
'Table talk'

Franklin Bridge Club Newsletter
February 2017

- with Richard Solomon



I trust you all enjoyed the summer break. (Actually, with that lousy weather, you should have been at the bridge table!) and are now back playing at the club. "What? You have not been yet? You have not organised partners?" If that is "you", then get on the phone quickly and if you are having trouble, please contact:

Monday evenings	Richard Solomon	richardharoldsolomon@gmail.com (09) 232 8494
Wednesday evenings	Maureen Nelson	msnelson.nz@gmail.com (09) 239 1720

Please, please though, do not phone Maureen at home before 10am. Email works fine.

Friday mornings	Madeline Dodds	contactm@ihug.co.nz (09) 232 8800
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We would love to see you all playing regularly as well as being members of the club. 13½ tables on the first Wednesday in February was a good sign.

The first big date to note is: **Thursday 16th February 2017** as that is when the next series of Beginners' Lessons start. You may have a friend or relative who has shown some interest but has never quite made it to lessons. Please tell them, even bring them along next Thursday. Do that now. You can help the club grow and show someone else that great game called Bridge.

Beginners should be seated by 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start. Lessons run for 10 weeks, the cost being \$60.00 which includes the subscription to the club for the whole of 2017.

If you know of anyone else who could be coming, please let Debbie Sullivan know on (09) 292 4974. Debbie and Chris Glyde will be running the lessons.

Improvers' Lessons for 6 weeks starting Thursday 23rd February 2017

These will be run by Chris Glyde (again, be there by 7.15pm) and are aimed at Wednesday night players. Chris will cover subjects like Stayman, Transfers, forcing and non-forcing bids, play of the cards and much more. You might like to learn a little more or just come along for a refresher. The cost of these lessons is just the \$6.00 per night Table Money.

Our Recent Tournament – Summer Pairs

Our tournament on Saturday 4th February attracted 20 tables, which was a pleasing turnout. Many thanks to everyone who contributed, whether it was delicious food (for which Franklin is famous), directing, scoring, the raffle, the flowers, kitchen help, setting up the room, sorting out the money and all the other things which go to make a success of the day.

We were “perfect hosts” in that none of our own players were top prize-winners, but with 15 out of 40 pairs containing Open players, it was tough work. (Indeed, the winners are current Women’s Internationals.) Debbie Sullivan and Kevin Birch won the top Junior/Junior prize. Special praise for the three novice players from Franklin who took part. They only did lessons last year, and it was good to see them playing.

Very special thanks to Linda Thornton for sponsoring the tournament.

It's not too soon to make a note in your diary of our next tournament - Restricted 8B on **Sunday, 29 April**. “Restricted” means that two Open players cannot play together with there being prizes for each grade (e.g. Junior/ Junior and Open/Intermediate).

Inter-Club This starts in March. It is played once a month on a Friday night from March through to November. Linda Thornton will soon be taking expressions of interest in making up teams. Hopefully at least one each of Junior, Intermediate and Open, maybe even more than one in a category. Competition is held at Auckland Bridge Club, 273 Remuera Road. We understand that some people might have concerns about getting in to Remuera on a Friday night. Maybe we could set up car-pooling? One senior member was heard to comment “Why would you flog your way through Friday night traffic? I'd rather stay home and watch Coronation Street”. Surely not! Regard the slower than you hoped for journey in as being extra time to talk to partner and teammates. If you really want to know what happened on “The Street”, record it and enjoy what is a really pleasant social evening with around 200+ other players. It’s worth all the time spent on the motorway..truly!

Some changes in 2017

Teresa Phillips and David Spencer have been doing too well recently ... and their reward is that both are now Open players, joining the large rank of Open players this club has, certainly large in comparison to the total number of members.

Good luck, Harri

Warmest congratulations to Harri Fulton (and to Tina and Will too) on Harri's winning a top scholarship after excellent passes in his Cambridge exams. He's off to Canterbury University to study engineering, where he is hoping to specialise in Mechatronics. (Mechatronics is a multi-disciplinary field, combining mechanical engineering, electronics, computer engineering, systems engineering, IT and control engineering). Harri should be perfect for it. Hopefully, he will have a bit of time for a game of bridge down there, though reading that list of subjects, I am not so sure!

