

Franklin Bridge Club

Table Talk June 2023



F2F

We promote Face to Face Bridge

News from Lessons:

26 people signed up to do our beginners lessons back in February, of whom 24 are still persevering, and 4 have attended every lesson. The last formal lesson is next week, and then we will continue with “Just Play” supervised sessions until the end of July. It’s quite amazing to be a “helper” on a Thursday night and hear the buzz already forming in this group, which is by far the largest we have had.

Then what? For the month of August only the graduates will be brought into Wednesday nights. A fewer number of boards will be played so that they can “get the hang of it”, and then they can choose whether to continue on a Wednesday night or revert to supervised play on Thursdays in September.

After August, there will be Improvers Lessons for 8 weeks starting on 7th September with “Opening Leads”, each lesson followed by playing hands designed to illustrate the lesson. All welcome – normal \$6 table money applies.

Do we hear little grumbles from the Wednesday night players? Hopefully not! Remember back to when you were a beginner and how scary it was to go into regular play. We want all our beginners to love bridge as much as we all do, so please bear with them while they have a trial month.

And further on the subject – August is the month when we do Individual Pairs, with a different partner signed up for each of the 4 weeks. Would you be willing to give up your present arrangement (signed up 6 months ago), and each of you play with a beginner? You’ve got a month to think about it . . .

Please let our awesome tutor, John Fergusson, know if you are willing to play with a graduate for the month of August – either for all 4 weeks, or for one.

Hatchings and Matchings:

Congratulations to Teresa and Neal Phillips on their birth of their new grand-daughter on 22nd May. Baby Maria Jane was conveniently born on a Monday afternoon, so Teresa and Neal shared the good news with Monday night players by bringing in wine and fruit juice for everyone. The Phillips grandchildren collection is now 3 wee girls and 2 little boys.

Meantime, are they resting on their laurels? No – by the time little Maria was 7 days old, they were up to their elbows in shearing – 1200 lambs and ewes, and Teresa was training her new 10-week old huntaway puppy. No rest for the wicked!

Very best wishes to Maria and Chris as they head off to Fiji, for the wedding of Maria's older son Mitch to his Italian fiancée Dori. Dori's mother being still in Italy means that Maria has had loads of fun helping Dori with wedding planning (including an early look at The Dress). And the wedding has been preceded (not by much), by Mitch and Dori buying a new house and moving into it on 1st June, so Maria and Chris have been very busy lately!

And Despatchings/Exodus:

Escaping what looks like a miserable winter ahead of us are...

Trevor Robb – who headed off on 31st May on a 100-day round the world cruise on the Coral Princess, Auckland to Auckland. He was at bridge on Monday 29th, which we thought was very relaxed

Henriette Annabel and Barbara Lockyer are also heading away – flying to Munich and seeing some of Europe, then heading to Southampton, and cruising home. The return leg of their trip coincides with Trevor's, on the same ship. They make their way home via North and South American ports...

Christine and Henk Egelmeer left in late May to spend 8 weeks in the Netherlands and England.

Yvonne and Rolf Baettig are off to Switzerland and other places in Europe shortly.

Dennise Biddick is flying off to Paris on 24th June, touring within Europe and then taking the Eurostar to London to continue touring within the British Isles.

Been there – done that - **Gayle Askew** went off in mid May, spending several weeks in France and Italy, and has just returned to the bridge table.

Our former Table Talk editor, **Wendy Morris**, has left to spend the English summer in England, based in Gloucestershire. An unkind person suggested Wendy might therefore only be away a couple of weeks, but we understand that it's way longer than that. She is looking forward to spending time on walking holidays in the north of England. She said "See you in September".

Keeping fit all year round

Gerald Baptist spent the month of March in the South Island doing Walks. He sent us the enclosed photos from the Kepler and said he helped with cooking the meals on that Walk. In May he did the Tora Walk, 21km along the Wairarapa Coast from Martinborough. He keeps fit on a weekly basis by walking to bridge from his home in Paerata.



Finding a partner

We've had 3 instances in the past month of people "double booking". A reminder that it's 6 months since we signed up our 2023 partners, so please remember to check just before each new series begins.

Have you joined the Whatsapp "Partner Needed" group yet? It's working really well. If you don't have Whatsapp on your phone, would like to join and don't have a handy teenager, please ask Jonathan Taylor to help you.

A reminder that the Tuesday afternoon sessions, 1 – 4 pm, are experimental, they need to be supported if we are to continue them into 2024.

Have you recently changed address or email address? Given up your landline? Other changes? Please let Caroline Griffin know for next year's programme booklet.

Advance Notice of the BIG July tournament:



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Every 3rd year, Franklin hosts the Auckland Region pairs and teams tournament, the alternate years being hosted by Auckland and Whangarei. We last hosted in 2020, when we had 21 tables of pairs on the Saturday and 26 tables of teams on the Sunday.

This is a big, 2-day tournament on 15th and 16th July, planning and organising is well under way, but the committee will need help! Lunch on the Saturday is BYO, but we are providing lunch for 110+ people on the Sunday, which we are sub-contracting out.

Please look at your diary and see whether you can help by:

- Bringing a plate for morning or afternoon tea.
- Unload the dishwasher first thing and set up for morning tea.
- Help to clean up after either or both of the 2 days.
- Man the bar.
- Please see Bev Henton or Caroline Griffin if you can help. We will also have a whiteboard for you to write your names up.

Meantime, keep warm and dry, and....

- May all your finesses work.
- May all your slams be grand.