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# 'Table talk'



## Franklin Bridge Club Newsletter January 2018

– with Richard Solomon

Welcome to the first Table Talk of 2018. Hope you all had a nice break ... Not from Bridge, of course. My "bridge break" lasted for eight days. I suppose for me that's a long time!

Plenty of New Year's Resolutions? Well, some things never change but others do. Andrew Janisz was told off by his partner for bidding too quickly! Now, that's scary! I am told he will return to old habits very soon.

### Holiday Bridge

Holiday Bridge was popular over the holidays with 5 or 6 tables each Wednesday and Friday. The interval will be a bit shorter at the end of this year as the playing programme has been extended further into December on Monday nights.

### Farewell to Robyn

Alas we have started the year on a sad note, with the passing of Robyn Robb on 6th January. Robyn had been unwell for some time and in mid-August last year she and Trevor held a "Celebrate Life" afternoon at the bridge club, attended by more than 100 of their friends and family. With the room decorated with roses and balloons, a delicious afternoon tea and live music, it was a very happy afternoon. Her funeral on January 11th was attended by many friends from the Franklin Bridge Club. Our thoughts and good wishes go to Trevor and to his and Robyn's respective families.

### Wild weather

The wild and stormy weather in early January brought damage to the fields and gardens of some of our members. Sean Wilson who lives on Miranda Road suffered quite a lot of loss of half-grown fruit from his orchard, and Gill and Dermot Murphy, who live on the same road, lost several large and beautiful liquidambar.

Over on the other coast at Clarks Beach, Christine Jenkins was up at 2am moving her very old horse as the tide swept up his paddock and flooded everything. She said that next day her dog swam to the gate, where the water was waist-high.

Teresa and Neal Phillips lost trees too ... but "Nothing that couldn't be handled with a chainsaw and the tractor" said Teresa. They have had a busy time, their daughter having been married from their Port Waikato property between Christmas and the New Year, building proceeding on their new house, and a new grandchild due the first week in February. We have no reports of damage to anyone's home (apart from the portaloo at the Phillips building

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site being blown over). So, that's a blessing.

*Neil and Teresa on either side of their daughter Kylie and new husband Tim.*



## **Linda and the “chook food”**

But picture, if you will, Linda Thornton at Ararimu, where two medium-sized kowhai trees had fallen across the access road to her chickens. There she was lugging heavy quantities of chicken food and the trees barring her way -- oh no! So she put down the chook-food, went back and got the wheelbarrow, wheeled it through the fallen trees, loaded it up with the feed and wheeled it on down to the chickens. They were in no mood to listen to her excuses! She says she's going to investigate "Chainsaw Classes for Women".

## **Hot Stuff**

Talking about weather, it's been over 40 degrees in Australia - good luck to Margaret and David Gardiner, who have been to watch some of the Australian Tennis Open....

## **But A little cooler**

and Christine and Robert **did** have a white Christmas in England.

## **Maureen's Favourite Time ... Subs Time!**

She is very grateful to all of you who have paid your subs for 2018. They have been coming in steadily ... and for those of you who are still to pay, the bad news is that it will cost you a little more now as the last day for the \$7.00 discount was January 15th. (well, the Club will be very grateful for your extra contribution!)

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## **Finding a partner or substitute:**

A plea from the convenors - as much notice as possible is appreciated, although we do understand that it's not always possible.

Although it can be hard for us to find a partner for you at short notice, we all try very hard and are mostly successful. It is really helpful if you are not able to play a full set of sessions that you could say to the convenor (for example) "I can't play all the weeks for the xxx pairs, but I'm available as a sub for week 3". And thank you to those who have done this over the past year. It makes our roles much easier.

Richard (Mondays)	09 232 8494	richardharoldsolomon@gmail.com
Maureen (Wednesdays)	09 239 1720	msnelson.nz@gmail.com
and Madeline (Fridays)	09 232 8800	maddymed39@gmail.com

## **New Format for Wednesday Nights**

Wednesday night players should note that one event has a new format this year. On Monday nights, the Danes Cup format where you play with a different partner each week has been popular. So on Wednesday nights, we have introduced that format for the Individual Pairs in August-September. There is an asterisk (\*) to draw your attention to it in the programme booklet. The Danes Cup was donated by Mrs Danes in 1959. We are compiling a history of our trophies. Does anyone know any more than that, or remember Mrs Danes? Please talk to Maureen if you do.

## **Lessons Starting**

Our first set of lessons for the year will start on Thursday, 8th February for 10 weeks. The \$60.00 cost includes the first year's sub. After the lessons are completed, players have the option of continuing to play on Thursday nights in supervised play, where Chris and Debbie are on hand to advise with bidding and play. Players can stay on Thursdays as long as they wish, but several of last year's beginners are now playing on Wednesday nights, and although we all remember how nerve-wracking being a beginner is, they are enjoying the experience and the friendship -- and improving a little every week. Some players from earlier years are also choosing to play Thursday nights from time to time, as a refresher course.

We are making a big effort this year to increase our membership numbers, and all members are asked to pick up a laminated page from the club, advertising the lessons and giving contact details.

## **Fundraising**

By popular request, Carol De Luca's artisan jellies are again available. Fabulous with cold meats, and delicious on toast! Carol doesn't usually do a New Year batch but has had several requests for them. So, thank you, Carol, for obliging in this very hot weather! Carol is always glad to get empty, sparkling clean, glass jars ready for the next batch.

