

# Franklin Bridge Club

## Table Talk February 2024



**We promote Face to Face (F2F) Bridge**

### Swiss Pairs Tournament 3 February

Our first tournament for 2024 was on Saturday 3 February – the Summer Swiss Pairs – and what a triumph it was. We capped entries at 24 tables, and the room was full. There was a range of players between novices and a serious number of Grand Masters (22 at last count – maybe more). The beauty of Swiss Pairs (6 rounds of 8 boards each) is that after you play the first set of 8, you get graded, so the better players end up playing the better players and the lesser mortals also play at their own level. That said, Jim Buckland and partner ended the day playing against 2 Grand Masters – and had a win. Jim bid himself into a 6S slam and was the only player in the room to bid and make it!!

The day was not without its minor dramas – Mereana Cullen’s partner, who had actioned their entry into the competition, didn’t turn up. Urgent enquiries revealed that he was still at home, having forgotten about the whole thing and it would take him at least an hour to get there. We didn’t want 23½ tables, so Neil Miller stepped out of the kitchen and up to the bridge table and played the first round – and they won their round. At Franklin, we can handle anything!

A shout out to Grant Andrew and John Fergusson, our stand-by pair, who came 14<sup>th</sup> out of 48 pairs – and also to novice players (2023 lessons) Maria Thorburn and Anthony Julian who did NOT come last – this was their target. Good on them for giving it a go.

Some photos of the event...



**Caroline and Kevin**



**Lynne and Trevor**



**Our refurbished Clubroom full to the brim!**

Prizes: Lynne Geursen and Trevor Robb were 4th overall, being pipped at the post by a pair of Chinese Grand Masters. Caroline and Kevin Griffin won a prize as top of the 2<sup>nd</sup>-tier Masterpoints section (all the Grand Masters were ineligible for this), so well done to them. We love it when “our own” win prizes.

Congratulations to Tournament Secretary Bev Henton and our wonderful team of Arie Geursen (overall supervision), Jonathan Taylor (Scoring) and Neil Miller (Catering). To the many club members who helped set up, take down, dealt the boards, brought wonderful food, helped with the cleaning up.... we couldn't have done it without you.

### **FBC... our next tournament**

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April. 8B Restricted – no two open players can play together.

### **The Gold Coast Congress**

This event will take place on 18-24 February at Broadbeach, Queensland. Franklin players attending include (but not limited to) Lynne Geursen, Chris Glyde and Maria Casci, Caroline and Kevin Griffin, Trevor Robb, Grant Jarvis, Carol De Luca and Kevin Birch. Arie is going along but these days he prefers to relax at the beach rather than to play cards.

We wish them all the very best. May all their finesses work!

### **Clubroom refurbishment and removal of asbestos - The “New” Playing Room**

Isn't it fabulous! Enormous thanks are due to Property Manager Kevin Griffin who masterminded the whole project, and to the many willing members who helped with working bees. The new lighting is streamlined and excellent, and the reoriented room is working well.



## **New Card Holders**

We have 5 new wooden card holders for those who find it difficult to manage their cards. They're a big improvement on the rather flimsy semi-circular plastic ones we've had up until now. Special thanks to North Shore Club's Ash Barnes who made them for us, based on some made many years ago by the Takapuna Men's Shed. Thanks to John Bouwman who varnished them for us. They can be found in the tall cupboard by the noticeboard.

## **Tuesday afternoon sessions**

These will recommence on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February - no partner is needed and Jim Buckland will be the Director and "Blue Hat" as per last year.

This session was not well supported last year – if members wish it to continue to be available please come along and play in a cool room!

## **Thursday evening supervised play**

These will resume on 15th February, no partner needed, usual table money applies, all welcome.

We note in passing that on a recent January Wednesday, board 11 was played 12 times. Contracts played ranged through 1S-2C-3C-2NT-3NT and 6C. That's a wide range of bidding. Best available was 5C, 4S or 4NT.

