
'Table talk'

Franklin Bridge Club Newsletter
April 2017 - with Richard Solomon



Off to Cambridge

Philomene and Alex Rankin will leave us at the end of May and move to Cambridge, where there is a good bridge club (oh yes, their daughter and her family live there too). We thank Philomene for many years of doing beautiful flower arrangements for our tournaments and wish them a happy new life in Cambridge.



Homeless no longer

Still on the subject of housing, Yvonne and Rolf Baettig have been "homeless persons" for the last nine months but are finally ready to move into their new home in May. They have housesat and stayed with friends in various places since August last year. After they get all their furniture out of storage, it'll be great fun arranging the rooms in the new house. Yvonne says she can't wait!

Play Bridge: Cruise Away

That seems to be the story of club members at the Franklin Bridge Club. We have:

Jenny and Dan Colgan who are off on the trip of a lifetime next month -- a 3-month world cruise on the Sea Princess. Starting and ending in Auckland, they go "up" via the Suez Canal and the Mediterranean Sea, continue northwards via Norway and Iceland, then turn west via Canada, the USA, south via the Panama Canal and South America, back into the Pacific via Tahiti and home. Most northerly point is the small town of Honningsvåg in Norway, "way north" of the Arctic Circle and only about 2000km from the North Pole. Have a wonderful time!

The real cruise goer is Henrietta Annabell, recently on a cruise to Singapore and soon to spend 70 glorious nights with Carol Moore cruising around the Pacific Rim. Carol says there is always bridge on such long cruises ... and her goats will be well looked after while she is away.

It's "**Bon Voyage**" too, to Alice Linn and Neville Guy, who are off to Paris at the end of May for a delayed honeymoon. Paris in the spring -- how romantic is that! After five weeks in France, they will briefly visit Spain to be followed by a couple of weeks in the south of England. Then, it's home via Shanghai. Alice's daughter sent her a Mandarin/French dictionary. Alice has been taking French lessons once a week and so should be well-equipped in finding her way around.



If all the above is too much for you "stay at homers", you could do far worse than a day trip to Waiheke or "up the Peninsula" and be back in time for your evening bridge at the Franklin Bridge Club. Not quite Paris or San Francisco but pretty nice all the same.

Our Popular Vouchers

Table Money vouchers are proving popular. Our Treasurer (you know ... the lady with "the big bag") has been asked whether we accept payments on line. Yes, we do, the minimum purchase being 5 vouchers for \$30 and any multiple of \$6 after that. Maureen would appreciate it if you email her to advise making a payment on line for vouchers msnelson.nz@gmail.com

The bank account number is 01 0403 0040699 01.

What every man would like to know

Some women carry small handbags, some large ones. Our Treasurer brings to club nights a large flat-bottomed basket. When someone commented the other night about the size of it, she said "Well I've got:

- * my purse and car keys
- * and the keys to the club
- * and a box with table money vouchers for sale
- * and another box with \$5 notes which I put out as "change available" (for all the people who come along with \$20 notes)
- * and I've got tonight's table money to take home and count
- * and tonight I've got some weak plant food because I feed the African violet in the ladies' loo once a month
- * and 6 lettuce seedlings from Carol De Luca . . .

It's no wonder I need a large basket, and the flat bottom keeps everything from falling over!" So, now all you men know!

The Easter raffle prizes

Two handsome gift baskets were won by Carol McDermott and Christine Lyons. Thanks to everyone who bought tickets.

Working Bee

Many thanks to everyone who turned out for our working bee on Saturday 22nd April. We're all bright and shiny and ready for the tournament on April 29th. (You are playing? If not, why not?).

And still it rained!



During the first week of April, NZ caught the edge of Cyclone Debbie, dumping still more rain on our soggy land. (you must have noticed.) The first Wednesday night, there was a slip on the Port Waikato Road, and River Road at Tuakau was closed, necessitating Teresa and Neal to cancel bridge (being trapped on the other side), and with damage to their fencing caused by slips (Neal said they used to have 40 paddocks, but after fencing damage only had 25 - and one of the rams was missing - possibly having migrated to the neighbours). Luckily their substitutes (that's Neil and Teresa's substitutes, not the rams!) played nicely together and got 62.9% for the night.

The bad side of the floods.

Belinda Summerville and her husband Kerry had a lot of damage to their place at Puni. Doug Hull's, Teresa and Neil Phillips and Stuart Orton's places also suffered. Our thoughts go out to them and to anyone else who suffered as a result of the bad weather.



The road may be shut but that does not stop the Bridge

George McDonald was working at Pukekawa on the day of the flood and reached the Tuakau Bridge on the way home, only to be turned back and had to cross the



river at Mercer. He said he only got home at 7pm and still managed to get to bridge on time. "What did you do about tea?" he was asked. A hot cross bun and a glass of chocolate milk was the answer -- that's dedication to your bridge.

This Thursday Evening

That's Chris' next Improver's Class at 7.30pm. The theme is about "**Finding the Right Contract**". Thursday April 27th. Well worth coming along, especially you Wednesday night players.

Find "this" right contract

And talking about finding the right contract, here is a real hand played this month where the **opposition** told you your **right** contract. What would your next bid be after you opened this West hand with a Game Forcing 2♣:

				The bidding went:			
♠ AK97654	♥ A8	♦ A93	♣ A	West	North	East	South
				2♣	2♦	x ¹	4♦
				?			

¹ Partner's double is artificial and shows specifically one king.

What have the opposition told you about your partner's hand? North has 5 diamonds to overcall while South must have four to jump to the 4 level. Therefore, your partner surely has no more than one diamond. (You have three.) Normally, he will therefore have more than one spade with so few cards in diamonds. You can ruff your diamond losers in his hand ... and discard your heart loser on the ♣K (if you are missing the ♥K). So, go all the way and bid 7♠. Partner did not disappoint:

West	East
♠ AK97654	♠ Q1032
♥ A6	♥ KQ9762
♦ A93	♦ 4
♣ A	♣ 94

So, just a little help in the bidding from your partner but lots from the opposition! That is certainly "placing a contract".

The end of the Lessons

Debbie has now finished the lessons for our new players who will be playing supervised play on Thursday evenings. Everyone's welcome to come along and play with them ... on condition you bring your smile and don't try to teach the new players too much ... only if they ask.

One More Week

When April ends, so does your chance of playing in the Franklin heat of the National Rubber Bridge Tournament. Best tell Trevor Robb if you are a late entry. It really is fun. Ask Chris or Maria.

Richard Solomon
