

TABLE TALK – July 2021



Lessons - new set starts Thursday night this week, 29th July

Please encourage your friends to come along to these lessons as word of mouth is one of our main means of recruiting new people. Lessons are from 7pm to 9pm, a slightly earlier start and finish so their brains don't get too overloaded. Rumour has it there's a lot to think about!

Upcoming September Tournament

Saturday, September 18th is our Open/Intermediate Pairs (3A/5B) tournament. We were unable to hold this event last year due to Covid lockdown, so are hoping for a good turnout this year.

Interclub

Both our Junior teams had wins in the July round of competition. The Bell Birds scored an excellent 15.24 (vps) (70-44) in beating Mt Albert Steve and have moved up to 4th place, just over 14vps behind the leaders. The Fantails squeaked home 55-50 (11.23 vps) over Auckland A Tima and are in 10th place in the 15- team competition.

Our Intermediate Franklin Kiwis lost 39-48 (7.88) to East Coast Bays Dennerley and are in 6th place, 18 vps off the lead but only 8 vps behind second.

MIQ -- good bits and bad bits

- We won't see Maggie Urlich at the table for a few weeks. She is delighted that her daughter Megan and 4 grandchildren completed their 2 weeks MIQ last week, and they've all gone down to Hahei. Megan and family are here from Dubai and will be here for several months. The children will go to school in Hahei during that time.
- Gerald Baptist is delighted that his daughter, Haley, who is a scientist in the Biotech industry in Amsterdam, has secured an MIQ spot in time to come home for her sister's wedding in late November. Gerald and family had been on the MIQ website in NZ, searching for a spot for Haley, and finally signed off in late afternoon. Less than an hour later, Haley phoned to say she'd had a great piece of luck and had a room booked. Her plans to come home for a visit last year were cancelled because of Covid.

A united family



Gerald

- Margaret and David Gardiner's son Stephen is also battling to find an MIQ spot for his family of 4. They have committed to come home permanently from Belgium, where they have lived for many years. The whole Gardiner family is on the alert for a spot opening up, but no luck so far.
- Sue Spencer's sister managed a 2-week visit from Queensland in early May, when the Trans-Tasman Bubble was fully open, and Robert Brake and Christine Lyons have just completed 2 weeks in Perth visiting family. On the other hand, Judy Collins' planned July visit to her brother

in Perth has been postponed to the spring, due to the Bubble being closed again.

- and a different sort of "overseas". We will not see Neil Miller at the bridge table for several weeks. He is off to Wanaka to housekeep for his daughter and her family there. They normally live on the North Shore, but one of his granddaughters is in serious training on a ski team in Wanaka. Neil says he has already made contact with the Wanaka Bridge Club.

Travel Bubble, our National Congress and an opportunity to play

- Unfortunately, the suspension of the travel bubble with Australia means it is unlikely we will see many Australians at our National Congress which takes place in Bay Park, Mt Maunganui in the last week of September. 2019 was the last year we had this Congress and then 75 keen players crossed the Tasman. However, entries are good from Kiwi players. If you have not thought of going, take a look using this link.

<https://www.nzbridge.co.nz/current-tournaments.html>

There are Open, Restricted Open, Intermediate and Junior events and even one for Novice players. You could even just go down for the day and play in the Intermediate or Junior Pairs on Friday October 1st. There is no night play. Any queries: ask me ksolomon@xtra.co.nz ph232 8494

Westport Fundraiser

Poor West Coast -- devastating floods in mid-July, and it's still raining. Our committee decided that the profits from our first 4 x Sunday afternoons' bridge would be donated to the Westport Bridge Club. We would love to receive donations towards this really good cause -- even a \$6 table money donation would help (yes, our treasurer will accept table money vouchers and swap them for cash).





Either online (bank account no. **01 0403 0040699 01**) or in cash at sessions this week. We will let you know the total of our donation in the August Table Talk.

