
'Table talk'

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



Greetings from Dingle. If you ever get the chance, go to Dingle in the West of County Kerry in Ireland and take the road round the coast to Dun Quin. Order sunshine (you can ... we did!) and take in the magic sea view looking across to The Blasket Islands and to the town of Dun Quin. "Breath-taking" is a gross understatement.

If you cannot get there, then you should certainly go along to the Franklin Bridge Club ... and not just for bridge:

Friday 20th April saw our 4th social evening. It was a blast!

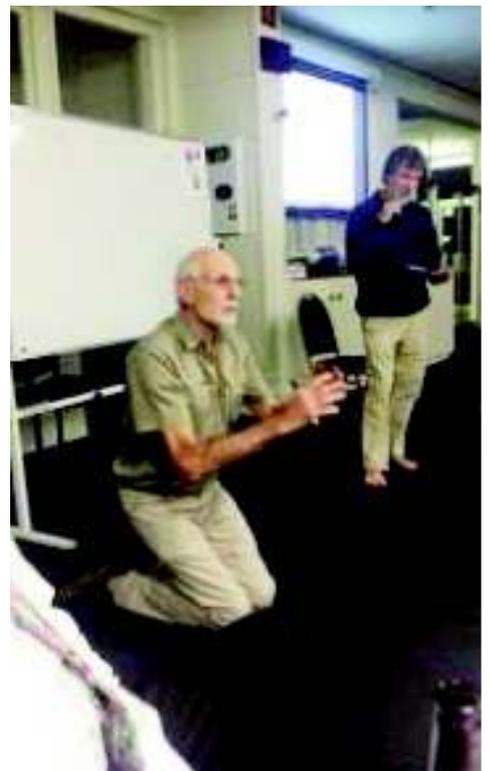
The best liars!

Those who didn't come really missed a great evening organised by Roni. To start with everyone sat in a huge circle by candlelight with a glass of something and had scintillating conversations with people who we never have time to chat to at the normal bridge evenings. When the pizza arrived, we split up into two teams and the game was explained. Each team was given some unusual words and the printed explanation of them. The aim was deception: i.e. the best liars won! Three from a team got up at a time, presented the word then each of them gave a meaning for it, with and without acting. The other team had to guess who was telling the truth. It was funny and often very hard to guess.



Can you trust a word this man says?

"Praying will not make people believe you, Chris. Well, maybe it did as he was in the winning team!"





Plotting strategy!

One team won hands down because they were the best liars! The "best liars" away from and maybe at the bridge table too are:

Chris, Maria, Kevin, Julie, Jonathon and Josie Taylor, Janet and Frank Hogan.

The next such social evening is:

Come join us for pies and
scintillating conversation on
Friday the 25th May at 6.30pm.

Franklin Bridge Club's Great Pie Competition !



Bake/cook your favourite pie (savoury or sweet) which will be tasted and judged by our three judges. "Peoples' choice" will be decided by looks alone by placing a gold coin in a jar in front of your choice. All coins collected will then go to the winner. Pies will be shared after the judging is completed. (i.e. not just going to those lucky judges!)

Those of you who are not so good at making pies can do one of 3 things (and notice non-attendance is not one of them!)

1. Offer to be one of the judges. (You get first taste!)
2. Take your Countdown pie out of its wrapper before you arrive.
3. For a very small sum, I am sure the ace pie-maker, Jim Buckland, will provide you a pie which you can show off!

BYO. Bring your friends and family too.

And so to the bridge:

8B Tournament Saturday 28th April

19 tables entered for this event, held on a pouring wet and very windy day, ideal for staying indoors and playing bridge. There was the usual last minute rush to enter while one pair was discovered to have entered twice, so that our standby pair of Maria and Chris was called upon to play. And at the Wednesday night session before the tournament, Kevin announced that the highest-ranking player in our club, Grant Jarvis, who is a Gold Grand Master was looking for a

partner ... any volunteers?" There was a bit of a gasp "Who would be brave enough to take up the offer?" Answer: Roni, and the two of them finished a very creditable 4th overall.

