
'Table talk'

Franklin Bridge Club Newsletter April 2016

With Richard Solomon

Welcome to the April issue. I always try to start with the most important piece of news first just in case you only read the first item. After this "first", you may indeed switch off! It is called:



"Egg on one's Face"

I went off early on a recent Saturday morning to Hibiscus Coast's 3A Pairs. Very very early if one is travelling that far with Carol De Luca! My wife was heading the other direction later in the morning to a christening and had laid out the ingredients for sandwiches she was taking. The eggs were in water in a pot. So, I "stole" an egg and a couple of slices of bread and made myself a nice sandwich. The egg was still a bit soft but beggars and thieves cannot expect perfection!

I enjoyed both my sandwich and the day and in the evening returned home and admitted my "theft" saying that the egg was not really hard boiled. "Indeed not", my long suffering wife smiled. The eggs had still to be cooked!

So, if you would like one of my egg sandwiches for the up-coming Franklin 3A/5B Open-Intermediate Pairs (a great way to put in a plug for that event, on May 7th), then just let me know. The liquid egg will probably have dried up by the time you eat it!

Time to move on ... well, kind of as we do want to mention that May 7th date again. Thanks very much to Maureen for the following items:

Tournaments at Pukekohe - 7th May

Many Wednesday night players believe that a quarter of our Wednesday night players have no idea of what a 3A or 5B tournament means. And I think that many of them believe "I'm not good enough to play in tournaments": so they don't.

So, if you think that comment applies to you, just read on a bit. Firstly, there are two separate tournaments. The 3A event is actually "Open" to all players but since it is the only one of the two events the stronger Monday night players can take part in, the standard is pretty high and Wednesday night players would probably steer clear of it.

However, the 8B event is quite different as most Monday night players have earned too many master-points to play in it. It is really for Wednesday night players only, along with visitors from other clubs of a similar level. The event consists of two sessions of roughly 24-26 boards, one before lunch and one after. If that seems a lot of boards to you, it is simply like playing Wednesday night and then maybe a Friday session without a sleep ... just a lunch break! You soon get into the groove and playing two sessions is really not too hard. Anyway, at the end, you can relax with a glass of wine and some delicious afternoon tea.

Junior and Intermediate players play in the same field though there are special prizes for the top Junior pairs. So, you are not competing against Intermediate pairs for the prizes you can realistically win. Above all, it's great to play in a roomful of people, a nice atmosphere with good food and plenty of raffles handled in the "fun Franklin" way. Even if you do not win at bridge, you are very likely to go home with a prize.

If you would like to play but have not got a partner, speak to the tournament Secretary, Debbie Sullivan and she will find you one. (292 4974)

Remember the date: **Saturday May 7th** at 10.00am...or a little earlier for a scrumptious morning tea. (We also request those Franklin Club players taking part to bring something nice for morning tea or even help by serving the tea and coffee before play.)

People in charge:

- Debbie Sullivan, Tournament Secretary (292 4974)
- Christine Lyons, catering (238 6091)



WORKING BEE – Saturday 16th April

We need to spruce up our clubrooms and gardens ready for all those visitors. 9am start. If you can come, maybe let David Gardiner know (239 0121) ... or just turn up. Many hands make light work.

Social



There is a new batch of Carol de Luca's delicious jellies for sale in the clubrooms, all proceeds to club funds. Many thanks to Carol for donating her time and the ingredients.

We are sorry to be losing Terry and Wendy Prior at the end of this month, as they are moving to Kati Kati with their daughter and her family. Thankfully there is a bridge club at Katikati, whose website shows that they have one afternoon and one evening session per week, so Terry and Wendy will be able to keep their skills up. They were farmers in Zimbabwe before coming to Pukekohe about 8 years ago. As many people have found, belonging to a bridge club is an excellent way of meeting new people in your community. We wish them all the best -- as Arie says "May all your finesses work".

Creative Fibre Festival

It was a condition of the Lotteries Grant for our heat pumps that we make our premises available to the community. You may be aware that we regularly rent the rooms to a yoga group on Monday mornings and to Franklin U3A once a month on Tuesdays. In a larger vein, we have rented them to the Creative Fibre Festival for 4 full days, Thursday 28th April to Sunday 1st May. This will have the following effect on members:

- Wednesday night players will see a few displays around the edges of the walls. Play will proceed as usual
 - Thursday April 28th Beginners' Class is cancelled.
 - Friday bridge on 29th April is cancelled
 - Monday night players - hopefully the room will have been cleaned and restored, but we have a very narrow time window for the cleaning. You may need to be tolerant of a few fibres on the carpet, but play will proceed as usual.
 - We would like the help of 6 club members on the evening of Sunday May 1st for half an hour to restore the room for bridge. Tentative start time is 7.30pm. If you are able to help, please contact Maureen Nelson in advance on the following email address (note, it is not the one in your bridge club book: mnelsonnz@gmail.com)
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Supervised Play on Thursday Nights

We have about a dozen people currently attending the series of Beginners' Lessons with enthusiasm. We plan to recommence Supervised Play on Thursday evenings for these beginners and anyone else who would like to gain some general pointers on bidding and playing from some of our more experienced members. Start date for this is **Thursday 12th May**. Later in the year we plan to run Improvers' Lessons based on the material provided by NZ Bridge. More details to come.

