

# 'Table Talk'

## Franklin Bridge Club Newsletter



### August 2019

#### Upcoming Franklin Tournament, Saturday, 21st September

This is our final major tournament of the year. So, please support it. We need a full house to reward all the work that your fellow club members put into making the day a success.

Although it's described as "Open/Intermediate" and will attract players from other clubs, it is open to all players and we especially welcome Juniors. If you need help entering through the NZ Bridge website, please ask one of the committee to help you. They'd be glad to help. We will also need "behind the scenes" help in setting up the room and in the kitchen. Please diarise the day and come along.

#### Ultra-Restricted In-house Tournament, Sunday 4th August

The "ultra" restriction on this event meant every partnership had to include a Junior or a novice. 7 tables had an enjoyable afternoon, followed by a glass of wine and the usual shared plates. Winners on the day were Frank Hogan (Junior) and Robert Brake, second place going to Ken Craze (Junior) and Henriette Annabell.

#### Holiday plans disrupted

We send our very best wishes to **Neal Phillips**, who fell on the golf course 4 days before he and Teresa were to head off to Ireland, and spiral-fractured his fibula just above the ankle. After repairs in Middlemore, Neal has gone down to Tauranga to stay with their son, whose wife is a registered nurse. Neal was able to get his cast removed at Tauranga in mid-August. Teresa headed off to Galway on the west coast of Ireland for their grand-daughter's christening. Both Neal and Teresa are looking forward to being back at the bridge table in early September, and Neal is assured of reserved North/South seating until he's mobile again.

#### Wednesday Teams

Wednesday teams was its usual success, with 12 teams in 12 colours vying for the title. Some amazing costumes were sighted.

After the two rounds of week 1, Team Silver was in the lead. Team Blue shot to the front at the end of Week 2, and held onto it for Week 3 with Team Black a close second. After 8 rounds over 4 weeks, the final result was

- 1st Team Blue (Debbie Sullivan, Jim Buckland, Yvonne Baettig, Ken Craze)
- 2nd Team Yellow (Gary Logan, Jenny Colgan, Heather Walden, Gerald Baptist)
- 3rd Team Black (John Fergusson, Maggie Urlich, Ann Anderson, Janet Hogan)



*The winning Blue team, Jim Buckland, Debbie Sullivan, Yvonne Baettig and Ken Craze followed home in second place by a team in yellow and third by Team Black:*



*They may be dressed in black but they look like they are enjoying themselves: Janet Hogan, Ann Anderson, John Fergusson and Maggie Urlich.*

Well done to everyone who took part. Hopefully you met some new friends and enjoyed the relaxed format.

### Things We Learned during Wednesday teams:

The majority of Wednesday players play basic Acol -- 4 card majors -- especially when playing with a new partner every week. Things we learned include:

- if your partner opens 2♣, and you have a weak hand, you MUST - NOT - EVER - pass (2♦ response says you have less than 6 points)
- Teams scoring is based on the comparison between the two tables' results. If one side passes a board in, they get zero points. Therefore, if the other "half" of the combination make a positive score, it's a win to that team. If the other half of the combination makes a negative score, it's a loss. In teams, it's all about comparisons.
- one of the players was offered a top-up of her wine glass . . . . . "No thanks" she said, "more than one glass and I'll be bidding 7NT, no worries!".
- on finals night, Jim Buckland was stoked to be part of the winning Team Blue -- more so because it was also his birthday!
- Madeline Dodds also celebrated a birthday in week 2 and was presented with a card and a pretty plant
- if you're busy shushing your husband out of the door ("Hurry up, David, we'll be late"), it pays to check that you haven't still got your woolly slippers on . . . . . 😊

### The Cambridge Sixes

This is a fun teams tournament played annually in Cambridge -- it's very popular and "sells out" quickly. This is its 7th year, and it's grown from small beginnings at the bridge club, until now when they take over the Don Rowlands Centre at Karapiro just out of Cambridge. Teams of 6 play (hence the name), 2 Juniors, 2 Intermediate and 2 Open players, over 40 teams came this year, some from as far as Taranaki. The Franklin team this year comprised John and Bron Fergusson, Kevin Birch and Julie Quilty and Lynne Geursen and Trevor Robb (Kevin only got in from Brisbane at 3am on the day, so was doing well to even get to Cambridge!). Many of the teams dress up (ours went as surveyors), and this year featured some amazing costumes.. The winning team for costume were dressed as Angels and called themselves "Seventh Heaven".

