

## FRANKLIN BRIDGE CLUB

### TABLE TALK – June 2020



#### We're Back

Well, you know that and hopefully you have been along to at least one of the club sessions already. It is lovely to be able to **see** one's partner and opponents again (that comment is for those of you who have been playing on-line in the



*Linda Thornton and Maureen Nelson look very happy to be back...and it is not just because Maureen is holding a nice glass of wine. It is just lovely to be playing bridge "live" again.*

last three months) and (for everyone) great to be able to meet again those who have the same wonderful interest as you do.

We are at Level 1 in respect of Covid and that means that while we are all free to play, we should still take precautions, like using the sanitisers the club is providing and maybe finding a substitute to play if you are not feeling well. I am sure we are all grateful at present to be living in New Zealand and will do all we can to ensure that we have no recurrence of Covid.



*Gill Murphy and Lynne Geursen are all concentration*

*great to have lots of tables in play*

### **Change “at the top”.**

You should all know by now that during the break from bridge, Kevin Birch has stepped down as club President and that Caroline Griffin accepted the role of Vice President which meant that with Kevin’s departure, Caroline is Acting President until the next AGM at the end of the year. Caroline remains Club Captain.

Kevin Birch has been Club President for two and a half years, and a committee member before that and has stood down now for personal reasons. Under his

tenure, the club has developed and grown in membership with an extra session happening on Thursday nights, Wednesday night bridge growing and more players joining the Club. It is a very active and social club, a credit to the Committee and to Kevin who has been such an enthusiastic President and player. We hope to see him return to the Club when he feels ready.

**Some words from Caroline:**



“Welcome everyone!

Until the AGM in December, I have taken on the role of Vice President which at present is Acting President. At the same time, I retain my position as Club Captain, a role I enjoy, with the assurance from committee to take on various tasks until the AGM. I thank them for their support.

The last three weeks have been busy preparing the club and getting sessions up and running smoothly. The clubrooms have received top to bottom attention, from the top where some of the roof has been replaced, to the

middle where there's regular sanitising of most surfaces, to the bottom where the wavy carpet has been re-stretched. All in the last three weeks.

However, to make it worth our while with the extra sanitising of surfaces, we do stress the importance for each member to use the hand sanitiser on entering the premises. The hand sanitisers have been put in more prominent positions so this happens. Please take a moment to use.

The Dealing Roster responsibilities have been handed over to Neil Miller.  
Thank you, Neil.

Maria Casci, Christine Lyons and Judy Collins are well underway organising Northland/Auckland Regional Congress which we are hosting at our club on Sat/Sun 18-19 July. We host this event every three years and it is an excellent fundraiser and we are asking for volunteers to help make this successful so please donate your time and baking if you are able.

Lessons start again in July with Chris Glyde and Julie Quilty. Debbie Sullivan unfortunately is unable to return to the club at present. This is a wonderful opportunity for members to redo one or two, or all of the lessons at no cost! Members are encouraged to come along and help out and to bring along friends and family. These will run with an earlier finish time 7pm-9pm Thursday nights. For non-members, these are free lessons with \$60 membership until February 2021.

23-Jul. Introduction to Bridge  
30-Jul. 1-level Opening Bids  
3-Aug. Responder's Limit Bids  
13-Aug. Responder's New Suit Bids  
20-Aug. Balanced Hands  
27-Aug. Responder's Rebids  
03-Sep. Overcalls  
10-Sep. Takeout Double  
17-Sep. Pre-emptive Openings  
24-Sep. Strong Opening Bids  
01-Oct. Transfers and Stayman

Just a quick reminder about the Monday night Howes Championship. This has been rescheduled on 26th October (Labour Day) which reduces the Patrons Pairs to a three-week event. Please take a note this in your programme.

The next Interclub is Friday 10th July. Soon! Team captains are asked to organise their teams well in advance.

Recently I played a few hands of Mini Bridge with my two twenty something year old daughters. I would like to inspire you to teach this to your children or grand-children during the holidays.

Mini Bridge is bridge without the auction and here is how it's played:

Deal and everyone add up and states their HCP.

The two with higher combined points play. Stronger hand is declarer.

Partner places dummy down and declarer looks for an 8- card fit or more and states how many tricks they think they can make.

Develop a simple score system if your (grand)children are competitive.

Keep it simple and happy.

They are our future bridge players.”      Thanks, Caroline.

#### **Maintenance News**

#### **The Roof Replacement**

Major news item is that the re-roofing of our building is under way. Our building manager, Kevin Griffin, has done a great job in pursuing and liaising with the roofer, even to the extent of being the labourer on the job for many days as Stage 1 was completed. Stage II will be under way shortly and will involve disconnecting the heating/air-conditioning units. We are assured that there will be heating to some extent, but please be prepared to adapt for this short period.

**Re-stretching Carpets** Well, I did not know one did but what do I know? Kevin Griffin does and showed me the evidence:



*Have you seen the clubrooms like this? Doing a bit of stretching..the carpet, that is!*

Kevin commented "The carpet was a bit loose pre lockdown and had a large wrinkle in it by the toilets that was a trip hazard. When we came in after lockdown, the dampness must have got to it because the whole carpet looked like the ocean with a large wave about every metre. I left the air conditioning on in dry mode and it sorted those out but was still loose."

The company doing the work was J T Flooring and their quote was less than a third of another company's. Neil Miller helped Kevin clear the main room and the room beside the office and Caroline and Neil helped Kevin put everything back afterwards.

### **Up-coming Events**

There are two major bridge tournaments taking place on successive days in July, **the Auckland-Northland Region Main Centre Pairs and Teams**, on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July, at our bridge club here in Pukekohe.

