

## **TABLE TALK – MAY 2016 with Richard Solomon**

### **GREAT NEWS..”HOT OFF THE PRESS”**

At the Auckland-Northland Inter-provincial Trials over the weekend of 14/15<sup>th</sup> May, David Spencer and Teresa Phillips qualified to represent this region in the main event in Dunedin in November. That’s a great result for them and our club.

There was one near miss too. Carol De Luca, playing with Bruce Inglis, who has been a club member, finished just one vp from making the Seniors Team. They will be the reserve pair.

### **A Very Good Day at the Bridge Club**

May 7<sup>th</sup> was a very good day at the Franklin Bridge Club, the day of the club’s combined 3A Open and 5B Intermediate/Junior Pairs. This event has always been popular but never more so than this year when the “full house” sign had to be put up for the first time for a Franklin tournament.

Arie Geursen directed a room which contained 17 tables in the Open and 13 in the Intermediate/ Junior event. It was also wonderful to see a lot of the club’s Junior players taking part. Such tournaments always attract a good number of players from other clubs. It is a sign of a healthy club when a lot of locals were taking part as well.

As usual, there was some lovely food, both morning tea provided by the players, and then at the end of play. There were plenty of raffle prizes as well as the usual “give away” eggs, given away by Arie in a most unusual manner. Maybe calling out names or table number/positions next time, Arie, would be a little easier to

understand. *After all, we are only bridge players and you expected us to add, subtract and divide!*

Local club players pitched in to help whether or not they were playing that day...and a special thanks to Julie Quilty, the event's sponsor on behalf of Mike Pero Real Estate. It was very appropriate that Julie was in the prize-money but in a neat gesture, handed her prize down. Philomene and Sue donated and arranged the lovely flowers which were sold off at the end of the day.

On then to the winners. In the Open, club member, Grant Jarvis played, as usual, with friend and partner of many years, Jan Cormack and after scoring 65.14% in the first round, had daylight, or nearly 6%, between them and second place.

Lynne Geursen played with regular director, Tony Morcom. They had a good lunch and scored 63.34% in the afternoon to shoot up to 5<sup>th</sup> place. Julie Quilty sponsored prizes for the top Franklin pairs in each of the following four categories. The actual Intermediate winners were Julie with Jerry Kuggeleijn but they insisted the prize go in the "Special Novice Category" below



*Alan Walpole, Terri-Ann Scorer and the sponsor for the day, our own Julie Quilty*

The top finishing Franklin Pair in the Intermediate-Junior event were 4<sup>th</sup> placed Julie and Jerry who were only 5% behind the Auckland Club winners, Alan Walpole and Terri-Ann Scorer.

**Open:** Carol De Luca and Bev Henton

**Intermediate:** see above

**Junior:** Maria Casci and Debbie Sullivan

They finished 10<sup>th</sup> overall. Thanks, also, for handling the entries, Debbie.

**Novice:** George and Scott McDonald

**Special Novice Prize:** Jo Griffiths and Dennise Biddick

We hope that those Junior and Novice pairs who were experiencing their first tournament really enjoyed their day.

We have to feature one hand.

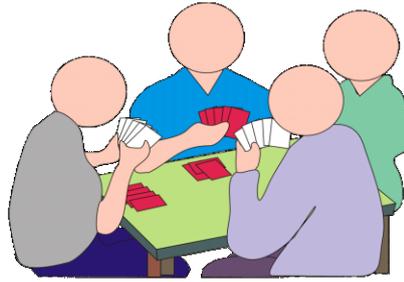
<p><b>Board 9</b></p> <p>North Deals</p> <p>E-W Vul</p>	<p>♠ Q 5</p> <p>♥ Q J 10 4 3 2</p> <p>♦ 4</p> <p>♣ K 10 7 3</p>										
<p>♠ 9 8 7 6 3 2</p> <p>♥ 8</p> <p>♦ 10 3</p> <p>♣ 9 6 4 2</p>	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;"> <table style="border: none; text-align: center; width: 60px; height: 60px;"> <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		<p>♠ A 10 4</p> <p>♥ K 9 7 5</p> <p>♦ J 6</p> <p>♣ Q J 8 5</p>
	N										
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	<p>♠ K J</p> <p>♥ A 6</p> <p>♦ A K Q 9 8 7 5 2</p> <p>♣ A</p>										

This lovely hand caused a lot of trouble for South when their partner opened either with a weak 2 in hearts or a Multi 2♦. South should ask partner what type of weak 2 they held. My partner owned up to a good one. So, I asked for aces but with the news disappointing, I settled for 6NT.

West led ♠9 and I had to be careful at trick 1. I had 12 tricks on top but I would have difficulty reaching the ♣K. So, when East played their ace, I threw my king under it. I would still have been in trouble had East returned a spade as then you must take the heart finesse to make up for the ♣K which you cannot score. East actually switched to the heart, allowing me an easy time to make my contract.

In the Open event, 11 out of the 17 North-Souths reached either 6♦ or 6NT with only 6 making their contract. (It can be made on any lead...ask me how on other leads if you are interested.) In the Intermediate-Junior field, 4 out of 13 pairs failed in slam and only 2 made their contract, once doubled.

*On then to other news.*



### **Can you help our new players?**

Our Beginners' Class has recently finished. We now have potential new players for the club playing Supervised Bridge each Thursday evening. It would be great if they could have some opposition. Could you come along from 7.30pm until 10.15pm and just play? They have their teachers there to guide them. We need you to provide the opposition. Come along for a free friendly evening's bridge. Meet our potentially new members and make them feel welcome. You would be doing the Club a service by simply playing the game you love.

