

## TABLE TALK October 2020



It's just nice to be back playing live bridge again. Some of us have enjoyed playing on-line too but the cosy atmosphere of our clubrooms and friendly opponents face to face is something special. ...and that new roof. It looks great.



*thanks, Carol (De Luca), our special paparazzi photographer*

**They are just glad to be back**



*Audrey Barnett, Heather Walden  
and Mae McRobbie*



*Henriette Annabel, Bev Donaldson,  
Frances Gale and a reappearance from  
Heather Walden*



*Eating and drinking....that's Carol  
De Luca accompanied by Neil  
Miller*



*well, Maggie Urlich is pretty happy  
and we are sure Jan Rae really is...  
it's just she is not showing it!*

*while Margaret Van Der Coeur, Jim Buckland and Ann Anderson are certainly in  
a good space.*



### **The Welcome Back to Bridge Event, The Individual: Sunday 11th October**

Isn't it great to be back at bridge! 40 players attended the above event, a nice round number of 10 tables for Arie to manage. Although at times it was a bit like herding cats, as we swivelled around at our tables, then followed the instructions as to where to move, Arie kept a tight grip on it all and in the end 24 boards were played with 24 different partners. Players brought along delicious plates of food to share with a free glass of wine provided, and various spot prizes were presented during the afternoon.

e.g. "Who came the furthest to play?" answer Linda Thornton, who lives far up the Awhitu Peninsula and came 54km.

"Look behind your 7NT bidding card - if it says "Winner" you are!" Won by Madeleine.

As far as playing goes, Darren Old won the day. Kevin Griffin was 2nd and Yvonne Baettig got the prize for being closest to 50%. A big well done to Caroline Griffin and Arie for organisation and operational excellence.

### **Player News**

What did you all do during the second lockdown? It seemed harder somehow. The optimism of the first one had largely gone, and the weather was rubbish. Quite a few sub-groups of FBC members set up informal bridge in their homes, at both a purely social and more competitive level. The committee are exploring this option in case we get locked down again (fingers crossed **NOT**)

Other members had various projects:

- Sandra Sitton and her family did the Coast to Coast walk -- 16km from Onehunga to the Viaduct, via Cornwall Park in perfect weather.



*"Coast to Coast"*

- Life went on as usual out on the farms -- the Philips's docked hundreds of lambs



*Docking at Neal and Teresa's*

- David Spencer introduced his granddaughter Ashley to a 3-day old thoroughbred foal on their property



*A proud grandfather*

- Belinda and Kerry Summerville moved into their new house at Puni. They've been living in a bus, then a tiny apartment for the last 2 years while building. Belinda loves the new space.

- Roni and Tamara worked hard on their new house at Pokeno and hope to move in in mid- November. Roni said that winter frosts were hard on his fledgling orchard, but he is hoping that most of it will recover.
- Maria and Chris bought a campervan and after a couple of trial runs are heading off to the South Island very soon, carrying their E-bikes and hoping to do some extensive E-biking on the West Coast. We wish them happy and safe travels.
- Remember that cute little 10-year old boy who used to help his Mum clear up supper cups in 2015? How time flies - Diesel turned 15 during lockdown.

### "Ex-pat news"

- Tina and Will Fulton are loving life down on the Kapiti Coast and have finalised plans for the major renovation of their house. Tina said "We're back to playing bridge at Paraparaumu now that we're in level 1. During level 2, we played up at Waikanae as they were open and were propositioned to join their club at almost every table! It's very aged down here and I think clubs are worried about their sustainability. It seems every week we're standing in respect of another club member who has passed ...so you can imagine why we've been made very welcome! "Harri finishes up his degree this year and is part of a group working on a miniaturised piece of healthcare equipment.



*This may be Will or Tina but it is certainly a lovely Kapiti sunset.*

- James Fulton is "absolutely loving" being back in Wellington and working at Barnardo's. His office is right in the middle of the city and he's currently residing with sister Suzi and her family and so is very content. He had attended an in-house tournament at Paraparaumu with Tina and Will and came 3rd overall. He was pretty happy with that.
- Irene Bronlund is still enjoying living in Taumarunui with her daughter and family. She told our roving reporter: "I did manage a trip away in between the lockdowns. In early August, we travelled via Whakatane where we spent a night with my sister. On down to Hicks Bay on the East Coast and inland about 15 miles to the Waikura Station . My grandson has been made manager of 5000 acres and he is not yet 21. My son and family came up from Gisborne making 10 of us to spend the weekend and celebrate my birthday. It was also up the same valley that my daughter Nita and Dave had worked a few years ago. So, it was a trip up memory lane for her. We all had a wonderful time. I just looked out the window but that was enough. The lovely bush and paddocks with cows and sheep. We came home via Whakatane again and spent two more days there."
- It was nice to have a visit from Sue Walls in the first week of school holidays. Part of her Christchurch school was burned down in March, and they are gradually recovering from that.