If you have surplus produce in your garden, it is always welcome for our Wednesday night

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raffle. 50 cents gives you 2 chances to win lovely fresh veg, fruit and sometimes flowers and the occasional jar of chutney or jam.



## **What's going on at this Bridge Club?**

*Is this a Bridge Club? Certainly, but there's not a card in sight. The odd glass of wine, or two and plenty of bridge players and their friends ... Read on.*

On Friday evening 19th January, our club organized an evening where players, family members and friends were all invited to come along for a free social evening. Members "oiled" themselves though the club provided pizzas. Each table was set up with four wine glasses and a candle in a bottle, background music, all very nice. 47 came along with 44 staying on for the quiz.

Then it was down to business, a trivia quiz, 11 teams ... and at the end of all the questions, we had a dead heat. The winners were Jo Griffiths, Trish Logan and Aleta and Harriet Poelman who beat David and Margaret Gardiner, Jim Buckland and Ronnie Bistricher in a one question shoot out.

Thanks to all those who made this evening happen: setting up the room, working in the kitchen, tidying up afterwards and to Irene Bronlund and Lynne Geursen for compiling the quiz questions. Also to Ann and Jock Anderson for bringing what everyone needed on a hot sticky (maybe the weather, maybe the questions!) evening, "yummy watermelons for dessert -- and a very big, very sharp knife with which to cut them".

Feedback forms were put out at the end of the evening. It seems members want more such social evenings with no bridge. As Ann Anderson commented "The room looked so inviting and

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there was a wonderful buzz of happy conversation. I am sure people will want to do it again. Great to meet people other than bridge players." Many others will agree.

*Which brings us on to the next such evening...*

## **Friday February 23rd**

### **7-9pm**

A dessert competition! Bake/cook your favourite dessert which will be tasted and judged by our three judges. "Peoples' choice" will be decided by looks alone by placing a gold coin in a jar in front of your choice. All coins collected will then go to the winner. Desserts will be shared after the judging is completed.

Those of you who are not so good at making desserts can do one of 3 things (and notice non-attendance is not one of them!)

1. Offer to be one of the judges. (You get first taste!)
2. Take your Countdown dessert out of its wrapper before you arrive.
3. For a very small sum, I am sure the ace dessert-maker, Jim Buckland, will provide you a dessert which you can show off!

Whatever you ... there!



## **UP-Coming Tournament: 8B Swiss Pairs**

### **on Saturday February 3rd**

Yes, there is still Bridge played at the club and we have an 8B Swiss Pairs on Saturday February 3rd. "Swiss" events work very well for clubs as the stronger pairs draw each other while the less strong play against mainly those of a similar standard. So, do not be put off by the fact that there will be some strong Open players. Wednesday night players are unlikely to play more than one strong pair unless they play well.

The event is scored with your score on a particular board compared to a datum made up of everyone else's score on the same board. If the datum (average) is say 110 to North South and you scored 170 North-South, then you have scored +60 or +2 imps. It's a fun way of playing and scoring. Everyone plays 6 rounds of 8 board matches.

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## "Sorry, Darling"

Were those words spoken by Trish Logan on a recent Monday evening when she rather got the better of husband, Gary? Well, to whom else would she have said those immortal words?

Actually, draw your own conclusions but I do not think she was one bit sorry. After all, it was she who put in the final double. Watch:

Board 16 **North**  
 Dealer ♠96  
 West ♥QJ1087532  
 E-W Vul ♠9  
 ♣72

<b>West</b>	N W E S	<b>East</b>
♠AK874		♠J5
♥964		♥AK
♦6		♦AKQJ
♣QJ109		♣A8653

### South

♠Q1032  
 ♥—  
 ♦10875432  
 ♣K4

West	North	East	South
Sean	Maureen	Gary	Trish
Pass	2♥	Dbl	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♥	Pass	5♣	Pass
6♠	Pass	Pass	Dbl
All pass			
6♠× by West			

This board is very awkward for East-West if North pre-empted 3♥ in second seat after West passes or even West decides to open 2♠ in first seat showing less than an opening hand with 5 spades and a four card minor. It is near impossible if North opens 4♥.

(After 3♥, East will probably just settle for 3NT but after 4♥? Double should be for take-out but what do you do when your partner bids 4♠? I had no problem on the board: I sat South!)

Yet, "our esteemed men", Gary and Sean Wilson had only to deal with Maureen Nelson's 2♥ opening as they bid their way up to 6♠ which the other member of "the fairer sex", Trish, decided to double. The men could have profited by the double by bidding

the cold 6NT contract. However, they stood 6♠ "like a man" (what a stupid statement that is!)

Maureen, led her singleton diamond and now there is a way to make this bizarre contract ... but it is quite obscure (♠J covered by South and won by ♠A, ♠K, and a spade to South's 10. South can only exit a second diamond. Now discard 3 clubs on 3 diamonds and play ♣A and ruff a club. Draw trump and use a heart to return to dummy to play dummy's high clubs. Well, I said obscure!)

This was not the line taken and declarer played one round of trumps and suffered one heart and one diamond ruff along with a losing club finesse.

Down 2. "Sorry, darling" said Trish. Was she? You be the judge.

**See you next month.**

**Richard Solomon**

