

Franklin Bridge Club

Table Talk August 2025



We promote Face to Face (F2F) Bridge

Charity Fund-Raising Tournament, Sunday 16th August

We need some more players for this afternoon tournament. Please come and support this worthy cause - **Special Olympics**.

This will be a one-session, afternoon tournament of minimum 24 boards. There will be prizes, raffles, and afternoon tea will be provided by the Special Olympics committee, which our club member Mary Crawford serves on. Special Olympics are for athletes with intellectual disability, and the aim is to help them to achieve and win both in sport and in life.

Enter via this link <https://franklin.rezzo.click/event.php?id=50> or there is an entry sheet on the noticeboard at the club.

Wednesday Social Teams

These start in 4 weeks time on **Wednesday 27th August**. Always great fun for 4 weeks – you just put your name down to play, and you will be allocated to a team. Great effort goes into “balancing” the teams, so all teams have a strong player, and then 3 other players of mixed abilities. All beginners should put their names down to play. Last year we had 14 teams (a few pictures below). Teams are allocated a colour (it’s getting a bit tricky now with 14 teams), and you’re invited/expected to wear something in your team colour. There are a few “props” in the back storeroom, or the \$2 shop is a rich source of accessories.

The first week, the team captain brings along a bottle of wine, and then in the remaining 3 weeks each of the other 3 players brings a bottle. If you’re not a wine drinker, you’re welcome to byo something of your choice.

Some people won’t be able to play all 4 weeks, but we always need reserves in case of absence or illness. If you can only play some weeks, please indicate that on the enrolment sheet.

A clipboard with the enrolment sheet(s) is now available this week, please use that as the primary method of entry. If you miss the clipboard, email Maureen Nelson at the address in the programme book.



Franklin Open and Intermediate Pairs Tournament - Saturday 20th September

Our next annual public tournament is the 5A/5B on Saturday 20th September. We already have 8 intermediate pairs and 8 open pairs, none of whom are Franklin players.

Early advice of date – the annual Loveblock Pairs – NZ wide tournament

This will be held on Friday night, 17th October 2025. It's a nationwide event, with more than 1,000 players nationwide all playing the same boards at the same time. Cost will be \$15 of which \$10 goes in aid of NZ Youth Bridge, and you get a booklet at the end showing all hands and how they could have/should have been bid and played. Always a fun night – optional BYO bottle of wine, there will be coffee and cake afterwards, while we are waiting for the scoring. The club will provide the coffee and cake.

The Ultra-Restricted* Junior Tournament, Franklin hosted Sunday 27th July

We are delighted to announce that Maria Thorburn and Anthony Julian defended their 2024 title, and won the tournament again this year. The prize is awarded to the highest scoring pair who have played at least 3 of the 4 sessions, with the same partner.

Franklin hosted the final leg and the prizegiving on **Sunday 27th July**, with 8 tables playing, followed by the prizegiving and afternoon tea. Special thanks to Terry Evans Jr for co-ordinating the 4 weeks, and for baking the scones for the afternoon tea and to Sue Helleur for conjuring up the Club Sandwiches. Thank you to Jonathan Taylor for Directing and Scoring the day.



Lessons

Formal lessons concluded at the end of July, but we need to nurture our beginners! 5 of them have joined our Wednesday night club play, and another 5 are about to start playing on Fridays. We hope that as many of them as feel able will put their names down for Wednesday social teams. After teams are over, and if you have a spare spot in your playing schedule, please consider playing with a beginner and let Maureen Nelson know.

Player News

Next week (13th-17th August) there is a large international tournament in Coffs Harbour, NSW. Several (6 or more) of our senior players are going to be playing there, so Monday night will be very sparse. We wish them all the best, may all their finesses work!

Sue and David Spencer and Jean and Robin Bennett had a great time on their cruise with a difference last month – aboard a working freighter in the Marquesas Islands (near Tahiti), about 120 passengers aboard, and calling into lots of small ports. Quite a change from the monolithic huge cruise ships of the Princess line etc., this was small and very friendly, while still providing many of the amenities you expect from a cruise. Sue enjoyed spending some time in the small pool on board, while Jean enjoyed using the French which she's been learning. A fine time was had by all.



Happy birthday – very slightly in advance – to Jim Buckland, who will be 84 on 14th August. Jim has been playing bridge for more than 60 years!

Former Franklin members

Jenny Odom and her husband, who moved to Motueka last year, were fortunate to escape recent floods there. They have gas for cooking, and were dining by lamplight because the power was out, when we messaged them 2 weeks ago. At that time, Jenny said *"As long as the stopbanks hold, we'll be ok"*.

Jenny Colgan, our former secretary for several years, now plays at Mangawhai, and was among the players at a recent tournament at Waipu. She is enjoying living in the “winterless north”.

August 3rd (last Sunday) was former Franklin member Irene Bronlund’s 94th birthday. She now lives in Taumarunui with her daughter and is still playing bridge. She goes out to bridge when she can, otherwise she has a tablet and can play online.

We note that Nandy Costa has entered our September tournament in the intermediate section, representing Cambridge club. Nandy used to be a member of our club several years ago, it’ll be nice to see her.

Out and About in Franklin

We note that the Plunket building, next door to our clubrooms, is empty and has a sticker on the front door advising that it is closed due to “*airborne contaminants testing*”, which we take to mean asbestos. Does this mean that we can use their parking spaces? Nothing official, but it seems possible

We’re sorry that STUFF have closed the local newspaper “Franklin County News” as at 31st July. It had lost a lot of its “local” content over recent years, but was still good to have in our letterboxes. Stuff advised that it was because of rising costs and a shift towards digital media.

May all your finesses work
May all your slams be grand