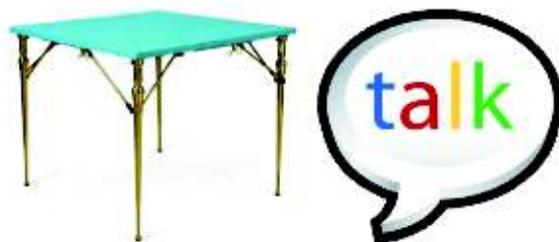

'Table talk'

Franklin Bridge Club Newsletter
July 2018 – with Richard Solomon



The Individual Championship

34 players danced to Arie's clever tune in this popular form of the game where you had a different partner for each board. The winner was Henrietta Annabell followed by our Patron Nelda Wormald, and Frank Hogan (who was runner-up last year) in third place.

Phone numbers:

Last month one of our members was in a nose-to-tail on the motorway heading in to bridge. And on a different night, a member got trapped in road works and was late (fortunately there was a half table). Please consider putting the bridge club phone no. into your mobile phone directory **09 238 5760**. *As Neal and Teresa would confirm you never get nose-to-tails coming from Onewhero ... but you would hate a cow on the road to hold you up!*

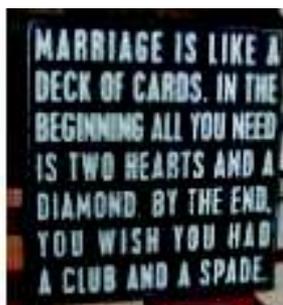
Wednesday Night Teams

Wednesday teams will start on 1st August for 4 weeks - 12 teams will play. Members put their names down as wanting to play and are assigned to a team. It's a fun format, starting the evening with a glass of wine and the wearing your team colours. Everyone plays with every other team member. That is a way of encouraging members to play with people they don't usually play with, meeting new people for 4 weeks, and generally enjoying the month. The team-assembler assures us that major effort goes into ensuring balanced teams (no favourites)!

Friday night social evenings

These are in abeyance until the spring when the weather improves. However, hopefully you saw the pictorial report in a recent edition of the Franklin County News of our 60th birthday party. Cake-cutting, Pae Forgie and our President were to the fore.

Advice from Ann



From Ann Anderson ... but we are sure that she has never needed anything so black when at home with Jock.

Etiquette... "thank you" and "please"

When partner tables his/her dummy, you should say as a matter of routine "Thank you, partner". Partner had no say in the cards they picked up: that's what they were dealt. But even if they misrepresented their 13 cards in the bidding, you must thank them just as much as if they'd tabled a beauty with a perfect fit.

"Thank you, partner" is polite and partnership-enhancing, and in a competitive game, it can put the defence on the back foot!

And spare a thought for the fact that our directors are also club members, who take the time to pass the directors' exams, and volunteer to adjudicate on club nights and at our tournaments. It can be a thankless task and it means getting up from your own game to help others. Calling "Director, please" is a small courtesy, rather than just a peremptory "Director!"

Player News:

One of our members phoned Gary Logan and said "My husband's blood pressure medication has been changed, and we've got all these surplus pills. What shall I do with them?" Gary replied "Bring them along on Wednesday night, I might need them!" - He was playing with her! 😊

Andrew Janisz was sad to part with his "old friend", a BMW he'd had for 18 years, following a recent accident - the insurance company said it wasn't worth repairing. He said he's got another BMW, but it's not like the old one.



Andrew's new car ... speedy like its owner!

However, Andrew was right up to speed at the recent Auckland-Northland Main Centre Pairs held in Whangarei. Along with his partner, Invercargill's Moss Wylie, Andrew had a comfortable win with an average 61% in the three session event. Rumour has it that Andrew did not drive south to pick up his partner for the event!



A Future "Black Stick?"

Margaret and David Gardiner are off to do the Rocky Mountain train trip in Canada, and then on to European countries ending up in Belgium, where one of their sons lives. Their youngest grand-daughter there is a hockey-mad 11 year-old, who is already playing in the 14 year-old competition and has her sights firmly set on becoming a Black Stick. "I could come and live with you, Nanna" said Clara. Margaret said "Yes, of course" but inwardly wondered how she'd feel about having a high energy 18 year old to live with them in 7 years' time! Time will tell.



before Bidding



Four of our Wednesday players (along with David Spencer) are away on the Sunshine Coast (Calloundra) on their annual golf trip, a game of golf (almost) every day for 10 days. Teresa and Neal Phillips, Stuart Orton and Doug Hull are all enjoying the sunshine. Teresa advised that "We are sitting by the pool this morning, only 22 degrees but we will cope 😊" We hope that all their putts will drop.

