
'Table talk'

Franklin Bridge Club Newsletter August 2016

- with Richard Solomon



So you did not read the July issue? Well, you were not the only one. Sorry, but a bumper issue this month.

Some go: some come

Let's start by wishing Henk and Christine Egelmeer a wonderful holiday/family visit to Europe. They will be away from mid- month and will not be back until October.

It was lovely to see Wendy and Terry Prior at our last Wednesday session for July, as they were house-sitting for friends in Bombay for a week. They have found the Katikati Bridge Club welcoming but found it great to be back among Franklin Bridge Club friends, if only for one night.



Hi James. That's James Harris who is now living in Nelson. Debbie Sullivan got him recently to the bridge table. They finished third in the home club's Junior Tournament.

Clever Girl Our youngest member, Poppy Fulton is a multi-talented student. She and two school friends recently won the Classroom Couture section of the Ag Art Wear competition at the Mystery Creek Fieldays, a prestigious competition that challenges designers to create artistic garments using materials sourced from the farm, rural industries and the natural environment.

This year's theme was "Off the Farm" and the girls' garment was called "The Duchess of Docking". It was a "ball-gown" made of onion sacks, lambs' wool, docking rings and big hair. Poppy said it took just over 3 months to create their winning garment, working every weekend and a few late nights. The sacking was sewn on a machine, and all docking rings were sewn on by hand. There were 936 docking rings on the front and more than 1300 on the

back. The docking rings were donated by a local company. *And she can play bridge, too.*

And what did you do on your 40th Wedding Anniversary?

(Apologies to those of you who are way too young to have reached that number.)

The truth was out on the evening of Friday July 22nd. You see I had rather double-booked. Chris and I were having a lot of trouble arranging a starting date for the Improvers Class I am running currently on Friday nights. Eventually, with great relief, we settled on Friday July 22nd. Now, just because Chris was not at our wedding in London on Thursday July 22nd 1976 is no excuse for his being **unaware** of the clash of dates. He should have told me!

Fortunately:

1. I realised the clash at least two weeks in advance.
2. Kath is a very understanding wife. (You may say that 40 years of living with me proves the point! You "may" if you dare!)

The show must go on and it did with 24 turning up to the first Friday session, overseas absence reducing the number a little the next week.

In case you are interested in coming along, we start at 7pm each Friday night in August (**but not Friday August 12th when I will be in Christchurch**) and you bid, play and defend hands which we discuss afterwards. You also get some notes about what we have discussed. The level is Intermediate but it is also great to have keen Junior players too. Everyone can pick up something from playing, listening and asking questions.

Just turn up. In theory, we play until about 9.15 but in practice, you will not leave the club before 10pm.

Oh ... and the really important news is that Kath and I had a lovely meal out on Thursday July 21st ... and we were still married to celebrate the following day!

Club Intermediate and Junior Pairs. July 24th

What a neat Sunday afternoon at the club this was with 9 tables of club pairs including 7 players fresh out of the Beginners' Class giving it a go. My "spy" tells me they found "the rest of us" to be friendly and welcoming. Hopefully, they will be back this coming Sunday (August 7th) for the next such Sunday session, an event where every pair must contain at least one Junior/new player.

I am sure the usual Franklin hospitality will be around on the 7th. It was on 24th July with a fine spread of Franklin food supplied by the players while there was a free glass of wine or juice provided by the Club. (*The club is not that mean ... **a free glass per player!***) The grade winners this day were:

Novice/Novice Caroline Griffin and Mandy Rusk

Junior/Junior Scott and George McDonald

Junior/Intermediate Maria Casci and Chris Glyde

Intermediate/Intermediate Christine Lyons and Robert Brake

Meanwhile, session prizes were won by Yvonne and Rolf Baettig and Jo Griffiths and Sue Walls.

