

## TABLE TALK February 2021



### JUST ONE WEEK LOST

We hope that the recent Covid scare which forced the Auckland area into Level 3 will not need to be repeated. We lost a couple of sessions' play at the Franklin Bridge Club while the new set of Beginners' Lessons will start a week late, on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February. (Have you told local friends and relatives who may be keen to learn about lessons at the Franklin Bridge Club?)

It is a shame we lose some live play but let us be grateful that our country is in such a position where we can play live. We are the envy of so many others around the world.

### Another Neat Franklin Tournament

Well, I certainly thought that the Swiss Pairs tournament on February 8<sup>th</sup> was a neat day, though you may accuse me of being a little biased! (see below)

Thanks, as usual to the sponsors:

- Lyall & Thornton, our main sponsor. Thanks, Linda
- Spot prizes included big bags of fresh local vegetables (Balle Bros), and other local sponsors including Awhitu Wines, Pokeno Bacon and Wet and Forget
- Special thanks to so many people who worked very hard to make the day a success -- Tournament Secretary Maria Casci, and all those who helped with the working bee, setting up the room, baking and catering, other sponsorship, kitchen help, scoring. Too many to mention, but thank you to everyone who helped.

And then there were those who did well at the table:



*The secret to success? Yes, you guessed correctly...curly hair! Anna Kalma and I tasted success at the Franklin 8B Open event.*

### **Grade Champions**

There were three special grades with the winners of two of them, under 100 Rating Points and 100 to 200 Rating Points being won by home-town players, Ann Anderson and Ratilal Ranchhod, and Nelda Wormald and Bev Donaldson.

Bev and Nelda finished 20<sup>th</sup> with 3 wins and a draw in their 6 matches while Ratilal and Ann had 3 wins and 2 draws to finish 21<sup>st</sup>. Other good club performances came from Sue Spencer who finished 11<sup>th</sup> with her regular Auckland partner, Bev Guilford. Sue had bragging rights at home as her husband David and Grant Jarvis finished 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Great day but not aggressive enough** As stated above, Ratilal Ranchhod and Ann Anderson had a fine day winning three and drawing two of their six matches to finish 21<sup>st</sup> in the 52 pair field. My partner and I gave them their



*Bev Donaldson and Nelda Wormald Ratilal Ranchhod and Ann Anderson*

only loss, which would have been smaller had they stopped us bidding slam on the following board:

**Board 13**  
 North Deals  
 Both Vul

♠ A K Q 10 3 ♥ A 9 8 6 ♦ 4 ♣ 7 6 5	<div style="border: 2px solid green; padding: 5px; width: 40px; height: 40px; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin: 0 auto;"> <span style="margin-bottom: 5px;">N</span> <span style="margin-bottom: 5px;">W</span> <span style="margin-bottom: 5px;">E</span> <span style="margin-bottom: 5px;">S</span> </div>	♠ 5 4 2 ♥ J 4 3 ♦ 5 ♣ A K Q 9 8 4	♠ 9 8 7 ♥ K Q 10 7 5 2 ♦ A 10 3 ♣ J
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	♠ J 6 ♥ — ♦ K Q J 9 8 7 6 2 ♣ 10 3 2		
West	North	East	South
<i>Richard</i>	<i>Ann</i>	<i>Anna</i>	<i>Ranchhod</i>
	Pass	1 ♥	3 ♦
4 ♦	Pass	4 ♥	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	5 ♣	Pass
6 ♥	All pass		

Both Ann and Ratilal had the opportunity to bid more aggressively and had they done so, it is very unlikely my partner and I would have been able to bid the cold slam with any certainty.

Ann does not have an obvious opening bid but she has a decent suit and an easy minimum club rebid. Even if her side ended on defence, opening 1♣ would give her partner a good suit to lead.

Once Ann passed, my partner correctly valued her 10 count as a 1♥ opening, too good for a Weak 2. Had Ratilal now bid 4♦, I would have been very concerned about club losers and may well have just bid 4♥. However, he chose only to bid 3♦ which gave us the room to explore and bid to 6♥.

