

# Franklin Bridge Club

## Table Talk December 2025



### We promote Face to Face (F2F) Bridge

#### The AGM and SGM

60 members attended these two important meetings, which proceeded smoothly, including the adoption of our new Constitution. Special thanks to Linda Thornton, who spent many, many hours creating the Constitution, with considerable input and assistance from Arie Geursen.

The prizegiving followed, ably MC'd by Jonathan Taylor. Congratulations to all the session winners, and special congratulations to the winners of the 3 discretionary prizes, which are chosen by a committee of Grandmasters and backed up by data from Compscore. The 3 winners were:

- Trevor Welch Trophy for best first-year player: **Terry Shannon**
- Holwerda Cup for most promising player among recent juniors: **Yvonne Schreurs**
- Maria Schintz Trophy for most improved player in the club: **Barbara Lockyer**



After the prizegiving, the club provided pizzas, and 8 tables stayed to play the optional drawn pairs bridge. Drawn pairs often produces some "interesting" new combinations, the winners North/South were Gerda Bouwman and Neil Miller, and East/West Mary McGovern and Lynne Geursen.

All the AGM attendees collected their 2026 Programme Book and their invoice for the 2026 subscriptions.

The Club would appreciate prompt payment of the \$132 subscription fee, of which \$100 goes to the club and \$32 to NZ Bridge. The bank account number is shown on the invoice.

### **Election of Officers**

Two long-standing members of our committee retired at the AGM. New members are:

Teresa Phillips as Secretary

Ilian Trifonov as Technology Manager

Pip Wooffindin and Lynne Geursen as general committee members

On the retirement of Maureen Nelson after 12 years on the committee (7 as Treasurer), Jonathan Taylor spoke kind words in appreciation of Maureen's contribution to the club and presented her with a beautiful pounamu pendant in the shape of a Matau or fishhook.

### **The Brand New Digital Programme Book**

The Editor does not consider herself tech-whizzy, so approached this new offering with a degree of scepticism. But she "had a go", and has to say that it's absolutely awesome and very user-friendly. She worked through entering her (manual) bookings for the year, and came to one series **in April** saying "***This has been double booked***" – on checking with her partner, yes it was, but it was soon rectified. And other members, who had already filled in their digital book, appeared automatically in the Editor's book, so didn't have to be entered.

It's an amazing programme – do give it a go – you may well find that many of your bookings have already been entered by your various partners already. As of today, 1,090 partnerships have been entered for 2026 by 40% of our members. Please give it a go as it helps the Club Captain hugely for planning Swiss Pairs and Teams events amongst other things.

Great credit and our thanks to Terry Evans who devised the programme and set it up for us to use. Terry says he made considerable use of AI and ChatGPT, with which he was also impressed. We are too!

To access the Digital Programme use this url: <https://dpb.franklinbridgeclub.com/> on your PC, Laptop or smartphone.

If it is your first time to try to use it, enter your NZB and leave password blank and a One Time Code will be emailed to you to enter after which you can create a new password. Please speak with Terry if you have any queries or need some help loading this on your smartphone,

One of the great things about this app is that you can receive a weekly digest of all your pre-booked games should you opt-in for that.

## Special Olympics Update (from Mary Crawford)

A quick update on our local Special Olympics Counties team who participated in their National Games in Christchurch this week.

30 athletes from Counties Manukau participated in swimming, ten pin bowling, basketball and power & adaptive lifting and volunteers had an early 5am start, meeting at Navigation Stadium on Wednesday December 10th. Such an early start was required to ensure arrival in Christchurch as planned. I (Mary Crawford) was there to meet the team proudly wearing the Counties SO uniform.

After checking in at the accommodation at the university the team headed to the opening ceremony.

