

Franklin Bridge Club

Table Talk July 2024



We promote Face to Face (F2F) Bridge

Upcoming Ultra Restricted Tournament Series

We have an exciting tournament coming up aimed at our most junior-ranked players. Officially titled "Junior and Novice or Certificate of Proficiency Rank" players, not all Junior players qualify.

We will combine with Papakura, Papatoetoe and Howick Bridge Clubs in a four week series, to be played on four consecutive Sundays. Players can play in 1, 2, 3 or all 4 sessions, and there will be a trophy which will be awarded to the best pair who play in a minimum of 3 sessions with the same partner. The trophy will be kept at the club to which the winning pair belong.

The first session will be this coming Sunday at Papakura Bridge Club, starting at 1pm, so those playing please be there by 12:30pm and seated by 12:45pm.

Our "leg" of the tournament is the following Sunday 21st July - Jim Buckland will direct, Jonathan Taylor will score - and we have experienced helpers ready to assist with the bidding (each player has a joker card which they can use once to ask for help).

Dates are:

@ Papakura	14 th July
@ Franklin	21 st July
@ Howick	28 th July
@ Papatoetoe	4 th August

In terms of the "Franklin Day", 22 of our own players have entered, including a few from our current lessons, which is fantastic.

Lessons and Supervised Play 2024

We have now completed all 10 of the NZ Bridge lessons, plus having 3 nights to "just play cards".

We are continuing Thursday nights, so the new graduates can "just play" random cards recycled from a previous club session that week. Maureen, our teacher, has been hugely grateful to the club members who have turned up week after week to help the beginners. They are the future of our club.

Supervised play for improvers is on Thursday nights (also 7-9pm) and is held at the same time as lessons – a mini lesson in the committee room, then play continues in the south-eastern corner of our clubroom.



Students playing close attention to Maureen

Winter Sunday Sessions

Sunday bridge only is planned to continue every Sunday right through the winter, until the end of September (29th September). Be seated by 1:15pm for start of play at 1:30pm, usual table money applies. You need to bring a partner - the Blue Hat arrangement was only to get the series started.

On the first Sunday of each month, we will follow bridge with a potluck meal, so please diary the potluck for:

- Sunday 4th August
- Sunday 1st September

After the end of September, we will review the level of support for Sunday bridge, and may opt to continue on. Come and play!

Player News - 1) the Farewell to John and Bron Fergusson

Well, what a send-off !!

11 ½ tables = 46 of us played bridge as usual on Friday 14th June, and a few more joined in at the end, so we had more than 50 people there for the afternoon tea. And what an afternoon tea it was, thanks to our Catering Manager, Neil Miller, who outdid himself, providing not only fabulous food, but also 50 sets of matching fine china (Crown Derby Posies and Pinxton Roses) which he has collected over a period of many years, including milk jugs and sugar bowls.

We had a beautiful cake, made by Judy Collins and decorated by Sue Helleur (including fresh kowhai flowers from her tree), Sue also made all the sandwiches. Neil baked the delicacies and on the morning of the big day, he was out in the FBC kitchen making fresh scones.

President Linda made a short speech, we all sang “Pokarekare Ana and Now is the Hour”, ably led by Dirk Mooy and Jonathan Taylor. Bron was presented with fresh flowers, and John with several packets of his beloved Oddfellows, which you apparently can’t get in England. All in all a very happy time.

We have since had an update from John, saying “We have found a perfect furnished rental, with rural outlook, until our furniture arrives by sea. We’ve bought a car and visited the local bridge club. The weather is a typical English summer – between 14 and 25 degrees, it varies hourly.”



Player News – 2) important birthdays

We celebrated **Nelda's** 90th birthday on Friday 5th July (her actual birthday was during the previous week). There was birthday cake at lunchtime, and flowers and a card.

Last year, we celebrated Jacqui Treppass's 90th birthday, and in the next few months we have 2 more coming up. Aren't they wonderful – something for us younger players to aspire to. Maureen commented in her short speech to Nelda that it's not often that most of us can refer to ourselves as "younger" players, but in this instance only Jacqui qualified as an "older" player.

Later in the year, we will celebrate the 90th birthdays of Margaret van der Coer and Ken Craze. Incidentally, one of our beginners doing lessons at the moment is Lewis Robson, who is in his 5th year at Pukekohe High School. Truly bridge is a game for all the ages.

Photos of these recent celebrations, along with others are in the considerable gallery of photos on the club's gallery website. Access it from the main web page or www.franklinbridgeclub.com/gallery



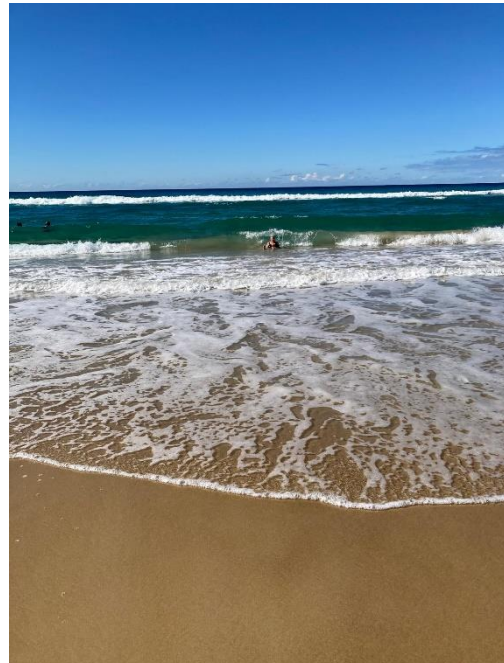
Player News – 3) other news

Although it doesn't seem like it, there are signs of spring about:

- Carol Moore's pedigree miniature goats have started kidding. 10 babies so far, but many more to come. Carol hand-rears them so they're used to people, ready to go to families, so it's a lot of work at this time of year
- We haven't heard of early lambs yet, but Teresa Phillips's sheep have all been winter-shorn and drenched.

