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# 'Table talk'

**Franklin Bridge Club Newsletter  
June 2018 – with Richard Solomon**



## Happy 60 years, Franklin Bridge Club

The most important event of the last month occurred on Sunday 24th June when the club celebrated 60 years of bridge in Pukekohe. The Committee, and particularly the special sub-committee consisting of:

Principal: Irene Bronlund with Nelda Wormald, Sue Spencer and Caroline Griffin

organised a fabulous day to celebrate this milestone. After morning tea with a mass of food and a room a buzz with conversation, everyone sat round nicely laid lunch tables to hear the speeches. There were words of welcome from current President, Kevin Birch. To accommodate the local paper reporter, there was the cutting of the cake by Pae Forgie, the oldest past member there present.



*Pae Forgie is all concentration as she cuts the Anniversary Cake, with moral assistance from Kevin Birch.*

This was followed by a short speech from current patron, Nelda Wormald and then the history of the club as told by current Vice-President, Arie Geursen, who has been very much part of the club since the late 1980's.

Arie took the 70+ present through the story of the club from its first days through some difficult times at the Gun Club and the Recreation Centre. Arie retold the story of his battle with Franklin Council and how he fought to get this club its current premises, no quick or easy battle. He finished bringing us up to date with our lovely, warm, comfortable club-rooms.



While so many have given time, expertise and financial support to the club, no-one has been so instrumental in the success story that the Franklin Bridge Club is than Arie himself. His help and expertise did not end with the acquiring of the building but he continued to bring his great organisational and directing skills to the club ... and he is now back again at the club after a period away.

*Arie relives the Club's history*

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*Maureen and Steve enjoying the day.*

There were other speakers after Arie and then a lovely two course catered lunch ... and finally what we all love doing, a session of bridge, with many brand new partnerships enjoying the boards.

- 1st Lynne Geursen and Madeline Dodds
- 2nd George MacDonald and Kevin Birch
- 3rd Jim Buckland and Darren Old



*Pam Lorimer, Irene Bronlund and Jocelyn Hunter enjoy their dessert. It looks like Pam and Irene have already enjoyed the wine!*



*Madeline had a great afternoon getting the top score, with a bit of help from partner, Lynne Geursen. May McRobbie looks like she is having a fine time as well.*

It was lovely seeing many former members there. There was a special welcome for Peter Gray, one of the club's most lovable characters, a priest who always looked for some divine assistance by placing an ever hopeful hand on his shoulder before he played a contract. He would refer to St. Jude, the patron saint of lost causes! Maureen shared a story of playing with Father Peter, opposite Steve Broiles and his partner. The other 3 were contesting the bidding, and after passing several rounds, Father Peter suddenly emerged with 5♣. Maureen looked up in astonishment and quick as a flash, Steve smiled and said "Maureen, you have to realise that Father Peter still believes in miracles!"

From what I remember when defending against Father Peter, that help was often at hand!

Peter now lives at Manly on Whangaparaoa and plays bridge three times a week at the Orewa Bridge Club.

*Here's hoping you gave Peter a good dummy, Nelda. Peter is in deep thought trying to outwit Arie Geursen and Dirk Mooy.*



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As well as the Organising Committee, a special thanks to the following:

- Judy Collins and Sue Helleur for the cake
- Ann Anderson for the beautiful camellias from her garden, which graced the tables
- Gerald Baptist, our club member, of Quality Catering, who catered a wonderful carvery lunch at cost
- Gary Logan, our photographer
- all the people who helped set up and decorate (and later take down) the room, including blowing up all the "60th" balloons.

What a great way to spend a wet Sunday.

**And other weekend occasions:**

## **Ultra Restricted in-house Pairs – Sunday May 20th**

The "ultra" restriction meant that every playing pair had to include at least one Junior. 8 tables turned out, the same level as 2017, and the top pairs were:

- **North-South** Belinda Summerville (Novice) and Henrietta Annabel (Intermediate)
- **East-West** Caroline Griffin (Junior) and Kevin Birch (Intermediate)

Everyone brought afternoon tea to share. All the table money was distributed as prizes and everyone had a happy and interesting day.

