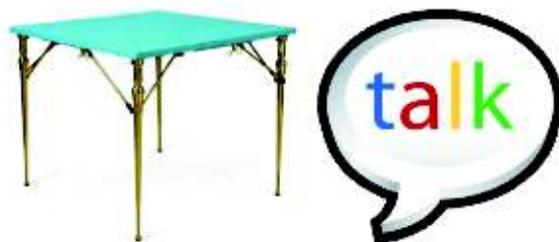

'Table talk'

**Franklin Bridge Club Newsletter
November 2018**



– with Richard Solomon

Franklin win the Auckland-Northland Intermediate Inter-club



They won in style ... well with just a few last night jitters. Pictured are the Auckland-Northland Intermediate Inter-Club winners for 2018, Darren Old, Kevin Birch, Julie Quilty, Linda Thornton and Roni Bistricher.

Our team won all 9 matches ... and in the first 8, they won in great style averaging a huge 16.6vps per match. Only one other team were in contention, Mt Albert – Cedric and in the last round, they scored 18.09. This meant Franklin needed just over 8vps off Papakura in the last match..but at half-time were losing! Not a great start. However, they turned the deficit round in the second 12 boards to win 11.23-8.77 ..and win the title by 3vps. Interestingly, the third placed team, the Waiheke Sharks, finished a full 34vps behind Franklin. There were 22 teams in the Intermediate event.

Our Open Team had a mid-table season and finished 4th in the 9- team competition ... and our Junior team? Where did they finish? The answer is nowhere because Franklin did not enter a Junior team this year in what was a 16-team competition. That is a real pity as once a month Friday Inter-Clubs are really enjoyable. You play teams at your own level in a competitive but friendly environment. Franklin really should have at least one Junior team next year. It is not a huge commitment as you can have more than four in a team. So, think on, you Junior players. I will have more to say on this at next month's AGM.

Almost taking the wine ...

That's Lynne Geursen and Grant Jarvis who played together in the Franklin heat, one of 55 heats nationwide, of this year's Babich Wines New Zealand Wide Pairs. The event featured 24 hands played by nearly 1000 pairs all around the country on the evening of Friday November 2nd. Percentages change when Franklin scores are combined with those at the other heats ... and that will explain why the East-West Franklin scores ended up so low.

Indeed, the top East-West score, from Trish and Gary Logan, was only 47.29%, but earning them an A Point. The North-South players did much better, led by Lynne and Grant with 67.28%, Bev Henton and Carol De Luca 62.40% and Jonathan Taylor and Jim Buckland 61.42%. Lynne and Grant, whose score at the club was 63.10% finished 11th out of 986 pairs nationwide but just a couple of per cent short of the wine prizes. Carol and Bev finished 60th while Jonathan and Jim were 73rd.

As usual, most of the pairs enjoyed a pot luck dinner before play though there was one change to the event this year. Although I organize the event nationwide, I was not at my usual place of directing the Franklin heat, for perhaps the first time in 20 years. I was asked by the Napier Club, one year in advance, to direct their heat and tempted by playing a tournament at Napier that weekend, I accepted their offer.

I believe Franklin was left in very capable hands. Arie Geursen, who took on the directing role, has had just a little prior experience in directing though the following picture shows that he was called on to do rather more than just say "East-West move, please:"

He was very gainfully employed in the kitchen afterwards.



Thanks, Arie, for seeing that everyone had a most enjoyable evening.

Our President takes out 12 Franklin Bridge Club players to lunch



Standing: Delwynne Homewood, Frances Gale, Heather Walden, Diane Conroy, Carol Moore, Henrietta Annabell, Maureen Nelson, Bev Donaldson

Seated: Jo Griffiths, Mae McRobbie, Glenis Radcliffe, Jenny Colgan

Kevin Birch's father is the patron of the local Dementia Society, and caused Kevin to buy a table of tickets for their Ladies Luncheon. Who did he send off to the lunch? A group of very appreciative Franklin Bridge ladies, who all had a very nice lunch and enjoyed the experience.

