



March 2023

Franklin Bridge Club

Looking to try something new? Sign up for Bridge lessons at your local bridge club in Franklin. Find out more.

LOOKING FOR SOME SERIOUS FUN IN 2023?

SIGN UP FOR BRIDGE LESSONS AT YOUR LOCAL CLUB IN FRANKLIN.

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Learn more

Some of our members feature in our advertising this year as we promote our beginner lessons. Kevin Birch stars in the Facebook ads – other members appear in the leaflets.

Ready – And Go!

All is ready for this month's focus of recruiting potential new members for our beginners' classes which start on Thursday 23 March.

A mini-committee headed by John Fergusson has been busy organising some attention-grabbing advertising for the club: flyers, radio advertising, a new banner, and Facebook ads like the one above.

And there has been a great response from members to the call to deliver the new and eye-catching leaflets to letterboxes – resulting in a higher print-run than initially planned! The leaflets will be given out at bridge sessions.

Current members who graduated from last year's beginner lessons (or the Covid-disrupted ones), do go along to the lessons again, especially after the first one, to revise subjects that you know reasonably well but perhaps not perfectly. All members are welcome at the beginner lessons, so please just turn up and

take in the valuable information – it will really help consolidate your knowledge (and it's way easier second time around!). The topics for each evening are in your bridge programme, in the Thursday Night pages.

Tournament News



Kevin again – this time at the Gold Coast Congress with partner Mereana Cullen.

Nearly 200 NZ bridge players escaped the cyclone for the sun of the Gold Coast and its popular annual bridge congress held during the week of 18-25 February. Among them were five Franklin members: Grant Jarvis, Lynne and Arie Geursen, Trevor Robb, and Kevin Birch.

Highest achiever was Grant who with Matamata partner Ken Yule came fourth out of 52 pairs E-W in the Butler Swiss Pairs; and in the Matchpoint Swiss Pairs he came ninth with Auckland partner Jan Cormack. Just before the congress, Grant and Jan came third out of the 76 pairs contesting the 15A National Pairs, based in Christchurch but held online.

Take Your Partners

It's more than a month away but it's time to start finding a partner for our Franklin Restricted Pairs tournament on Saturday 22 April.

This is a tournament for everyone because there are prizewinners in different categories. Open players are not allowed to play with each other but must pair with a lower ranked player – eg Open with an Intermediate or Open with a Junior. Juniors and Intermediates can play with anyone, eg, there will be a winner in the Junior-Junior category.

So this is a great opportunity to play in a tournament, whatever your standard, and it's also comfortable to play tournaments at your home club where you know most of the participants. More details next month, but start eyeing up suitable partners now.

Online Help

We have a strong group of improvers at the moment, keen to consolidate and build on the beginner lessons – and eventually to learn new things. One NZ bridge club that has a useful section for you is Tauranga, which has an Improver Notes page on its website: <https://www.taurangabridge.co.nz/page/427257>.

Topics include Stayman and Transfers, Bidding Big Hands, and Leads and Signals; and then for the more advanced (those who have probably been playing at least two years): Negative Doubles, Unassuming Cue Bids, Reverse Bidding, and Checkback Stayman.

There's a further page with quick bridge tips, mainly for card play: <https://www.taurangabridge.co.nz/bridge-tips.html> .

Don't read through these all at once! Maybe a daily or weekly dose: make sure you have one firmly in your brain before you read the next one.

If you have any questions about what you've read, most higher ranked members are always happy to help you. So bring along your question on a Wednesday, Thursday or Friday and talk to one of the top players about it.

And one important caution, from the late Karen Martelletti who wrote some of these improver lessons, is:

“Try not to add too many gadgets at once.

“Try one, master it, then add another.”

Bridge Foundation Cyclone Fund

The NZ Bridge Foundation has established a fund to support our clubs and their members who have suffered loss and disruption as a result of Cyclone Gabrielle. Details are at: [www.nzbridge.co.nz/blog/10942/NZ-Bridge-Foundation -Cyclone-Recovery-Fund](http://www.nzbridge.co.nz/blog/10942/NZ-Bridge-Foundation-Cyclone-Recovery-Fund).

The foundation is a registered charity, so a donation this month is timely for tax deductions this financial year. Donate by depositing to the foundation's bank account: NZ Bridge Foundation - Cyclone Recovery Fund, 02-0466-0272518-026. Include your name as a reference. Receipts for tax deduction will be issued on request to: secretary@nzbridge.co.nz.

