

Franklin Bridge Club

Table Talk March 2025



We promote Face to Face (F2F) Bridge

Lessons start this month – both beginners and improvers

Beginners Lessons start on **Tuesday 18th March**

Improvers Classes start on **Thursday 3rd April**

We already have an encouraging amount of interest expressed in our beginners' lessons which start the week after next. Most of the referrals have come via the "Playbridge" website in conjunction with NZ Bridge. To those of you who have encouraged a friend to join – thank you! If you are a paid-up member for 2025, you are welcome to attend any or all of these lessons, free of charge. And of course, at any time, you can review them online via our website using the link <https://franklinbridgeclub.com/2025-lessons/>

A new course for improvers will launch on Thursday 3rd April, from 7pm-9pm. This course is specifically aimed at members who took lessons in 2023 and 2024, but of course there are many of our current junior players who may have learned the game a while ago and would benefit from improving their skills and options.

The course will be presented by Linda Thornton, with expert assistance from Lynne Geursen and Christine Egelmeer. There will be a schedule of 10 lessons on Thursday evenings and a list of topics will be provided later this month. Table money of \$6 per night applies. Please be seated before the prompt 7pm start.

The first two nights will cover:

- Stayman and transfers over 1NT opener (April 3rd)
- Doubles – takeout, penalty, balancing a really important topic – many juniors would benefit from this (April 10th)

Later this year we may do a course for advanced improvers – Bergen raises, cue bidding, checkback stayman etc. Watch this space!

Our lessons have significantly boosted our membership numbers over the last 2 years. 12 of the 2023 cohort taught by John Fergusson are still playing at the club and a further 14 from the 2024 lessons taught by Maureen Nelson are still playing.

Our Swiss Pairs tournament on 22nd February

We had 22 tables for this event, so 88 people playing plus our officials meaning our clubroom was busy and buzzy. We are always delighted when “our own” players win our tournaments so congratulations to the clear winners Sue Spencer and Bev Henton (both Grandmasters) with a 5 win/1 loss record. Second place went to Lynne Geursen and Trevor Robb (Silver Grandmaster and Grandmaster) who had a 4 win/2 loss record. Excellent performances by 4 of our top players.



1st Overall – Bev Henton/Sue Spencer



2nd Overall – Lynne Geursen/Trevor Robb

Ann Anderson and Ratilal Ranchod won the prize for top of their experience-level section. Caroline and Kevin Griffin won the prize for “closest to 60 Vps”, with 59.79.



It takes a lot of work by a lot of people to make a tournament of this size successful. A huge thank you to everyone who contributed on the day – organising, directing, scoring, dealing, caddying, money management. Special thanks to Linda Thornton for sponsoring prizes.

Our catering lived up to its reputation with Sue Helleur in charge of the kitchen. Thank you to everyone who helped her, and everyone who brought delicious food.

Advertising

We have a great new sign over our front door – large and eye-catching, thanks to Terry Junior and Henk Egelmeer for putting that up. Prior to the new sign going up, Henk and Christine painted the front fascia and gable in black which has made the sign stand out.



And have you noticed the sign at the roadside advertising our lessons? You can hardly miss it in bright yellow, red and black. It's hopefully eye-catching. Thanks to the two Terry's for organising and installation.



Player News

- Judy Collins celebrated her 80th birthday with us on Friday 7th March. Then she was off with family and friends to a night at the Trots. May all your slams be grand in the year ahead.



- Marilyn Masemann had a “special” birthday in mid February, and as well as family celebrations, she celebrated it with lunch and 2 tables of bridge



- And Teresa Phillips had a “special” birthday celebrated out at Port Waikato with their stunning view of the ocean and a spectacular sunset. Teresa’s birthday cake was a masterpiece, depicting her recent accident out on the farm – the top was decorated with an overturned quad bike, several sheep, several dogs, and a rather glamorous doll, supine, with a broken leg!



- Two of our special players had an enjoyable day at the Swiss Pairs tournament



83 + 83 = 166!!!

Out and About in Franklin

Have you wondered over recent months (and months) what's going on at Roulston Park, on the corner of East Street opposite Hell Pizza? It's all been part of a big upgrade by the Auckland Council, Franklin Local Board, as part of the wider town centre improvements. The upgraded park will feature trampolines, climbing towers, slides, a barrier along the busy roadside, a BBQ and places to sit and paths to walk.

The implementation of the traffic lights at Bombay motorway intersection has caused big tailbacks, both along East Street onramp and at the motorway exit. Auckland Transport say it'll "take a few weeks for the algorithms to be established for the phasing".

Isn't it great to have the new trains running!

***May all your fitnesses work
May all your slams be grand***