

## Farewell (of sorts) to Richard Solomon

Richard has been involved in NZ Bridge administration for 38 years when he started on the editorial committee of the NZ Bridge Magazine and he retires from NZBridge (sort of) on the 31st December 2022. He is a Gold Grandmaster, has represented NZ in the open team but his major contribution to NZBridge has been as a key driver in a number of initiatives, committees and events including;

Congress Committee (from early 1990s)

NZ Bridge Magazine (editorial committee from June 1984 and editor in Feb 1991)

Major Events including NZ Wide Pairs (from 1998)

Youth & Teaching Committees

Many club and regional committees including the Auckland region, Akarana, Franklin and currently Te Aroha.

International representative and NPC

While I didn't want this to sound like an obituary and as luck would have it - it isn't even really a farewell tribute as Richard will continue to contribute to NZ Bridge going forward via providing continuity initially on the Congress committee, coordinating the NZ Wide Pairs and continue writing for the website.

So this 'tribute' might actually be a bit premature ... but a good chance to reflect on Richard's contribution to bridge as he resigns from his full time role from NZBridge. For Richard he is looking forward to less time in zoom meetings, more time to enjoy his new home in Te Aroha with wife Kath and maybe playing even more bridge!

When we put out a call for memories about Richard Solomon ... we got a number of responses and one from a particular person who knows him the best ... Richard himself!

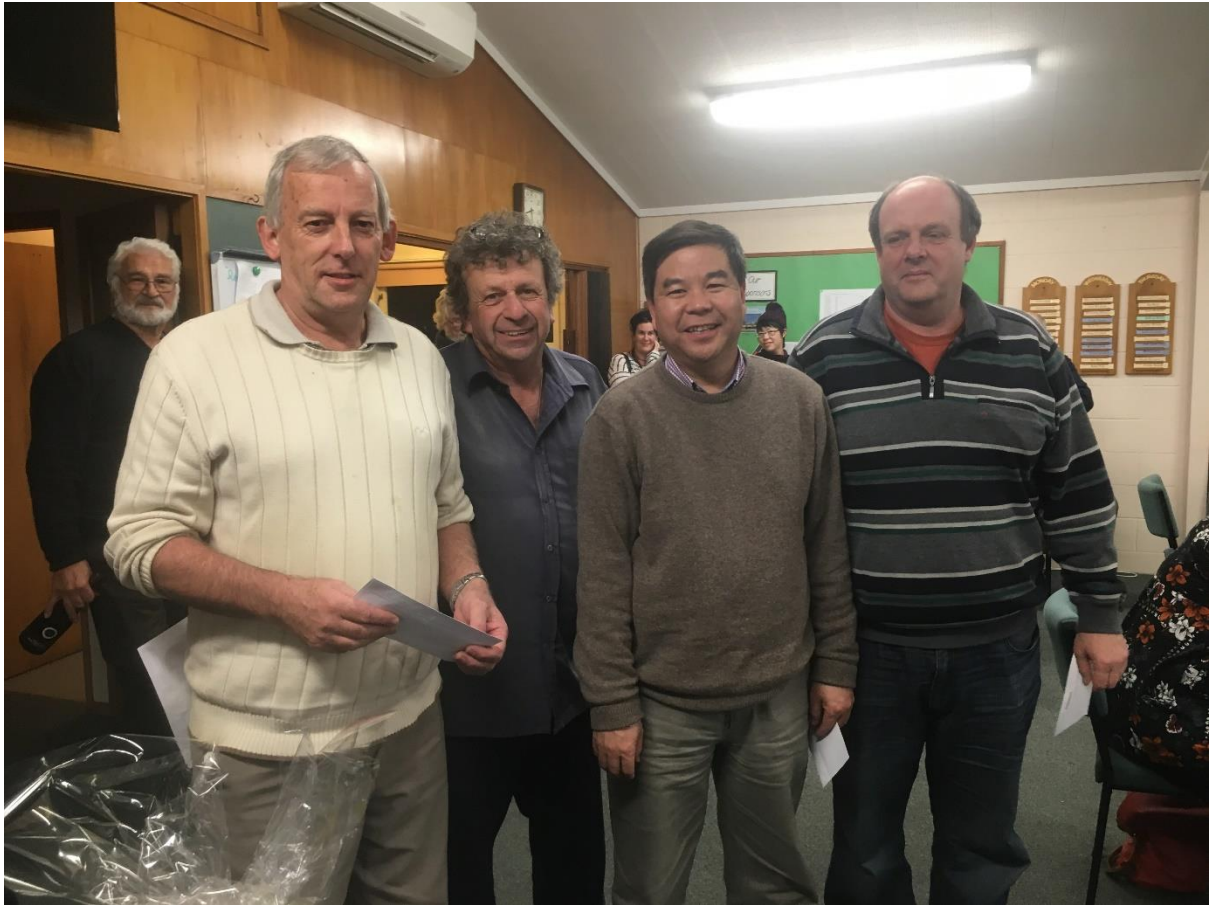
### STORIES ABOUT ME!