## **Social evening 25th May**

Over to Christine Lyons "A foul winter's night didn't stop members and friends coming out for the Great Pie Competition. Delicious offerings included a fish pie, variety of chicken pies, two bacon and egg pies (one with home-made cheese pastry), or if your taste ran to sweeter things a delicious rhubarb and butterscotch tart. The winner on the night was Madeline's smoked chicken pie with herbs in a béchamel sauce, which is a recipe from her mother's handwritten recipe book, It was a terrible night for driving and en route to the gathering, the pie had survived an "incident" on the hill at Onewhero, when a Fonterra truck braked hard and suddenly in front of Madeline's car. We are glad to report that despite the fright, Madeline, the pie and the car were all fine."

*No, it's not MasterChef Pukekohe but judges had a pretty tough job! That's Jon Taylor, Dennise Biddick and Andrew Janisz hard at work.*



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Second equal were Sue Walls and Josie with Jim's fish pie highly recommended and commented on at length by Andrew, one of our esteemed judges. Thanks to our 3 wonderful judges Andrew, Dennise and Jon. Some of you may know that Jon is an expert on pie tasting as he has travelled New Zealand in search of the best pie. Maybe he could give us a rundown on his findings at some stage?

*and plenty of discussion from those present as well! I am sure they were all discussing the merits of the pies!*



There was no Social Friday night in June as we had our 60th Anniversary on Sunday 24th June. July will see a return to our Friday Social evening with a Mid- Winter Christmas. Mark the 27th July in your diaries.

## **CALLING YOUR NON BRIDGE PLAYING FRIENDS, FAMILY and NEIGHBOURS**

Everyone has them. You know, those "I've always wanted to learn types but ..." Tell them "now is the hour" or to be more exact Thursday July 5th at 7.15pm. Please let them know about the first lesson. No excuses accepted!

And those who paid for the earlier set of lessons in February are very welcome to repeat them at no charge.

## **Thursday Night's a great Bridge Night**

Yes, it is all happening on Thursday nights at the Franklin Bridge Club. Chris has just completed a successful Improvers Series ... and now it's back to Supervised Play. That will be on one side of the room while the next series of Beginners' lessons takes places on the other. It is great to see a bridge club used so much for the playing of bridge.

## **From the Partner Convenors...**

It's now 6 months since you signed up many of your partners at last year's AGM. Please touch base with your partner before each series to ensure you're both committed to play, as we've already had some mix-ups. And please check if you're in a 3-week or 4-week round. If you've changed your phone number, please let Chris Glyde know. It's quite a good idea to tell your future partners too.

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# Wednesday Night News



Wednesday Teams start on 1st August for 4 weeks. The format will be the same as in previous years. You put your name down and will be allocated to a team. Every effort is made to produce balanced teams, so every team has a good chance of winning.

This is an ideal time for the Thursday night players to give Wednesdays a go, and meet some new people. It is a fun format. Each team is given a colour and players are encouraged (but not forced!) to wear team colours. Team captains sit South and play with all 3 of the other players, so that it's a constant rotation.

Starting with the team captains, each player brings along a bottle of wine. (*We believe they do not take the bottle home after bridge and the bottles are certainly opened! So it's pretty relaxed.*)

We had 11 teams last year, 12 the year before. If you can't play all **4** weeks, Maureen would be glad to hear if you can be a reserve, and which weeks. With 44-48 players, there's always someone not well or unavailable. Maureen will soon be circulating a sheet for people to put their names down as wanting to play, or you can email her at [msnelson.nz@gmail.com](mailto:msnelson.nz@gmail.com)

And following the Teams, we have the Individual Pairs for 3 weeks. This is in a new format. Each week you play with a **different partner**. So if you've signed someone up for all 3 weeks, please diversify as noted in the programme book. This is the same format as the Monday night Danes Cup round. Incidentally, we noticed on the birthday lunch display that Mrs Danes was one of the names signed to the advertisement in December 1956, calling for interest in forming a bridge club.

## Player News

### What are you up to?

Julie Quilty had only been home for two days when she came to the birthday lunch looking tanned and fit. She had walked the whole 780km Way of Saint James (El Camino de Santiago) in Spain, and then had some R and R in France prior to coming home. We have had news from Maria Casci in Italy, Croatia and England, having a very fine time indeed. And Rolf and Yvonne Baettig are due home soon from Switzerland, where their holiday centred round a school reunion for Rolf.