### Other skills

- Our sharp- eyed roving reporter noticed a familiar face in a picture in the local paper -- well done to Jerry Kuggeleijn for 2nd place at the Awhitu Golf Club's July Open Day
- Heather Walden's "Designer Flowers" is sponsoring charity event Franklin Bride of the Year for the 12th year. The recipients this year will be Bellyful Franklin and Karioitahi Surf Life Saving. This despite Heather being another of our "walking wounded", in a moon boot following a fall at home.
- Congratulations to Sue Helleur for winning a first prize at the bi-annual Counties Quilt Show for her beautiful queen-sized Bargello quilt. Sue was also a prize- winner at their

show 2 years ago. Her quilting and embroidery are absolutely beautiful, and you may have seen one of her colourful wheat-bags on sale at your local pharmacy or physio.



*This contains 20 different colours and thousands of different pieces.*

- Many thanks to Roni for brewing up a big batch of his special peanuts and donating the proceeds to the club
- Spotted one recent Wednesday night before start of play, our treasurer in deep conversation with Daniel Hall. Talking about bridge? No. Maureen's mobile phone. You know what they say." If you've got a problem with your mobile, get a teenager"!

### **Just not good enough.**

I was down in Wellington a few weeks ago and was able to play in a Multi-Grade tournament down there with a player I had never played with before. We had a great first session...72.35%. You would think you could get a decent lead on the field with that kind of score. Well, we did except that one other pair were right behind us, scoring just over 72%.

Neither pair did as well in the second session but the other pair beat us by 1% to win the tournament. We averaged 66% and came in second! Nevertheless, a nice day.

**Interclub**

Here are the Franklin results for August.

**Open**

Franklin 82 East Coast Bays 20 with Franklin scoring 19.22. The two teams above Franklin also had big wins but we narrowed the lead being just under 10vps behind the leaders but 27 vps ahead of 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Intermediates**

Franklin Green	94	Royle Epsom 4	41	18.47 vps
Franklin Blue	67	Mt Albert Babs	53	13.15 vps
Franklin Purple	52	Royle Epsom 1	83	4.03 vps

Franklin Green and Blue remain respectively in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place 4 and 11 vps behind Royle Epsom 3.

**Junior**

Franklin Orange	41	Mt Albert Paul	25	13.53
Franklin White	48	Mt Albert Emma	91	2.53

Franklin Red are part way through a match with Papatoetoe Angela. Franklin Red are the best placed of our three teams in 4<sup>th</sup> place.

**Patience brings its Rewards**

When you have a longish non-solid suit, consider **not leading** it. On the following recent hand, there was only one non-trump lead which allows 4♠ or even 3♠ to make and that is the lead of one's long suit. I thought my partner and I would get a reasonable score when we stopped in 3♠ but the wily Darren Old proved that even 3♠ was too high!

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

Darren chose to lead the top of his doubleton club. What was poor Roni Bistricher to do? He had to win the opening lead in his own hand or else block the suit. So ♣A followed by a spade to the king. Roni had to play diamonds himself!

A diamond went to the jack and queen. ♦A followed with a third round of diamonds giving Kevin Birch a ruff. The defence still had a heart and trump trick for one down....in 3♠!

Contrast that to ♦A and then any continuation. Three rounds of trumps can be played using either ♣A or ♦K as appropriate as an entry to hand. The defence can only take one heart, one diamond and one spade trick. Other declarers made 10, even 11 tricks in game while poor Roni Bistricher failed in 3♠, not because he did anything wrong but because he played the board against Darren's patient defence. (Note a heart lead is also good for the defence as long as they switch to clubs before declarer gains the lead).

*Don't forget the New Zealand National Congress in Hamilton at the end of September, especially you Intermediate, Junior or Novice players. I included details in the July "Table Talk".*

**Stop Press:**

**Rubber Bridge Success:**

On the eve, literally, of going to print, Carol De Luca and I took on the Auckland pair of Mark Robertson and Sylvester Riddell in the Auckland-Northland final of the National Rubber competition. Our visitors led, comfortably, for most of the 30 board match but we managed to claw back their lead and with just Board 30 to play, we needed to bid and make a game to win the match. We were dealt between us only 17 high card points but take a look:

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

Only with 7 high card points, Carol opened the bidding and soon found herself in 4♥. She won the diamond opening lead in dummy and made the match-winning play of a spade to her 10 and East's ace. Thereafter, she set up her spade suit and lost just one trump and one club to make her contract. After losing 3 tricks, dummy just could look as the defence tried to cash their second club trick! Rubber Bridge can be just so exciting.

Here's hoping for easier matches in the National Finals at Hamilton in a month's time.

*Richard Solomon*