Raising \$7,400 for breast cancer

Well done to Royle Epsom Bridge Club which recently ran a 24-hour marathon bridge event and which raised \$7400 for breast cancer research. More than 130 players took part including our own Maureen Nelson who played 15 hours (6 Friday + 9 Saturday) with 5 different friends and had a great time.

Each player paid \$25 table money, which covered as many sessions as you chose to participate in. In addition, there were raffles and a Give A Little page for donations.

7 hardy souls played the whole 24 hours straight - including Ian and Steve, two Epsom players. At about 5am on Saturday, Ian (whose system card is only slightly shorter than War and Peace) opened 2NT (the unusual 2NT indicating 5 of each minor). Steve by then had been playing for 11 hours straight, and bid 3D, as he thought, transferring Ian into hearts. "Excellent" thought Ian, and raised to 5D. Opposite them was Helen, who had also been playing for 11 hours straight, but who was "onto it" and doubled them. Seven light, vulnerable and doubled = minus 2000 😊



Maureen, on the left. The photo was taken at 6.00pm on the Friday when all the players were fresh. No photo is available of Maureen after 15 hours' play, not even for a large sum!

Moving house?

Many of us know how stressful moving house can be, but our members have taken things to new heights over the last few weeks!



Linda and Steve's ark

Linda Thornton and Steve Broiles have relocated from Ararimu to Awhitu Peninsula, taking with them not only the 2 dogs and the cat, but 70 chickens, 20 baby turkeys, a dozen ducklings and 2 horses. Not to mention the usual "stuff" from the house, garage and implement shed. Although most of us would think that was very stressful, Linda says it isn't as bad as when they relocated from the USA to here.

Could you live in this?



And Belinda and Kerry Summerville have just moved into their implement shed! Well that's a slight exaggeration, but they've moved out of their house, and into a huge 6-bay "shed" which has 4 bays for Kerry's machinery and the final 2 bays have been converted into an air-conditioned temporary home for them, while they build a new dream home next door. With only 12 days to go, Totalspan delivered the "flatpack" shed and Kerry had just that long to put it together. The "shed" living is augmented by a 25-foot house-bus. So, they're well set up for the next 18 months - that's 2 summers and only 1 winter. Belinda has remained amazingly cheerful and calm (well at the club, anyway) and says it's all a big adventure.

All our local farmers have just been through the Calf Club (Ag Day) season. Neal and Teresa Phillips have been lamb judges for many years at Onewhero Area School, where Neal judges the "rearing" and Teresa judges the "calling" categories. They also get asked by other schools to be judges, but have a soft spot for Onewhero, which is their local school.

AGM on Sunday 9th December

- note that this is not the date in your programme book

At the AGM you will also receive your programme book for 2019, ready to sign up partners for next year ... and a Christmas present from Maureen, your 2019 invoice.

Linda Thornton is not standing again for Club Captain. So, do not be shy ... put your name forward, someone! She has just moved to Awhitu with all her livestock (Steve, too!), and she will have a very busy year on the home front.

Welcome back, Chris and Maria ... and good news of Irene

It was great to see Chris and Maria back at bridge on 14th November. And we are glad to report that Irene Bronlund has been discharged from Waikato Hospital, and gone to live with her daughter in Taumarunui. She is able to walk short distances unaided, and her speech has improved. Her right arm is still refusing to obey messages, so although she can receive emails, she can't yet reply to them.

Best wishes to Dennise Biddick whose son will be married from her home on 1st December. We hope for a sunny and happy day for everyone.

Holiday Bridge

As marked in your programme booklets, Holiday Bridge will be held on Wednesday 12th and 19th December, and Friday 14th, 21st and 28th December. You do not need a partner for these dates (although you are of course welcome to arrange one). Just turn up ready to play. We will have a spare person available in case there is a need for one more player.