Wednesday Teams

Wednesday Teams starts this week (28th July), with 11 teams participating this year. Every team is encouraged to wear its team colour, and a glass of wine is shared before play begins (it's BYO). Wednesday teams is an opportunity to play with 3 other people whom you normally wouldn't play with, and to extend the camaraderie which is so evident among our club members. So, there's no "walk-in" bridge or Blue Hat service on Wednesdays for the next 4 weeks.

Friday Bridge

The committee recently took a survey of members regarding changing Friday bridge to an afternoon-only session. After collating the results, it was decided to leave things as they are. Thanks to everyone who participated - and yes, extra weight was given to people who actually **play** Friday bridge.

Wesley Road Update

We reported in our May issue about the planned Kainga Ora apartment block development on Wesley Road, just in front of Birch Surveyors building. We can tell you that the site has now been cleared completely, and construction will

soon begin on 3 and 5 storey apartment blocks, with 20 x 1 bedroom and 11 x 2-bedroom apartments. And not a single carparking space provided.

Keep warm this winter

We have had several players with health issues recently, including more than one set of crutches being employed on club nights. Diane Conroy is presently in Pukekohe Hospital, getting rehabilitation from a mid-July knee replacement. Gerald Baptist offered the following about knee replacement surgery:

“I'm recovering a lot better after my second total knee replacement at the end of June. After the first knee replacement, I ended up with blood clots and pulled quad muscle and was limping for months. The second operation was done with a robot, a more precise cut, heals quicker and you get a choice of which of the 9 knee joint sizes is best for you.”

Best wishes to everyone and keep warm.

While Teresa Phillips has been “in the wars”, Neal paired up with Trish Logan and recently on a Monday, they came second with a very respectable 55%. The following board helped their cause and was an excellent result in all bar one way:

It's not the number of points but where they are situated

You are told that 25 high card points between the two hands ought to be enough to bid and make game. Emphasis should be on “ought”.

What would you bid as South after your partner opened a Multi 2D (weak 2 in a major or 20- 22 balanced) and East passed? South holds:

♠ Q4

♥ 9

♦ AT54

♣ AKQT62

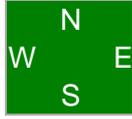
Not a bad 15- count but what does partner hold? Almost certainly, they have a Weak 2. That's not so bad if it is a Weak 2 in spades but not so good if it is in hearts. So, although one is quite entitled to make an enquiring 2NT to see which suit partner holds and how good partner's hand is, Trish bid a quite conservative 2♥, pass or correct style, because she did not want to bid any higher if Neal had a Weak 2 in hearts.

Note that Trish could re-evaluate if Neal's Weak 2 was in spades or, of course, if he showed 20-22 balanced...but he did not. He passed 2♥ and that became the final contract. Take a look at the North-South hands below:

North Deals ♠ K 8
 E-W Vul ♥ K Q 6 5 3 2
 ♦ Q 7 6 2
 ♣ 7

♠ A 10 7 6 2 ♠ J 9 5 3
 ♥ 10 8 7 4 ♥ A J
 ♦ 9 8 ♦ K J 3
 ♣ 8 5 ♣ J 9 4 3

 ♠ Q 4
 ♥ 9
 ♦ A 10 5 4
 ♣ A K Q 10 6 2



West North East South
 2♦ Pass 2♥

All pass

Look at the North hand, Neal's. That is quite a nice hand as well. Some might decide to open that 1♥. However, it lacks any aces and the heart suit rather falls away after the top two cards. So, best open it as a Weak 2 as Neal did. The end result was that with a combined 25 hcp, they played in 2♥ and were rewarded by being the only North-South pair to record a plus score. Although North-South can make 9 tricks in clubs and 10 in diamonds, they had to lose a spade, three hearts and a diamond, making just 2♥.

Combined good judgment to the right spot



Neal



Trish

Even if clubs had broken, 3NT is not that good a contract, because of North's singleton heart. So, good judgement from both Neal and Trish. I said it was a good result in "all bar one way". The only negative was that I was sitting East! Keep your good bidding for other opponents, please. *Until next month.*

Richard Solomon

