
'Table talk'



**Franklin Bridge Club Newsletter
October 2017**

- with Richard Solomon

Franklin at our National Congress

Several of our players took State Highway 1 down to Hamilton at the start of this month for a session or ten of our National Congress. This Congress may be more about our tournament players but there was also an opportunity for our newest to play a session, in the Novice Pairs.

The best result came in the New Zealand Pairs where my partner, Gary Chen, and I finished in second place. Another Franklin player, Grant Jarvis, also made the final (top 28 pairs). In New Zealand Teams, Grant's team beat mine in the Round of 16 before losing in the quarter finals.

Carol De Luca and I represented Auckland-Northland in the National Rubber Bridge finals. We knocked out last year's winners in the quarter finals before we failed to get our share of aces and kings in the semi-final.

David Spencer and Teresa Phillips performed creditably in the Restricted Open Pairs before running out of steam in the fourth of the four rounds.

Andrew Janisz, Trevor Robb and Lynne Geursen's team finished a very respectable 22nd in the 110 team New Zealand Teams and won a prize for the best scoring team on day 1 of the qualifying Swiss which did not make the final 16. 14 places below them were Carol De Luca, Bev Henton and Sue Spencer's team ... but more of Sue in a minute.

Lynne and Andrew made the final of the Back to The Future Teams. Carol and Bev had a top 10 finish in the Same Sex Pairs as did Julie Quilty and Jerry Kuggeleijn in the Intermediate Pairs. Highest of these positions was Chris Glyde and Maria Casci's 7th place in the Intermediate Teams.

It was neat to see Gill and Dermot Murphy playing for one of the days.

Also seen one day at Congress was Jim Buckland, literally disturbed from his corn flakes (sorry, Jim, but I am not sure with what food you start the day!) to be cajoled at just one hour's notice to be a very able substitute for a sick player.

But most important of all, the National Congress saw Sue Spencer gain enough A Points to become the club's latest Grand Master. Congratulations. The club's other grand-masters are apart from yours truly, Grant Jarvis, Lynne Geursen and Trevor Robb.



Sue with her flowers

Franklin Tournament Successes

I "dragged" Carol De Luca up to Kerikeri in September to play the final qualifying round of the Rubber event (we qualified despite having to watch our opponents bid and make a grand slam on a finesse on the first of the 30 boards!). While there, we played and won the Northland Swiss Pairs, a nice "warm up" day at the office!

On the same day as we were playing in Kerikeri, the club had its own 3A Open and 5B Intermediate events take place. It was the same day as we all cast our votes but that did not stop a good turn-out at the bridge table. 18 pairs played in the Intermediate with Kevin Birch and Roni Bistricher coming second and Irene Bronlund and Pam Lorimer fifth. 28 pairs took part in the Open though no-one from the host club featured other than a 4th place for Grant Jarvis.

More recently, my team came second in Hamilton's Labour Weekend Congress while Chris Glyde and Maria Casci finished third in Orewa's Intermediate Pairs, also over Labour Weekend.

UP-COMING EVENTS

The club is running a heat of the **New Zealand Wide Pairs** on the evening of Friday November 3rd. Come along and play the same 24 boards as at 57 other clubs around the country. You will get a booklet about the boards afterwards. Also, bring a plate and enjoy a pot-luck dinner first, at 6.00pm. If you can, put your name on the white-board at the club if you would like to play. Play starts at 7.15pm.

Four days later, on Tuesday November 7th, you can be back at the club for **Melbourne Cup Day**, a day of bridge and betting with some eating and drinking thrown in. Be at the club for the 1pm start for the bridge. Please bring a plate of food for a shared afternoon tea. There will be a sweepstake ... and the drinking? Why, a cup of tea or coffee, of course. No doubt, Lynne will be ensuring everyone has a most enjoyable afternoon.

