health...and what a great practice Sue and Bev had....finishing 2nd just 0.70% behind the winners, Akarana's Gary Chen and John Wang. They recorded the highest round of the day in the Open, 62.15%. That sounds like a great practice for the National Congress.



“Three Wise Men” after our recent tournament: Arie Geursen, Grant Jarvis and Chris Glyde



Sue and Bev had a great Congress warm-up.



Visitors to our tournament from the Royle Epsom Club, Annette Martin and Barbara Imlach who are in the Auckland-Northland Intermediate Inter-Provincial team in November.

Inter-Club Update

Open

The Open team had a narrow 56-47 win over Mt Albert and qualified 3rd for the top 4 play-off.

Intermediate

Franklin Blue 63 Royle Epsom 42 (14.08)

Franklin Green 60 Auckland Rats 75 (6.66)

Franklin Purple 50 Mt Albert Cedric 109 (1.02)

Our Blue team did themselves and our Green team a big favour by beating the table-topping Royle Epsom team. The top 3 positions are:

1. Royle Epsom 3 93.17

2. Franklin Blue 90.37

3. Franklin Green 89.74

Juniors

Franklin White 58 Franklin Orange 67 (12.12)

Franklin Red 34 Royle Epsom 2 72 (3.11)

Franklin Orange are the highest placed of our three teams, in 15th place.

Bridge Players are Really NUTS

So, it would seem for the first week in September when we were asked to evaluate some different types of nuts, made by our own “nutter” Roni Bistricher. He arrived with a selection of nuts for each table and then asked all present to do a piece of “nut tasting” so that we could fill out a questionnaire about what we thought of the nuts, too sweet, just right, our likes and not so likes ...and so on.

We are very discerning people, we bridge players. We were able to taste, clear our palate (no wine was provided to do so..why not, Roni?) and move on to the next bowl. Once the evaluation was complete, we could move on to the bridge. Here’s hoping our opinions were useful.

Oh, that arm we asked you about. We gave you a clue that it was a male arm. Indeed, the arm belonged to no other than Arie, who was diligently completing his questionnaire. Perhaps, next month we will all be asked to taste some culinary delights on MasterChef. Anyway, an interesting way to start an evening’s bridge.



“Nutter” Roni wielding a chain-saw with David Gardiner

Replacing our clubroom roof

At a Special General Meeting on 28th August, the quorum of members present voted unanimously to authorise the committee to spend \$50,000 plus gst to replace the roof of the clubrooms. This had been forewarned by President Kevin Birch at our 2018 AGM. This sum is for the exterior roofing only, and additional funds will be required afterwards to replace the interior ceiling. Prepare for some serious fund-raising in early 2020 😊

Wednesday Individual Championship

Unlike the Monday individual championship, which is fiercely competed-for, the Wednesday one, currently being played, is an opportunity to play one night with someone you might never have played before. This is the first year we've had this format on a Wednesday, and unfortunately, lots of players didn't notice the asterisk in the programme book, and didn't enlist 4 different partners. This has kept our Wednesday convenor on her toes, maintaining a spreadsheet about who now needs partners, and finding them a new one and not duplicating . Just a plea - and not just for this round - if you've asked for a partner, and then find one for yourself, please let Maureen know! It is no surprise to know that Lynne Geursen is leading at the halfway point while Daniel Hall is leading on handicap.

Congratulations to the team of Lynne Geursen, Trevor Robb, Carol Moore and Henni Annabel who won the Monday night Teams in an exciting 24 board final.

Other player news:

- Good luck to Gerald Baptist, who is training to walk the Queenstown marathon in mid-November
- We will miss Janet and Frank Hogan on Wednesdays for a while. They are off to Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Japan. We wish them safe travels.
- We are sorry that Jerry Kuggeleijn is leaving us this month to move to Cambridge. We're sure that the very nice bridge club there, not to mention lots of beautiful golf courses, were factors in their choice of a new town. He goes with our best wishes and he'll always be welcome back for a game.

TWO BIRTHDAYS and A SPECIAL WEDDING ANNIVERSARY



Judy, Sue, Margaret and Maureen know how to celebrate....

Getting your priorities right

Our club has a lot of September birthdays!

Caroline Griffin played bridge on her birthday on the second night of teams. Maureen Nelson, despite having the same birthday, didn't (where's her sense of priorities?) Maureen had pre-booked Robert Brake to sub on her team, which had two wins in her absence -- no pressure on Maureen for week 3!

Carol De Luca played bridge on her Wednesday birthday at Akarana. Christine Egelmeer (same day) didn't. Other Virgos not forced to make the choice were Gary Logan, Bron Fergusson, Sue Helleur and Chris Glyde. Sue had a happy day on a Saturday - so did Gary Logan. He and Tricia went to lunch at Bracu and then it was Fathers' Day the next day! Oh yes, and the Fulton twins, Poppy and Logan, turned 18. They went with Tina and Will on a flying trip to the snow, where they were joined by big brother Harri.

Also, the Editor of Table Talk managed to book himself a game of bridge on his wedding anniversary a few short years ago. He has a very understanding wife who knows about bridge priorities!

Attention to Detail: Watch those middle cards

Back to the 3A / 5B Tournament last weekend for our instructive hand. A question for you as North defending 3NT:

Board 5	♠ J 7 6 4											
North Deals	♥ J 5 2											
N-S Vul	♦ 10 7 4											
	♣ K J 5											
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	N											
W		E										
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			♠ 8 3									
			♥ Q 10 6									
			♦ K Q 6 3									
			♣ 6 4 3 2									
West	North	East	South									
	<i>YOU</i>	<i>DUMMY</i>										
	Pass	Pass	Pass									
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♦	Pass									
2 NT	Pass	3 NT	All pass									

2NT showed 18-19 balanced and did not deny a 4-card major. You choose to lead low from your only 4-card suit, spades. Trick 1 goes 3 from dummy ♠10 from your partner and ♠K from declarer. At trick 2, West leads ♣8 on which you play ♣J to win the trick.

Which suit must you not play at trick 3 and why?

The answer will become apparent when you examine the spade suit because you know exactly which spades your partner has and which declarer has. Third player plays high which means that if your partner had the ♠Q or the ace, they would have played one not ♠10. You know that because you hold the jack, meaning from QT, they would play the queen.

Furthermore, had your partner held ♠9, they would have played that card not ♠10. So, you know declarer started with ♠ AKQ9 and to continue spades would give away a trick unnecessarily. That is what one North did and that slip allowed the contract to make.

Board 5		♠ J 7 6 4									
North Deals		♥ J 5 2									
N-S Vul		♦ 10 7 4									
		♣ K J 5									
♠ A K Q 9	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid black;"> <table style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table> </div>		N		W		E		S		♠ 8 3
		N									
W			E								
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♥ K 7 3	♥ Q 10 6										
♦ A 2	♦ K Q 6 3										
♣ Q 10 8 7	♣ 6 4 3 2										
		♠ 10 5 2									
		♥ A 9 8 4									
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Declarer had four spade tricks, three in diamonds, one in hearts and eventually one club.

Had North switched, and looking at dummy's hearts, the safest switch would be to a diamond, declarer would have eventually set up a club trick but before they could score that plus two in hearts, they would have lost three clubs, ♥A and a diamond, with the defence playing diamonds each time they got back on lead.

Contract made because the North defender did not appreciate the danger in continuing spades.

Defence is not easy. Heard that before?

See you in October with news of all club members at the National Congress.

Richard Solomon