
'Table talk'

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



Greetings from Brosna. Where is that, you may ask? Well, you are not going to find out that easily. Read on to the end and you may find out.

A Bundle of Laughs

That's what you would have got had you come along to the Franklin Bridge Club's Comedy Extravaganza ("Evening" is the proper word but why use a shorter word when you can use a much longer one?) on Friday March 24th.

All there really enjoyed themselves as they watched a Powerpoint presentation of humour assembled by Robert. Rumour has it that Robert showed a selfie of me ... and that all everyone could see was a blank screen. I cannot believe he would stoop so low. It is fine therefore I made 5* doubled by Robert the following Monday evening. Revenge is so sweet!

Our great stand-up one liner queen, Madeline, is in full flow. The only thing more powerful than the humour was the candles which tried to dominate the picture! And here is raconteur Madeline in action:



Snail with Attitude

"A guy is sitting at home when he hears a knock at the door.

He opens the door and sees a snail on the deck.

He picks the snail up and throws it as far as he can.

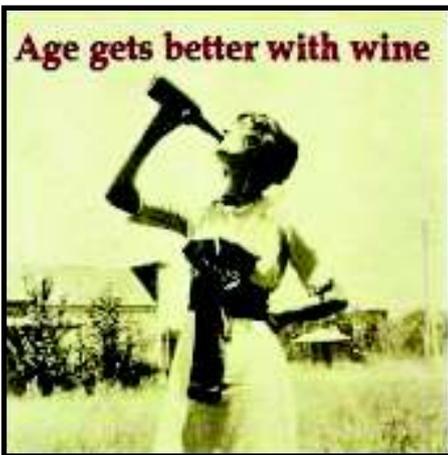
Three years later there is another knock at the door.

He opens it and sees the same snail.

The snail looks him in the eye and says,

"What the hell was that about!"

Yet, there was plenty of good humour around from Mr Bean to some good jokes told by Madeline, videos, plenty of one-liners and the humour was, in the main, respectable ... as you would expect.



What a true statement that is.

A special thanks to Robert and Christine who organised the evening and to Chris who was his normal efficient self when it came to the technology for the evening. Christine, who organises the Friday Social Evenings, would welcome suggestions about what people would like to see at them. They can email her – christine@lakewoodlodge.co.nz

...and after the humour, we have...

Friday April 20th 6.30pm



Pizza and Mind blowing Word Games

\$5 per person

Bring your favourite drink, friends and family to the Bridge Club for our 4th Social evening. Enjoy tasty pizza with friends. Newcomers especially welcome. Pizza will be ordered at 6.45pm so please arrive at 6.30pm to put your order in.

“Weeping Birches”

Last winter, each time we had heavy rain, the club had problems with water running down the inside wall of our front lobby and setting off the burglar alarm. This was caused by leaves from the weeping birches at the front of the clubrooms blocking the downpipes and resulting in overflows.

Dave and a suitably armed Roni



Roni and David met at the club on a fine autumn morning just before Easter to remove a large branch from one of the birches, which was very close to the guttering of our building. At the same time, they removed the dead cabbage tree from our southern boundary. The tree work was "overseen" by our roving photographer, who is a dedicated tree-hugger, and who firmly believes that no man should be let loose with a chain saw without a tree-hugging woman in attendance. Roni and David did a great job.



Not all Birches weep!

Another Franklin wedding

Best wishes for a happy day and fine weather to Grant and Deborah Andrew, whose daughter will be married on their property in mid-April.

Oh to be a Beginner!

Is there any chance I could sneak along on a Thursday night and pretend I was a Beginner? I have, of course, an ulterior motive. Jim Buckland turned up to practice his culinary skills on the group on a recent Thursday with an "amuse bouche" comprising honey/soy glazed prawn on a bed of spinach, ginger and red onion with a balsamic dressing. Chris Glyde had only one word to describe the concoction: "Delicious".

We could dispense with the bridge part and just concentrate on what Jim produces. Numbers joining the club would soar!

Jim at work



Easter in Auckland

No bach at the beach for our keen tournament players. Several spent all or some the recent holiday period inside at the Auckland Bridge Club. Chris and Maria won a session prize at the Intermediate Pairs and also won an Intermediate prize at the Monday Pairs event. My team came second in the main Teams while the others playing would have enjoyed themselves, especially Kevin and Julie who braved the Open Teams with Darren and David Spencer. A great experience and learning curve for them. We will feature one of their boards a little further down. Also playing were Carol De Luca, Bev Henton, Sue Spencer and Grant Jarvis, who finished 5th in the main Open Pairs and 4th in the Open Teams.