Remember the date: Sunday August 7th at 1.30pm

Club Individual. In the last "Table Talk", we announced this would take place on Sunday September 4th. A difficulty has arisen in that this is "Fathers' Day". It seems Arie may not be available to direct (perhaps because Lynne is going to cook him a scrumptious all-day breakfast that day? Remind her, Arie!). The event will still take place but probably on a different date. The Individual is an event for which we do need Arie's expertise.

Listen out for Chris's announcement about this at the club's sessions. "What? You always listen?" Well done, if you do.

A "Colourful event". We hope the Wednesday night Teams which starts on August 3rd will be.

Teams are formed by a committee and are usually given names of the colours of the rainbow, plus any other colours required. We have 12 teams this year. Last year's winners were the "Black" team, Neal Phillips, Judy Collins, Margaret van der Coer and Richard Taine. The previous year's second place was won by a team called "Men With Beards", Chris Glyde, Kevin Birch, Steve Broiles and Neville Guy. Players are encouraged to wear the colours of their team and a good time is had by all.

New Zealand Bridge Teachers Conference July 16th / 17th at the Franklin Bridge Club.

This did not affect many at the club directly but several members were involved. The Weekend was a most successful conference with 60 bridge teachers and club officials from all around New Zealand taking part in the one and a half day event.

While you may not have been present, the event proved a great showcase for our club, for the magnificent club-rooms, for the support I received in running the event and for the fine contributions from club members present. Arie Geursen, as NZ Bridge President, opened the Conference. Chris Glyde and Debbie Sullivan talked about our club and how it was addressing the issues which affect all smallish clubs around the country. Will Fulton was one of the guest speakers. He spoke really well about his experiences of becoming a new bridge player. Those



of us who know Will will know he spoke positively and with humour about his experiences as a player new to bridge. His hour long talk inspired all who listened.

Thanks also to Christine Lyons who oversaw the excellent catering and also to those who gave beds to the attendees, Christine and Robert, Debbie, Doug Hull, Will and Tina and Pam Lorimer. Also to Jim Buckland for assisting with airport transfers. Jim and I would agree we had "plenty of time" to get to know the attendees as we drove them from the airport to Pukekohe, especially on the Friday afternoon.

Does "Auckland Airport" look like this?

Rubber Bridge News

There is good and bad news here. The good is that there are some excellent cooks at the club. The "bad" is that being a good cook is a sign of holding bad cards for Rubber Bridge. "Bad cards" are a lot of cards of 10 and lower, consistently over 30 boards.

Since the last "Table Talk", Tina Fulton put on a lovely dinner for Carol De Luca and myself but then along with Will, showed themselves to be perfect hosts by giving us far more than our share of aces and kings. A few weeks later, in the Franklin final, Carol turned on a feast but when it came to the bridge, Carol and I found "famine". This means that Chris and Maria will be the club representatives in the later stages of the Rubber Bridge competition. They play the Auckland Club heat winners first. The winner of that match must play the Akarana Club winners to see who will represent our Region in the National finals in Hamilton in late September.



What the Rubber Bridge competition is really all about. Oh, eventually, we did get round to throwing a few cards too. The wine glasses on the table were, of course, purely ornamental and not touched! (One "drinks from" rather than "touches" a wine glass.)

Some advice, Chris and Maria. Eat out!

Practising for Poland

That's Andrew and Trevor whose next international outing is getting very close. By the end of this month, they will be off to Poland as part of the New Zealand Seniors Team competing in the World Olympiad. Follow their progress on-line. The event runs from September 3rd to 17th. I know all at the club wish them the best of luck. "Luck"? Yes, even the best need it to sit on their shoulder at times.

And for those not quite up to that level yet.

"Calling our newest ... our Novices"

We've already commented how you are mixing it with other members of the club. We hope you are enjoying the Thursday evening sessions. Here's another event you could play:

Sunday September 25th at the Distinction Hotel, Te Rapa, Hamilton

Novice Pairs at 2.00pm ... an event for those very new to the game. The actual criteria for playing are "Any Junior player who started playing in 2014 or later or anyone of Novice Rank as at 1st January 2016 (that's anyone with less than 5A and B Points combined).