Perhaps for me the most important:

Three of the best moments at or close to the table: in order of importance.

1. Representing NZ in the Open Team for the first time and having 2 most wonderful days at the start including a 12- board match against Australia which we lost narrowly but Gary and I were +22 on datum. At the end of the day, Gary and I were top in the event on datum. I stood outside the venue alone in the dark, not believing this was happening and wanting such moments to go on forever. One does not get such feelings very often and I felt just blest to experience them that day.
2. The part-score (4C, while the room failed in 3NT) and the final finesse that allowed the contract to make and seconds later win for me the 1994 NZ Pairs. After making the contract, there on the table was a glass of beer, brought to me by Bulletin Editor, Alan Taylor, unquestionably the best glass of beer I have ever drunk.
3. Opening 6C vulnerable in the semi-final of the NZ Teams (I had a decent hand!) and making 12 tricks. We gained 13 imps as our opponents were in game. At the end of the session, partner told me how I should have bid my hand. I smiled and walked away. We went on to win the NZ Teams that year.





*Just some of Richard's partners from the past few decades ... Grant Jarvis, Richard, Gary Chen and Ian Berrington [this pic was when they came 1<sup>st</sup> equal at the Matamata Open Pairs back in 2017]*

#### **Other memorable events.**

**My first A Point** with Dick Andrew at Auckland Bridge Club in 1977

**My first tournament win** with Murray Wood at Papatoetoe Bridge Club in 1981. I told Kath earlier in the day I would be home by 11pm. I arrived home sheepishly at 4am to be greeted by a none-too-impressed wife.

**Regional Committee Meetings of old** back in the good old days when I was on the Auckland Centre (Treasurer, I think) and every meeting at the Auckland Bridge Club ended the same way, with the secretary Mavis Carruthers very much in charge. The whisky bottle was always brought out and I used to dilute the quality spirit with ginger ale. (This was before "drink and drive" was something of an issue.) Mavis was furious and bought me special cheap quality whisky that would not be ruined by dilution. Those meetings were boisterous, fun and vaguely productive too!

**Dodging the cigarillo!** That's Mavis, again when she and both her daughter then her husband sat on the front help desk when the Congress was at the Quality Inn at Rotorua. Mavis smoked small cigars but had a very loud demanding voice. Many a time I dodged round the back way into the hotel to avoid her! She always meant so well with the players' interests at heart but, wow, the demands, the questions, the voice....and somehow the characters seemed more noticeable there than they are 30 years later...oh and the cigarillo smoke was rather pleasant too.

**Lost before bridge.** Round 3 of the NZ Pairs was about to start but Richard had decided to go for a walk in Rotorua's Redwood Forest. No problem in that, especially as it was a sunny day....except Richard, armed with nothing else in his possession than a car key (no mobiles in those days), lost the

path big time and was crawling through thick undergrowth totally lost and alone. It is the only time I have needed to use the position of the sun to determine where North was and which way I should crawl. I was kind of scared and also frustrated I would be late for bridge (my main concern!). Eventually, I found a path, found the way out and ran and ran, to arrive about 20 seconds before the session was due to start...and the adrenaline rush powered us (Andy Braithwaite and I) to 63%. What a way to score well at bridge.

**Grand murder!** Last board of a dismal last session in the Plate. Andy Braithwaite guided us to a cold 7C which virtually no-one had bid...except for no particular reason, yours truly converted to 7NT.. and I am still trying to find the 13<sup>th</sup> trick. His lordship, my partner, was not amused!