AGM TIME

Note the date ... Sunday December 3rd. There is the usual fare of AGM, prize-giving to be followed by drawn partners' bridge.

THE SOCIAL SCENE

Now that's what you want to know about, isn't it!

Cakes at the club: it's birthday time

Carol De Luca and Christine Egelmeer both celebrated their birthdays on a Monday night in mid-September. It was a special birthday for Carol, with her friends bringing along fab chocolate and coffee cakes to share with all the players. Many happy returns to you both.



A Busy Household

Teresa and Neal Phillips have a busy summer coming up! One daughter getting married at their property at Port Waikato between Christmas and New Year, one daughter scheduled to produce their first grandchild in February, ongoing construction of their new house (Teresa is looking forward to a new kitchen) and in the middle of all that, keeping up with the management of their sheep farm. Oh and Neal is itching to pick up those golf clubs again after a period without following a recent operation.

One misplayed hand ... two black eyes!

Talking of grandchildren, Gary Logan was looking very battered in mid-September, with cuts and grazes all over his face and knuckles, and the makings of two black eyes. Speculation was rife! Had he reneged, over-bid or simply misplayed his contract? We checked his list of recent partners ... Margaret Gardiner, Glenis Radcliffe, Darren Old. We wonder who might have exacted retribution on Gary. A bit tough if it was Darren as they won a recent Monday evening, with all those grand masters around!

It's OK, Darren, Margaret and Glenis. It was not you, nor even the long suffering Tricia! Gary had been pursuing his running grand-daughter Sophie at Motat, tripped and fell heavily into gravel. Sophie came running back to Tricia saying there was blood everywhere and later said that Poppa looked like a zombie!

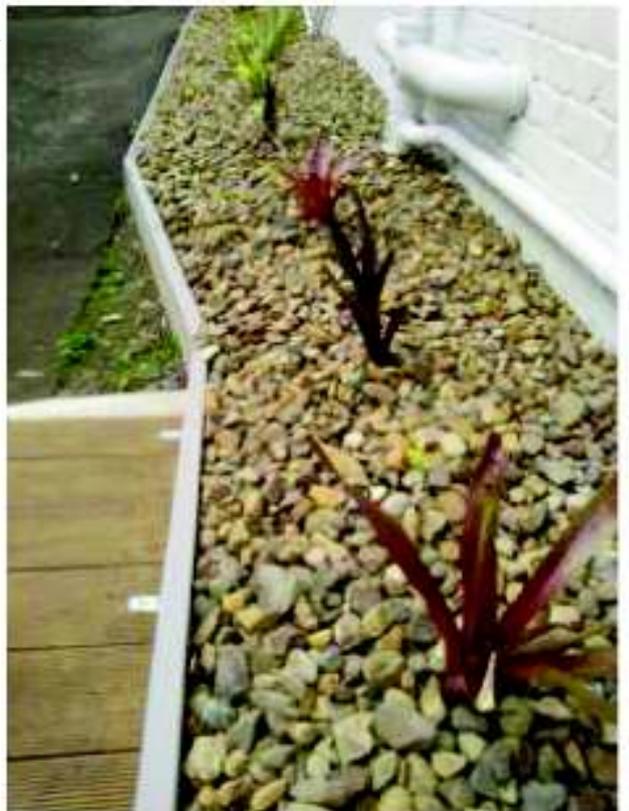
Mind you, Gary. Be warned. Play your hands well.

Celebration time at Ramarama School

Ramarama School turns 150 this year and to mark this milestone a celebration weekend is planned for early November. Local newspaper The Post carried a recent article interviewing a 92 year old lady who had been a pupil there from 1929 to 1937, at which time, there had been 60 students and 2 teachers. Ramarama School now has a roll of 178, with 11 teachers plus the Principal, our own Sue Walls. The Franklin community is encouraged to spread the word of the 150 year celebration to past pupils to join in the festivities. We're sure Sue and her team will host a memorable celebration in November.

