
'Table talk'

Franklin Bridge Club Newsletter
July 2017 - with Richard Solomon



New Players' News *(courtesy of Debbie Sullivan)*

We have 8 new beginners all very keen and quite strong, one couple who played 30 years ago who will probably jump straight into Wednesdays. Thanks to Dennise for introducing two of the new players.

February's Thursday group now all play on Wednesdays regularly and are really enjoying their bridge. We do though have 2 players from last year who are playing Thursdays and will not go back to Wednesdays. Please, please be friendly and welcoming to these new Wednesday players **but do not teach them**. The Thursday players will make basic errors but they come to practice what they learn on Thursdays. Please leave the teaching to us on Thursday nights: just let them play. Too much advice, albeit well-meaning, can leave them confused and demoralised, rather than looking forward to their game next week.

A friendly welcome is what you can give to these newer players to make them feel part of the club.

Franklin International

That's a term given to those who are not to be seen at our club sessions because they are jetting or cruising around the world. A legitimate excuse for absence, I suppose! Firstly, we have:

Alice and Neville in "Westminster land"

With Parliament below them, Alice and Neville are photographed on "London Eye". There's no doubt from which country they come.



Taking some bridge in are Maria and Chris at Ron Klinger's "Tangalooma Wild Dolphin Resort Bridge Holiday" on Moreton Island, 35km out from Brisbane. There will be plenty of time to play and to improve their bridge but also to check out the whales and the dolphins who apparently visit Tangalooma around 6pm every evening.

“The smiling assassins”

This came from Carol Moore’s blog. Remember, she and Henni Annabell have been plying the high seas for months ... “plying” and “playing”

“Bridge is run by a passenger who is a director. We are known as “the smiling assassins”. We have up to 11 tables most days. We only play on sea days. So far we have managed to come 1st every time, except for a couple.

We played a 2 day tournament and won over the 2 days, although the first day the top East West score was almost 72% and our score sitting North-South was only 69%. We still managed to beat them though. We won a bottle of champagne.”

No champagne for winning back at the club, Carol ... or shall we suggest to the committee to introduce such a reward?

And for those of us at home...

Tournament Been....



Club Individual Championship – Sunday 2nd July

30 players gathered on a wet and cold Sunday afternoon to contest this in-house tournament, where everyone played a single board with 24 different partners. Great fun (and a delicious shared afternoon tea) was had by all, with another new champion emerging. All 3 place-getters scored over 60% - well done.

- the new champion is Carol De Luca (Open)
- runner up was a delighted Frank Hogan (Junior)
- and third was Ann Anderson, another Junior player.

The raffle of a large box of groceries was won by Margaret Wilson. Thanks to everyone who contributed items and to Diane Conroy for organising it.

..... and Tournament Coming

Well, two of them actually in one weekend. Our club is hosting the **Auckland Regional 10A Pairs** (on Saturday) and **10A Teams** (on Sunday) over the weekend of July 22nd-23rd. Our club has the opportunity to show itself off to the many players from Auckland, Northland and the Waikato Bays Region who will come to take part.

It would be neat to see some of you playing in at least one of these events. So far, apart from me, only Carol De Luca, Bev Henton are entered in the Pairs with the above and Sue Spencer entered in the Teams. The competition will be hard but friendly. If you fancy a game but do not have a partner or teammates, let Maria Casci know and she may be able to get you a game.



...but if you are not playing.....

This could be you!

Christine Lyons will need lots and lots of help with the catering. There is a whiteboard up in the clubrooms for people to put their names down ... or just tell Christine. The club also need people to help with setting up the room etc.

Inter-Club

The Open team had two big wins in June (17.71 and 17.24 against Mt Albert and Royle Epsom respectively) and are currently 4th with a reasonable distance to the top 3 (13-15vps).

Our Intermediate team had a small loss (7.88) to Auckland Hayward which leaves them 16th in the 17 team field. A good time to start winning.

Those Wednesday night players enjoy themselves

Wednesday Teams are a'coming

They run for four weeks starting 2nd August and Wednesday convenor, Maureen Nelson, is taking names.

You just put your name down with her and you will be allocated to a team. We had 12 teams last year with each team given a colour and members wearing something in that colour, as conservative or outrageous as you like.

Rolf Baettig was on the gold team last year. He reckoned if he didn't dazzle his opponents with the quality of his bridge, he would blind them with his sparkly gold wig or dazzle them with all the gold chains hung around his neck !

Remember them ... last year's winning team. That's "golden Rolf" on the right! Jo, Jenny and Lorraine were the others in the team.



The aim is to have an enjoyable month and for less-experienced players to play with 3 different players. The teams are as balanced in terms of experience as can be done. Every team has a mix. Oh and each team member brings a bottle of wine one week to share with the others.

Are you on Facebook?

This bridge club is. How about saying you like it ... and post some stories on it? Nothing personal and certainly not the names of people who are away ... for obvious reasons.

Rubber Bridge

We finish this time with a Rubber Bridge update. This year, the club had only three pairs take part ... and only one is still in the hunt, having beaten both their local rivals and then a top Akarana pair, leaving just one more match to win to get to the Hamilton national finals. Carol De Luca and I have lived on a knife-edge with the final board of 30 board matches deciding our last two rounds. However, on the hand below, Carol had done extra-ordinarily well to stop the opponents making a vulnerable game (and the big score you get in Rubber Bridge that goes with it).

♠JT76542 How many times would you bid with this hand, with your partner silent?

♥8

♦ - Great shape but kind of lacking in points. Carol not only opened the bidding but then bid at the 5 level in the pass-out seat. "Pass out" might have explained how I felt but I did have reasonable trump support second time round:

♣JT987

Dealer	North		West	North	East	South	
South	♠ -			Richard		Carol	Hey, look at that West hand,
E-W vul	♥ 9652		4♥	Pass	Pass	3♠	27 high and mighty red suits.
	♦ 108753					5♣	West might have been looking
	♣ A654		Dbl	All pass			forward to a big score.
West		N					However, when Carol ruffed the opening
♠ K		W E					♦ A lead, she was
♥ AKQ10		S					going to make the best use of the 6 hcp (or shall we say the
♦ AKQJ							good shape of the two hands). She ruffed and gave up a heart
♣ KQ							trick. West continued diamonds with Carol ruffing four of her
							spades in dummy and four red cards from dummy in her own
							hand. When she ran out of trumps, she ran out of tricks, losing
							the last two to be just 2 down. (-300).
							Notice that if West plays in hearts that North can start with
							a diamond to give their partner a ruff. A spade ruff and
							the ♣A would beat 5♥ but not 4♥. 5♦ can be made if

played very carefully.

West made an understandable but bad choice of opening lead. He should have led the ♣K. When the opposition have few high cards (West knew that), they can only make lots of tricks with ruffs. Had West led ♣K, the best Carol could do would be down 3, -500. No trump lead meant we won the match and advance to the Auckland-Northland final.

Last Thoughts.... And Leaving the Building

If you're the last one in the building and the projector hasn't been turned off, please note that there is a set of instructions pinned to the wall underneath the screen.

And remember to reset the burglar alarm as you go home.

See you all in August.

Richard Solomon

