

Franklin Bridge Club Table Talk May 2025



We promote Face to Face (F2F) Bridge

One-night Swiss Pairs - Wednesday 9th April

We had a great turnout for this event – 18 tables, optional BYO, and it was a very fun night. We played 4 sets of 5 boards with a short break for coffee and biscuits.

A super **well-done** to Arie and Jonathan who managed the room setup, all the complicated movements and the scoring, their execution was excellent!

A perfect illustration of bridge being a game for all ages was at the Swiss Pairs, when 90 year old Ken Craze was across the table from 18 year old Lewis Robson. Ken didn't take up bridge until his 80s (and learned at Franklin) and Lewis is a graduate of our 2024 lessons. David Spencer recently told us that his grandmother played bridge until she was 103.



Congratulations to Jonathan Taylor

We are delighted to tell you all that Jonathan has passed his Director's Exams and is now a qualified Club Director. He has been "in training" for several months now, under Arie's aegis, and joins Arie, Teresa Phillips, Jim Buckland and Chris Glyde as directors. We understand that you have to get 80% to pass, so a super achievement by all these players.

Upcoming Tournaments – it's going to be a busy winter!

Franklin Bridge Club has some exciting tournaments coming up.

Check our own website <https://franklinbridgeclub.com/tournaments/> for the flyers.

First up is the Restricted 8B Tournament - Saturday 24th May

This is our annual 8B Restricted Tournament – no two open players can play together. There will be prizes in the various categories junior/junior, junior/intermediate, etc., so come and give it a try. Last year we had 18 tables, which we hope to exceed this year. We will need help setting up/taking down, and will need help in the kitchen too. We aim to maintain our excellent reputation for catering, so please bring along a plate either on the day, or on Friday.

then we have the the Ultra-Restricted* Junior Tournament

This tournament will be held during the month of July, over 4 consecutive Sundays (6, 13, 20 and 27 July) and is only open to members from Franklin, Papatoetoe, Papakura and Howick clubs. As winners of the inaugural tournament last year (well done Maria Thorburn and Anthony Julian), 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.

* Only Junior rank novice or Certificate of Proficiency players will be eligible to play, not all juniors will be eligible. A list of all eligible Franklin players will be posted.

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.

and finally, some Charity Fund-Raising Tournaments are coming up...

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. More details in future Table Talk issues, but please save the date and come along to support this worthy cause.

On **Thursday, 22nd May**, Papakura club are hosting a two-session fund-raiser for Save the Children Fund. Details are on our noticeboard - \$25 entry fee.

On **Saturday 9th August**, Clevedon Fireside Bridge are hosting a fund-raiser/charity day at the Anglican Parish Hall in Clevedon. Details of that will be shared as they become available.

Lessons under way this month – both Beginners and Improvers

Improvers lessons are on Thursday evenings, 7pm-9pm, and have been well attended by members wishing to get practical advice on how to take their game to the next level. Table money of \$6 applies.

Topics for May Improver Classes are:

- 15th May – Defensive 2nd and 3rd hand play
- 22nd May – Minimum, Invite, Game force bids
- 29th May – Wrap-up, questions and play

Beginners, which started in mid March, have just completed lesson 7 (6th May) where the topic was overcalls. We are having a “just play” week on 13th May, followed by “Doubles”. If you feel you don’t do this important bid well, you are welcome to come along. Lessons start promptly at 7pm and are free to existing club members.

Or if you prefer, all the lessons and slides are available on our website
<https://franklinbridgeclub.com/education/>

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

Why is it important to have a coin toss before play begins?

From the Committee.....

We have quite a few new players who may not know the reason for the coin toss.

The coin toss originated out of the basic premise of duplicate bridge – to rank the players of the same hands according to the results obtained.

When playing a complete Howell movement (where everybody plays everybody), that’s a pretty straightforward proposition. Ideally, a Howell movement is best for smaller fields, so we use it at Franklin on fields of under 8 tables (typically, Monday night).

It's another story when a Mitchell movement is used. This is where there are two fields (north/south and east/west) playing each other. The real competition, however, is that all north/south players compete against each other as do all the east/west players. In a perfect world, the play begins by being seeded (first seating set up according to demonstrated level of play) and proceeding on that basis. To properly seed play, you need to know for sure who is coming to play and set up the whole room in advance of starting time. This is not realistic for people who turn up to play club bridge on a Wednesday evening (or Friday).

Rather than require people to register and impose a major planning effort on the convenors, randomisation is used. Before dealing machines and set boards, randomisation was achieved by spreading the cards face down on the table and choosing a card - the highest card selected sat North/South. With the advent of dealt boards, a coin toss was used as the method of randomisation.

Why do we want to randomise? Why not just let everybody come in and sit where they want?

Everyone wants to sit N/S. There may be a few exceptions, but typically N/S is the seat of choice.

So what's the problem?

The problem is that N/S doesn't move or experience the same level of disruption that E/W does. Many good players (really good, that is) say that sitting N/S is worth at least 4% on their score. Imagine if a pair sat that direction every time they played. This would provide an advantage that is not as fair as could be achieved by a simple coin toss.

We use a collective coin toss so everybody knows it's been done and how it's turned out. In this day and age with table cards and bank transfers, it happens that we have people who do not have a coin to hand. The benefit of the system is that it's done across the board... Otherwise, it's not really fair.

Our club has a strong reputation. We have quite a few Grand Masters and international players here. We have a good deal of new players. As a Committee, it has been our objective to maintain and promote a fair game.

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, across the tarmac to join the second channel behind the parked cars, and also the drain and kerbing as you cross from our carpark into the office next door.

At the moment we have a broken arm and a dislocated shoulder among our regular players - both ladies having tripped and fallen (not in our carpark though). Please be careful when returning to your car especially at night. Maybe consider taking a small torch into bridge with you, or remember your mobile phone has a good, bright torch light.

Holidays

It's that time of year again, when many of our members head off overseas in search of warmth and adventure. Adventures planned over the coming weeks are both near (two months on the Gold Coast) and far (Spain, Morocco, Albania, Montenegro, Japan, Ireland, a cruise on a working boat around the Marquesas (near Tahiti), 2 lots of cruises on liners in the Baltic). Others?

Do send us some holiday photos for inclusion in our next winter issue

Out and About in Franklin

The traffic lights at Great South Road/SH22 are to be implemented very soon – the display sign promising “mid April” has not yet occurred. What effect this will have on the morning rush to the Drury motorway interchange has yet to be seen.

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