Getting the most from the Bridgemates

From a scorer's and director's perspective, Bridgemates are an absolute boon. No more transcription errors from ragged bits of paper with barely legible writing - entries often on the wrong line or scores miscalculated. Easy to apply and recalculate adjustments or penalties.

However, the data is only as good as the person that enters it. Please do check before pressing the accept key that the contract is correct, played from the correct hand and the result is as agreed. Don't forget to put in the double! The one thing it will do correctly is calculate the score. If that's different from your mental calculation then maybe data has been entered incorrectly. But it doesn't end there! The Bridgemate will show you what other results have been entered for that board so far - neatly ranked from top to bottom (N/S perspective) so you can review how you have fared. It can also display the hand just played so you can work out a better strategy whilst it is fresh in your mind. You are encouraged to pass this around the table not just keep it to the person entering the data. All this whilst keeping one eye on the clock of course!

And a reminder that play starts promptly at 7.30pm in the evenings. Please be seated and ready to go just before that time. The director has to work out the number of boards required and the movement of boards in play. This is much easier when we know the number of tables in play.

A new record for a club night

15 tables on Wednesday night 30th March - and later this year the current group of beginners will join us. That's 60 people concentrating and breathing hard. The room soon warms up. With the change to daylight saving time, we will soon be changing from cooling to heating the room.

For heat-pumps, the "ideal" temperature for a sedentary activity (like playing bridge) is around 22/23C. Just treat them like a fridge or freezer - set the temperature and let it sort it out for itself. They cannot be used like a heater (or fan) - turn it up or down as you feel cold/hot!

Quote from the Mitsubishi website -

"A heat pump should not be operated like a radiant heater. Turning your heat pump up to 28°C will not make the room warm up any faster. In fact, it will use more energy as the heat pump attempts to absorb energy to achieve this unrealistic temperature".

By setting the temperature to what is actually required, say 18-22°C in heating mode (a comfortable temperature during winter), the heat pump will respond in the most efficient way and will reach this quickly and continue to maintain it, **without further adjustment**.

Do You Remember ... just checking

It's now 4 months since some of us made "bookings" at the AGM to play with people this year. There have been a couple of "crossed wires" lately. So, it's a good idea to touch base

around now with planned partners over the next few months to ensure they're still booked to play with you.

Tournament and International News

Congratulations to Trevor Robb and Andrew Janisz who have once more made the New Zealand Seniors Team to take part in the World Olympiad in Poland in August. They were the top qualifying pair after the three selection events and won automatic selection. I am sure all club members wish them and their four fellow teammates well.

Domestically, my team came second in the Auckland Easter Teams while it was nice winning a sectional prize while playing with Harri Fulton in his first tournament, at Howick recently. Meanwhile, Carol De Luca and Bev Henton have had their moments in the sun. They won Auckland's Waitangi Day Open Pairs with a 61% average, in the process beating one of our top Women's international pairs into second place. Then, they started the Auckland Easter Pairs like an express train scoring over 67% in the first session amid a field of the strongest players in Auckland. Alas, the organisers made them play two more sessions where they could not maintain that great start.

Last but not least, a bridge hand from Monday night play a few weeks ago. It demonstrates a point I make in Improvers Classes that against a game contract, you really need to make an attacking lead wherever you can. That can occasionally mean leading a trump but more often means leading away from a king (occasionally from a queen but not an ace) in a previously unbid suit:



Dealer **North**
 East ♠ 82
 None Vul♥ K9763
 ♦ A4
 ♣ Q842

	West	North	East	South
			1NT	Pass
	2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
	4♠	All pass		

West

♠ KJ10763
 ♥ 5
 ♦ Q85
 ♣ AJ9

East

♠ AQ5
 ♥ QJ82
 ♦ J1093
 ♣ K3

	N	
W	E	
	S	

South

♠ 94
 ♥ A104
 ♦ K762
 ♣ 10 7 6 5

2♥ was a transfer and opposite a weak no trump, West made the reasonable move of bidding game directly. Attacking leads can, of course, be dangerous but many more good things than bad can happen, as this hand proved. Had South led a passive trump or club, East would ruff a club in their hand (after the trump lead ... no need after the club lead), draw trumps and simply concede two diamonds and a heart.

However, South, Robin Baird led the ♦ 2. I won my ace, returned a diamond to the king and a diamond ruff ensured the contract was defeated. We had to score a heart trick.

If you have all your side's high-card points and there is no chance of your partner having a queen or ace, then it is right to go passive. Otherwise, attack, reap the rewards ... and there will be no egg on your face afterwards!