**Want to Learn Stayman and Transfers?** Maybe you have a rough idea but need a little revision? Arie will be giving a Thursday evening talk and demonstration of these two important areas at the Club in June on a Thursday evening. We do not have the exact date but watch out around the club for this to be advertised soon. If you have a friend who might benefit, make sure you tell them.



*Arie. It's OK. He will not be wearing a suit and tie this evening!*

**And then there's more advanced learning.** This is for Intermediates, keen Juniors or maybe even a few Open players with nothing else to do on Friday evenings.

### **"Play to Improve"**

That's the title and the sessions will be on Friday evenings from 7.00pm until 9.30pm starting **Friday July 22<sup>nd</sup>**.

*improve your play, defence, even your bidding...certainly your results. The emphasis will be on playing and defending hands...and then talking about them...rather than just watching a whiteboard.*

The idea is that you will play boards around certain themes. Each board will be played by all at the same time so that at the end, those

present can discuss each board along with the presenter of the sessions.

Oh, who is the presenter? It's me! (to save you looking back, that's **Richard Solomon**.) You will thus be playing bridge and learning at the same time...and I hope will enjoy the experience.

Cost per session is \$10.00 and the number of sessions will depend on the level of interest, at least 4 and maybe a couple more.

### **Inter-Club News**

In the April Inter-Club heat, the club's Intermediate team had a 50-35 imp win over Mt Albert Brown and are mid table, 8<sup>th</sup> out of the 17 competing teams. Meanwhile, our Open Team lost 48-76 to Royle Epsom and lay 7<sup>th</sup> in the 9 team event. Early days!

### **Auckland – Northland Inter-Club Competition. Saturday May 28<sup>th</sup>**

Linda Thornton is in charge of organizing 4 Open, 4 Intermediate and 4 Junior players to represent the club in this event. She has the Intermediates sorted but still needs one Junior pair..and as for the Open players...come on, you Open players, we still need a team.

### **And on the Tournament Front**

In Auckland's ANZAC Day Pairs, Teresa Phillips and David Spencer won the top Intermediate Pair prize. A good day for Teresa all round as she won a lovely hamper in the raffle as well.

### **Wednesday Night Partners...or the price of success!**



Now that Wednesday nights have grown to 13-15 tables, it's sometimes hard for Maureen to find "spare" partners when someone can't play for one week, due to illness or holiday. (*It's not always a very easy job on Monday nights either!*) If you can't play a full round, but are available on some of the nights, Maureen would be glad to know in advance, so that she can call you in if needed. And as always, please try to give as much notice as possible if you can't play.

**The Creative Fibre Festival** This took place partly at the club-rooms over 4 days at the end of April. The main exhibits were in the Town Hall, but they also hired the Plunket Rooms and our clubrooms. Their organiser sent us a "thank you" email saying that our rooms were a lovely "home base" for the exhibitors.



**Fundraising:** Special thanks to Carol De Luca for her annual sale of jellies. Carol would still appreciate more (sparkling clean) small jars, please. Hint for removing the last vestiges of sticky labels: apply any cooking oil with something rough -- paper towel, or if really resistant, use a Steelo and rub vigorously. (*You learn more than about playing bridge by reading these features.*)

**Money News** A little statistic from the treasurer: as our club grows, table money this year is up on last year. 29% of table money comes from Monday nights, 52% from Wednesday nights and 19% from Friday daytime. Now that the beginners' lessons have finished and

players have graduated to Thursday night play, there will be the addition of extra table money from that over coming weeks.

### Rubber Bridge News

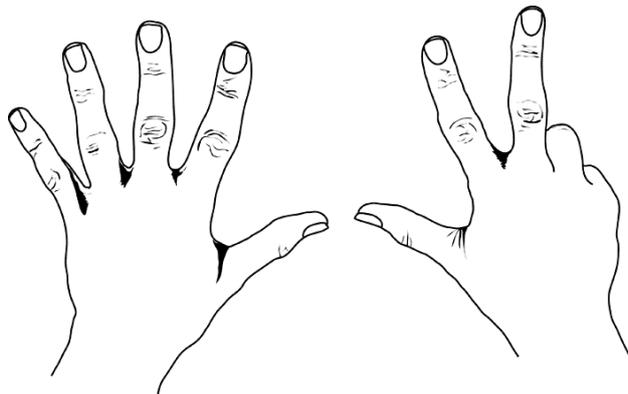
Only 4 pairs from the club are taking part in the club's heat of the National Rubber Bridge Tournament. The rest of the club players do not know what they are missing. You will have to wait until the next edition to see. I am sure many more will sign up for this fun event next year. Oh, we will also tell you how this year's event is progressing.

### "Double Checking" or "The Bidding Conversation"

The scene is a Wednesday night in 2016 at the Franklin Bridge Club. We have two players playing a nice simple Acol system. Let's call them "J and T". The bidding starts:

"T"	"J"
1♣	1♥ (with a measure of excitement...holding a 24 count!)
2♣	4♣ Gerber
4♠ (2 aces) 5♣	

at which point "T" is a bit worried now, having no kings, and wondering whether partner really wants to be in clubs after all . . . . . However, sticking to the rules, she bid 5♦.



*“How many kings are there?”*

During this delay, “J” looked at her hand again and thought “Why on earth did I ask for kings -- I've got all 4 of them”!

So “J” bid 7 NT and made it -- the only pair out of 15 tables to do so. Top board! (3 other pairs bid 6NT and made 7.)

*I can detect some likely candidates for my “Play to Improve” seminars. See you all next month.*