

## Table Talk – December 2020



### Who is the happiest Franklin Bridge Club member?

There were plenty of candidates at the AGM/Prize- Giving night on Sunday December 6<sup>th</sup> at the club, plenty of smiling faces (and not just for the camera!). Take a look:



*What about Teresa and Neal Phillips...or Christine and Henk Egelmeer?  
or the one in the middle!*



*Maybe Rolf, Anne or Margaret?*

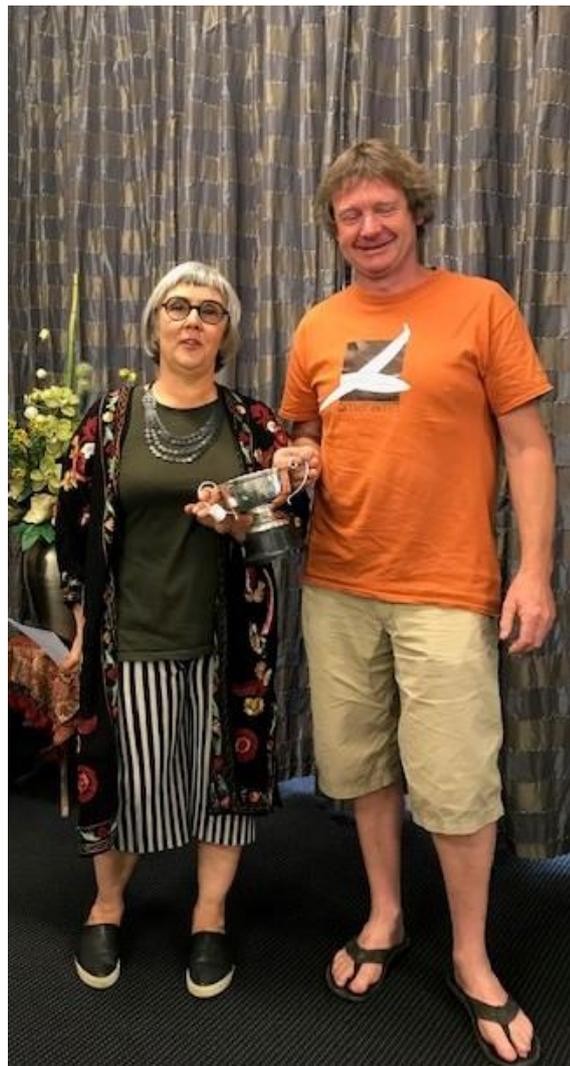
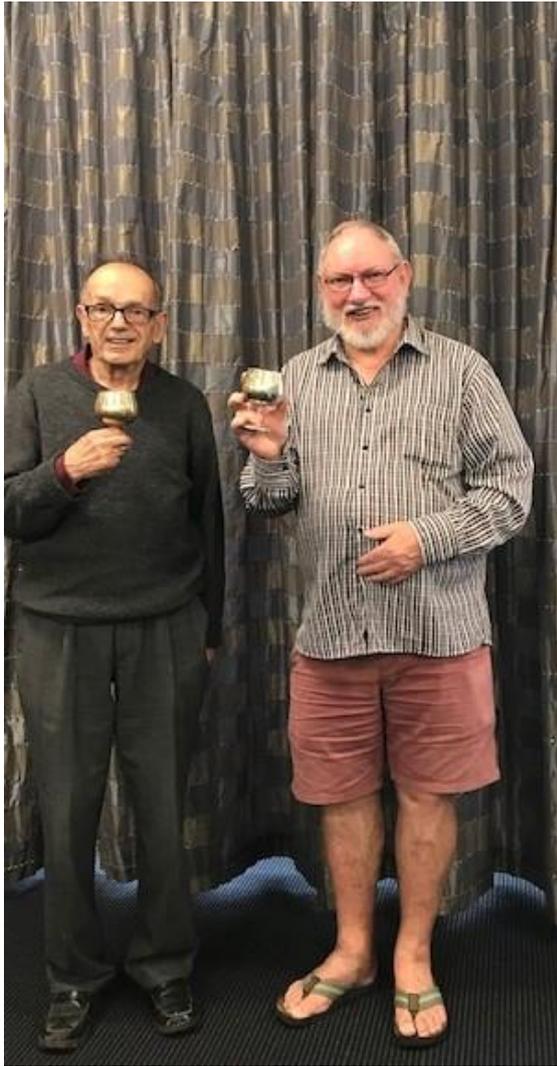


### **Dating?**

*It's a popular occupation at this annual event. Jim and Nelda have both got their books out and could well be "dating". As far as we know, they are both eligible. So, nothing wrong in that. I wonder which event. Mixed Pairs maybe? Now, I trust you did not think it was a non-bridge get-together they were planning, did you?*



*Neil and Darren seem pretty happy with life, too. They won the Wednesday Night, Welcome Pairs.*



*Jim and Trevor celebrate success as do Caroline and Kevin*

During the AGM, Caroline was thanked for the way she stepped into the difficult role of Acting President at very short notice and kept continuity until she was elected President herself. Kevin also received a big round of applause for his efforts in organising and working on the roof repairs which saved the club a huge amount of money.

It is really encouraging for the future of the club that so many are prepared to stand for the Committee while others do their bit for the club in other ways.

