

# Franklin Bridge Club

## Table Talk March 2024



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

### Recruiting For Lessons 2024

Recruiting for lessons is the committee's major focus for the next few weeks. Please help to grow our club by bringing in new members.

Flyers will be available from the club next week - please take 100 or more and drop them into letterboxes in your area. Last year we got new members from Bombay, Paerata, Pokeno, Pukekohe . . . Thanks to Kevin Griffin and daughter Jacqui for designing the flyer.

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 <https://playbridge.co.nz> to encourage them to want to play bridge – and where better than at Franklin! Please have a look at it.

### Thursday evening supervised play

Is proving very successful with 6 tables last week. Format is a mini refresher lesson (10 minutes) followed by about 9 boards, with help available for the bidding and the opportunity to discuss the board once play is finished. The evening ends at 9pm. Topics so far have been distribution points, opener's rebid, 1NT (opening/responding/overcall) and how to rescue your partner from 1NTX. No partner needed, usual table money applies, all welcome.

Depending on the number of tables of new beginners that we get, supervised play as such may continue in a far corner of our room. If you have done lessons in the last few years, please feel free to come along and refresh what you have learned. Some of our better players did the lessons more than once when they were beginners, as repeating the lesson fills in some of the gaps. All paid-up members are very welcome to repeat any or all of the formal lessons without charge.

### Upcoming Tournament

Our next tournament is Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2024 – a Restricted 8B tournament.

What does this mean? Restricted means that no 2 open players may play together and 8B is the number of Masterpoints awarded to the winning pair.

Please come along and support this tournament. Enter early through NZ Bridge website – if you need help with this, please see Club Captain Terry Evans Jr.

## Tuesday afternoon sessions

Continue to only attract 3 tables. No partner is required and Jim Buckland is the Director and “Blue Hat” as per last year. This session has not been well supported – there is an on-going discussion about cancelling it and restarting after Queen’s Birthday, when the winter weather may encourage more people to come. If members wish it to continue to be available – come along and play!

## Director’s Course

Arie Geursen has started the course for aspiring directors. It’s running on Wednesday nights, before commencement of that night’s play. 10 trainees are attending - please don’t be alarmed if 2 people turn up to your call – Teresa or Chris, plus a trainee.

And if you need a ruling, remember to call for “Director please”, raise your hand and keep it up. The Editor, playing in a tournament at Auckland last weekend, noted that not a single person who called for Director said “please”.

## The Gold Coast Congress

Report and photos from Kevin Griffin:

Caroline and I played in the Restricted Teams with Chris Glyde and Maria Casci (Team Glyde). Chris was hoping for a top twenty finish, but we came 21st out of 86, so still an okay result. A lot of the players in this field were open grade. The team including Kevin Birch and Carol De Luca came 19th out of 50 in the teams in a much tougher field.



*This photo shows about half of the entire room at Congress – a HUGE event*

Chris and Maria then played in the Restricted Swiss pairs. Caroline and I went off shopping, but I was stalking their results. They started at a high numbered table and swiftly got to the top table in three rounds. Bounced around to the top and eventually got pipped back, to finish a very good 11th out of 76 pairs. Carol and Kevin were playing with the big guns in the Swiss pairs and finished just over half-way, so again a very good result.

It is an amazing event – a lot of people (more than 2000 participants), a lot of boards. In the teams we

played 168 boards over three days and the Swiss pairs was 80 boards over one and a half days.

The weather was hot, so the swimming pool at the hotel got a lot of use. I had a couple of swims in the ocean, which was a tepid 27.5 degrees. It's a beautiful beach and not at all crowded. I even managed to find a craft beer brewery not too far away. Kevin



**3 of 4 players in Team Glyde  
(Kevin is the photographer)**



**Carol De Luca and Kevin Birch**

## Player News

- We warmly welcome back Adib Essali and Bill Mellow, both of whom who took our 2023 lessons but have been away for some months. Adib and Bill are attending supervised play and looking to “get back into it”.
- Teresa Phillips and Mary Crawford are away this week, tramping the 56km Hollyford Track. The track is graded Advanced and takes 4-5 days to walk. Teresa and Mary fly to Queenstown and then take a small plane for the West Coast.
- Gerald Baptist has kept up his punishing tramping/running schedule over the summer. He’s just finished the 60km Kepler Track.
- We have just entered the Year of the **Dragon**, including people born in 1952, 1964, 1976, 1988 . . . People born in the year of the Dragon “embody a magnetic blend of ambition, confidence and charisma”. Next year (starting 29<sup>th</sup> January 2025) will be the year of the **Snake** – “wise, charming, elegant and transformational”. It does not say whether they’re any good at playing bridge!

## Interclub

Please make sure you reply to the Club Captain’s email if you wish to be involved in Interclub. Deadline for replying is Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March. Interclub is all Online this year and apparently 10 sessions on consecutive Fridays however we are awaiting confirmation of exact timings.

## **Out and About in Franklin**

We note a sign saying “Road Works from 4<sup>th</sup> March” at the intersection of Stadium Drive/East Street and down to the roundabout at the top of Manukau Road. We believe that this is the beginning of the installation of traffic lights (advised late last year) at this super-busy intersection, prior to the electric trains starting up later in the year.

And we hear on the grapevine (don't quote us) that the former Poco Loco restaurant in Seddon Street, which has been closed for some time, has been purchased by the Franklin Bar and Eatery next door, which plans to extend into the premises.

## **And Finally . . .**

**Please! Enrol friends and drop flyers for our lessons. Help to grow our club.**