**The small bar at Rotorua's Quality Inn.** I have never smoked, anything, but wow that bar, full of smoke, full of bridge players fighting to get to the bar or just standing around discussing hands, no-one able to hear because there were so many people in such a small over-crowded area. They were some bridge congresses in those days and, sure we are better off healthwise these days but something of the atmosphere has gone.

Oh and since this is my "soap-box", I miss night play and by night, I miss night... speedball at midnight. Gosh, is everyone now unable to keep up!

**My first match at Canberra...ever.** I was nervous, very nervous and was in 7NT. A spade was led and I could count 12 tricks with no apparent way to make trick 13.. but SA was in dummy and SQ was in my hand. I sat there for, well, a not inconsiderable length of time, wondering should I pluck up courage and play low from dummy hoping the lead was away from the king.

Minutes went by and eventually I played my ace. I then took an age to play another 3 or 4 cards and suddenly realised I had 13 tricks on top, always did have, from the start.... could not count. I claimed with more than a degree of embarrassment.

**9 cold tricks.** My first visit to Gold Coast Congress and Tom Jacob was my partner. In one match, I went down in a contract, then another, then another, then another, then another...I believe 7 or 8 in succession. Oh, Lord, please make me dummy, on lead, any place but declarer! But no, I was declarer in 3NT... and I looked, and saw, in disbelief, in relief, that I had 9 winning tricks. When the 9<sup>th</sup> winner hit the table, Tom and my two opponents, stood up and burst into applause. You just had to be there! Thanks, Tom....for being such a good partner. Oh, you can play a bit, too!

**Those bad scores** as Frank Sinatra said "I've had a few." One great one was with Tom when he played 3H xx and the redouble by Tom was **not** to play. He had few trumps, even less tricks but played and discarded like a demon and finally at trick 13, he scored his first trick with CQ. A lesser player would have just thrown in the towel at trick 1.

A few years later, Tom was my screen-mate and opponent when I tried a rescue manoeuvre of my own, and was left to play in 4C XX. Trumps were 4-1, the 1 in my own hand, 4 in dummy..and I will always remember those comforting words from Tom who said to a somewhat depressed and upset declarer to give it your best shot. It was a National trial. My "best" was – 3400.



Richard, Jan Cormack, Kath Solomon, Steph and Tom Jacob back in the hey day circa 1987

However, the best was yet to come, the score up. Teammate read out +90 and I blurted out our result. Not a blink, not a murmur, not any expression of surprise from our teammate...just continued on to score the next board. I just cracked up laughing...so funny.

First board of another trial and partner and I bid to a very tricky non-vulnerable 6H slam which made....a real good feel way to start a match. We started the score up with Board 1 too. Despite being not vulnerable, teammates had played in a gambling 3NT redoubled, down 9 for my famous score, -3400. My partner in particular was not amused.

**Music and bridge.** Music, or playing the guitar, has been good for me in many ways including opening my eyes as to how difficult learning bridge is for so many people. However, here is a different slant. Many at the Franklin Bridge Club knew I was hoping for selection for the NZ international team. Perhaps I was certain I would **not** be selected because I made the rash statement that I would play some tunes (Irish folk music, of course) before the start of a club session if I got selected. How rash was that. I got selected and did keep my word..and demonstrated why in future my guitar playing would be “behind doors” only.

I must though record the wonderful support I received from members of the Franklin Bridge Club prior to going overseas: fund-raising lunch, selling of food (jellies and jams..thanks so much, Carol), general fund-raising. Quite humbling.





2014 China from L-R; Jenna Gibbons, Jenny Wilkinson, Linda Cartner, Shirley Newton, Glenis Palmer, Gary Chen, Kris Wooles and Richard Solomon

**The Poet.** I believe it was before the start of a tournament at the Northern Bridge Club that I asked the director if I could say a few words. The “few words” were in the form of verse and were a parody about members of the club, of which I was a member. I got a fabulous reception from the players.

It was I believe the first time I had ever spoken in public (just not me!) (well, maybe the second..i did make a wedding speech!) and gave me the confidence to carry on speaking in the future, and be comfortable in doing so. I have kept all the bridge poetry I wrote (I wrote a lot for many years... no great verse but for me, the worth of what I wrote was always in the delivery rather than just words on paper) but somehow that original one has disappeared.

