

'Table Talk'

Franklin Bridge Club Newsletter

June 2019

National Title for Grant



Grant Jarvis and his New Plymouth partner, Pam Livingston, won the National Swiss Pairs competition, held in mid -June at the New Plymouth Club. It was the second year running that Grant had won this event. Congratulations.

Our winter is not that cold but... several of our players have found somewhere warmer to go...

Maybe some of our Wednesday players are sunning themselves as well with numbers down to 12 and 13 and a half tables the last two weeks.

- Julie Quilty, who is visiting her daughter in Tarragona, in sunny Spain on the Mediterranean coast south west of Barcelona. Tarragona is an ancient port city dating back to Roman times There is a walled medieval Old Town and a Roman amphitheatre dating back to 2nd century. The temperature in Barcelona as we write is 27 degrees
- Trevor, Lynne and Arie are still away on their European trip which involves a Mediterranean cruise.

- Margaret and David Gardiner have gone to Whistler, Canada for a family reunion -- two of their sons live in other countries, the other in Auckland. Many congratulations to Margaret and David for reaching a milestone wedding anniversary and best wishes for a happy time together with your family.
- Gill and Dermot Murphy are "grandchild sitting" in Italy
- Robert and Christine are currently in Leipzig, only mid 80's at present! They are soon to go to an Andre Rieu concert in Belgium.
- We're not sure if this qualifies as "in search of warmth and sunny skies", but Bron and John Fergusson are away for a month in England, visiting John's family near Salisbury and having a holiday. We wish them safe travels.

However, it does say something about Wednesday night numbers that we refer to them being "down" to those numbers. A year ago, those numbers were the norm.

Club Individual Tournament, Sunday 7th July 1.00pm . \$10.00 per player.

Bring a plate for afternoon tea.

You play just one board with each partner. So just come by yourself... no partner required. Any number can be accommodated. Arie will organise and as long as you are seated by 12.50pm, he will not be tearing his hair out!

Individuals are good fun...and enable you to play with and against others whom you may not have met or played with before. Give this afternoon a go.

Beginners' Lessons at the club start Thursday evening 11th July

It would be neat to have a large new group of learners. The best method of attracting new players is through **you** the club players...friends, relatives, neighbours, work colleagues. If we all encourage one or two people to give bridge a try, Debbie will do the rest and teach them.

Have you taken a laminated poster from the club to display in your car? If not, please do so and also be unofficial marketing agents for our club. We will all benefit from more new players.

Wednesday Teams

Wednesday teams start on 24th July -- always a fun format. A sheet will be circulating shortly for people to put their names down to play. You will be assigned to a team and each team has a captain and a "colour". Players are encouraged (but not forced) to wear their team colours, and each team member brings a bottle of wine for one session.

Every team member plays with every other over the 4 weeks, the 4th week to be captain's choice. The convenor says "Every effort is made to make up balanced teams. The success of this is shown by the changing leader-board over the last 5 years we have used this format. It's a really good opportunity for new members to play with others."

Memories of some 2018 Teams



An anecdote from last year: It's not always easy to find your assigned colour to wear - especially for the men and especially if it's a slightly obscure one (with 11 teams playing, the convenor has to be a bit imaginative with colours). One of the men had been on the white team in 2016, and in an attempt to make life easy for him, the convenor put him on the white team again in 2017, albeit with 3 completely different team members. At the end of the 2017 series, he said "I don't want to be white again next year", so for 2018 she assigned him to pink 😊 The convenor says "No correspondence will be entered into!"

Improvers' Classes

Thursday night's Improvers Lessons are going well with club members keen to improve their bridge to the next level. It only costs your \$6 table money to attend, and you get notes of the lessons plus practice hands to play. Come along and learn some new techniques -- it's not a bit scary!

Bravo...our Trainee Directors

The roster of trainee directors is working well. All the trainees are becoming more confident with their rulings, knowing that qualified directors Teresa Phillips and Jim Buckland are always there in case it's a really curly problem. Super-senior director Arie is still away overseas. (*calls to him are a little more expensive!*) If there's a

mistake at your table, never be afraid to call director -- they know how to sort it out, and everyone makes mistakes.

Our Inter-Club Teams in Recent Action

The recent round of Inter Cub results (Round 4) were:

Junior

Franklin Red 68	Franklin Orange	30	16,89
Franklin White	Bye		

Franklin Red are the highest placed of the three teams, in 13th place in the 21- team competition.

Intermediate

Franklin Green	56	Royle Epsom 3	54	10.50
Franklin Blue	48	Waitemata	32	13.53
Franklin Purple	57	Auckland Hayward	81	5.08

Franklin Purple scored moreimps than either of the other Franklin teams but ended up as the only losing Franklin team. Franklin Green's match was a top of the table clash after which our Green team lead by 1.62 vps and our Blue team are 3rd 3.93 vps behind. There are 22 teams with our Purple team competitive as can be seen by the above score.

Open

Franklin	85	Royle Epsom	33	18.38
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That large win shoots the Franklin team up to 3rd in the 8- team competition, though still some way behind the top two.

The Excitement of Rubber Bridge

Rubber Bridge is tactically very different from its Duplicate cousin even if its aims are similar. We do not play much Rubber Bridge in this country though one opportunity is the Auckland-Northland heat of the annual National Rubber tournament.

Only 2 Franklin Club pairs entered this year, Chris Glyde and Maria Casci and Carol De Luca and myself. We played each other in the first round. The hand (we played

30) which best demonstrated the tactics and the excitement of Rubber Bridge was the following.

Both pairs needed 40 points (that is without the part-score bonus) to make a game. (that is making 1NT or higher contract). Bid the hand with me. As South, I held:

♠ T9754

♥ 63

♦ 9864

♣ 87

Not exactly the kind of hand you want at any form of scoring but especially at Rubber Bridge!

It got worse, though. Carol, my partner, opened 1NT (12-14 high card points) and East made a penalty double.

Time to run! I had a kind of 2 suited hand and it was not the time to hang around in 1NT x! I decided to bid my lower suit first. The bidding proceeded as follows:

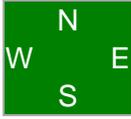
West	North	East	South
Maria	Carol	Chris	Richard
	1NT	x	2♦
Pass	Pass	x	Pass

2♥

I was safe...escaped a penalty double... but then this happened:

3♦ x

and all my worst nightmares resurfaced. However, I had not taken into account Carol's Rubber Bridge cunning as these were the 4 hands:

North Deals None Vul	♠ Q 8 ♥ A K 7 2 ♦ A Q 7 3 ♣ A J 6		
♠ K J 7 2 ♥ 10 9 8 5 ♦ 10 5 2 ♣ 9 2		♠ A 3 ♥ Q J 4 ♦ K J ♣ K Q 10 5 4 3	
	♠ 10 9 6 5 4 ♥ 6 3 ♦ 9 8 6 4 ♣ 8 7		
West Pass 2 ♥	North 1 NT Pass 3 ♦	East Dbl Dbl Dbl	South 2 ♦ Pass All pass

In Rubber, you can intentionally over or understate the value of your hand. As you can see, Carol had a 20 count, not a weak no-trump opening. She hoped either to win the hand in 1NT or else fool her opponents as to her strength. Thus, despite my weakness take-out, she was well justified in bidding again.

3♦x nearly made though my hand was just too weak and I ended down 1, doubled, -100. However, Carol and I had the better of a most enjoyable match and advanced to the second round.

Such tactical bidding just does not exist in Duplicate Bridge. Rubber Bridge is fun. Try it sometime.

See you all again in July.

Richard Solomon