

---

# 'Table talk'



## Franklin Bridge Club Newsletter August 2018 – with Richard Solomon

Do you come each week to improve your bridge? Maybe you come for the company? If you play on Wednesdays, you might even come for a wine. Yet, now, there is another great reason to come to the Franklin Bridge Club, as if you needed one.

What is it?

Well, all will be revealed in a few minutes if you read on....

### Wednesday teams

Wednesday teams got off to a racing start on 1st August. 12 teams took part this year, all given "colours" with some of the outfits being very imaginative. We think that it's probably a tie between Julie Quilty's very pink outfit, and Kevin Kemp's amazing orange tiger-printed onesie.



*Kevin's "onesie", ably supported by Jackie Trepass and Tricia Balle.*

*Yellow is the colour for Tricia Logan, Irene Bronlund and George McDonald*



We have not enquired too closely whether the onesie is actually a part of Kevin's wardrobe, or whether he borrowed it 😊 He didn't wear it after the first week, as he said it was far too hot inside it.

### WHAT ARE THEY THERE FOR?

*Serious bridge players, of course but there is always time for the odd glass of wine. So say*



*Judy Collins, Maria Casci, Sue Helleur, Joan Rees, Margaret Van Der Coer and Jo Griffiths, a one week substitute for the absent Doug Hull, off on golfing duty.*



---

## WHO ARE THEY?



*We believe it is Des Perry, Yvonne Baettig and Debbie Sullivan underneath the masks. Did they disclose their hands any better than their faces? ... and the*



*"purists" (are they playing bridge, cricket or just indulging?) That's Delwynne Homewood, John Fergusson, Denis Gadd and Belinda Summerville.*

The effort put in to making balanced teams was borne out by results:

- after week 1 -- Gold, followed by Yellow with Green 3rd
- by week 2, it had changed to -- Gold still in the lead, but then Green and White 3rd
- after week 3 more changes -- Yellow came flying through again, then Gold then Silver
- After 4 weeks and 8 matches, the final result was:

\* **First** Yellow: Irene Bronlund, Chris Glyde, Tricia Logan and George MacDonald

\* **Second** White: Denis Gadd, John Fergusson, Belinda Summerville and Delwynne Homewood

\* **Third** Silver: Margaret Wilson, Alice Linn, Rolf Baettig and Cheryl Muir.

Congratulations to all the above.



*The very colourful Julie Quilty and Kevin Kemp with Delwynne Homewood and Judy Collins*

---

---

Special thanks to Chris Glyde for organising and controlling the moves each week, which involved similarly-ranked teams playing each other at all times. Part of the fun of Wednesday teams is that if you're a lower-ranked team (based on results) you do not get "smashed" by playing top teams after the first week. It's all aimed at encouraging new experiences (playing with 3 people you may never have played with before) and having an enjoyable time - aided by the glass of wine to begin the night each week. Thanks also to Alice Linn for the fab photos, and the 10 different people who were variously called in as subs - it was a bit challenging the first week.

A reminder to all Wednesday players that you need to have a different partner for each of August 29th and September 5th and 12th, as noted in your programme book.

## THE TOURNAMENT



### Junior/Intermediate tournament, Sunday 5th August

It was, as predicted in our last Table Talk, a cold a rainy afternoon, and 7 tables enjoyed an interesting afternoon of bridge.

First equal on the day were the Intermediate/Intermediate pairing of Christine Lyons and Robert Brake, followed by the brand-new pairing of Jonathan Taylor and John Fergusson. Third were Suzanne Radley and Margaret Van Der Coer. Well done to all.

### Tournament Saturday 22 September:

Our open/intermediate pairs tournament is on the above date. This tournament is open to members from other clubs and is worth 3A Open Pairs event. Please register your interest early.

And our local weather predictor is forecasting more rain for this particular Saturday. So, pack up your umbrella into your car and enter today.

### National Bridge Congress: Distinction Hotel, Hamilton. September 29th until October 6th.

Those keen Open players need no reminder. Yet, there are some great events for Intermediates and Juniors and even a Novice Pairs. Come and feel the buzz of some 600 people playing bridge at the same time. It's lucky they do not all call for the director at the same time!

Seriously, give one event a go. Some of them do not involve staying in Hamilton. Ask anyone who has been. Try in particular any of the following:

**Intermediate/Junior Pairs** 2 session during the day on Thursday October 4th

**Intermediate/Junior Teams** 3 session (evening October 4th, day Friday October 5th)

**Intermediate/Junior Swiss Pairs** 3 session (evening October 5th, day Saturday October 6th)

---

---

*See entry forms at the club or go to the Congress section of NZ Bridge website ... or just ask me.*

and please tell our newest players about the **Novice Pairs**, a fun one session event starting at 2.00pm on Sunday September 30th ... only \$10 per player ... a great introduction to the National Congress.

## **Give an event a try**



## **Member details for programme book:**

It won't be long until the committee are looking at dates and details for next year's programme book. Have you moved house, changed your phone number or email address? Please let us know.

## **Player News**

Roni said he had a great time visiting family in Israel, and then on to northern Japan to spend a week with his son. He commented that you should never go and play at a bridge club in Israel. Players are beyond passionate into fanatical and continual challenges to the Director are nothing! On top of that, it was 40 degrees and 80% humidity . . . .

