

Franklin Bridge Club Table Talk March 2026



We promote Face to Face (F2F) Bridge

Lessons for 2026

Our lessons start very soon – Tuesday 17th March, 7-9pm. Maureen Nelson will teach, with admin and IT assistance from Jonathan Taylor. Once the series is a few weeks in, we will be glad of offers from senior players to come and “help play”. Thanks already to Sue and David Spencer, who were stalwarts in helping at last year’s lessons.

Please help our club to grow by introducing new friends to our lessons.

Note: All paid up club members are very welcome to attend all or any of this year’s lessons – free of charge. If you did the lessons recently (or even if you’d just like to brush up on a specific topic), you are welcome to join in. We start promptly at 7pm.



Our Tournament mid February

A good turnout of 21 tables played in our Swiss Pairs tournament on 21st February. Thanks to everyone who helped, whether as Tournament Secretary (Bev Henton), other officials – scoring, dealing, caddying, supporting. And not least the always fabulous kitchen crew and home bakers, who maintained Franklin's reputation for excellent catering.

The standard was very high and winners were Grant Jarvis (Platinum Grandmaster, Franklin) and Gary Chen (Gold Grandmaster, Akarana). Sue Spencer and Bev Henton (both Grandmasters) finished a very creditable 6th place, and Lynne Geursen (Gold Grandmaster) and Trevor Robb (Silver Grandmaster) were 8th. Our club has a significant number of Grandmasters for our size.

Well done to the several pairs of Franklin juniors who gave the tournament a go. Top of this group were the pairings of Kay Wallbutton and Margaret Gardiner, and Debby Naeff and Tina Hunter. Debby and Tina only took their first lessons 2 years ago.

Please Diary the next tournament

Saturday, 23rd May is our annual Restricted 8B tournament. Restricted means that no two Open players can play together – an ideal time for our intermediates and juniors to have a go.

Player News

- Our very best wishes to Heather Walden and Buzz, who are to be married at Easter in a friend's garden at Buckland. They have known each other since schooldays.
- Ilian and Nora are having a great time in South America. Photo shows them at the Perito Moreno Glacier, in Patagonia, southern Argentina. This huge glacier is famous for frequent "calving", with almost daily thunderous icefalls into Lago Argentino.



- Yvonne Schreurs is away at the F1 Grand Prix in Melbourne – a bit of shopping and dining may also be on the agenda!
- Ann Watts is competing in the National Dressage Championship at Taupo this weekend, on her horse Carlos (posh name Santana MH). Following a serious accident in 2011, Anne competes in the para section and she also competes in A & P shows, and this photo is Anne and Carlos at the Franklin A & P show 2 weeks ago. We wish her luck in Taupo.



- Carol Moore is judging in the dairy goat section of the Morrinsville A & P Show this weekend
- Terry Evans has transferred from the snowfields of Japan to the steamy heat of Thailand and Singapore, we look forward to seeing him around Easter after 2 months away

Out and About in Franklin

- We read in our new local paper Westfranklinbreeze.nz that the “Plunket building” next door to us is actually the old Borough Building (just as our clubrooms are the former Pukekohe Library). The building was built in 1960 as chambers for the Pukekohe Borough Council. However, as it leaked in heavy rain (due to lack of maintenance), and the presence of asbestos, the building was shut down last year, and the Plunket and Franklin Historical Society had to relocate. We understand that the building is not formally registered or protected by Heritage NZ. Franklin Local Board advise that the property is not for sale “at this stage”. A representative was quoted as saying *“It’s a council asset that’s deteriorated*

dramatically over the years and now cannot be inhabited by anybody safely". Its future may be decided by Auckland City Council later this year.

- By contrast to the above state of affairs, and because of serious expenditure by past committees (including complete roof replacement and ceiling replacement during the last 4 years), our own FBC building is in extremely good repair and has a total rateable value (land and buildings, 2024) of \$1.45million
- The Editor went to check out the new monthly market in the Town Square in Pukekohe. She found that it's more like the farmers' markets that we see in other towns, with home-made pies, cheeses, fresh flowers, cured meats, and locally-made treats. A refreshing lack of "tat". The market is held on the first Sunday of the month, 9am-12.30pm.



A Bad Night At Bridge

I'm giving up bridge – tonight's my last night!
From Acol to Stayman, I give up the fight.
The results and muddles are giving me troubles.
And I can't sleep at night for thinking of doubles
My cards are all rotten and I have forgotten
Who's played and what's trumps and what's
gone on my right.

So for now it's all over – I'm off to the backwood
I'm bidding goodbye to Gerber and Blackwood.
I can't stand the hassle, I can't stand the pain
I'm getting those bad cards again and again.
I'm giving up bridge, tonight's a bad night,
Declarer is horrid and nothing's gone right.

My partner's a dope and I'm losing all hope,
And when he says double I know we're in trouble.
My points are not high and I'm wondering why
He just keeps on bidding right up to the sky.
We're in 7 spades and all my hope fades
When surprise, his high bidding pays!
We're winning all tricks, the defenders feel sick.
And I have to admit that my partner's a brick.

But I'm giving up bridge, tonight's my last night.
Farewell to Conventions, I give up the fight!
So I leave you with few words, but some that are true,
Bridge is a game – not for me, but for you.

So be kind to your partners and don't mind the cheek,
'Cos it's only a game! Oh – and see you next week!

Anon

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