My 4♦ promised first or second round control in diamonds, heart support and was a try for slam. Initially, Anna with her minimum hand, was not interested in going above 4♥. However, when I bid 4♠ (first or second round control in spades), she made an excellent 5♣ bid, showing first or second control in clubs, just what I needed to bid to slam. Although Ann and Ratilal were unlucky to be our opponents when we bid this slam, they could have done more to prevent us bidding it. Ratilal led ♦K and Anna proceeded to win, draw trumps and play her spade suit to make all 13 tricks. (hand repeated for convenience)

<b>Board 13</b>		♠ 5 4 2											
North Deals		♥ J 4 3											
Both Vul		♦ 5											
		♣ A K Q 9 8 4											
♠ A K Q 10 3		<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid black;"> <table style="border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center; width: 40px; height: 40px;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table> </div>		N		W		E		S		♠ 9 8 7	
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♥ A 9 8 6			♥ K Q 10 7 5 2										
♦ 4			♦ A 10 3										
♣ 7 6 5			♣ J										
		♠ J 6											
		♥ —											
		♦ K Q J 9 8 7 6 2											
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	Pass	1 ♥	3 ♦										
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4 ♠	Pass	5 ♣	Pass										
6 ♥	All pass												

## **Next Franklin Tournament**

Our next tournament is **Saturday 24 April - 8B Restricted Pairs**. Restricted means no two Open players can play together.

**Do have a seat, with special thanks to Neil Miller**

For the donation of the very comfortable Danske Mobler lounge suite plus 2 coffee tables which now grace a corner of our clubrooms. Early arrivals and dummy sit-outs can now relax in comfort.



*Showing off one of the couches is none other than Neil*

## **Goodbye December**

And "Good Riddance!" said Ann Anderson.

In mid-December, Ann's induction cooktop "blew up", almost literally. It glowed bright red, which spread, then Whoof and Pop and it died. Oh no, hope we can get this fixed before Christmas!

Well, possibly, at a cost of nearly \$4000. "not worth it," the Andersons decided. "We'll get a new one. Well, that wasn't easy, either. AEG don't make that model any more and it took considerable detective work to find one in a different brand that was (almost) the right size. But not quite, necessitating adjustments and unavailable parts (stuck on the water) and the upshot was that by late January, Ann still didn't have a cooktop. *Ann, surely the time to resort to a gin or three?*

However, seasonal festivities cannot be ignored, and she'd been asked to take some of her famous curried eggs to a Christmas "do". So, she had a bright idea; "I'll cook them in the microwave". Being blissfully unaware of potential complications, Ann put a dozen eggs into a large bowl, covered them with boiling water and turned on the microwave. Soon, there was the sound of Whoofing and Popping. Ann opened the door and a mess of boiling water mixed with exploded eggs cascaded out onto the floor. It was lucky that Ann wasn't scalded!

*Pictures of the micro-wave are only available if you dare to ask!*

And to add insult to injury, the same week, Ann and Jock were pulled over into a queue for a booze bus at Buckland. It was late morning, and when the officer asked Jock if he'd had anything to drink, he confidently replied "Just 2 cups of coffee". But no! The instrument registered alcohol and Jock was pulled "round the back", past the observant queue, to the back of the bus, where Jock was breath-tested. Absolutely nil. Thank goodness for that. On reflection, Ann realised that they had sanitised their hands just before getting into their car, and thinks the alcohol traces from that were probably to blame.

Onward and upward into 2021, Ann and Jock -- things can only improve!  
*Well, they did for Ann, at least at the bridge table as you read above.*

### **Scars - visible and invisible**

Roni arrived at bridge latish on a recent Wednesday, sporting a very large sticking plaster on the front of his forehead, the result of an encounter with a low branch while driving his ride-on mower.

*Do you believe the "low branch" story or could it be he misdefended a hand conceding an overtrick? I wonder...*

*Read on.....*

But our treasurer's scars were unseen. She and husband were eating out on the patio and Maureen was 'ferrying' things to the outdoor table. Carrying a decanter full of a very nice red wine in one hand and Peter's glass thereof in the other, she tripped on the threshold and started to fall . . . . her first thought was the decanter full of wine (well trained, you see)! Down she went on the concrete, managed to save both the decanter and the glass of wine but wound up with 2 badly grazed knees. "Could have been worse", she said! *Now, that story I believe.*

### **Holiday Time**

Well, it is summer and recent weather has been excellent. So, let's see what some of the club members have been doing.

### **In Fiordland**



*Maggie Urlich had a wonderful January holiday in Fiordland, including a boat trip on the fiords and into Preservation Inlet. Their tour party were helicoptered in and the weather was stunning.*

## An accountant on holiday



Do you recognise the man behind the sunnies and the stubble? It's the normally urbane Stephen Stafford-Bush, also down in Fiordland with a group of friends on a hunting/shooting/fishing trip. When our Roving Reporter asked Stephen to share photos with us, he replied that it was hard to choose as he took 1600!