Coming Up

Sunday August 4th



*Forecast for Sunday
4th August*

The internal "Junior/Intermediate Tournament on Sunday 5th August starts at 1.30pm (be there for 1.15pm please) and bring a plate to share at end of play. We need some more players. Please write your name on the whiteboard at the clubrooms. There is space to request a partner. Being August, we can confidently predict that it will be a rainy day .

And for our Tournament players. It's time to think about the National Bridge Congress at the Distinction Hotel in Hamilton which runs from 29th September until 6TH October. Of particular interest to club members could be the following:

Intermediate/ Junior Pairs	2 session during the day on Thursday October 4th
Intermediate/ Junior Teams	3 session (evening October 4th, day Friday October 5th)
Intermediate/ Junior Swiss Pairs	3 session (evening October 5th, day Saturday October 6th)

See entry forms at the club or go to the Congress section of NZ Bridge website ... or just ask me.

and please tell our newest players about the **Novice Pairs**, a fun one session event at the Congress starting at 2.00pm on Sunday September th ... only 10.00 a player ... a great introduction to Tournament Play.

Breaking the rules.

Now if you are a very new player, you may be a little confused when I say that many times in bridge we break the rules which we learn in Beginners' Classes. This is not to say that anything which Debbie has taught you is wrong. On the contrary, the basics you learn at this club are spot on ... and if you follow those guidelines, then you will be successful on about 80-90% over bridge hands you will play. One of the reasons bridge is so fascinating is learning about the other 10-20% ... and recognising when they occur: **when to break the rules!**

Take the rule that when your partner opens the bidding with 1 of a suit that you need to hold at least 6 high card points (hcp) to respond. Otherwise, you should pass! Any East player who followed that rule would have been destined to get a very poor score when the following board was played at a recent Monday night session at the club.

Board 10 **North**
 Dealer ♠ 7
 East ♥ A97
 E-W vul ♦ A753
 ♣ K10974

West	<table border="0" style="margin: auto;"> <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					
♠ AKQ		♠ J109542			
♥ Q43		♥ J1052			
♦ K9642		♦ Q8			
♣ A8		♣ 325			
South					
♠ 863					
♥ K86					
♦ J10					
♣ QJ632					

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

Not only did East responds to West's opening 1♦ with only a 4 count but they made two further free bids to reach the final 4♠ contract. **Why did East keep on bidding?**

Firstly, East did not have enough hcp to open a Weak 2♠ or Multi 2♦. However, had East not bid 1♠, the final contract might have been a making but rather low-scoring 1♦. Had East not held a 4 card heart suit, they would have bid 2♠, showing less than 6 hcp (with 6+ hcp and 6 spades, almost all East players would have an opening of some kind.) and 6 spades. However, East could not tell whether the board would be better

played in spades or hearts. So, do not exclude hearts as a final contract. Bid 1♠. You do not even have to apologize to partner if you get too high and go down in your final contract. Devotees of losing trick count can say they had a 9 loser hand and therefore should be safe at the 2 level. For others, you can say you have a genuine 1 level response.

West's 2NT showed 18-19 hcp. That added to your 4 is not enough for game but that point range (25+) is more often for no-trump than for suit play. You do not want to play the contract in no-trumps. Probably, spades is best but say partner had a 4 card heart suit? So, 3♠ asks your partner if they had four hearts or three spades ... and the reply showed three spades, three rather good ones this time ... and you bid 4♠ even though you only still had that four count.

It is a good game contract, making most of the time when spades broke 2-2. If they did not, then you needed hearts to break 3-3. This suit obliged. So, 4♠ bid and made by four of the six playing pairs. Would you rather play the board in 1♦ or 4♠? As long as the game contract makes, the answer must be the latter. To do so, you just have to bid with your four count ... bid three times!

Richard Solomon

p.s. On the above deal, you might wonder why North did not bid 2♣? Opposite a passed partner, the overcall is potentially quite dangerous.

You cannot always rely on the opposition to push your side towards such a game. When to respond: when to pass? The answer comes from experience from recognising that this East hand has a potential far greater than a normal flat 4 count.

