
'Table talk'



Franklin Bridge Club Newsletter February 2018

– with Richard Solomon

Tournament Scene

The Summer Pairs Tournament – February 3rd

After weeks of scorching weather, Saturday 3rd February turned out cool and raining -perfect for sitting inside playing bridge! A terrific turnout of 22 tables meant the clubroom was full and buzzing. There was a large field of Open/Open players, which meant that none of the 4 top prizes went to Franklin Bridge Club players. However we enjoyed better results further "down the pecking order" as follows:

- Top Intermediate/Junior Caroline Griffin and Cathy Carroll (12th overall)
- Intermediate/Intermediate Julie Quilty and Kevin Birch (16th overall)
- Intermediate/Open Linda Thornton and Jim Buckland (17th overall)

The special prize for 1st Franklin Bridge Club pair was won by Lynne Geursen and Andrew Janisz (9th overall) and 1st club player including a Junior player was won by Jo Griffiths and Mae McRobbie (28th overall). The raffle was won by Jim Buckland.

Thanks to everyone who made the day such a success, especially to Tournament Secretary Maria Casci and her band of sterling helpers (directing / scoring / dealing / kitchen / morning tea contributions / flowers / raffle / eggs / bar / etc.). A huge behind-the-scenes effort goes into making these tournaments a success for our club. Also, special thanks to Linda Thornton for sponsoring the prizes.

Madeline and Nelda take on Irene and Pam ... or is there too much wine around for it to be an actual match?



There was a slightly earlier start than most to the day for Caroline Griffin, who was playing with her sister-in-law Cathy Carroll, who lives on Waiheke Island. Caroline had to leave home at 7.45am to head into town to pick up Cathy, before heading back down the motorway and to the club all before start time of 10am. This early start did not detract from their bridge, as you can see in the results above and Cathy won one of the egg prizes as well.

Caroline Griffin and Cathy Carroll . Jo Griffiths and Mae McRobbie receive their prizes from our sponsor, Linda Thornton.

As well as doing well in this tournament, Caroline Griffin, with her partner Ann Anderson got **70.0%** the following Friday. That's pretty impressive as the field that day included Nelda and Diane Conroy, and Lynne Geursen with Carol Moore.



Dealer **North**
 North ♠AK765
 N-S Vul ♥K853
 ♦K
 ♣98

West
 ♠J1098
 ♥Q7
 ♦J10962
 ♣72

N
W E
S

East
 ♠Q32
 ♥J109642
 ♦73
 ♣64

South
 ♠4
 ♥A
 ♦AQ854
 ♣KQJ1053

West	North	East	South
	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♥	Pass	5NT
Pass	6♠	Pass	7NT
All Pass			

The above hand came from the tournament and provided an ideal opportunity to bid and make 7NT. When North jumps to show a strong hand (16+ after South's change of suit at the 2 level), South should take control. 4NT was ace ask, Roman Key Card, in hearts. 5♥ showed two of the five key cards. 5NT asked for kings outside the ♥K (already shown or denied in the response to the ace ask). When North showed all three, South could count 13 tricks (2 spades, two hearts, three diamonds and six clubs) and could bid 7NT and claim even before the opening lead.

So, how many of the 22 pairs bid a grand slam? Just 6 and not one Franklin pair. Indeed, 8 pairs failed even to get to small slam. Opportunity lost.

Gold Coast Congress

This huge event is held every mid-February at the Broadbeach Convention Centre. It attracts close to 3,000 players each year from all over Australia, with several hundred going from New Zealand too. Spot the Kiwis in the results and we hope they will be near the top, especially those going from our club, Teresa Phillips and David Spencer, Carol de Luca and Bev Henton, Kevin Birch and Julie Quilty, Andrew Janisz, Sue Spencer.

Plenty of A's for Grant

Each year, New Zealand Bridge runs a competition called the Baden Wilson for the players who win most A Points in a calendar year, both for males and females. The 2017 awards were recently announced with the most A Points won by a man (and indeed by anyone) going to a member of the Franklin Bridge Club, Grant Jarvis. His total was 295.84, a pretty big total. I finished 10th on the list with 215.60.



Grant is the second highest master-point holder in New Zealand with 8313.43. Naturally, with that number of master-points, he is a Gold Grand Master. Many club members may not know him as he does not play club bridge. He teaches at Pukekohe High School but lives in South Auckland. However, he is staunchly loyal to the Franklin Club, proud to call it his home club.