Inter-club

We have two teams taking part in the once a month Friday night inter-club held at the Auckland Bridge Club. All who go enjoy the social and competitive experience and if the traffic can be a little slow – moving travelling into Auckland, then the players have a positive attitude to that ... more time for system discussions!

March 16th saw the first night's play. Our Intermediates (Kevin Birch, Julie Quilty, Linda Thornton, Roni Bistricher and Darren Old started with a 20 imp 14.26vp win over **Auckland Gibbons**. Meanwhile our Open team of Andrew Janisz, Trevor Robb, Kevin Wang and Hannah Zhang beat **Royle Epsom** 1 by 23imps (14.76vps), a great start for both teams.

Date for your Diaries

Daytime, Sunday June 24th 2018

The Franklin Bridge Club's 60th Anniversary Celebrations. More news about what's happening closer to the time. In the meantime, please keep that date free.

Yes, we play bridge too!

What with all the talk this time about gourmet eating, comedy and word games, we must not forget we are a Bridge club. Roni Bistricher was certainly alert to proceedings one recent Monday night when up against two of the club "heavyweights" (I can use that word from the safety of the West Coast of Ireland..yes, that is where Brosna is, in County Kerry), Andrew Janisz and Trevor Robb. How many times would you bid the following hand as East after the following sequence:

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♥
1♠	x	4♠	4NT
Pass	6♥	?	

East holds:

♠ Q9654
 ♥ -
 ♦ T7542
 ♣ T74 N/S Vulnerable

4NT was ace ask and even though Trevor, North, did not admit to the number of aces held (he just jumped to slam), Roni guessed that his opponents would make slam and that his void heart would make 6♠ a cheap sacrifice. He was right as not only was it a good sacrifice against slam but it was a good sacrifice even if his opponents had stopped in game:

Board 2

Dealer **North**
 East ♠ A7
 N-S Vul ♥ AJ952
 ♦ KJ6
 ♣ Q52

West		East
♠ KJ1032	N W E S	♠ Q9654
♥ 763		♥ —
♦ 3		♦ 107542
♣ K983		♣ 1074
South		
♠ 8		
♥ KQ1084		
♦ AQ98		
♣ AJ6		

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♥
1♠	Dbl	4♠	4NT
Pass	6♥	6♠	Dbl
All Pass			

In 6♠x, West lost just one trick in spades and diamonds along with two club tricks ... three down -500. Meanwhile, there was only one club loser in 6♥. Roni's actions earned him and his partner a complete top even conceding a smaller score than those East-Wests who were defending game (-680), a great sacrifice bid.

Board 13

Dealer **North**

North ♠ —

Both Vul ♥ QJ7
♦ AQJ97653
♣ 97

West

♠ 2
♥ A96432
♦ 1082
♣ A103

East

♠ AKQ87
♥ K10
♦ K
♣ J8652



South

♠ J1096543
♥ 85
♦ 4
♣ KQ4

Here is a fun hand (well "fun" depending on where you were sitting) from the second round of the Easter Teams.

Is Board 13 an unlucky number? It was for those like my partner who as East overcalled North's 4♦ opening with 4♠. South passed correctly, fearing that his opponents had a better place to play (5♣ is slightly better!) and all passed. My partner uttered a very unpleasant word when North showed out on the first round of spades. 3 down was a flat board in our match.

Kevin Birch was South and also passed 4♠ (well done, Kevin) in the same sequence but alas, Julie Quilty bid her North hand again and went two down in 5D, -200. However, teammates Darren and David to the rescue. Again North opened 4♦ but this time David, East, passed. South decided to bid their 7 card spade suit ... and that prompted David into doubling. 5 down and 1400 more than made up for the small minus score at the other table.

and let's finish up the way we began, with another story from Madeline:

The Devil's in the details

"A guy dies and is sent to Hell.

Satan meets him, shows him doors to three rooms and says he must choose one to spend eternity in.

In the first room, people are standing in dirt up to their necks.

The guy says "No, let me see the next room.

In the second room, people are standing in dirt up to their noses.

Guy says no again.

Finally, Satan opens the third room.

People are standing with dirt up to their knees, drinking coffee and eating pastries.

The guy says, "I pick this room".

Satan says "OK" and starts to leave, and the guy wades in and starts pouring some coffee.

On the way out Satan yells,

" OK, coffee break is over. Everyone back on your heads!"

After that, it's back to the Guinness. Coffee in Hell, Guinness in Ireland!



Richard Solomon