
'Table talk'



Franklin Bridge Club Newsletter February 2019

– with Richard Solomon

First of all, Happy New Year to all our members - may it be a 7NT year for you.



The Chinese Year of the Pig started on 5th February. - Pigs have a beautiful personality and are blessed with good fortune. This may be of interest to you if you were born in 1935/47/59/71/83 **etc**

However, there is no known evidence of pigs making good bridge players.

Maureen goes 3 times a year to North Shore Club, to play with her nephew, who is a Grandmaster. Wayne is very generous with his time and happy to play from time to time with "little old ladies". One such lady came to Maureen and Wayne's table at their Christmas session, and said "Hello, Maureen, nice to see you back. Did Wayne tell you that he and I won a cup together this year? I was so excited that I got my daughter to come over and take my photo with it - it's for my funeral sheet!". "Surely not", laughed Maureen. "Well it's going to happen sooner or later", said Val, "I'm 93 already!" May we all be happy and playing cup-winning bridge when we're 93!

What were you doing over Christmas?

Relaxing on the beach, maybe?

Lots of us spent early January lolling in front of the TV, watching tennis with a cold drink in hand. Not so for Teresa and Neal Phillips who had a busy week having all 3500 sheep through the yards. Lots of vaccinating, spraying and drenching. Teresa said she had blisters on her "soft holiday hands".

Is the heat getting to you? Not though for Sue and David Spencer who had an extreme getaway and went off on a cruise to Antarctica.



of a Dog!

Gary and Tricia Logan had a rare long weekend getaway at Anniversary Weekend, leaving their house and brand-new border collie puppy in the charge of their son. Gary got a worried phone call to say Gus had gone missing! Had been called and called, but no luck. Gus was much later found sleeping under the deck. He knew he was safe and sound (and sleepy) and doesn't quite understand yet about coming when you're called (unless it's to Tricia).

There was Bridge too!

There was Holiday Bridge here at the club, a couple of tournaments around Auckland over Christmas and New Year and then:

The Goulash Night, 2nd January

We had 8.5 tables for this fun night, run by Arie. There were "wild" hands which tested everyone's mettle, and mostly fortune favoured the brave! Winners on the night were:

North South	%
Carol Moore - Henrietta Annabell	59.26

Handicap: Kevin Griffin – Dirk Mooy	58.62
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East West	
Lynne Geursen - Trevor Robb	66.90

Handicap: Belinda Summerville - Caroline Griffin	58.95
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So, back to business and February started with:

The Swiss Pairs Tournament on Saturday, 2nd February:

Thanks very much to Linda Thornton for sponsoring this event. It was a fabulous day with some strong Open pairs mixing it with many of our club pairs playing too. Swiss Pairs is great in catering for all standards of players in the one event. Mainly, you play against players of your own grade.

Ask Wayne Rogers and Peter Rowe. They are two very new Franklin Club players who only learnt the game about six months ago. Not a C Point yet between them. They mixed it with their "betters" and won one game (their first C Point), and had three small losses in their 6 x 8 board matches (we won't mention the other two!) and seemed to enjoy themselves.



Peter Rowe

THE OLD AND THE NEW PLAYING IN THE SAME EVENT, EACH WINNERS IN THEIR OWN WAY

At the "business end", the winners were kind of locals, Matt Brown and Carol Richardson, who live in Pokeno but who need to be enticed to join the club. Matt is a current New Zealand Open representative and seems to win just about everything he enters! Carol, who used to be a Franklin member, is a regular New Zealand Women's International. See what I mean about a strong field!



Matt Brown and Carol Richardson



Trevor Robb and Lynne Geursen, 2nd out of 40 pairs

Julie Quilty and Jerry Kuggeleijn enjoyed themselves and won a prize as the top pair in the below 200 Rating Points category.



In light of that, Lynne Geursen and Trevor Robb did well to finish in second place while I finished fourth, playing with a Cambridge club member, Anna Kalma. It could have been third ... I will share our last board of the day disaster with you later in this issue.

However, a final mention to all those club members who helped. Thanks to Arie, Chris, Maria and all those in the kitchen or who generally lent a hand.