Record Attendance on Club Night

Wednesday partner-convenor Maureen took on that role in 2011 and so is just completing her 8th year in the job. When she began, table numbers were in single figures, but have gradually increased, and she has mentally had a target of 14 tables for the last 2 years. This figure has proved elusive - regularly 12 and 13, occasionally even 13 1/2, but not 14 until last Wednesday! "Let's keep it up" she says.

It looks like you need a new target, Maureen. There's nothing like being adventurous ... what about 20 tables? If you think that is a bit tough, take it easy. "Another 8 years in the job" by popular acclaim!

Defending and Playing Successfully

The following deal from recent Monday night play has a number of lessons that all players learning the game could follow. Take a look at the four hands below and decide whether, on the lead of the ♦ 8 from West, you think South's contract of 4♥ should make.

| | | | | | |
|---------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| Dealer | North | West | North | East | South |
| East | ♠ 10 | | | | 1 NT Pass |
| N-S Vul | ♥ AK1096 | 2♥ | Dbl | 2♠ | 3♥ |
| | ♦ KQ976 | Pass | 4♥ | All pass | |
| | ♣ 109 | | | | |

| | | | | | |
|-------------|---|---|-----|---|-------------|
| West | <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 | | | | | |
| ♠ J8654 | ♠ AK | | | | |
| ♥ 43 | ♥ 852 | | | | |
| ♦ 8 | ♦ AJ54 | | | | |
| ♣ KJ743 | ♣ Q852 | | | | |

| |
|--------------|
| South |
| ♠ Q9732 |
| ♥ QJ7 |
| ♦ 1032 |
| ♣ A6 |

2♥ was a transfer to spades with North's double indicating a good heart suit. Despite holding 5 spades, South decided to compete to 3♥ as the opponents were not vulnerable. North decided to raise to game.

After that initial lead, 4♥ should fail. East could either give West a diamond ruff or could switch to a club. The defence can either take a club, two diamonds and a spade or a diamond ruff, a club, ♦ A and a spade.

However, although East did not return a diamond at trick 2, they did not switch to a club either. East cashed ♠ A before switching to a club.

The cashing of the ♠ A gave South a slim chance. They knew West held 5 spades. Say the ♠ AK were doubleton. Then, South could ruff a spade, draw trumps and discard the club loser on the ♠ Q, making 10 tricks.

That is what South did, losing just two diamonds and a spade.

What, therefore, are the lessons of this hand?

1. Always think about your partner's opening lead. East saw a rather threatening diamond suit in dummy and ignored it. It is true that had West led from the top of a doubleton, then returning a diamond would actually cost the defence a trick. So, playing a diamond back at trick 2 was not going to guarantee success.

2. A singleton on dummy does not mean it is safe to cash a winner in that suit. Quite the opposite. Although it was safe enough if West held ♠ Q, East did not know if that was **the case.** **East's seemingly harmless cash of the ♠ A allowed the contract to make.**

3. Assuming it is a relatively normal play, take a slim chance to make or even to defeat a contract. Slim chances sometimes succeed.

When South won the ♣ A at trick 3, they were staring defeat in the face ... two diamond losers, a club and a spade. South should try to imagine how they could eliminate one of those losers. Assuming East started with at least three diamonds including the jack, the only chance is if that ♠ K will fall on the second round of the suit.

So, before drawing trumps, ruff a spade. It costs nothing and here gains heaps.

Notice how well West had done not to lead a spade as after the spade lead, the contract cannot be beaten. A desperate declarer can ruff out the ♠ K, thus setting up their ♠ Q.

Good defence involves not giving the declarer a chance of success if they can avoid doing so. Good declarer play involves looking for any chance of making their contract, no matter how small.

Looking ahead

We will have a short Table Talk in December after the AGM after which we will return in February. Hope to see you all on December 9th for the AGM and prize-giving ... and some bridge, of course!

Richard Solomon
