

Fra nklin Bridge Club

Table Talk January/February 2026



We promote Face to Face (F2F) Bridge

Tournament next weekend – Saturday 21st February

19 tables have so far registered to play in our Swiss Pairs tournament this coming Saturday. Included are 5 junior pairs from Franklin and 4½ pairs of more senior rank. It's not too late to enter – we can accommodate 24 tables. There are prizes (of course) and a delicious morning and afternoon tea. Contributions of baking for the teas are warmly welcomed and may be left at the club on Friday or early on Saturday morning. Help is also welcomed in the kitchen (please write your name on the whiteboard).

Lessons – 2026 lessons start on Tuesday, 17th March 7-9pm

Only 4 weeks to go until our 2026 lessons start – please help our club to keep growing by inviting your friends to learn to play bridge. The format will be the same as the last 2 successful years: 10 lessons, followed by several weeks of assisted play, where experienced players will come along and help in structured play.

The first 2 lessons are free, then \$60 is payable, which also covers their sub until the end of the year. Maureen Nelson will again present the lessons, with IT assistance from Jonathan Taylor, and “helper” assistance from some of our experienced members as play gets under way.

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.

Reminder for Monday night players:

Monday night's start time is now the same as Wednesday night..

Please be seated by 7pm, for play to start at 7.15pm.

This is a change from years past, and is **not** as per the Monday night page in your programme book.

Election of Officers

Two long-standing members of our Committee retired at the AGM. Our new Committee 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 years as Treasurer), Jonathan Taylor spoke 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.

Susie Longdell also retired after 4 years as our Club Secretary. Susie's retirement was relatively last-minute, so was not acknowledged at the AGM, but the Club does want to acknowledge the large workload which Susie took on, and to thank her for her tireless work on behalf of our members.

The Brand New Digital Programme Book (DPB)

Have you had a go at this? It's very easy and many of your bookings will already have been filled in by your partners. If you are participating, and if you have remained opted-in, you will enjoy the weekly emailed reminder about who you're playing with in the week ahead which is scheduled to automatically send to you at 10am Sunday.

The take up of the DPB so far is 55% of our members.

As a reminder the link to access the DPB is <https://dpb.franklinbridgeclub.com/>

The current version of the DPB is exclusively for Franklin Bridge Club members use. A new version is currently being developed that can be used by multiple clubs and will incorporate the annual NZB tournament calendar amongst other things to allow you to lock in your partners from any club across NZ.

The 2025 Christmas lunch

Although Christmas seems a while ago, so is our last Table Talk (1st December), so we should record that the Christmas lunch at 1pm was attended by 16 club members. Everyone brought a delicious contribution to the lunch, Neil Miller laid a beautiful table, and after lunch one table played rubber bridge and two tables played board games. They then had leftovers for tea and departed about 6.30pm. All in all a happy and successful day.

Player News

- We record our sadness at the passing of Terry Evans Snr. Terry was a sailor, a golfer and a bridge player. He was a great help with anything that needed doing – from installing our new air conditioners, to being a helper for many weeks with the beginners' lessons. We extend our condolences to Terry Jr and his sister Lisa;
- Congratulations to Adib and his family on the birth of their first grandchild – a little boy, born last week in Washington State, USA. Adib is planning to go and visit in a couple of months time;
- Upcoming lovely holidays include Ilian and Nora, who are away in South America for 6 weeks, Teresa and Neal are heading for the Chatham Islands, and Henriette and Bev Donaldson are about to set off on another cruise;
- Terry Evans is having a great time in the snowfields north west of Tokyo at the Naeba Ski Resort in Niigata where he is staying in a hotel owned by friends. Due to the massive snow falls, amongst other things, he has taken over the operation of the hotel snow plough. He is very much enjoying the cold weather in contrast to Auckland's steamy heat. We won't see him back at bridge until just before Easter, but he is keeping his hand in by playing online bridge with a friend in Sydney regularly.



*The Hotel
and the Snow Monkeys*

Out and About in Franklin

- Kudos to Mitre 10, who have started accepting used batteries for recycling. There is a drop bin just inside their entrance;
- This weekend is the annual Franklin A&P Show - 21-22 February at the Showgrounds in Station Road. Some of us will be playing bridge on the Saturday!;
- There is a new market in Pukekohe – the Farmers and Artisans market, in the Town Square on the first Sunday of the month. More like the farmers' markets that we see in other towns, with home-made pies, cheeses, fresh flowers, and locally-made treats. The next one is 1st March, 9am-12.30pm;
- From early June 2026, NZ Post is closing some of its postshops. In our area these include the Four Square at Patumahoe, Highway 22 General Store at Paerata, and the Fish and Chip Shop at Clarks Beach;
- It seems a long time since the Pukekohe Town Hall closed in October 2024. Extensive (\$7.2 million) renovations are due to be completed in July this year and the building reopened.

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