A Wednesday Record

On the last Wednesday in January, we had a record 15 and a half tables playing. That augurs really well for the coming year. Not only do we want to get more members but we want to see all members playing more often. We will print below the names of the those to call if you would like a game but have not got a partner. They will certainly try to help you out:

Monday evening	Richard Solomon	232 8494
Wednesday evening	Maureen Nelson	239 1720
Friday day	Madeline Dodds	232 8800

and:

A Request to Evening Players

Please be seated **opposite your partner** ready to commence play at **7.20pm** (If you are running late let your partner know or ring the Club). It really is hard on the playing directors if they are continually having to change the final table numbers and then set up the room and computer as well as play their own boards of first round as well.

The Gold Coast Bridge Congress

Several of our club members will leave the glorious Pukekohe weather in mid- February and will head to Queensland's Gold Coast where they will certainly enjoy themselves at the Gold Coast Bridge Congress. The big question is whether they will get as good weather as Pukekohe has been experiencing. We will let you know as well as how the likes of Carol, Lynne, Arie, Bev, Sue, David, Teresa and others fare at the bridge table in the March issue.

Lessons for New Players

The next set of lessons - 10 weeks - started on 7th February. Hopefully, you have done your bit to encourage new players to come to these lessons, perhaps with a poster advertising the club and lessons in your car. The club has been actively advertising. We are keen to grow our club this year. NOTE: Paid-up members of the club are welcome to repeat the lessons at no charge.

And we must say that it's great to see so many of last year's "graduates" taking the plunge and playing in our regular sessions. We particularly welcome Graham, Ken, Peter, Ratalal, Wayne and the two Tims. Our partner convenors are always happy to find a partner for you - a bit of notice is welcomed. And on that subject, please note that Wednesday convenor, Maureen's email address is incorrect in our yellow programme book. Correct address is **msnelson.nz@gmail.com**

Words from the Treasurer

Normally, there are very few words at this time of year except for those immortal ones "Subscriptions are due!" Actually, the date for the discounted rate has now passed (31st January) though Maureen would still love to see the colour of your money if you have not yet paid. We believe close to 80% of members have now paid.

However, Maureen has a few extra words to say:

Table money bags.

"There is a hole in my bag, Dear Lisa Dear Lisa

A hole in my bag, dear Lisa a hole."

"Well, fix it, dear Gary dear Gary, dear Gary.

Fix it, dear Gary, dear Gary, fix it!"

"With what shall I fix it, dear Lisa, dear Lisa dear Lisa"

The plastic ANZ bags which we use for table money aren't very tough, and periodically the bottom falls out of them - longevity probably affected by the weight of coins. On Monday and Wednesday nights, someone goes around and picks up the bags and places them in the office for the night's end. Occasionally the bottom falls out of a bag, and the treasurer has seen them paper-clipped or stapled up to hold the contents. But on a recent night, a split bag was neatly held together with pieces of sticking plaster! The person who collected up the bags that night was our own pharmacist, Gary Logan, who kindly keeps our first aid box stocked. 😊



(for bags as well as for humans, too!)

"With sticking plaster, dear Gary, dear Gary,

Fix it!"

Different Ways of Paying One's Table money

From the sublime to the ridiculous - one Wednesday night, a club member purchased \$150 worth of table money vouchers (that's 25 vouchers) - Treasurer thinks that's the most she's

sold to one person The same night, someone else paid their table money entirely in 20 cent pieces (that's 30 little coins). Either someone's grandchild's piggy bank got raided, or they have a "small coins" jar for emergencies ... can we commend our table money vouchers to you? 5 for \$30 or 10 for \$60 - see Maureen Nelson or Jim Buckland.



And on the subject of table money vouchers - some of them lead a hard life. There is evidence of washing machines, back pockets (curved and a bit battered), other ill treatment. The prize for the worst one cashed in during 2018 goes to the following - moths? possibly ? It has been honourably retired from service!

Well used and retired from service!