Best wishes to Roni and Tamara who are off to Israel for a month next week, and to Henrietta Annabel and Bev Donaldson, who take off on a "Half way round the World" cruise next month. They cruise back to New Zealand from Southampton via the Panama Canal. Roger and Janice Gregg are already cruising their way up to Southampton and will return with Hennie and Bev -- now they only need a fourth . . . . .

Best wishes to Heather Walden, whose florist shop "Designer Flowers" is a finalist in the Retail section of the Pukekohe Business Association "Best in Business Awards 2018".

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## Table Money or the card



Although our treasurer always says she's happy to receive any denominations and is grateful when people "lay the notes flat", she was bemused on a recent Wednesday night when Table 1 rendered their table money as:

7 x \$2 coins

3 x \$1 coins (one of them Australian)

6 x 50 cent coins

15 x 20 cent coins, one of which was Australian (smaller and lighter)

10 x 10 cent coins

Can she recommend table money vouchers to you? \$30 for 5 vouchers, \$60 for 10. We are happy to have payment in cash or on line.

And on that subject, our table money vouchers have been in circulation for nearly 2 years now, and most of them are still in pristine condition. The odd bend or crease here and there, but mostly very good. However, recently our treasurer noticed some which were very battered turning up on a Wednesday night. It didn't take much tracking down, and she gently enquired what might have caused this? The "culprit" confessed that they'd bought 10 vouchers, taken them home in their trouser pocket and then put them through the washing machine.

## Back to the Anniversary Pairs

Where else for a hand this month but to the 60th Anniversary session, a combative but very friendly session after speeches lunch and wine. One club member told me they enjoyed reading these "Table Talks" but did not always understand the hands. So, this month's hand is one that player should understand and is a good educational one for those new to the club and the game.

It's nice bidding and playing hands with lots of high cards and long suits. Unfortunately, so often during a session, you pick up a hand like the following North hand:

♠ 9  
♥ 953  
♦ T8653  
♣ J854

Have you seen a hand like that before? Often? Not much to do with that hand, you might say, other than "pass"! Not true! This was the bidding:

West	North	East	South
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		1♥	x
Pass	?		

Well, the look on the North player was far from enjoyment of a wonderful day. The double asks you to bid. Do you really want to with that hand? You may not want to but you have to. As West passed, if you pass, the

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contract will become 1♥x as East is likely to pass as well. Even though your partner has a reasonable hand, it is unlikely that they can beat 1♥ on their own especially as they will not have many hearts.

The weaker you are the more is the case for bidding. Indeed, unless you have really long hearts, you should bid no matter what is the strength of your hand. What to bid? The answer is your longest suit. So, North must hear bid 2♦. Yet, North's torment was not quite over as the bidding continued:

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	What was your partner saying? They had a really strong hand (16+ high card points as with less they would have overcalled 2♣ on the previous round.) with at least 5 clubs. This time, with a really weak hand, you are allowed to pass. Indeed, there's two good bits of news: a. you have 4 clubs. b. if East passes, you will be dummy!
		1♥	x	
Pass	2♦	2♥	3♣	
Pass	?			

Indeed, East did pass. West led a heart and after you laid down your dummy, partner said "nice hand, partner" and this time really meant it!

Board 18

Dealer **North**  
 East ♠ 9  
 N-S vul ♥ 953  
 ♦ 108653  
 ♣ J854

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
		1♥	Dbl
Pass	2♦	2♥	3♣
All pass			

<b>West</b>	N W E S	<b>East</b>
♠ 10765		♠ AQ32
♥ J74		♥ AQ1086
♦ QJ74		♦ K9
♣ 62		♣ Q9
	<b>South</b>	
	♠ KJ84	
	♥ K2	
	♦ A2	
	♣ AK1073	

Declarer lost one diamond, ♥A and two spade tricks to make 9 tricks ... and scored an above average board, achieved by sensible bidding. So, just because you have a really bad hand with almost no high card points does not mean you always pass. If the opposition do not rescue you with a bid, you have to bid ... and will often achieve a good result from doing so.



**Here's to another  
 happy 60 years of  
 bridge at the Franklin  
 Bridge Club**