If one line epitomised the specialness of the occasion, it was :  
“ At 7.29, in came Ethel, with a full 10 seconds to spare!”

Ethel Pattinson was a good player, a character, a friend and was just always late!  
I feel kind of embarrassed now at the poems I read out at National Bridge Congresses, other tournaments etc... no great masterpieces but I think/ hope players enjoyed hearing them. If you were a subject or mentioned in one of my poems, then that is because I thought a lot about you/ respected you.



Anna and Richard as bluebottles – Cambridge 6s

**Fancy Dress.** I have always hated dressing up, in fact doing anything that made me someone else. I never acted. So, when I say I am grateful in recent years to have got over that feeling, it is a kind of understatement. Thank you, Anna, for helping me to realise that it is fun being someone/ something else, just for a little while.

**A thanks to Lionel (Wright).** Well, two, actually. The first for being the person who pushed me into being a member of the Congress Organising Committee back in the early 1990's. I have had a few rough experiences in that role but mainly it has been good....and thanks, also, Lionel, for showing me about squeezing an opponent. He was my opponent and was being squeezed by me. Indeed, he threw his cards down on the table, conceding. I was puzzled because I could not see how I could make the contract. I smiled, said nothing and later realised what I had done, totally by accident.

**Smiling ...the down-side.** Is it a crime to smile? Evidently, it is so at the bridge table. I have received a few tellings-off in my time at the bridge table, mainly at the Auckland Bridge Club where I played in my first few years in NZ. Yes, I was told off by the director, well, I suppose by a player, for smiling at

the table. I have also been told off there for playing at the club without wearing a tie! There were standards there in the late 1970's!



**It was also de rigueur to wear a tie in the 1990s** – here is Richard winning the cup for the NZ Pairs in 1994 with partner Brian Mace being presented by Michael Sykes (NZCBA Chairman) and Helen Blythe in the background

**A defence to make me smile.** We all have many to make us cry. So, I will always remember in an international defending 3NT holding a queen in a red suit and C J432, no other high-cards. Part-way through the play, declarer allowed my red-suit queen to score a trick. Dummy had C K87. The suit had not been bid, mentioned or played. I placed CJ on the table in hope...and Gary had CAQT6. The best moment came at the end of the play. A very agitated dummy lent over, grabbed his partner's cards, expressing disbelief all over his face. I did not have to say one word: my opponent said it all!

**My hand-writing.** Someone once said it was not the tidiest ever seen. Maybe that person was right! Back in the Teams Group Days, when bridgemates were people you played with, when we hand-dealt etc, I used to keep a book, the book being all the events played at the club, set up and kept in grid form by me. No computer to work out the draw, the scores, just me and my book...tidy, of course!

When I think of all the players who have made bids out of turn, insufficient bids etc, I never recall a partner or opponent who made the wrong bid because they could not read my writing.

However, could it be that my hand-written bids were the reason, the catalyst for bidding boxes?

Oh, I suppose a thank you to those auditors who audited my hand-prepared sets of accounts. You only complained very politely!

Not just handwriting ... there was also a story recounted about your Pictionary skills which appears was an activity to occupy time post tournaments back in the day ...

**Bridge...a great excuse...for speeding!** How else can one explain being let off being stopped for speeding (72 km in a 50 km zone) coming into Pukekohe one Monday evening because I said simply I was running late for bridge. Maybe I found the only police officer in NZ who understood!

Well in response to Richard's driving anecdote – I add these from Eileen Horsman ...

My memory for dates is hopeless, but suffice it to say I've known and loved Richard for over 40 years as a friend and confidante as well as bridge partner.

One day en route to a tournament, we stopped in to visit Denis who had broken his leg and was on crutches. None of us were particularly familiar with the area and with Richard driving we went the wrong way around a roundabout with fortunately no oncoming traffic. Another hilarious moment.

On another driving occasion along the motorway, there was a crash ahead of us and when Richard slammed on his brakes, we did a 360 before he just continued on unperturbed.

