

Franklin Bridge Club

Table Talk July 2025



We promote Face to Face (F2F) Bridge

Please Save These Dates:

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

The opening instalment of this 4-week tournament was a resounding success for Franklin's Juniors, with Sandra Brown and Mary McGovern winning the day, and defending champions Maria Thorburn and Anthony Julian coming 3rd. Franklin players won 5 of the top 6 placings from a 16-pair field (8 tables).

The next instalment of the tournament will be next Sunday (13th July) at Papakura Bridge Club, and on 20th the third instalment at Howick Bridge Club. The format is a single, afternoon session starting at 1pm. BUT – you don't have to play in all of them – come along to our own session at least, and give this format a go. Each player will be issued with a "joker" card, which they can use once to get help with the bidding -- we will have experienced players on site to supply the advice. And remember that because it's Ultra Restricted*, there will only be players at the same skill level – Junior Novice or Certificate of Proficiency players only.

As winners of the inaugural tournament last year, Franklin will hold the final leg and the prizegiving on **Sunday 27th July**. The prize is awarded to the highest scoring pair who have played at least 3 of the 4 sessions, with the same partner.



Papatoetoe clubrooms was the venue for the first of the Ultra Restricted tournament. Defending champions Maria and Anthony, and winners of the day, Sandra and Mary look pretty happy before play starts

Charity Fund-Raising Tournament, Sunday 16th August

Please come and support our tournament on the afternoon of Saturday 16th August, in aid of **Special Olympics**. Franklin Special Olympics is raising funds for athletes to attend the NZ National Summer Games in Christchurch in December. 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.

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. Please come along to support this worthy cause.

Bookings made via <https://franklin.rezzo.click/event.php?id=50>

Special General Meeting, Wednesday 16th July

11 of our members formally requested a Special General Meeting to discuss seating rights at the club, and the Committee has convened this meeting for 6.30pm on Wednesday 16th July i.e. before bridge next week. Never in the 70 year history of our club, has an SGM been called to call into question decisions made by the elected Committee. There will be a secret ballot.

Please do your best to attend and make your vote count. [Link to Club Rule](#)

Franklin Open and Intermediate Pairs Tournament, Saturday 20th September

Our next annual public tournament is the 5A/5B on Saturday 20th September.

Lessons

Formal lessons have concluded, but we need to nurture our beginners!

They will continue with "just play" sessions until the end of July and then some of them will integrate into Wednesday night play, commencing with the Restricted Pairs on 6th August. If anyone is willing to play with a beginner for this 3-week series, please message Maureen Nelson on lessons@franklinbridgeclub.com. Thank you to Jonathan Taylor, Linda Thornton and Jim Buckland who have already put their hands up. Some of the others will integrate into Friday morning play.

A huge thank you from teacher Maureen Nelson to the members who came along to coach and support through lessons, and the following just-play sessions from March to the end of July.

Too many of you to thank individually, but special thanks to Terry Evans, who tidied up all the Power Point slides, did all the dealing, and came along and helped every week – Maureen says she couldn't have done it without you.

Player News – Grant Jarvis

Congratulations to Franklin player Grant Jarvis on his promotion to Platinum Grand Master – only the second player in NZ to achieve that rank. We don't often see Grant these days, and some players may not have met him, but there is a degree of reflected glory for our club. We asked Grant to tell us a little about his bridge journey:

Grant's Bridge Progression

My dear godmother ignited my interest in bridge and I began lessons with the Franklin Club teacher David McWha, a science teacher at Pukekohe High School, in the early 80's. By sheer huge fortune, my partner was Lynne Tully -now Geursen. Starting off with a player skilled enough to represent NZ and reach a Gold Master level is a huge boost to advancement. After just one year we came 4th in the NZ Pairs to rapidly enter open grade. (We were coming second until the last opponents psyched on both boards).

