

TABLE TALK – April 2021



We start this month with a story of how world-wide friendships can develop through bridge. Linda Thornton and Steve Broiles used to play bridge at the Arcadia Bridge Club in Southern California. Once a month there was a social Rubber game and Linda and Steve used to occasionally fill in and there they came across Norma Varellas.

Of course, Linda and Steve moved to New Zealand and Linda renewed her contact with Norma via Facebook. Linda and Norma met up again when Norma's cruise came to Auckland. The following year, Norma was back again and said she had been playing with Brian Craig from the Howick Bridge Club who had also been playing with our own Jenny Colgan. Linda met up with Norma at Brian's home in Central Auckland home and they all had a great time.



Linda and Norma

Then, earlier this year, Norma told Linda that she had been diagnosed with a rare, aggressive form of breast cancer. Linda felt helpless as far as helping her friend who was back in the USA. However, she contacted Brian who was also keen to offer what support he could. They decided to play a game of bridge together at Howick in Norma's honour and did so on 26th March. Brian announced why Linda was there so that everyone knew.

They scored 69.64%. Linda would like to think the good score reflected the reason why she was there. Linda and Brian hope that Norma can beat her illness so that they can all meet up once again.



Brian and Linda playing in Norma's honour, hoping she will recover and that they can all meet up once again.

Interclub

Our two Junior and one Intermediate team all got off to a good start by winning their first month's Interclub in March. This despite one of our Junior players being taken ill in the second half and being taken off to Auckland Hospital in an ambulance for an overnight stay. Many thanks to everyone who helped, especially to Ratilal, who was playing on the same team.

Calling first-aiders

With the above in mind, we are taking a census of those people who are competent first aiders.

If you have first aid skills, and/or know how to do CPR and/or use a defibrillator, please let Maureen Nelson know. We will post this on our noticeboard ready for the next time someone needs help.

For your information, our nearest 24- hour defibrillator is at the Fire Station. There is also one at Pak 'n' Save, but you have to need that one before 9pm. 😊

Back to inter club. The April round saw our three teams all record victories. Our Intermediate team, Franklin Kiwis, beat Royle Epsom Heather 114-57 and scored 18.82 vps. They are currently second on the 19- team ladder, 1.46 vps behind the leaders, Papatoetoe Rob. In the Junior event, Franklin Bellbirds beat Auckland Kerri 70-61 (12.12 vps) while Franklin Fantails beat Waiheke 66-42 (14.92 vps). The Fantails are 4th and the Bellbirds 5th in the 15- team competition.

Water Sports

Tricia Balle was very tired just before Easter, having spent the whole of the previous week being part of the administration controlling the racing for the Maadi Cup. The Maadi Cup, NZ's premier event for school rowing, is possibly the world's largest regatta, with 2600 participants. Rowers and support staff were billeted all around the district, some as far away as Putaruru. Tricia was specially thrilled that a boy from Onewhero Area School, Jack Henry, won the gold medal for under-16 single sculls. Tricia, as well as being a computer whiz, is also a very competent rower for the Mercer Club.



Come on, Tricia... don't tell me this is more tiring than playing Bridge?

Water sports of a different kind -- Ken Craze's 23-year-old granddaughter, Liana Smith, who is a top open-water swimmer was

to start out from Wellington just before Easter, aiming to swim Cook Strait. Her parents were in the support boat, and Ken was left at home in charge of 3 big dogs, but in close contact with the family via cell phone. Unfortunately, the Cook Strait weather was not kind, and the attempt had to be called off at short notice, but Liana intends to try again.

Tournament and Classes

I am sure you have all entered the tournament on 24th April and also offered help in some way where you can. Our club is well known for its friendly and full of fabulous food tournaments (“the 4 “f”s!).

The beginners’ classes under the guidance of John Fergusson and an equally important band of helpers are about half way through. We hope to see many of this group progress into club play.

Now, something for those who can play but who would like to learn a little more.

Improvers Classes ...on three Friday evenings in May

May 7th, 21st and 28th. (May 14th is Inter-Club).

Cost: standard table money: \$6.00 per session.

Please put your name on the white-board if you would like to come. (I would like to know numbers in advance).

7.00pm start. Each class lasts about 3 hours.

I have it on good authority that they are worth coming to...here’s a picture of the tutor at the last class he put on at the club!



There is no guarantee that there will be cake but I think you might enjoy them.

The first two weeks will cover the following subjects:

- **Doubles:** Negative, reopening and support doubles
- **Cue- bidding to slam**
- **Trump leads**
- **Signalling:" suit preference signals**
- **Safety plays**

The third session will be a play session where you will play 20 deals and we will review each deal after you have played them, one by one. They will cover a variety of subjects.

The subject matter will be relatively advanced. Hopefully, an opportunity to improve your bridge.

And talking of bridge....

Remember the bidding.... And you will make your contract.

This deal occurred very recently on a Monday night at the club. It demonstrates the importance of remembering the bidding. Plan how you would play to make 4♠ with the following:

South Deals ♠ K 7 2
 N-S Vul ♥ A Q 6
 ♦ A 7 4
 ♣ 8 7 3 2

N		
W	E	
S		

♠ A J 8 5 4
 ♥ K 5
 ♦ J 9 5 2
 ♣ Q 10

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 ♠
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♦
Pass	4 ♠	All pass	

The contract would have no play if West had led a club but they chose a passive heart lead, which allowed South to discard a club loser on the third round of hearts. Having done that, how do you plan to make 10 tricks?

You appear to have two diamonds and a club to lose and therefore need to play spades for no losers. That is the last suit to attack because if diamonds do not break favourably, you may need to ruff a diamond in dummy.