“Pray, do”

New players will notice that the old hands place their opening lead face down on the table and then check with their partner whether to turn it over. There are two practical reasons for this: it helps prevent leads out of turn, which can disadvantage your partnership; and it gives your partner the opportunity to ask questions about the bidding. If they have no questions, they say something like “Thank you” or “No questions” and you can turn your lead face up.

This procedure has been in place for a long time – since at least the 19th century, when bridge whist was being played, en route from the old game of whist to the modern game of bridge. And in those times, the etiquette was to ask, “Partner, may I lead?” and the very proper response was, “Pray, do”.

Member News

from Our Roving Reporters



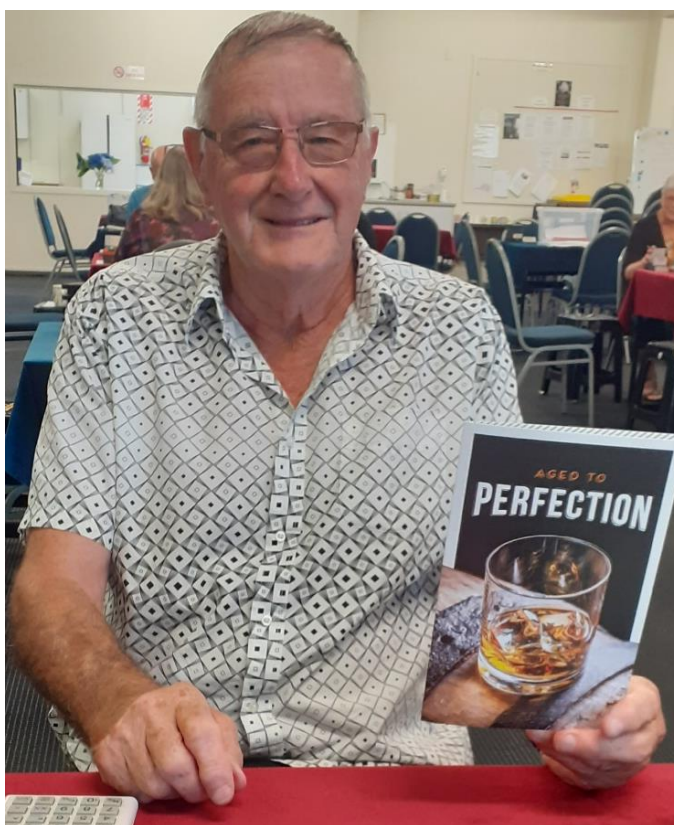
In the first serious February storm, pre-Gabrielle, our club suffered flooding damage in the corner of the main office, above. Our committee were on to it fast, getting it repaired and an insurance claim made.

While some of NZ faced devastation from Cycle Gabrielle, most Franklin members seem to have escaped relatively lightly. The exception is **Teresa and Neal Phillips**: as well as some slips on their Onewhero farm, their Port Waikato beach house sits over a cliff which has slipped away below, and so they lost some of their land. A picture of the house, which has been in Neal’s family for more than 60 years, was on Stuff news.

In early February members congratulated **David Spencer** on his 80th birthday – the card says it all.

David learned his bridge at Franklin in the days when Lynne Geursen was the tutor. He said he has a long way to go to emulate his grandmother, who was still playing bridge after her 100th birthday!

We had also planned to celebrate another 80th at the club in late February, for **Ann Anderson**, who provided lunch for the Friday players. Very sadly, Ann's mother passed away that week, and so Ann could not be with us for the lunch. She will have known that our thoughts were with her and sister **Suzanne Radcliffe**.



But at the weekend on her actual birthday Ann had a "bubbles and nibbles" celebration – and it was still a very happy day as the photos show.

Left: Ann with her husband Jock, who proposed the birthday toast.

Below: Ann with sister Suzanne, who is also a club member.



Robin Baird enjoyed having his parents visiting from Ireland over Christmas-New Year – a shame the weather wasn't better. Robin and his dad Ronnie, right, walked the Milford Track near the end of the visit – once again lots of rain. We were a bit worried about Robin's footwear in the photo! Robin tells us that they're special jandals called "earth runners", and that he did walk a little bit of the track in them but most of the time he was in hiking boots.



Another Great Walker is **Gerald Baptist**, who kept up a busy schedule of long walks (10km and more) over Christmas-New Year, training to walk the Routeburn and Kepler tracks this month. (The Routeburn is 32km in Fiordland National Park and the Kepler is a 60 km circular route near Te Anau.)