### **North of Fiordland but just as nice.**

4 of our Wednesday night players went on an organised train trip to the Chateau Tongariro before Christmas. They loved the train, played some bridge on the way . . . . and had a slightly early Christmas dinner at the Chateau. Haven't we all made some terrific friends through the wonderful world of bridge. All aboard were Heather Walden, Tina Webb, Delwynne Homewood and Frances Gale.

### **South Island holidays (no 3)**

Margaret Wilson and Alan Lancaster enjoyed their 6 -week campervan holiday to the top of the South Island just prior to Christmas, despite only having 10 fine days out of 42. They are experienced campervanners, but their trusty campervan broke down in the Buller Gorge and had to be towed to Nelson. "Just as well we'd paid the top-of-the-range AA insurance premium" said Margaret "The towing fee was \$1000".

Margaret also tells us that her bridge weekend to Wairakei in the winter (June) has had over 60 expressions of interest! She thinks she will have to split it in two and do TWO weekends. Please note her new email address [margieontour@gmail.com](mailto:margieontour@gmail.com)

## "Racing" down Memory Lane

The following was given to me by Nelda Wormald and relates back to the early/mid 80's when there was a separate part of the Franklin Bridge Club meeting in Waiuku. The following is one page of what was a four-page entry for a bridge tournament where entrants were "auctioned" with "ownership rights going to the highest bidder". Bids could only rise 50c at a time with a maximum final bid being no higher than \$4.00. Prizes went to the owner of the runner with the highest score in session 2 (75% of the pool) and the owner of the runner of the entrant who made the biggest improvement over the two sessions.

I am not sure of the year (do you know?) or of the winners but some of the names and comments are interesting. Here is a short selection:

<u>RUNNER</u>	<u>BREEDING</u>	<u>JOCKEY TRAINER</u>	<u>TRAINED AT</u>
Sir Garth H.	(Weeded Out of Onion Patch)	Mrs L. Tully	Buckland Heights
<u>COMMENT:</u> <i>Often erratic runner who will be punters headache. Undoubted ability though. Brilliant jockey trainer has already taken several titles this year and a vigorous ride will ensure Sir Garth keeps mind on the job. Bracketed with 1(a) Mr J. Cloutman and Mrs J. Liefting</i>			
Lady Carol M.	(Smoker out of Breath)	Mr A. Moore	Helvetia
<u>COMMENT:</u> <i>Consistent and talented mare who clearly thrives on hill training at Helvetia. Trainer jockey has vastly improved results this year and caused big upset when winning heat of the Taupo Cup. Splendid chance. Bracketed with 2(a) Mrs Honoré and Mrs K. Chubb</i>			
	(Patience)	Mrs K. Webster	Pukekohe

The general description was for "fillies, mares, colts and aged geldings!"  
Whichever is most appropriate.

You may recognise above the names of that famous punter “Mr 3NT” Garth Hewitt trained by “Mrs L Tully” who, of course is still “riding winners” at the Franklin Club, as recently as last Monday, under the guise of Lynne Geursen.

Among other names to feature were Carol Moore, Grant Jarvis, Jerry Kuggeleijn, Molly Brough, Sue Spencer, Judy Stansell, Heather Orton, John and Anne Holwerda, Eileen Horsman, Martine Cameron, Janet Longhurst, who ran the Waiuku Club, Don Barker, and these two:

**Runner** Sir Dick V alias Dick Van Der Woerd

**Jockey/Trainer** Mrs Wormald alias Nelda

**Commentary** Very serious campaigner with formidable record. Respected jockey-trainer seems to have found the key to the occasionally headstrong galloper. Excellent prospects.

*Remembering Dick, I think that was put very well.*

### **Blue Hat reminders 2021**

The Blue Hat wearer has volunteered to provide this service to the club and early in the year here are a few gentle reminders.

- Blue Hat in no way over-rides the partnership agreements between players. If you are not able to play, it is common courtesy to let your partner know in advance and not rely on them finding out when you don't arrive.
- Blue hat is a first come / first served arrangement. If there is someone waiting, The Blue Hat will partner you up. If there is an odd number then Blue Hat will play the evening. If the numbers are even, then Blue Hat will go home (many thanks for helping, Blue Hat).
- On Monday and Wednesday nights tables need to be seated by 7.20pm. So, if you wish to use Blue Hat, then the earlier you are there the better. Blue Hat will leave after 7.20pm if not needed. On Friday mornings tables need to be seated 10 minutes before play is due to start.

The Blue Hat system has been popular in the first weeks of this year – the first 4 Wednesday nights have seen 7, 5, 5, and 7 players seated at tables. This is providing income for the club, and enhancing the friendly reputation of the Franklin Bridge Club. *See you all in March.*

