

Table Talk – January/February 2020



Welcome to the first Table Talk in a new decade. I have been told by a very reliable source that all finesses you take this new decade have a very great chance of success. I am not sure that the person who told me is a bridge player, though. We can but hope.

stop press news I have taken over 30 already and most of them failed. Do not believe all you read!

Actually, I can tell you that Maureen Nelson, the collector of monies for the club, and Margaret Gardiner have been brushing up on their tennis skills. Where better to learn than in Melbourne during the recent Australian Open.



Maureen and Margaret at the tennis. Gosh, it is hard work watching the likes of Djokovic and Federer.

They were spotted enjoying the atmosphere along with Lynne and Arie Geursen. Janet and Frank Hogan were over there, too. That's one way to avoid all those losing finesses and to get a tip or two from Novak, Roger and Rafael.

May's happy in January

May McRobbie had just a little smile on her face after the Friday session at the club on January. She paired up with Wendy Morris, a new face at our club and they scored a rather nice 74.17%..6 tables..24 boards, only 4 boards under 60% including a passed in board, playing against the likes of Lynne Geursen, Carol De Luca, Chris Glyde and Jim Buckland.

Welcome to the club, Wendy. You certainly helped to make that a very nice day for May.

44 Pairs at the Summer Swiss Pairs February started with a great tournament at the club. There were some strong Open pairs taking part. The top finishing Franklin pair were 16th placed Christine Lyons and Robert Brake who won 5 of their 6 matches. Nelda Wormald and Pam Lorimer would also have been happy to have finished exactly half way. Christine and Robert won the 0-100 point category while Nelda and Pam won the under 200 point category. Bev Henton also had an excellent day, playing with her regular partner, Bev Guilford. They finished 7th overall. Thanks as usual to all who helped in making this such an enjoyable day.

Other Player News

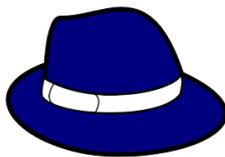
Firstly, more about Pam Lorimer:

- Congratulations to Pam Lorimer who has gone up from Junior to Intermediate player, and to Kevin Birch, Chris Glyde, Darren Old and Julie Quilty on their elevation to Open status
- It's good to see Jacqui Treppass back at the bridge table on Fridays
- Congratulations to Teresa and Neal on the safe arrival of grand-daughter Jessica Ariana just after New Year
- Feeling the need to cool down? Tina and Will Fulton and their twins did the Northern Circuit around Mt. Tongariro just before Christmas, which takes 2 days staying in DOC huts. Tina said that on 21st December (the longest day of the year) they were in minus 7 degrees at one stage of the day ...and more "cooling down"
- Trevor Robb has taken cooling off to a new level and spent 16 days in January on a cruise to Antarctica. ...*but a little closer to home:*
- Jenny and Dan Colgan went to Stewart Island and worked their way homewards over a period of 4 weeks
- The club will as usual have many players over at the Gold Coast Congress in the last week of February. This year, I will be one of them and can keep you up to date with their performances next month.

- It was sad to hear of the passing of Anna Holwerda. Anna and her husband John were regular members of the club for many years. After John passed away, Anna played on for a while but then contented herself with sessions of that famous Dutch game, Klaverjas, in Waiuku. However, just recently, she had started coming to the club for Friday bridge. Anna was always a popular member of the club...sad to hear of her passing.
- “Farewell Fulton’s”. Tina and Will learnt a few years back and have been popular members of the club ever since. They produced a whole family of players...sons Harry and Logan (though rumours have it are that he had to be dragged along to the bridge table!) daughter Poppy and even Will’s brother, James. While James has moved north to Auckland, and their three children have now moved to various universities, Will and Tina are now shifting to the Kapiti Coast, just a little bit too far to come to Franklin Bridge Club sessions. We are sorry to lose such a nice family and hope they will continue to play at one of the Kapiti Coast clubs.

Planning for 2020

- Our other two tournaments -- Why not put our next two tournaments in your diary now, the Restricted Pairs (8B) on **Saturday, 25th April (Anzac Day)** and Open/Intermediate Pairs (3A/5B) on **Sunday, 19th September**.
- And in 2020 it is again Franklin's turn to host the Northland/Auckland Regional Congress. This important tournament over 2 days is on **18th and 19th July**. The Committee will need a lot of help with this one -- please mark it in your diary... and to make it a financial success for the club, we need entries too.



The Blue Hat Service

The club is now saying to its members or indeed non-members: “if you feel like a game but have not got a partner for a session at the club, just turn up and look for someone wearing a “Blue Hat” and they will guarantee you a game, either with another player or with the “Blue Hat” wearer themselves.

The exception are Teams nights where we have to run with a predetermined number of tables.

The aim is to boost table numbers. The club wants not just more members but more members playing more sessions at the club.... and it is working with an extra table even two at our sessions.

There is a proviso of using this service. You must agree to play with the person available graciously and show respect to your partner and opponents at all times.