And yet another one! **Teresa Phillips** is planning to walk the newest of the Great Walks in mid March, the Paparoa Track. This 56 km track crosses the Paparoa Range, passing the Pike River site, and runs between Blackball and Punakaiki. Neal's knee is still troublesome and so he plans to do some e-biking in the area.

Caroline Griffin is taking a day off Friday bridge this month as she and **Kevin** will be away in Taupo for the weekend at their daughter's wedding – we wish all a very happy day.

Herald readers may have noticed an article in late February about a badly flood-damaged Esk Valley vineyard restaurant being turned into a temporary counselling centre to provide free mental health support to those in Hawke's Bay suffering psychological effects from Cyclone Gabrielle. Linden Estate owner and head chef of the Valley d'Vine restaurant is **Neil Miller's** elder son Greg. www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/cyclone-gabrielle-mike-king-helps-esk-valley-winery-convert-restaurant-into-counselling-centre-for-traumatised-locals/NXAONUMJ6BEIXBP5ZUPQCXJHAQ/

Finally, at the other end of the storm-damage spectrum: during the pre-Gabrielle storm **Ken Craze** had some light flooding and had to get rid of the water, resulting in dirty clothes. When he'd finished he took them off and straight into the washing machine. They came out later – together with the remains of his bridge programme booklet which had been in one of the pockets! Luckily he had copies of most of his bookings and he now has a new booklet.

Director? Please?

by Ninth Wicket

Penalty Card

What happens when a player exposes a card in any way other than legally playing to a trick?

If it is a lead out of rotation an opponent may accept it; otherwise ...

For declarer there is no restriction; the exposed card is returned to hand.

For a defender the card remains face up on the table in front of that player. Such a card is called a penalty card. Laws 50 to 52 (which take up over three pages) cover all situations so what follows are just the most common ones.

Depending on the circumstances a penalty card might be “minor” or “major”, which are subject to different restrictions.

Minor penalty card

A single card of rank 9 or lower that was not deliberately played (for example, it was accidentally dropped or it came out together with the intended card played) is a minor penalty card.

The only restriction on a player who has a minor penalty card is they may not play a different low card in the same suit while the penalty card remains on the table. They may play the penalty card, or an honour (10 or higher) in that suit, or any card of a different suit. There is no restriction on that player's partner.

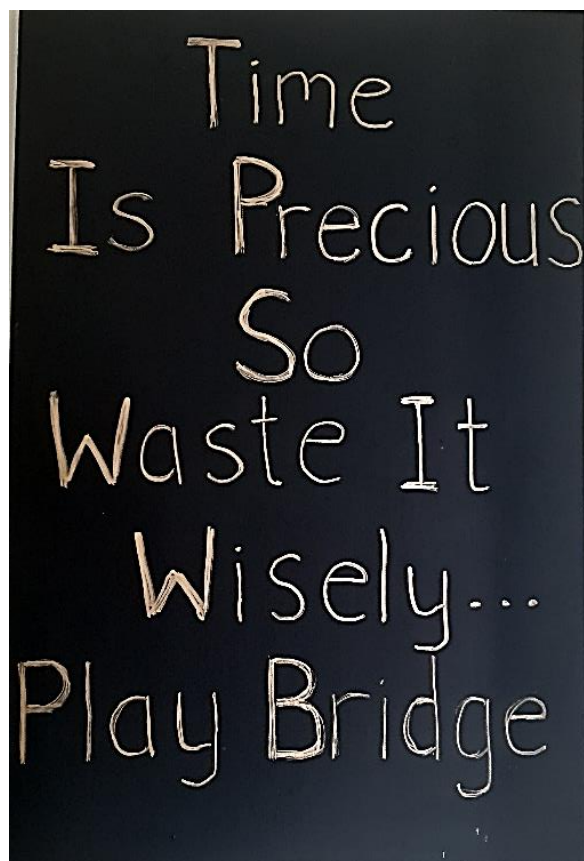
Major penalty card

A defender's card exposed in any other circumstances is a major penalty card. Two or more cards exposed are always all major penalty cards.

A major penalty card must be played at the first legal opportunity. Furthermore, the declarer has three options if the partner obtains the lead when the penalty card is still there:

- a Demand that suit to be led; or
 - b Forbid that suit to be led as long as that player retains the lead.
In both those cases the penalty card is returned to hand and does not need to be played; or
 - c No restriction and the penalty card remains as such.
If declarer chooses option c, they may choose a different option any time the opportunity arises later.
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Spotted by Maureen Nelson in the lobby at North Shore Bridge Club.



Any contributions to the newsletter, please email Wendy Morris,
wmnzuk@gmail.com.

And if you want copies of any newsletter photos, please email.