Sports fans:

- Lynne and Arie are enjoying their 6 weeks on the Gold Coast, and have loved getting to know their first great-grandchild, Charlotte Rose. They welcomed Maureen for a week's visit at the end of June – she even managed a quick swim in the sea, but was surprised at the strength of the undertow even in knee-deep water. On another afternoon, Arie and Maureen went by local bus to watch the Warriors play the Gold Coast Titans (sadly, the score was very forgettable).



Australian beaches are dangerous places, but Maureen went in anyway (but not for long)

- Lots of us watching Wimbledon tennis, but sadly only one game per night. Quite a lot of us have been getting up at 1am to watch a match and then going back to bed at 4 or 5am!
- The Bouwmans and the Egelmeers have been keenly following the fortunes of the Netherlands team in Euro 2024. They made it all the way to the semifinals, their best result since losing the 2004 semi finals to Portugal. Sadly they lost the 2024 semi final to England, but it's been a great few weeks!

A Bit of FBC History

When we look at the websites of other clubs, we realise just how splendid ours is!

A recent addition is **"2024 Winners"** on the home page of our website. Club Captain Terry Evans is listing the 2024 winners as each series is concluded, and prior to having the trophies engraved. Also included is a photo and a little history, as far as is known, of each trophy. These little histories were compiled several years ago by Chris Glyde.

Table Talk can add to the history of one of the trophies – the **Stembridge Cup** – awarded to the winner of the Monday Ladder, was donated in 1964 by Mrs Irene Stembridge. The Stembridge family owned Stembridge Transport, a prominent local trucking firm during the era when Pukekohe Hill was covered in market gardens.

Mrs Irene Stembridge was the great-aunt of our current player Dennise Biddick (Irene was married to Dennise's father's uncle). As well as playing bridge at Franklin for many years, Irene was also a good golfer and during World War II, was a nurse in Europe with the troops.



The Stembridge Cup

Have a look at the website entries for the various trophies. Do you know any more about the donors? We'd be keen to hear. You can look at each trophy using your PC, using the link:

<https://franklinbridgeclub.com/2024winners/>

Paying table money online

During our recent survey, there were a few queries **"Can we pay our \$6 table money online?"**.

The short answer is **"no"**. We don't want dozens (possibly hundreds) of individual \$6 deposits on our bank statement, each requiring reconciling to the number of tables played, and sometimes follow-up reminders. Our Treasurer, like all our committee, is a volunteer, already committed in terms of time to table money, invoices for payment, wages and PAYE paid, accounting for tournaments, liaising with our chartered accountant, McConnell Stafford-Bush and Associates Ltd. (it's nice to see Stephen back at the bridge table recently).

Currently, our preferred method of payment is for members to purchase table money vouchers, and increasing numbers of members are doing this which is great news. \$30 for 5 nights, \$60 for 10 nights, payable in cash or by bank transfer. Please reference your payment "table money". Vouchers are available through Teresa Green, Maureen Nelson and Jim Buckland. Cash is, of course, also acceptable on the night.

Maintaining our Web Site

The hard and complex work is done now so Terry Evans Jr is keen to train 1-2 other people up on how to maintain the web presence. The site is developed using standard **Wordpress**, so if anyone is keen to help maintain it, please reach out to Terry directly.

Out and About in Franklin

Big alterations have started at Jessica's Restaurant, situated on the ground floor of the cinema complex in Edinburgh Street. The restaurant is being down-sized, and part of the ground floor will become the new lobby for the upstairs cinemas. Another cinema, with lazyboy chairs etc., will be built in the vacated upstairs lobby, so Cinema 3 will become Cinema 4. Work is already under way, Jessica's will be closed for a month in September, and the new arrangement is expected to be up and running in October.

It's nice to have a fresh fish outlet in Pukekohe again. **Oceanz** have just opened a new shop on Stadium Drive, in the group of shops which includes Baker's Delight and the Mad Butcher. At the moment, they are selling fresh and frozen fish, but are looking to add a fish and chip option at a later date. The installation of traffic lights at the intersection there is still incomplete, the road cones and diversions causing more than the usual holdups there.

The traffic lights at the Bombay motorway intersection have been started, although at the moment there isn't much to see. They were due to take "3-4 months" as of June, so they should be working about September/October.

And do you wonder how they're getting on with Pukekohe railway ? At Easter, Kiwirail advised that they were on track to reopen in early 2025. Their newsletter read:

"Along this 19km section of the Southern Line, we have made significant improvements to the track, upgraded six public level crossings, installed all the masts and bridges that support the overhead electric lines and installed approximately 94% of the overhead electric lines.

At the Pukekohe Station, so far, the team have completed the track works, built two new sets of stairs, installed a new lift shaft and the platform canopies. We are now working on asphaltting the platforms and installing the stair canopies, the tactile pavers, the staff facilities building and the external cladding of the platform building."

May all your finesses work
May all your slams be grand