It is really nice to be able to report that the winners were Carol Moore (Open) and Henrietta Annabel (Intermediate). They achieved 53.3% in the first session and a huge 66.8% in the second session - well done ladies; it's always great to have our tournaments won by our own players.

Debbie Sullivan (Junior) and Lynne Geursen (Silver Grand Master) finished a very creditable third overall.

Category prizes were as follows:

- **Open/Intermediate** Grant Jarvis and Roni Bistricher
- **Open/Junior** Andrew Janisz and Diana Schaefer (Whangarei)
- **Intermediate/Junior** Caroline Griffin and her sister-in-law Cathy Carroll
- **Junior/Junior** Bron and John Fergusson

Special thanks to everyone who helped - before the day, on the day, and afterwards. We couldn't have done it without you.



*One of the winners:
Henrietta*



*All smiles: Lynne and
Debbie get their prizes for
finishing 3rd*

Franklin Bridge 60th anniversary celebration:

Please keep the day free on Sunday, June 24th - more details to follow.

New Beginners' Lessons

A new course starts on Thursday, 5th July. Please collect a poster for displaying in your car.

Player News: Nandy's in town

It was great to see Nandy Costa back for a short visit in late April and playing one night at the club. She has been back in Brazil sorting out family affairs for the last 3 years. It was good to see her. She and Anatole hope to be back in NZ later in the year but first they have to deal with Nandy's beloved cats! 2 of them went from NZ to Brazil with them and because they want

to bring them back to NZ (plus one Brazilian cat whom they have acquired in the meantime), the cats need to be quarantined in the USA for 6 months. So at this stage, the plan is that Nandy will go and live in the US during that time, and then they'll all return to NZ together.

Another "overseas" visitor Sue Walls was back in Pukekohe for the first week of the school holidays and played both Monday and Wednesday nights. She said it was "a bit different" in the very large Christchurch Bridge Club, with over 800 members, and as many as 50+ tables playing on a club night (\$7 per person table money), and segregated into skill levels rather than the everyone-plays-everyone approach which we have at Franklin. Sue is enjoying her new school, and being back close to her family -- she has been playing bridge with her sister-in-law.

Welcome back, Dudley

It is great to see Dudley Husband playing on Fridays, back at the club after upheavals over New Year. Welcome back, Dudley.

The Franklin connection with Jacinda's dress

You will have seen pictures of Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern proposing the toast "To the Commonwealth" at the recent CHOGM state banquet at Buckingham Palace. She wore a korowai cloak over a beautiful tawny gold evening gown. The evening gown was specially designed and made for her by Auckland designer Juliette Hogan, daughter of our Wednesday players Janet and Frank.

Celebrating an Anniversary

Tina and Will Fulton celebrated their 24th wedding anniversary on a Monday in late April - separately! Will played bridge and Tina was off in the Hunuas, camping out in a tent for 2 nights, supporting Poppy, who was doing her Silver level Duke of Edinburgh Award. That's dedication (and not just giving up a night's bridge ☺). Tina reports as follows:

Camping or Cards?

I recently had to stand Jim up on a Monday night to chaperone a group of 9 girls, including Poppy, into the Hunua Ranges. Reason: it was their final tramp to obtain their silver Duke of Edinburgh award. While the contrast was stark (i.e. sitting in a comfy, warm room challenging my mind compared to lying on the cold, hard ground challenging my body) there were a few similarities:

1. An after-hours visit from a 4-legged creature, nicknamed Ratty McRat-face, to steal cheese and salami from a girl's tent ... her mistake - not closing the tent. Compare this to the delightful creatures playing bridge on a Monday night stealing tricks from my contract ... my only mistake - just making a mistake!
 2. The dread a girl felt when getting locked in the composting loo for 10 minutes (yes, she
-

got out after much screaming, hysterics and banging on the door). Compare this to the dread I feel when locked into a game contract with no hope of making it, usually sparing everyone the screaming and hysterics though.

And 3 - I did get to play cards! A game called Scum where I spent the entire evening as either 'Scum' or 'Deputy Scum'. Compare this to my regular bottom feeding position on Monday night and no wonder I experienced a sense of déjà vu!