### **New Jobs**

Debbie Sullivan has stepped down from committee roles as her husband Mike is in the frontline of Covid.

John Fergusson has taken over from Debbie as our Training and Recruitment Manager. John is keen to canvass other clubs and find out how they recruit new members (and keep them), and is looking for new and interesting ideas.

And thanks to Dennise Biddick, who has taken over updating our Facebook page.

### **Medical Role-Call**

We understand that some of our members are not in the best of health at the moment, and send our best wishes to you all. None of this is Covid-related. Jo Griffiths, on the other hand, has recovered well from her foot operation, graduated from plaster to a moonboot and is already back to bridge. She even managed to squeeze in a trip to Ohakune, minding wee grandson Archie while his parents skied and snowboarded on Mt. Ruapehu. It was good to see Jo back at bridge, at the Welcome Back event.

### **Date for your diary**

Friday October 30<sup>th</sup> in the evening when Franklin are hosting, as usual, a heat of the Babich Wines New Zealand Wide Pairs. The event raises money for the New Zealand Bridge Foundation for the betterment of bridge and is also a fun night's bridge. The same 24 boards will be played at about 55 clubs all around New Zealand at the same time, with the overall scores coming from all heats blended together. You get a booklet commenting about the hands after play. (I believe it is a good read. I hope it is. I wrote it!)

We start off with a Pot Luck Dinner (you can just come for the bridge if you prefer) and all up, it is a fun night. No complicated systems allowed. Watch for the entry list on the club whiteboard.

### **And last (and dare I say "least"?) The Blokes**

So, you really want to see them? Why? OK, here they are. Back at bridge and smiling, too.



*Dirk Mooy, Robert Brake, Stuart Orton and Keith Williams*



*Hey, what is this? It's nice to see Grant Jarvis playing a session at the club, here with teammates Andrew Janisz and Trevor Robb*

## Are you still smiling?

### Pay out to brilliancy.

Back to live bridge and a Monday night deal to get the West players rather worried. Would the smile be on your face as West in 3NT after you receive the ♥3 lead? This is what you would see:

East Deals  
N-S Vul

♠ A K 8 5		♠ 4 2
♥ 8 6 2		♥ K Q 10 7
♦ J 8 5 3		♦ K
♣ A 6		♣ K J 9 8 5 3

  

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		1 ♣	Pass
1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
3 NT	All pass		

North had to lead a suit bid by their opponents and chose the low heart. Declarer put up the ♥K which won the first trick. No ♥J appeared. Next came a club to the ace and a second club to the ♣J and South's ♣Q. (Another in the never- ending line of losing finesses!) South cashed ♦A and switched to a spade, a reprieve for declarer. The only way to get to dummy's clubs was to play a heart and hope to guess right.

Well, which heart would you play from the East hand? Guess right and you will have 9 tricks. Guess wrong and you will be three tricks short of your contract. Are you still smiling about live bridge?!

Why should you guess right? Perhaps, pay out to when an opponent does something clever like holding up the ♥A on the first round. Yet, play to win when an opponent has merely followed suit.

These were the four hands:

East Deals	♠ Q 10 9 7		
N-S Vul	♥ A 9 4 3		
	♦ Q 9 2		
	♣ 10 7		
♠ A K 8 5	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; background-color: #008000; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin: 0 auto;"> <span style="font-size: 1.2em; margin-right: 5px;">W</span> <span style="font-size: 1.2em; margin-right: 5px;">N</span> <span style="font-size: 1.2em; margin-left: 5px;">E</span> </div>	♠ 4 2	
♥ 8 6 2		♥ K Q 10 7	
♦ J 8 5 3		♦ K	
♣ A 6		♣ K J 9 8 5 3	
	♠ J 6 3		
	♥ J 5		
	♦ A 10 7 6 4		
	♣ Q 4 2		
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		1 ♣	Pass
1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
3 NT	All pass		

West guessed wrong and inserted ♥10 and dummy was lost forever..3 down. My advice is to “pay out” or fail when South has done something clever. They may not hold the ace. Why presume they held up first time? If they have, well defended. Yet, even if South held ♥A, they may have taken it at trick 1. Thus, the chances of South holding the ♥A have diminished. West probably should have had a smile on their face and made their contract.

Did you?

Keep smiling. Keep playing live bridge and we will be back with another “Table Talk” in November.

*Richard Solomon*