If you are not sure you qualify, ask a more experienced player. You will never have been to a bridge congress before. There will be about 500 players from all round New Zealand and Australia and even further away taking part..all in the same room. It's OK. You will only be playing against those of your level..playing something like 20 boards. It's a tremendous experience.

Get a partner. Give it a go. Several from Franklin went last year and loved it.

You can pre-enter on the New Zealand Bridge website but the easiest way to enter is to send me an email at Richard.solomon@nzbridge.co.nz and tell me. \$10 per player for a fascinating afternoon. You can be home shortly after 7.00pm.

And for all Club Members. Remember the National Congress is not just for Open players. Intermediates and Juniors will for example love the Intermediate Teams on Thursday September 29th or the Intermediate Pairs on Friday September 30th. Check it all out on www.nzbridge.co.nz The Congress runs from Saturday September 24th until Saturday October 1st.

Board 5 **North**
Dealer ♠ AKQ53
North ♥ AJ104
N-S Vul ♦ 43
♣ K8

West
♠ 976
♥ K763
♦ Q62
♣ 1042

N
W E
S

East
♠ 842
♥ 52
♦ 1097
♣ Q9765

South
♠ J10
♥ Q98
♦ AKJ85
♣ AJ3

Mae and Ann's grand experience

This board came from Friday daytime play in mid-July and saw Ann Anderson (South) and Mae McRobbie (North) being the only one out of 6 North/ Souths to bid and make 7NT. Indeed, only two other pairs bid to the 6 level. As North, Mae opened 1♠ and jumped to 3♥ over Ann's 2♦ response. Ann checked on aces and went all the way. She held her nerve, too, as West led a heart. Ann finessed and soon had five spade and four heart tricks along with a pair of minor-suit ace kings to record the excellent 2220 score.

Board 14 **North**
 Dealer ♠ QJ10732
 East ♥ K9
 Nul Vul ♦ 9
 ♣ KQ62

West		East
♠ 65	N W E S	♠ K84
♥ 1087632		♥ AQJ5
♦ Q10875		♦ KJ2
♣ —		♣ 943

South
 ♠ A9
 ♥ 4
 ♦ A643
 ♣ AJ10875

Don't be Afraid of Bidding. Roni wasn't!

Both North and South were a little shy about bidding on this deal from a recent Wednesday night ... and rather paid the price. The same could hardly be said of Roni Bistricher, who sat West:

West	North	East	South
		1 NT	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All pass		
4♥	by East		

After she opened 1NT (12-14), Debbie Sullivan (East) loved the sound of Roni's transfer to hearts and made what is called a "super-accept", a jump bid to

show four card trump support and a maximum hand.

Roni did not let her down by raising to game despite holding only two high card points!

He was right too. South led the ♣A. Debbie ruffed, took a successful heart finesse, drew the remaining trump and then played on diamonds. She made 11 tricks for the only East-West score on the board.

To beat 4♥, South must make the unlikely lead of the ♦A and continue a diamond. North ruffs and switches to spades ... two spade tricks, two diamond ruffs and the ♦A would mean two down. However, even that would be a terrible result for North-South who can make a small slam in clubs!

Both North and South were too timid. After the 1NT opening, South should jump to 3♣ (most pairs have an artificial meaning for 2♣.) or else show a single suited club suit (forget diamonds) by some means. Yet, even after South's pass, North should bid 2♠ over the transfer. Either action will get North-South to some game. It is true an immediate club lead beats 4♠ by North while the club slam is only 50% on the spade finesse. However, not bidding at all is not winning bridge. Watch Roni. He did not need very long to count his high-card points but he still found the raise to game.

"Silence" is not always "golden".

Happy Bridging.

Richard Solomon

**Remember 7th August 1.30pm
 ... and play with a Junior. Bring a plate.**