“The Blue Hat”



*Seen here on the head of Robert Brake.
What a neat idea, Robert, a great practical
idea to increase participation at the club.*

Also, please do not arrive at 7.29 pm looking for a game. That delays everyone as the room may have to be reset, new movement etc. If you are running late, phone and then the “Blue Hat “service can operate for you.

So, you may just feel like using this service one session or know someone who might like to use it. It’s a great idea.

Hand record for the night

Did you miss picking up a hand record? You can now print it from the results screen -- log into the result for the night and at the bottom of the screen is "Show hand record as PDF." You can print your own copy from there.

Substitutes and Subs

Substitutes

If someone is playing as a substitute for another player, it is only recorded if you advise the person who is operating the computer for that night. Table money slips only go to the treasurer, who counts the cash the next day. So, substitutions cannot be made via table money slips. Please leave a written message on the computer, advising who is substituting for whom -- write in their bridge numbers and the relevant table number. Our computer operators are all volunteers -- please make it as easy for them as possible.

Subs

The Treasurer says "thank you" to the more than 100 members who paid their subs by 31st January, which is cut-off date for the \$7 discount.

Some members have yet to pay -- please don't make our Treasurer chase you -- she's a volunteer, too, and has better things to do with her time.

Also, we did tell you Maureen had been to the Aussie Open. She will not only chase you but from the tips gained "catch you up"! You have been warned!

And a reminder about table money vouchers. If you plan to pay on line, please make the payment first, then email Maureen and collect the vouchers at the next bridge session. Cash on the night is also acceptable, whichever suits you better.



Beginners' Lessons

Thursday 13th February is not far away. On that evening, our first set of Beginners' Lessons start for the year under Debbie Sullivan's excellent guidance. Chances are that if you are reading this that you will not be going. **However**, our greatest method of advertising is "Word of Mouth" "mouths"

like yours. Those family members or friends who have been meaning to learn. Here is their chance and the opportunity to get new members into the club. That is great for all of us.

The Pukekohe area is booming with so many new people. How wonderful if we can get some of them into our club. Please tell friends and family **now** and tell them to register with Debbie. (09) 292 4974 or email lessons@franklinbridgeclub.org.nz

“rrr”it’s Darren! He’s our Monday night partner finder. He is thus a very important person. So, when you contact him, you need to get his email address correct. How many “Rs” are there in his email address? It may come as a surprise to you that there are three, all in a row. For someone like me who cannot roll 2 “Rs” together, this has come as an awful ..or should I say....”terrrrible” shock... got the gist?!

Darren.old@outlook.com

Are you counting? That is thrree on the trot! Come on, now, you have been warrned!

A Defender with heart (s)

A loud "No I haven't" dropped into the silence on a recent Monday night. Darren Old was playing 3NT, and against him, Janet Hogan had a fistful of hearts. Unfortunately for Darren, the hearts just seemed to go on and on. He said to Janet "Have you finished yet?" "No, I haven't" she said, as she played the 6th heart. The board was played 9 times during the evening for 7 different results. Always something to learn from a night's bridge!

Oh, 6 heart tricks saw Darren 2 down...as though the singleton king would be a hold! Not when it falls under the ace!

A “Grand” in 5 bids

Sue Spencer got a very nice surprise on a recent Monday evening. She held a very nice collection:

♠ AKQ982

♥ J3

♦ AKQ96

♣ -

and accurately opened 2♣. Now, maybe 98 and 3/4 times out of 100, that bid is followed by a negative 2♦ response from partner, especially when they are a

passed hand. Once every blue moon, partner responds 3♣, your void but just very very very occasionally, they bid something else.

“2♠” said Roni Bistricher, Sue’s partner. Sue checked that she had her reading glasses on and that Roni had indeed bid her longest suit. It was for sure Roni who made that bid which was natural...5 + spades and a positive response.

Time to check for aces....and Roni showed 2! How many losers could Sue see now? The answer was none. The ♣A would take care of one of her heart losers and the ♥ A the other. Straight to 7♠...and a lay-down 27 hcp grand slam:

East Deals E-W Vul	♠ J ♥ Q 9 5 4 ♦ J 10 4 ♣ J 9 4 3 2		
♠ A K Q 9 8 2 ♥ J 3 ♦ A K Q 9 6 ♣ —		♠ 10 6 5 4 3 ♥ A 2 ♦ 7 2 ♣ A 10 7 5	
	♠ 7 ♥ K 10 8 7 6 ♦ 8 5 3 ♣ K Q 8 6		
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		Pass	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♥	Pass
7♠	All pass		

Had Roni showed 0 or 1 ace, Sue would have had to settle for 6♠ even though Roni had shown a positive response to 2♣. However, 2 aces were a late very nice Christmas present.

Sue was the only West to bid 7♠, really a rather easy grand slam to bid. I hope you would have bid it, too.

I’ll be back again in March.

Richard Solomon