News of Former Members:

Firstly, the sad news that Tom Brewer, an intermittent Monday night player, has passed away. Tom has played bridge in Auckland, mainly at the Akarana club, for over 40 years and moved to Pokeno with Bev Henton, joining the Franklin Club at the same time. Tom was a wonderful character full of cheek, a wonderful sense of humour and with a wicked smile. He was also a very strong bridge player. Our thoughts and good wishes go to Bev and to Tom's four daughters and three grandchildren.

Dudley Husband had the opportunity to spend a day recently with former members Wendy and Terry Prior and Freda Taylor, all of whom now live in the Bay of Plenty. Wendy and Terry are still playing bridge at Katikati, which although enjoyable, isn't as happy and friendly as Franklin! (their words.)

Other Player News:

- Congratulations to Judy Collins on the birth of her first great-grandchild - Dominic James Collins, born in early January
- We're sorry to be losing long-time member Glenis Radcliffe, who is moving to Papamoa. We wish her all the best in the Bay of Plenty
- Irene Bronlund is making a steady recovery in Taumarunui, but has sold her house in Pukekohe.
- Richard had a great response to his exhortations to the Junior players about putting in a team for 2019 interclub. We understand that we will be fielding **four** Junior teams (as well as two Intermediate and one Open team), including one lady player who responded to the call but didn't realise that she had volunteered to play bridge on her Golden Wedding Anniversary later in the year. We believe that each team has at least one sub, so she should be OK.



- Things you may never need to know - how to stone a plum ... MasterChef Jim Buckland gave our roving reporter one of his latest gourmet delights to sample last week - a ripe plum, stoned, and stuffed with a mixture of butter, icing sugar and peach schnapps - delicious! How do you stone a plum - carefully, with an apple corer
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to loosen the flesh, then a pair of needle-nosed pliers to extract the stone

We must encourage Jim to bring along a few plums stuffed with that mixture for the tea break in our sessions!

A 1760 swing ... on the play of one card!

If you look at the board below, which came from the last round of the Summer Swiss Pairs, it looks like a routine battle between North-South, who had the red suits and East- West who had blacks. Both sides could make 9 tricks in their contract. Best then to be East-West holding the spades!

However, at two tables, the stakes were much much higher.

Board 20		West	North	East	South			
Dealer	North	Pass	1NT	Dbf	Pass			
West	♠ 765	Pass	Rdbl	All pass				
Both Vul	♥ K1093							
	♦ AKQ3							
	♣ 108							
West								
♠ K982	<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								
♥ J2		♠ AQ104						
♦ 1087		♥ 765						
♣ 9432		♦ J9						
		♣ AKQ5						
	South							
	♠ J3							
	♥ AQ84							
	♦ 6542							
	♣ J76							

I sat East and, on the last board of the tournament, made a routine penalty double of North's 12-14 1NT opening. South and West both sat out the double though somewhat strangely, North chose to redouble, probably as a rescue though no-one saw any reason to "rescue" North.

So, we played a version of "Russian Roulette"! I led my top three clubs with North discarding a heart. It is easy to see what the winning play at trick 4 is but I continued clubs. West's pass of the double and the redouble probably indicated they held one high card. I could tell that was the case with a maximum 14 in declarer's hand, 8 in dummy and 16 in my own hand. West had at least a two count, hopefully a 4 count, if North held only 12 hcp!

If West's points were in diamonds (unless they held the ace), the contract was almost certain to make. If they were the ♥K, then almost any defence would beat the contract. (4 clubs, a heart and 2 spades) Say it was the ♠K? All would be well, unless West failed to find the spade switch when in with the fourth round of clubs.

Declarer discarded a deceptive diamond from dummy on the fourth round of clubs and a spade from their own hand ... and West switched to a diamond! Ouch ... -760 whereas had either of us "(I should have done) switched to a spade, that would have been +1000 (down 2 redoubled!). High stakes indeed!

Congratulations to Pam Lorimer and Jo Griffiths who doubled 1NT and took all their tricks to score +500. There was no redouble at their table. Rather interestingly, the computer frequency chart for this board had our result recorded as "1NT XXX" . Like the beer, "3 xs"! Maybe Chris Glyde would like to tell me the score for a "**re redoubled** making contract"!

See you all next month.

Richard Solomon