## **Lessons 2024**

Lessons will start on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April immediately after Easter weekend. We hope that everyone is starting to think who they could recruit – there is a very good website [www.playbridge.co.nz](http://www.playbridge.co.nz) to help them make up their minds. There will be a repeat of last year's advertising drop, so please plan to get your walking shoes on!

## **Table Money**

Table money vouchers can be purchased in blocks of 5 for \$30, or 10 for \$60. They are available from Treasurer Teresa Green or from Maureen Nelson. If you are paying online, please pay FIRST so that vouchers can just be handed over to you. Cash is also accepted on the night BUT correct change is much appreciated. See below... a retired table money card.



**A well-used Table Money Card now removed from circulation**

## **Subs for this year**

The 2024 Subs are \$123, which includes the NZ Bridge levy, and were due by 31<sup>st</sup> January. Most people have paid already, thank you. If you haven't yet paid, please do so.

## New Year's Resolutions

1. When I call "Director" I will remember to say "**please**" and to raise my hand **and keep it up** so that Director can see who's calling. Our Directors are unpaid volunteers and deserve our respect
2. I will always remember to toss a coin before start of play, the winner of the call **MUST** sit North/South. This is one of our club rules which are available to view on our website
3. East-West pairs please remember to pass the just-played boards back one table before you move on to your new table
4. I will always wear my badge, so that new people know who I am

## Player News

Long-time club member **Darren Old** has left Auckland and returned to his extended family "up North" near Hikurangi, about 20 minutes north of Whangarei. There are some very nice golf courses up there – Darren has got his handicap down to **11** – and we hope to see that he's joined Whangarei Bridge Club. Darren came in for 3 nights of play at the Hot Rod Club to say his goodbyes, we'll miss him.

What did you do during all that very hot weather in mid-January ?

- Lots of us lolled around watching tennis on TV – some truly excellent tennis in both Auckland and Melbourne
- The keen gardeners watered their gardens and waited for the rain
- The only day's rain happened on the day **John and Bron Fergusson** were to have their roof painted. We wish them well as their property goes to auction at the end of February
- **Peter Rowe** returned from the snowy climes of Canada straight into the hottest January in years
- **Kevin Griffin** celebrated his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday, with birthday cake at the Hot Rod Club



**Kevin's 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration**

- Someone after the "last play" on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> left a jug of milk in the club fridge...not found until a week later..... **Phew!**
- **Gary and Tricia Logan** climbed Rangitoto!
- **Teresa Phillips** and shearers shored sheep on their farm (850 of them on the day we spoke to her), and continued with fencing repairs from last year's Cyclone Gabrielle

- **Jonathan Taylor** and whanau had 2 happy weeks at the old family bach at Big Bay, and then began demolishing it, ready to start on the project of building a new one
- **Kay Wallbutton** spent a week in full PPE gear using a table saw to cut large rectangles of insulation for their under-construction new home. Then she and Paul erected scaffolding ready for the electrician to instal the solar panels on the roof. Kay and Paul have rewarded themselves by heading off on a 17day cruise in mid-February. Note to Kevin Griffin: if you're looking for a handy apprentice for your next construction project, Kay is Very Handy in this area!
- **Jim Buckland** sold his once-loved 2003 Nissan Primera and bought a silver Suzuki Vitara



**Jim's new car**

- **Terry Evans Jr.** went on an aerobatic flight from Ardmore in a WWII P51 Mustang – they did loops and barrel rolls and wingovers out over Miranda – Sean Wilson may have seen them go ...



**The P51 Mustang at Ardmore**

- **The Editor** of Table Talk enjoyed a blat in an ATV (all-terrain vehicle) along a dry riverbed in Central Otago



**Do you recognise the Editor??**

There is a considerable gallery of photos on the Club's gallery website which can be accessed from the main web page or [www.franklinbridgeclub.com/gallery](http://www.franklinbridgeclub.com/gallery)

May all your finesses work  
May all your slams be grand