Jerry Kuggeleijn and his family have been enjoying a golfing holiday on the Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast. Jerry enjoyed being able to have a round with his grandson, who is about 10 - starting early! (I trust he is already playing bridge, Jerry?) Speaking of golf, we heard that the Onewhero-and-friends contingent played 10 games on different courses on their recent holiday. It is a pity to come home to all this cold and rain, but hopefully the bridge makes up for it!

**Generation Gap:** One of our members recently lost her I-phone, and had to report it to the police so that she could claim on her insurance. The helpful policewoman at the other end of the phone call took all the details and then said "One more thing, would you like grief counselling?" "Are you serious ????" asked our member. Very serious, apparently losing your mobile phone is one of the identified causes of youth suicide.

**Birthday in style** The Fulton family (16 of them) met in Wellington for Will and James's mother's 80th birthday. Mrs Fulton had learned to drive in an Austin Seven, and Will found the local Austin club and arranged for his mother to be driven in one up to the top of Paekakariki Hill, on a sunny and beautiful day, where the view was stunning.

**Taranaki's Gain.** We are sorry to be losing Carol McDermott, who is returning to live in Taranaki in early September. We wish her all the best in her new life and her new bridge club.

A tip from "Dr Nelson" (actually, that surely cannot be Maureen. Maybe we mean Robin Baird?) So many of our members have had nasty winter illnesses - keep warm, keep hydrated, come back to bridge soon - we miss you.

---

---

## NO MORE "PASSING"



**Some Come for the Bridge**

**Some Come for the wine (well, so the pictures above would have you believe)**

**And the rest come for:**

Have you seen something different around the Franklin Bridge Club of late? Well, I have and I rather like it! It happens during supper time each night. Maybe, like me, you are one of those who grabs their cup of coffee and yet passes on the biscuits? Yes, that's right, we are talking about one of the key parts of any bridge club, the biscuits.

I use the excuse that I really do not need extra sweet food late in the evening. The truth of the matter is nothing so honourable. I just do not fancy them! I "pass" on them. Yet, what a change has occurred in recent weeks, the arrival of the "Tim tam" or the "chitchat". Actually, I cannot tell the difference! Can you?

Yet, whatever they are, what wonderful arrivals at the club. Keep them coming, please! Don't worry about flavours. Nice regular chocolate ones, please. I know that Mae McRobbie agrees with me and the world's number 1 chocoholic (alias Maria Casci) must agree too. Thus, the members of the club with the best taste-buds. Do not deny them. They will never "pass" again!

## A Stepping Stone to Slam



Isn't it typical! You have two lovely long black suits and a potentially lovely hand. Yet, what does your partner open but your void suit! It happens all the time! This time, they opened 1♦ with your hand being:

♠AKT86     ♥T7     ♦-     ♣AQJ987

So, your plan should be to keep bidding black suits until you find some kind of fit. However, because you have such a strong hand, start off with your longest, even if it is the lowly club suit. You never know..and can always bid spades at least twice later. You have already made up your mind that you will not play this board in 3NT.

You bid 2♣ and await partner's next red suit bid. However, miraculously, partner supports clubs, 3♣ ... amazing! What now? Certainly not Gerber with clubs bid and supported. Yet, the trouble with Gerber and Blackwood is that if partner shows up with one ace and one or two kings, you will not know what their holding in the key heart suit is. So, should you just settle for the club game or take a chance and just bid slam and hope? Are you an optimist or a pessimist? Is there any other way?

---

# The Stepping Stone

Sometimes, you can use stopper showing or asking bids for a different purpose other than looking for a hold for no-trumps. Let's look at the sequence so far:

North	South	
1♦	2♣	Just bid 3♠. If partner has four card spade support, they are likely to raise to game but if not, with a heart hold, they will bid 3NT ... and that is precisely what happened.
3♣	?	

So, once they do, you can now jump to slam, 6♣. Do not consider grand-slam with a void, a bad holding in your partner's opening suit. Now, hold your breath for the opening lead. If it is a heart, we hope partner has the ace or king and if partner has just ♥K, let's hope they lead the ace! Say partner's hold is something like ♥QJx. Then hope they lead a different suit!

You had a good partner this time:

Dealer	<b>North</b>		<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			
North	♠ 94			1♦	Pass	2♣			
E-W Vul	♥ K84		Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠			
	♦ AK732		Pass	3NT	Pass	6♣			
	♣ K43		All Pass						
<b>West</b>		<b>East</b>							
♠ QJ2	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td>N</td></tr> <tr><td>W E</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ 753				
N									
W E									
S									
♥ AJ6532		♥ Q9							
♦ 6		♦ QJ109854							
♣ 652		♣ 10							
	<b>South</b>								
	♠ AK1086								
	♥ 107								
	♦ -								
	♣ AQJ987								

The lead was the ♥A and 12 tricks could then be made. Win the heart continuation and play two rounds of

trumps and then ♠AK and ruff a spade. You do not even need the ♠AK to discard spades this time.

You could say that this was a slightly lucky slam to make though the logic in bidding it is interesting. There was a good inference to be drawn from partner's bidding. Your partner and both opponents thought the board was to be played in 3NT but you had other plans ... and successful ones too.

**Richard Solomon**