These are both 10A events and thus will attract strong Open players. However, "Open" means "open to all" and thus everyone can enter. You can play one or both the events. The Teams may appeal to some club members as it is run Swiss style, which means that the top teams spend most of the day playing each other, as do the less experienced teams.

We certainly hope that the club's Open players do take part. The Pairs is on the Saturday and the Teams is on Sunday. The Pairs is 40.00 per player with players asked to bring their own lunch but the Teams has a buffet lunch provided and is 60.00 per player. Enter by 15<sup>th</sup> July using either the Franklin or NZ Bridge websites. While I cannot guarantee, if any club member wants to play but does not have a partner and or teammates, contact me and I will see if I can help you out.

I cannot guarantee you success but taking part is a great way to improve your game...and Open bridge players are friendly too.

### **And help required as well....**

**LOTS** of help is needed for both days -- this is a big tournament for top players. We are compiling a roster so that we don't have too many helpers on morning teas and no helpers at lunchtime. Please see Christine Lyons or Judy Collins and put your name down.

Franklin Bridge Club is famous for the quality of its baking. Please keep our reputation intact and contribute baking for one or both of the days. It would be truly appreciated if contributions could be brought **the day before**. There is some room in the freezer if you wish to avail yourself of that on an earlier day. Because of the short time available to organise this big tournament, which we host every third year, we are keeping the price down for the Saturday and asking players to bring their own lunches. On the Sunday, we should get over 100 players chasing the A points So, we are putting the price up, and our club member Gerald Baptist will cater the lunch.

### **Inter-Club is back, too**

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June saw Inter-Club resume with the following results:

**Open** v Auckland Watt                  68-20    17.99

Our team are currently third in the 7- team competition but are within 2 vps of the leaders.

### **Intermediate**

Franklin Anzac v Waiheke Sharks        34-36    9.50

Franklin Tim Tam v EC Bays Fred        70-25    17.69

Our Anzacs are 4<sup>th</sup> and Tim Tams 6<sup>th</sup> in the 20- team competition. The Anzacs are 8.4 vps behind the leaders.

### **Junior**

Franklin Toffee Pops v Mt Albert Paul    27-74    2.11

Franklin Chit Chats v Papatoetoe Angela 26-68    2.64

Our teams are 15<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> in the 19- team competition and will no doubt be in “chocolate- eating training” before the next round.

There have so far only been two rounds in each of the above competitions.

## Rubber Bridge

The club has or had two pairs in the Auckland-Northland Heat of the National Rubber Bridge competition. Carol De Luca and I did manage to keep our opponents to a victory by less than 3,000 points though that means no further progress for us this year. Meanwhile, at the time of writing, Caroline Griffin and Darren Old are yet to play their first-round match.

## Snippets:

- Overheard on the first night as bidding ended and play commenced: "How many tricks can I lose before you get cross with me?" *We hope they were not in grand slam!*
- It's good to see Suzanne Radley and Diane Conroy back at the bridge table after some months' absence due to health issues. Also welcome back to Sandra Sitton.
- Sadness and joy in the Phillips household. Firstly, sadness at the passing of Teresa's mother but joy followed with the birth of a new grandson, Connell, a brother for 2-year-old, Sorcha.
- David and Sue Spencer's 4-year-old galloper **Alaskan Gold** had an excellent win at the Pukekohe races last weekend, winning by 2 1/2 lengths from the second-placed horse.
- News of Don Barry who played at a recent club session. He is living primarily in Cooks Beach..and commented "In the spirit of folk getting out and about post Covid, Coromandel presents a great opportunity for retirees. The bridge is pretty social and is played during the afternoons Tairua on Mondays  
Hahei on Tuesdays  
Whitianga on Wednesdays

Club members can enjoy the mornings at leisure and then enjoy a pleasurable afternoon's bridge; followed by a relaxing evening at a local pub or eatery. I can provide club contact details or be a point of contact for any members wanting to take in a bit of paradise.

[Don.barry@flooringxtra.co.nz](mailto:Don.barry@flooringxtra.co.nz)

## **Bridge after Covid.**

It's lovely to be back and to see that our Patron, Nelda, can still show excellent judgment at the bridge table. This was her hand and the bidding so far:

		♠ Q 7 3 ♥ K Q ♦ A Q 8 3 2 ♣ K 9 7	
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	1 NT	Pass	3 ♣

Pass ?

1NT showed 15-17 balanced. What bid would you make now with this hand? Nelda was a little worried about her spade hold with her partner likely to have at least 9 card cards in hearts and clubs. So, she chose to bid 3♥, normally showing three card support but hoping her two honours would compensate. They certainly did:

West Deals Both Vul	♠ Q 7 3 ♥ K Q ♦ A Q 8 3 2 ♣ K 9 7	♠ K 6 5 ♥ 7 6 3 ♦ J 10 9 7 6 ♣ A 2	♠ A J 10 8 4 2 ♥ 9 8 4 ♦ 5 ♣ J 4 3
			♠ 9 ♥ A J 10 5 2 ♦ K 4 ♣ Q 10 8 6 5
West Pass Pass Pass All pass	North 1 ♦ 1 NT 3 ♥	East Pass Pass Pass	South 1 ♥ 3 ♣ 4 ♥

4♥ is not cold on the lead of a spade from West to the jack and a spade continuation but is a lot better contract than 3NT played by North on the lead of ♠J. Had West led a spade against 4♠, declarer must ruff the second round, draw trumps in three rounds and then play the club suit for just one loser.

At the table, West led ♦J allowing the spade loser to disappear after trumps were drawn. Declarer lost two club tricks but still made 11 tricks. Meanwhile, 5 North players failed in 3NT with only 2 out of 8 tables finding the great 4♥ contract. Great bid, Nelda.

Hope you all enjoy your bridge back at the club.

*Richard Solomon*