### **Food – he loves his food (well mostly)**

Carrots – it is a well known fact that Richard has a strong aversion to anything with carrots in it – hence the irony of the birthday cake presented to Richard with his very own carrot candle ... one can only assume it isn't carrot cake! From Carol de Luca



## Fear of Heights

Richard's vertigo also has been recounted by some who told us about how it hits him whilst driving on steep hills or adjacent to sheer drops ... and included stories of Richard abandoning his vehicle and continuing by foot to his destination ... or in one extreme case having to get a road worker to drive his vehicle to a safe and level point for him to continue!

Shirley Newton recounted 1998 when we went to Kobe in Japan, Richard was captaining the Open. Jenny and I managed to get him to overcome his vertigo and take the gondola to the top of the mountain (big hill!) He kept his eyes shut the whole way - great views over the city. Then we had to walk back down as there was no way he was getting back in the gondola 😊

Many great weekends were had with the teaching committee. Sometimes we would all argue a point vigorously and Richard would despair at being outnumbered by the women! His work at making up hand examples was amazing especially when typing with one finger of one hand!!!





Shirley Newton, Alan Turner and Richard at the 2016 Teachers Conference in Franklin

## Youth

Jeremy Fraser-Hoskin reminds us about the contribution Richard made to youth bridge with the youth weekends and subsequent encouragement and support of youth players being responsible to get these players addicted to the game – including some current internationals.



2018 youth weekend at Wellington

Sam Coutts remembers the NZ youth team having a pretty bad run at an international tournament so Richard promised free beers for every successful match ... somehow that did the trick and the NZ team reversed their fortunes and started winning every match!

### **Some other hands/victories/memories**

Grant Jarvis: We had a lot of rewarding events but for me our biggest highlight was in the 1998 NZ Teams where, as just a four-person team (Denis, Jonathan) in a strong field, we made our way through to the final. We went into the last set a small margin behind to play two of the best players the country has seen- Ishmael Delmonte and the late Bobby Richman. I had the score sheet on my office wall until I retired..... 69-0



This was the Auckland Women's Team who won the IPs back in 1995. From L-R backrow Bonnie Carroll, Jenny Whittaker, Richard (NPC) , Martine Cameron, Carol Richardson and in the front Tania Lloyd and Debs Smith. Carol said – I don't know how we won but we did!

### **A Happy Lot – from Alan Taylor Congress Bulletin (2008)**

As Gilbert and Sullivan should have said, "A bulletin editor's lot is not a happy one." You wake up each morning to confront the terror that nothing of interest will happen and you will produce the bridge world's first blank bulletin. What if a triple backwash squeeze devil's coup occurs in some obscure corner of the room and no-one tells you about it?

Then again, there are some days when the bluebird of happiness slides down the rainbow, lands on your shoulder and, just for once, forgets to have a poop while he's there.

Such a day was the Friday of Congress 2008 when the bluebird landed on my shoulder to whisper “Richard Solomon”.

But first a couple of observations. Almost certainly, the first “coup” that every novice learns is the finesse. As they progress, they abjure the simple finesse in favour of the strip or eventually the squeeze. How wonderful it is to hear an expert apologise for going down on a putative squeeze when all the juniors in the room made the slam by way of a finesse. The following is the story of a slightly unusual finesse taken by Rich

	♠ 4 ♥ T87543 ♦ Q98 ♣ 642	
♠ QJ9 ♥ AJ6 ♦ 74 ♣ KJ753		♠ KT653 ♥ K ♦ AKJ32 ♣ AT
	♠ A872 ♥ Q92 ♦ T65 ♣ Q98	

Richard’s long suffering partner, Jonathan Westoby takes up the tale.

Richard and I reached 6♠ comfortably but the play took vision and forethought to new depths. Our tournament organiser turned a 100% slam (on the lie of the cards) into a less than 50% make. Watch and wonder!

The ♣8 was led and ran to the 10. After serious thought, Richard cashed the ♥K and played a spade to the Queen (presumably to confirm that spades weren’t 5-0). Now Ace, King and a diamond ruff and further good news – the diamonds broke.

When the ♠J was played the 4-1 break presented a big problem.

The layout now was

	♠ ♥ T875 ♦ ♣ 64	
♠ ♥ AJ ♦ ♣ KJ75		♠ KT6 ♥ ♦ J3 ♣ A

	♠ A8	
	♥ Q9	
	♦	
	♣ Q8	

Instead of leading a club to the Ace and continuing the ♠K, Richard found a “master play”. He cashed the ♥A and discarded the Ace of clubs. He now ruffed the ♥J and (finally) played the ♠K. South was now endplayed as a result of Richard’s superb strip play

When South exited a club, Richard blithely finessed in a suit from which he had already discarded the Ace. As the French would have it – Quelle finesse!