Meanwhile, at the prize-giving, Henriette Annabell was called up ten times to receive trophies or pens. Below, is just one of those achievements:

**Friday Summer Pairs winners**



**Margaret Snell Pairs winners**



*Henriette Annabell and Maggie Urlich Trevor Robb and Ratilal Ranchhod*

**Looking up to the teacher**



*That's Annette Black. Is she in awe of our bridge teacher, John Fergusson?  
Our other new player, Anne Boulton, is just not showing the same respect!*

## Most Improved/Most Promising award winners in 2020

Best 1<sup>st</sup> year player

Most Improved player

Most promising beginner



*Kay Wallbutton*



*Neal Phillips*



*Bron Fergusson*

We told the story of the semi-final of the Monday night Championship Teams in the last issue. That Neal and his teammates did so well, and indeed came within a couple of cards of winning the final, shows why Neal is a worthy winner.

I wanted to record the picture of our Patron, Nelda (she surely needs no introduction in the pictures above), receiving the cup for her handicap win in the Friday Ladder, though, she decided to shut her eyes at the key moment!



However, we did catch her here cutting the Christmas Cake. Well done, too, to Judy Collins who baked the delicious cake.

*Apologies to those prize-winners not acknowledged here. We could only show a sample of those who received trophies or pens.*

and finally, back to those smiling bridge players who were just there to enjoy themselves.... and eat!



*Ann, Christine, Ken and Margaret*



*Janet, Frank, Robert, Judy and Linda*

Wonderful food, too...and then drawn partners' bridge. What a wonderful evening.



## Farewell Julie



*Julie and another former Franklin Bridge Club member, Jerry Kuggeleijn. Jerry is now in Cambridge. Rumour has it that he could start playing a bit of bridge there. He is already playing a lot of golf!*

Julie Quilty has been a member of the club for about 20 years but has now moved to live on the North Shore. Julie has written the following:

“ I have made many friends at the Franklin Bridge Club whom I will be sad not to see so often. However, I have joined the East Coast Bays Bridge Club and so will still keep my hand in as it were. I would like to thank all the people I have played with and against and have helped me improve my bridge along the way and hope the club will continue to grow and support new players as they come through.”

We have told Julie that there is a very fast motorway which joins the North Shore to Pukekohe (well, close enough!) and that we expect to see her using it to visit our club. (Please no correspondence on the word “fast”!)

### You want to earn more match-points?

#### Leading the way!

Seems a good idea to me. I am not sure why I should tell you this as I was one of the beneficiaries of a poor choice of lead by all West players on a recent Monday night. What would you lead with the following?

South Deals			
None Vul			
♠ 5			
♥ 2			
♦ A 10 9 8 6 5 2			
♣ A J 5 4			
			
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 ♥
3 ♦	4 ♥	All pass	

At seven of the eight tables, the lead to the game contract was the same, ♠5. If their partner held the ♠A, they would return a spade for you to ruff and your two aces would beat the contract. That sounds like a good idea..but say your partner does **not** hold the ♠A. What then?

Beating contracts is pretty important for the defence when you are playing Pairs, just as in Teams defence. However, you can win just as many match-points in Pairs by restricting overtricks. That is really important.

When you see the full lay-out below, you will see that leading a spade was not such a good idea.... But you cannot ask for an undo or claim a misclick. It is too late...and so was your chance of a good result on this board:

South Deals  
None Vul

♠ A 9 6 3  
♥ K 10 3  
♦ Q 4  
♣ K Q 7 6

♠ 5  
♥ 2  
♦ A 10 9 8 6 5 2  
♣ A J 5 4

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ J 10 8 7 4 2  
♥ 9 5  
♦ 3  
♣ 10 9 8 2

♠ K Q  
♥ A Q J 8 7 6 4  
♦ K J 7  
♣ 3

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 ♥
3 ♦	4 ♥	All pass	

There was no ruff after the spade lead. Declarer won, drew trumps, cashed their second high spade, played a third round of trumps to dummy and discarded their club on the ♠A and conceded just a trick to the ♦A, making 12 tricks.

Of course, the one declarer who did not make 12 tricks was the one in 6♥ where West cashed their two aces at tricks 1 and 2.

So, were the West players unlucky? Not really! (*excuse me being so uncharitable at Christmas time!*) The opening lead was poor. West should have led an ace. Let's say ♦A. They should still be on lead at trick 2. They might still try for a spade ruff, though not when they see the ♠A in dummy. Remember that you made a weak jump overcall. South will not play you for ♠K if they are not looking at that card themselves.

West might continue with ♣A on which East would play a discouraging card and then West will exit a diamond. Bullseye!



East ruffs that trick and the defence will have two, maybe three tricks. 4♥ must make at least 10 tricks but it should not make two overtricks.

Do not put all your eggs in one basket. Leading an ace may give you a better idea of what to do next and did in this case. The chance of a spade ruff was not that great. It is not that you held two or three trumps. Retaining the lead gave you the opportunity of getting a near top rather than a shared bottom!

So, when playing Pairs, just cashing aces, certainly where you have as a defender a long side-suit, can earn you lots of match-points. Hopefully, it will in 2021 (except when I am declarer!)

A happy Christmas and New Year to you all. There will not be much of a break as we start back on the week beginning January 4<sup>th</sup>. Let's hope we get a full year of bridge...and stay Covid free.

Oh, and I believe Maureen, our Treasurer, will be delighted if you were to pay next year's subscription very soon. You can save yourselves \$7 if you do so before the end of January...enough to buy your bridge partner a nice little present!



*Richard Solomon*