All in all, an eventful trip and the girls are now starting preparations for the first of their Gold expeditions - any volunteers?

Fortune Favours the Brave?

STOP! On the opening night of the Wednesday Championship Pairs, Robert Brake (south, dealer, E/W vulnerable) smiled wickedly as he laid down the stop card and opened 5♣. As it happened, our roving reporter was sitting West and holding 14 points, including the singleton ♣A. "What do you understand by your partner's bid?" she asked Christine. "Not sure" she replied. It seemed risky to double. So West chickened out, and that's where the bidding

Dealer **North**
South ♠ 104
E -W vul ♥ A1094
♦ K74
♣ KQ43

West	<table border="1"><tr><td>N</td></tr><tr><td>W E</td></tr><tr><td>S</td></tr></table>	N	W E	S	East
N					
W E					
S					
♠ AQ53		♠ J7			
♥ K75		♥ QJ8632			
♦ J8652		♦ AQ1093			
♣ A		♣ -			

South
♠ K9862
♥ -
♦ -
♣ J10987652

stopped. Once the lead had been made, Christine laid down ♣KQxx and a total of 12 points. The only club missing was the singleton ace, with West.

Board 19

Robert made his 5♣ contract (♣A lead with East asking for a diamond switch would beat this contract.) for a joint top score with Rolf Baettig and Margaret van der Coer. Only one pair went on to the 6 level and went one off. However, the point of this story is that East-West could make 6♥ or 6♦ needing just the successful diamond finesse! 5 East-West pairs got themselves into 5♦ making 5. The only pair in the room who played in hearts was only in part-score. Robert's hand consisted of 8 clubs, jack high, voids in both red suits and a grand total of 4 points, including the ♠K. Fortune does indeed favour the brave.

Other Skills:

Each year, the Cosmopolitan Clubs of NZ hold the Penn-Hawkins National Golf Pairs competition, which this year was held in early April at the challenging Putaruru course. 102 pairs played over 3 days and two teams tied for first place, winning the Penn-Hawkins Rosebowl and ensuring that the North Island vs South Island Cup stayed in the north. One of the winning pairs including our own Doug Hull, who plays off a **13** handicap.

IMPROVERS' LESSONS

Improvers' Lessons this year will commence on Thursday 17th May and run for 6 weeks. They will be run alongside the regular Supervised Play session, utilising a separate part of the club-room.

This programme aims to improve the accuracy and consistency of your bidding and playing. No partner required. Attend as many or few as you wish. Usual table money - \$6.



"The pot of gold"

Two games of bridge, two beaches and one pot of gold. That's a very brief description of my trip so far, except that I failed to find that "pot". I have had two games of bridge, pleasant but maybe not as friendly as in Pukekohe and I have found two glorious beaches on the West Coast of Ireland

(there are heaps more, with lovely yellow sand, the lapping sea and hardly any people ... and the one at Castle Gregory near Dingle had a sign that should apply to many of the Kiwi beaches: "No vehicles on the beach.")

And that "pot of gold"? Well, I should have found it when defending the following deal. Maybe you would have done better than me? I held as West:

♠ T8732
♥ 4
♦ 92
♣ QJ832

and heard the simple bidding:

West	North	East	South
			1NT (15-17)
Pass	3NT	All Pass	
What would you lead?			

I decided to follow the guideline that this bidding suggests a weakness in a major suit and led a spade. The "pot of gold" was staring at me but I did not recognise it. As you will see, the lead of any club beats 3NT. Nothing else does.

Dealer **North**
 South ♠ A95
 Both Vul ♥ 1093
 ♦ KQ7543
 ♣ 10

West	<table border="0" style="margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>E</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W	E			S		East
	N										
W	E										
	S										
♠ 108732		♠ J6									
♥ 4		♥ KQ75									
♦ 92		♦ A108									
♣ QJ832		♣ K964									

South
 ♠ KQ4
 ♥ AJ862
 ♦ J6
 ♣ A75

Declarer has to lose the lead to ♦ A and after a club lead, cannot avoid 4 club losers along with that ace.

So, I will keep looking for that "pot" and hopefully bring it back with me to New Zealand next month!

Richard Solomon