Editor’s comment at the time: A stunning example of the Solomon Luck Syndrome. If Richard fell in a pterodactyl’s nest, he’d emerge with an Easter egg and a card saying “L♥ve fr♥m Beaky.

### A poem

Patrick Carter wrote “One of the traditions that seems to have disappeared in recent years is a poem from Richard - it was a regular feature of the Dine/Dance/Prizegiving at the end of Congress. I don't have any, but if you could lay your hands on one it should be part of your tribute” ... As luck would have it we unearthed a few of Richard’s poems ... including this one which features Patrick himself when he injured his achilles tendon at bridge (sort of).

#### **Weak Jumps** ... *hurt your side!*

He plays quite a fair game of tennis.  
On the golf-course, he’s got a fair swing  
But on the hurdles, Patrick is really a menace  
For vaulting bridge boards is just not his thing.

I turned him down to play at Te Aroha.  
Some feeble excuse not to play I did make.  
Then another player one Bob Grover  
Asked me in the same tournament to partake.

“Sorry Bob”, I said “but call Patrick  
He’ll play with you in that 5A.  
Catch him in a very “weak” moment  
And he’s sure to say “yes, I will play.”

So, he called Pat in a very few minutes  
From the phone, Pat was some distance away  
But used his skill in aerial aerobatics  
Sailing over bridge boards stacked for the night’s play.

But, like Achilles, a Greek warrior outstanding  
So, Pat had his vulnerable spot too  
As “snap” went the tendon on landing



While Bob was still trying to get through.

Now, Patrick was so desperate for a bridge game  
That despite any pain he was in  
He crawled o'er to the phone to find out the name  
Of any sucker who would partner him.

Bob, thus, caught Pat in a terrible plight  
"Te Aroha" he asked "will you play?"  
And Pat who'd say yes e'en to Lionel Wright  
Agreed to whate'er Bob did say.

So, may I recommend when you are playing bridge  
Or answering the telephone  
You avoid "Weak Jumps" whether vulnerable or not  
As the damage is done to your side alone.

*For the record, Lionel Wright and Patrick did not get on! And Pat and Bob did not finish in the top four!*

### Other thoughts/comments

#### Eileen Horsman/Carol Richardson:

We were playing Pictionary and everyone knows Richard can't draw. This particular one was after a session at Congress in Rotorua. I think it involved Martine, Garth, Terry Evans, Carol, Eileen and Richard.

Richard had drawn a tree - yes, fully recognisable as a tree and JUST a tree. So the guesses began and Richard started covering his tree with dots - increasing in frequency as his frustration grew. Nek minut Terry guessed..... SNIPER... which is what it was!!!!

After we stopped rolling about laughing, we asked how a tree could possibly end up as a sniper. Answer... everyone knows that snipers are up trees.

**Kinga Hajmasi:** thank you so much for all your hard work you put into NZ bridge. I can't name another person who did so much to keep bridge alive in NZ. We know that voluntary work is often not acknowledged but I am sure MANY of us really appreciate your contribution.

I remember when I started to play in tournaments and met you in a cafe, you asked me: "what are you doing here"? I said: "I came to catch up with you guys".

I am still working hard to do so ranking wise but I won't be able to catch up on the contribution side. At least not for a very long time...

**Rona Driscoll:** It must have been when I was first getting to know Richard, and he learned I was from Taupo. He bailed me up at Labour Weekend congress and asked why Taupo, as quite a big club, didn't run a heat of the NZ Wide Pairs. "It's not too late for this year" - this with about a week to go. So I said it was much too short notice, and would do it next year. Next year rolled around, and I had forgotten all about it, but not Richard! So I had to get onto organising it, and Taupo has run a heat of the NZ Wide Pairs ever since.

**Lesley Chubb:** I have worked along side Richard on the Congress Committee for the past 25 years. I have found him helpful when I have needed information, Supportive when I have needed reassurance, and Loyalty to decisions & ideas that the committee has agreed to implement.