Happy Birthday, Gloria

On the last Wednesday in January, the players congratulated Gloria Pilkington on reaching a special birthday. She was presented with a card and a handsome pot-plant. We wish her many more happy birthdays and hope that in 2017 all her finesses work!

and Gerald

In early February, Wednesday night players were treated to splendid carrot cake to celebrate Gerald Baptist's 60th birthday. Gerald said it was his third birthday cake of the week. So he'd obviously enjoyed his birthday. (surely he did not eat them all?!) We wish him "many happy returns".



A Little Windfall

Judy Collins and her extended family went to the Boxing Day races at Ellerslie, took a picnic and sat in the middle. They had a lovely day, especially when Judy backed a horse because she liked its name and it came in at good odds. This will provide some spending money for her March holiday to Perth. The name of the horse? "Calligraphy"

Treasurer's Corner



Table Money: Are you one of those players who scratch through their pockets finding all the 10 and 20 cent coins to make up this week's \$6 table money?

Are you a player who has "no alternative" but to come with a \$20 note?

You might like to buy table money vouchers from Maureen or Jim. \$30 for 5 vouchers, \$60 for 10 -- the only downside to this being someone who said "It reminds me how much I spend on bridge" -- worth every penny, we say! Incidentally last year's haul of coin included:

- * Australian: 2 x \$1 plus 10 cents and 5 cents
- * Singapore \$1
- * United States 25 cent piece (a quarter)
- * Eire 2 eurocents
- * England 1 penny

The coins have been given to one of our club's frequent travellers, to put in the charity box at Auckland Airport. And then there are:

Annual subs. Most people have paid their subs by now, thank you. If you're one of the 10% of members who haven't paid yet, the club would be glad to hear from you \$67. We accept cash, cheques and direct credit. (but not seemingly US quarters or Irish euros!)

Raffle Time on Wednesdays



The Wednesday night raffle continues to benefit from members' summer gardens. 50 cents buys you two chances to win fresh flowers, herbs, fruit and vegetables, or the occasional jar of chutney. Thank you to everyone who contributes, and to Neal Phillips who does the draw at suppertime. All those years shouting to his sheepdogs come in useful when announcing the results above the suppertime chatter.

Happy to lend ... but please tell us. Members occasionally borrow such items as a set of boards from the club for a weekend. We have started a log book to record such loans. You are welcome to borrow items, but please



* ask a committee member first

* they will record the details of its removal and return in the log book, which is located in the office.

Talking of which, are you the person who has borrowed five of the Club's new chairs, maybe for a bridge day at home? If it is you, please let me know and even better, return them.

Avoiding Nelda

I have previously detailed the problems I have had with Nelda Wormald's leads. I have found a good way to counter them and that is to play with her. So, in early February, I put her (North) into 4♠ on the following deal and despite having only a combined 21 hcp between our hands, she showed good technique to make 10 tricks.

Remember, if dummy has a singleton and trumps, it can be a good idea to use dummy's trumps for ruffing before you draw trumps.

Board 1

Dealer **North**
 North ♠ AKQ52
 Nil Vul ♥ 74
 ♦ 1082
 ♣ Q108

West	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	East
N					
W E					
S					
♠ 7		♠ 1063			
♥ K865		♥ QJ32			
♦ AQ7654		♦ K93			
♣ K6		♣ J32			

South
 ♠ J984
 ♥ A109
 ♦ J
 ♣ A9754

West	North	East	South
	1♠	Pass	2♣
2♦	2♠	3♦	4♠
All pass			

Henk Egelmeer (East) led a diamond to Christine Egelmeer's ace. She switched to a trump. Nelda won in the

North hand and ruffed a diamond in dummy. Next, she played ♥A and a second heart won by Christine's king. Christine continued hearts ruffed by Nelda who ruffed her last diamond, played ♠J, and ruffed another heart before drawing Henk's last trump. A club to the ace and a second club to Christine's king ensured just one loser in that suit with 10 tricks duly made. Good on you, Nelda.

Richard Solomon