Green fingers

Thanks to Ann Anderson for supplying and planting the drought-resistant plants in the stone-garden at our back door. It's a somewhat hostile environment, but if anyone can make it work, Ann can! She has been a generous supplier of plants and flowers to the club for many years.



Ann's garden

"Crockpot Corner"



At our big July tournament, there was a lack of room in the kitchen on the Sunday, and our lunch menu called for soup and rolls. "Crockpot Corner" was set up in the committee room, with various crockpots full of soup brought in by our members and plugged into multi boards. The room smelt wonderful! And a terrific effort from Judy Collins, who baked 200 profiteroles for the Saturday catering.

MONEY MATTERS



Table numbers are up again -- good to see 11 teams playing in Monday night teams and we had 14 tables on the Wednesday after the election -- new record for Wednesday nights (13 1/2 being the previous one). (Do we credit Jacinda for this?)

On the subject of funds, our treasurer, Maureen, is used to all sorts of "funds" in our table money envelopes. She is tolerant of those who put in lots of 20 cent pieces (hint - table money vouchers are really appreciated), and tells us that this year's haul of foreign coins is quite small

- an old 1 cent piece, an old 5 cent piece, an old 10 cent piece
- \$1 Australian
- An American quarter (25 cents)

However, a recent Wednesday night yielded an interesting item! The table money envelope included 2 x \$5 notes, 2 x \$1 coins, 1 x table money voucher and a business card from a Waikato berry orchard 😊 The table slip revealed the likely person to have made this "contribution" and it was sorted out the following week.

Our financial year ended on 30th September. The committee are getting the 2018 programme booklet ready. Please check your details in the back of the book and if there are changes, advise our computer manager, Chris Glyde. It's very frustrating trying to get in touch with someone whose details have changed.

Franklin Positive Aging Expo

Our club participated in the Franklin Positive Aging expo on Friday 20th October. Bridge was cancelled for the day, and when our roving reporter passed by, Nelda Wormald, Belinda Summerville, Alice Linn and Mae McRobbie were playing at a set-up table, with Jenny Colgan and Jim Buckland roving to catch interested spectators. At the last expo, more than 2000 people roamed the room looking at the various stands and displays. So it's good exposure. Our stand with screens, posters and banners was organised by Jenny. Thanks to her and everyone else who participated.

Who is that playing in the Monday night Patron's Pairs?

Our own Patron, of course. She will need to get her partner, Carol De Luca, to play a little better than in the first week if they are to win "Nelda's event". Go for it, Carol!



Finally, a fun hand from the National Congress. The bidding was short and not necessarily sweet. You do have a rather nice collection:

- ♠ 64
- ♥ AKQJ983
- ♦ AKT5
- ♣ -

especially when, with just your side vulnerable, your partner opens 1♦. However, your right-hand opponent rather got in your way:

West	North	East	South
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You

	1♦		5♣
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?

There was no time to ask for aces, or in particular the ♠ A. So, I shut my eyes and bid 7♦. Any decent partner would hold that card.

Everyone passed with North attempting to bid 8♣! Then came one of those agonising minutes which seemed like hours while you awaited the opening lead. Surely it would be a black ace? Yet, which one would it be?

Board 22 **North**
 Dealer ♠ 98752
 East ♥ 765
 E-W Vul ♦ 42
 ♣ QJ3

West
 ♠ 64
 ♥ AKQJ983
 ♦ AK105
 ♣ -



South
 ♠ 103
 ♥ -
 ♦ 83
 ♣ AK10987654

East
 ♠ AKQJ
 ♥ 1042
 ♦ QJ976
 ♣ 2

South did indeed lead the top club and I put down my dummy hoping partner would be happy. There was a pretty quick claim as these were the four hands:

"That's what I call a decent spade hold, partner!" Indeed, something like 4 overtricks if they were allowed to be claimed!

See you next month.

Richard Solomon

