

Franklin Bridge Club Table Talk August 2023



The BIG July tournament - Auckland/Regional Pairs/Teams

Our 2-day tournament on 15 & 16 July was a great success. Congratulations to everyone who helped and participated. We were a bit disappointed to only have 12 tables for the Saturday pairs, but Sunday teams brought 20 tables, which was much better.

Comment from our club member, and Emerald Grandmaster, Grant Jarvis:

"Wearing my Auckland Northland Regional Chairman cap I must congratulate all club members - and especially the organising committee headed by Bev Henton - on a superbly run weekend. I have received nothing but praise from your visitors."

And more from Grant at the end of this issue, as he describes how to get to a Grand Slam in 3 bids in one of the hands from the Pairs.

With 10A points on offer, the usual "big guns" were in attendance, including NZ's no.1 bridge player, but it was really good to see some young players coming through – they are the future of bridge. Of course, there was a wide range of skill at the table – our standby pair, who were brought in at the last minute, found themselves playing East/West in the morning session, preceded by Grant Jarvis and Patrick Carter (both Emerald Grandmasters) and followed by Douglas Russell (Silver Grandmaster) and John Buckleton (Grandmaster). Jim and Maureen just hoped that the opposition were being softened up by Grant and Patrick.



Blair and Liz Fisher from Hamilton club won the Pairs Event -- we often see them at our tournaments. Blair has done his usual "deep knee bend" for the purposes of the photo -- he is 6'10"



Richard Solomon and Anna Kalma were second. Nice to see Richard back at our club.



Tim Pan and Lysa Zheng won the restricted prize - they are Juniors from Howick club



Jim Buckland and Maureen Nelson and Jim Buckland (standby players for the day) are seriously outranked by Patrick Carter and Grant Jarvis, ranked nos two and four in NZ.



The Engine Room -- Patrick Carter (professional director at Auckland Club) consults with Arie Geursen and Jonathan Taylor



The Other Engine Room - Judy Collins had loads of helpers in the kitchen over the 2 days, including Sandra Sitton

All prizes at the Teams Event were won by teams from other clubs, so no photos published.

And now onto the NEXT Tournament:

Our next club tournament is a 3A/5B tournament on Saturday 16th September.

Do NOT be offput by all the scary references to Grandmasters in the big July tournament! Fear not – our committee has a cunning plan to keep the Open players separate from “the rest of us”.

Please do come and enter – there will be a super selection of prizes – for Intermediate/Intermediate, Junior/Junior, Novice/Novice (yes, novices, do come and enter, it'll be fun!). Spot prizes too

News from Lessons:

Wednesday night 2nd August marked the integration of the novice players into Wednesday night play. A potluck dinner was held at 6pm, and we had a total of 14 tables. Novices were given the option of choosing their own partnership or being matched up with a more experienced player. The room was absolutely buzzing. Special thanks to Teresa Phillips for being the non-playing director, she controlled the room with good cheer and friendly encouragement.

Fours week of Individual Pairs now follow, when the novice players will have the chance to play with other players of their choice. A great start by everyone.



There will be no Thursday night bridge for the month of August.

After August there will be Improvers Lessons for 8 weeks starting on 7th September with "Opening Leads", each lesson followed by playing hands designed to illustrate the lesson. All welcome – normal \$6 table money applies.

We are sad (from our point of view) to report that John and Bron Fergusson will be leaving NZ later this year, to return to live in the UK. John's family live near the beautiful city of Salisbury, and John and Bron will live in that general area. And yes, they will find a new bridge club.

Player News:

Many, many thanks to **Darren Old** for literally hundreds of kiwifruit shared with us over the autumn and winter. High in Vitamin C, and good for gut-health, they have been very much appreciated.

Congratulations to Heather Walden whose florist shop was voted runners up in the "People's Choice" Award in the just-announced Pukekohe Business Excellence Awards 2023.

The Coral Princess, with Trevor Robb aboard, has now been joined by Henriette Annabel and Barbara Lockyer. They've been to Ireland, Scotland, Iceland and Greenland and are now heading across the Atlantic to Canada. Then it's down to New York, and heading for the Pacific via the Panama Canal

Tennis and Bridge Brain Teaser:

Wimbledon is behind us, the US Open starts on 28th August.

What bid is this?

"Did he get a racquet on that serve?"

Thanks to Jonathan Taylor, an avid tennis fan, bridge player and computer whiz. Jonathan is also a keen rugby fan and he and Josy are off in mid-September to Europe, taking in 4 pool games of the Rugby World Cup. Preceded by a week in Paris and ending with a week in Madrid. We hope they have a wonderful time!

Answer: 4 clubs or 4 NT (Ace asking!)

An advanced hand from Grant Jarvis from the Pairs Day at our recent tournament.

You have a spectacular



AKQJ5



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A75



AK432

and partner opens 3D!!

Clearly if they have KQ in their suit you can count 13 tricks -including a heart ruff if needed. This is where experienced partners have a big advantage. Which tools do you have?

1. Gerber - 4C and 5C will find partner has one K. But is it the KH? And does partner have the QD? 6D is a reasonable bid.

2. Roman Key Card - 4NT This will discover that partner has the QD and either the KD or AH - but which one? As you consider 7D, Clint Eastwood would say "are you feeling lucky punk?"

3. Grand Slam Force - 5NT. It comes up once a year but is the perfect bid. It says "if you have 2 of the top three honours in your suit bid 7 - I have the rest"

So 3D-5NT-7D A grand slam with three bids (n.b. with just 1 honour you bid 6D).

Alas no system is ideal if you give a wrong response, and partner and I resided in 6D. Only 8 of 24 pairs bid 6D and no-one bid the cold 7D.

So, what did partner's hand look like?



7



8654



KQJ965



87

An aggressive off- shape bid not chosen by many but perfect on this hand. (Do not even consider this bid with a re-arranged. 7, KQJ4, 987654, 87) For those of you playing a weak two diamonds the bidding can be the same.

Cheers
Grant

The rain continues! - keep warm and dry, and

- May all your finesses work
- May all your slams be grand