Richard has not just been a Congress committee member and Chairman. he has looked after all the Congress Entries, Finances, and spent an awful lot of time ticking off all the boxes that ensures that Congress and it's participants have a enjoyable and successful event

**Martin Lofgren:** What I can say is that it is much thanks to Richard's hospitality (both bridge-wise and at his own home) and friendliness that I have come "down" to your Congress so many times.

**Patrick Carter:** An example of Richard's never give up attitude: A long time ago, I am not sure which year, but possibly late 90's There was a Zone 7 playoff with Australia that was played in Christchurch Richard and I were in separate partnerships in the same team.

NZB (NZCBA back then) had decided that if NZ won the 2nd NZ team would go to the PABF. If Australia won the top NZ team would go to the PABF because there would be no Bermuda Bowl for us. We were playing of in the final on the NZ half of the draw

Our opponents included Lionel Wright, Malcolm Mayer and Mike Cornell. With 12 boards left in the match we were losing by 65 IMPs

Everybody (including Richard's partner) wanted to concede for strategic reasons. We wanted them fresh to beat the top Australian team in the playoff for the Bermuda Bowl spot.

As that would mean we would get to represent New Zealand in the PABF. So we outvoted Richard and conceded, but the plan failed because they lost to Australia. I bet nothing would have changed if we had played.

They would have been a bit of a tough team to beat by 65 IMPs in a 12 board match. But Richard had been really keen to play and it took him a long time to forgive us.

From 1986-1999 I was on the congress organising committee with Richard

**Gerald Norman:** On behalf of Mt Albert Bridge - and from my own personal standpoint - I would like to thank you for the outstanding contribution you have made to the development of bridge in New Zealand.

Your sense of humour and make-things-happen approach have always been much appreciated.

You seem to have been the point-of-contact for so many things over the years, I've lost count. (No doubt, being on the front line also meant that you had to bear the brunt of any grumbles!)

I hope you can now enjoy your own bridge in a more relaxed state of mind.

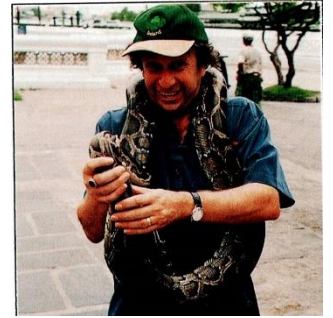
Best wishes again from all of us at Mt. Albert.

Or another millstone around one's neck for an npc ... apart from the players, that is!

**Peter Newell:** I do remember a photo of Richard that was noteworthy - it was in the magazine in 2002 in the

report on the Far East which Richard was the captain of the open team. Richard has a python wrapped around his neck...I couldn't find it when I looked... [we unearthed it though!]

I do remember an outrageous psych that worked against me, but I can't remember the hand. [Richard who doesn't psych often remembers it also but not the specifics]



**Anna Kalma:** It's been 3 years since Richard and I started playing regularly. One of the first time playing with him [Huntly Xmas party] he said at lunchtime – how about we try a new convention ... variable 1NT. “Okay” I said happily/naively. A few hands in ... non vulnerable Richard opens 1NT ... “12 – 14 points” I announce confidently passing with my 10 points ... Richard's face falls ... he had forgotten his system! I still use this memory to retain the moral high ground ... even though it is I who regularly forget the system since!

I've gotten to know him well in our travels pursuing A points and he has been kind, generous and patient (albeit to be fair a bit frustrating at times also). I've been fortunate to gain an expert partner and mentor in my bridge and meeting lots of people within the community because of that. Some of my abiding memories are;

- Richard trying to get a “daily hand” out before the start of play on a weekend tournament using his one finger at a time typing approach ... I successfully suggested that he should reduce the column to week days only once COVID restrictions had lifted.
- Being the subject of many of these daily hands usually due to something I did wrong (rather than right)
- Locating missing stuff and/or tidying up after him at the bridge table!
- When Richard is dummy, the look of incredulity/exasperation as I play out something badly – this becomes more pronounced in realbridge when he could see declarers hand also.
- His ubiquitous satchel always stuffed full of hand records [or bridge porn as one of my non-bridge playing friends called it] and illegible notes and score sheets for future reference and analysis.
- Only letting him drive if I've imbibed too much myself!

All the best for your 'retirement' and looking forward to having a much more relaxed partner at the table in 2023!