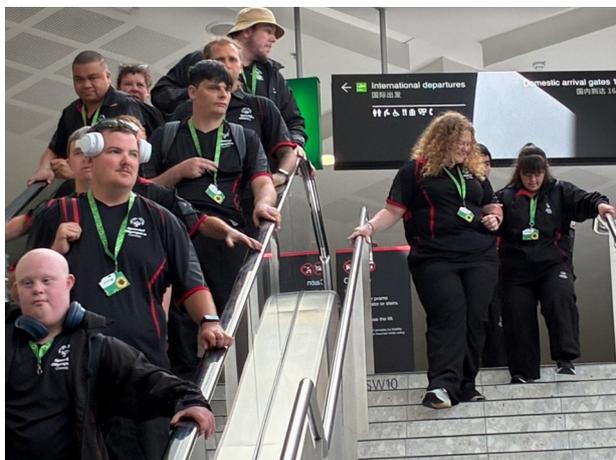
In addition to the sports events there is a Healthy Athletes zone. Here athletes can access free health screenings, such as Fit Feet, Healthy Hearing, Opening Eyes, and Special Smiles and advice on Health promotion. Onward referrals to specialists are made if necessary.

I had been allocated the basketball team to support. Ensuring they get to their events, get to support the other athletes, have any help they need with daily living tasks and have clean clothes (washed by me) are all in my role description. No time for bridge homework!!!

We made it thanks to the generosity of many local people. A special thanks to the Bridge Club members who attended the charity bridge event held in Pukekohe. We also need to thank those who couldn't attend but gave a donation.

And a wee update on matters local. Ryan who spoke at the start of the bridge afternoon is Athlete Lead for golf, and got 4<sup>th</sup> in his final. We've just had a successful Term 1 of lessons at Pukekohe Golf Club. 11 athletes have attended and are looking forward to Term 2 starting in February.

Counties won their first ever gold in swimming on Friday, with our youngest competitor Ashlee, swimming a personal best in the 50m freestyle. Ashlee also volunteered to help out Hutt Valley and swam in their relay team.



Mary Crawford **Special Olympics Counties**



## Player News

- **Breaking News:** Mary Crawford's Special Olympics Basketball Team achieved a GOLD MEDAL!!!
- We wish Diane Conroy all the best. After a tough year she has taken up residence in the hospital wing of The Palms (entry off Fairfield Road). She still hopes to come to some bridge sessions in the new year.
- Those of us who are accustomed to seeing Stephen Stafford-Bush in business attire, would have seen another side to him recently (and yes one of our reporters was in the audience). Stephen tells us:

*We recently attended an evening of trivia with Shaun Wallace the "Dark Destroyer" of the Chase fame. We were lucky enough to win an auction for his assistance as part of our team for one round. The evening was a fundraiser for Cure Kids which raised in excess of \$25,000 for the charity. The photo is of Shaun at our table – incidentally, we won the round.*



- We wish Barbara Lockyer happiness in her new home at Greenhithe. She will still come south and play bridge on Fridays which we're glad to hear

- Several of the ladies in the club were the recipients of a stem of stunning lilies grown by Jim Buckland. Jim has a container garden at his flat, and grows a variety of vegetables and flowers. He often brings in produce to share with club members. The Editor's stem of lilies included 5 beautiful huge flowers, and 5 buds promising to bloom soon.



### **A couple of quick corrections for the printed Programme Book:**

- Email address for Harry Bymolt: [harrybij1@outlook.com](mailto:harrybij1@outlook.com)
- Monday Session: Becomes **7pm for 7:15pm start** effective **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> Jan 2026**
- Tournaments/Key Dates: FBC Summer Swiss Pairs is **21<sup>st</sup> February 2026**

### **Out and About in Franklin**

- Costco have confirmed that their 2<sup>nd</sup> NZ store will open in the new Drury township. 6.5ha of land, a fuel station and 800 carparks.
- The 96 year old Jolly Farmer at Drury has been demolished over recent weeks and will be replaced with fast food outlets and a Gull service station. The owners of Murphy's Law have purchased land elsewhere, with the intention of rebuilding the pub and reusing heritage elements from the original structure.
- The new day surgery and medical hub in Manukau Road was opened on 23 November, on the former Franklin County Council property. It is a public-private partnership with Te Whatu Ora, and stage 1 provides daystay surgical care and access to specialists. Stage 2 will commence in 2026, and will include radiology, pharmacy, physiotherapy etc.

Happy Holidays, Everyone  
***May all your fitnesses work***  
***May all your slams be grand***