Lessons

Lessons started on Thursday, 8th February with 20 new entrants. This is an excellent response to our newspaper advertising and notices in the back of our members' car windows. Thank you to everyone who displayed the notices and good luck to Debbie and Chris with their lesson programme.

Wednesday partners

Maureen will be away for the early part of March. If you need a partner for the Buckland Pairs, starting on 14th March, please ask her early. Otherwise Madeline Dodds, who does Friday partners, has kindly agreed to hold the fort. Madeline's phone no. is **232 8800**.

Wednesday raffle

We had a night in early February overflowing with the bounty of people's gardens - tomatoes, beans, plums, lemons, herbs - a total of 12 prizes. Please support the raffle - 50 cents gets you 2 opportunities to win.

Housekeeping Matters

It has been pointed out to us that our polystyrene cups are recyclable. They have a triangle with a **6**. So please, do recycle them but **don't** just throw them into the recycle bin, or it will be overflowing well before the bin is emptied (it's only done fortnightly). If you use the polystyrene cups, please put rinse them and put the used ones into the sink in the main room and nest the next one into it. At the end of the night, the nest can be put into the recycling bin.

Calling slow drinkers

Yes, every bridge club has them, rather like slow players. If you are one of those players who like to sip away at your tea or coffee long after Karlene has been round for her final "pick-up", please do not just take your cup to the kitchen bench and leave it there ... or even worse not taking it into the kitchen at all! We do not have a "fairy dishwasher" who magically appears to wash up your cup and saucer. On a recent bridge night, **19** dirty cups were on the benchtop and in the sink, requiring attention when the lights went out.

So, please rinse your cup and saucer and leave it upside down to drain. Alternatively, drink just a little quicker and make sure it is on the servery before Karlene leaves.

"Slow payers extra money needs be paid (you have paid your sub, haven't you?)

Slow players may end with boards unplayed.

Yet, rinse your dishes if you are slow at the drink

and leave them upturned on the bench next to the sink."

Interclub

Interclub starts on Friday night, 16th March and runs for 9 months until November. Linda Thornton is co-ordinating teams to be entered. Please see Linda if you would like to play, or are available to be an occasional reserve.

Social Update

"Wetting the baby's head."

Congratulations to Teresa and Neal on the birth of their first grandchild, a little girl on 10th February, Sorcha Nora. Sorcha's Daddy is Irish and so is her name. In what we hope will be a nice tradition (well, I thought so!), all present on the night of Monday February 12th enjoyed a celebratory drink. Thanks for providing that, Neal and Teresa.

Next month they will move into their new house. Teresa is looking forward to her first brand-new kitchen. It's been a busy summer for them.

"Electric" Sean

Great to see Sean Wilson back at bridge albeit with a plate in his collarbone which will set off airport alarms!

More A's than Grant Jarvis?

Well, maybe not but the Fulton household are pretty pleased with the number twins Logan and Poppy have just got.

Joy reigned in the Fulton household in mid-January when the Cambridge equivalent of year 11 (old 5th form) exams were announced. Logan and Poppy both got straight A's for all subjects, a great effort. The twins were delighted to get one over big brother Harri, who also

got straight A's in the same exams, except for the hated English Lit. which was compulsory. Harri had excellent results at University of Canterbury last year, and is pursuing his studies in Mechatronics.

Happy Chinese New Year

The Year of the Dog started on 16th February. This should be of particular interest to anyone born in 1934/46/58/70/82. People born in the year of the dog are said to be clever, courageous, loyal, conservative and stubborn. It does not say whether they are destined to be good bridge players 😊.

And remember the "Dessert Evening"

Have a bite to eat at home then come join us for dessert and scintillating conversation on Friday the 23rd February at 7pm.

Franklin Bridge Club's Great Dessert Competition !



Bake/cook your favourite dessert which will be tasted and judged by our three judges. "Peoples' choice" will be decided by looks alone by placing a gold coin in a jar in front of your choice. All coins collected will then go to the winner. Desserts will be shared after the judging is completed.

Those of you who are not so good at making desserts are still very welcome, with or without dessert.

BYO. Bring your friends and family



too.

See you next month ... or maybe for dessert.

Richard Solomon