I have been blessed to have many supportive and talented partners with the late Alan Turner, one of the country's leading players, willing to play high level tournaments with me in those first learning years. To have a small club produce a beginner pair who advance to Gold and Platinum is truly unique.

Another past member, co-schoolteacher Tim Schumacher, is a silver Grand Master. He will be at the World Champs this year as our NZ mixed team captain. Timothy learnt bridge with me in the PHS staffroom. He has yet to forgive me for getting the last hand of his first tournament wrong. We "dropped" to a session score of 79.9%.

I have now been a club member for nearly 45 years, having taught at Pukekohe HS for over 40 of those years - mostly as Head of Commerce. I greatly enjoyed a multitude of coaching or manager roles in athletics, equestrian, basketball and especially girls' football where I have been a NZ Exec member or Chairman for 40 years. Coaching 3 nights a week and then having to prepare lessons became too difficult and I eventually stopped playing club nights at Franklin. Living in Auckland has prohibited a return.

I will always be a proud member of Franklin. During a stint as Regional Chairperson I could clearly confirm Franklin as a leader in promotion of the game, lessons, hospitality and loyalty. It is a reputation and history for all members to protect.

For the record, our club's current and past members now complete NZ's very first "full set". Carol Richardson earned most of her Grandmaster points while playing at Franklin, was our Secretary for a year, and went on to represent NZ at bridge.

- **4 x Grandmasters:** Sue Spencer, Bev Henton, Andrew Janisz and Carol De Luca
- **2 x Silver Grandmasters:** Trevor Robb and former member Tim Schumacher
- **2 x Gold Grandmasters:** Lynne Geursen and former member Carol Richardson
- **Emerald Grandmaster:** former member Richard Solomon
- **Platinum Grandmaster:** Grant Jarvis



At the Tauranga Tournament earlier this month, Grant Jarvis was presented with his Platinum Grand Master award



Gold Grand Master Lynne Geursen, Platinum Grand Master Grant Jarvis and Emerald Grant Master ex-member Richard Solomon

Player News – Club Captain

The committee has accepted with great regret the resignation of Terry Evans Jr. as Club Captain. Jonathan Taylor has taken over the role, until our next AGM in December. Terry has contributed an enormous amount of skill, time and personal funds to our club over his tenure. He will be missed.

Player News – winter holidays continue

Attendance on club nights continues to fluctuate with school holiday duties and people being away on fabulous holidays! Lynne and Arie are enjoying an extended time on the Gold Coast, Sandra Brown and Mary Tarbitt have recently returned from Spain and Morocco. Yvonne Schreurs went off the beaten path in Albania and Macedonia, Pip Woofindin and Gary Sweeney had a great spring holiday in Japan (think cherry blossom). Dennise Biddick is returning soon from UK, Kay and Paul Wallbutton have cruised up the coast of Norway, the Spencers and the Bennetts have just returned from cruising on a working freighter in the Marquesa Islands (near Tahiti), Margaret and David Gardiner are just about to set off on a Baltic cruise.

The rest of us can only travel vicariously with them, and be a wee bit envious! Some holiday photos at the end of this issue.

Please be careful in the carpark (especially at night)

Our carpark surface is very uneven at the best of times, but worse when it's dark, and sometimes rainy. Particular areas just waiting to trip you are the drainage channel from the back corner of the building, and the drain and kerbing as you cross from our carpark into Birch Surveyors. Please be careful when returning to your car especially at night. Maybe consider taking a small torch into bridge with you, or your mobile phone has a good, bright torch light.

Some holiday Snaps from our members currently travelling or recently travelled:



Dennise Biddick@Lands End



Albania and Macedonia by
Yvonne Schreurs



Japan Cherry Blossom
Pip Wooffindin



Lynne, Arie and Friends at Movieworld



Albania and Macedonia by Yvonne Schreurs

Our players at the Papatoetoe Leg of the Ultra Series 6th July 2025



***May all your finesses work
May all your slams be Grand!***