



March 2022

Franklin Bridge Club



Improving Juniors Take Opportunity For Tuition Help

If you're a Junior wanting to improve your bridge game, Franklin club has a marvellous scheme with supervised play on Thursday nights. There are not many clubs in New Zealand that offer this opportunity, with supportive experienced members at the table as you bid and play hands while they point out any problems and give tips to help you improve.

In addition, any club member who feels there may be some gaps in their knowledge can take the opportunity to come along for revision on Thursday nights to the beginner classes, photo above, which run concurrently with the supervised play. The beginner topics for the next month are listed overleaf.

Both of these learning events are especially relevant now after two years of Covid disrupting play, with all members finding it hard initially to get back to their pre-Covid play levels. So if Thursday night supervised play or revision lessons will help you, just come along to the club by 7pm (both play and lessons finish at 9pm). The cost is free for the beginner lessons, and normal \$6 table money for supervised play.



And thanks from all members to the experienced volunteers who help out with supervised play, above, and taking the novice lessons.

If there are any topics you'd like to have a refresher on, the upcoming beginner lessons are:

Thursday 10 March	Responder's Limit Bids
Thursday 17 March	Responder's New Suit Bid
Thursday 24 March	Revision (supervised play)
Thursday 31 March	Responder's Rebids
Thursday 7 April	Overcalls.

Beginner Lessons Online

Still on beginners' lessons – if any beginners have to miss a lesson for any reason, or would like extra tuition to help get those difficult bridge concepts into the brain, there are two online sessions starting this month which are open to anybody in New Zealand wanting to learn bridge.

The Auckland Bridge Club's online sessions have just started this week, and are being held on Mondays from 7 to 9pm. The lessons run for 15 weeks plus three weeks of supervised play, which costs \$200 for the lessons and three weeks of play. The enrolment link, and information on the lesson programme, is at www.akbc.co.nz.

Slightly shorter but quite a bit cheaper are lessons from the Waikato Bays region, which start on Tuesday 15 March, again from 7 to 9pm. A really useful feature of this series is that the lesson is repeated the next day in the afternoon – eg, the first one will run again on Wednesday 16 March from 2 to 4pm. These sessions will run for 13 weeks and are played on a mix of Zoom and Realbridge, at a cost of \$6 per lesson. To enrol, go to www.playbridge.co.nz and scroll down to click on Learn To Play Bridge Online.

Frankliners On The National Stage

Our club was well represented at the national bridge congress last month – held online for the first time in its history – with eleven Franklin players taking part.

Emerald grandmaster Grant Jarvis gained the highest achievement, coming fourth in the top-level NZ Open Pairs (the winners were Ashley Bach and Michael Cornell).

Silver grandmaster Lynne Geursen and grandmaster Bev Henton came sixth in the NZ Open Pairs Plate.

A consistent high performance above his ranking level came from Kevin Birch, who with partner Prem Soundra came fourth in the Restricted Open Pairs.

Kevin and Prem also came in the top ten of two other Restricted Open events: seventh in the Restricted Open Teams, and ninth in the Restricted Open Swiss Pairs.

As Kevin is still an Intermediate, this was an outstanding achievement. So with the A points gained in those events, plus some won in a recent Australian online congress, Kevin is likely to achieve Open status by year's end.

Table Money Cards

Save yourself the bother of finding \$5 notes and coins for your bridge sessions by buying table money cards in advance.

If you're a cash person, you can still pay cash to buy the cards – \$30 for five cards or \$60 for ten. Just give the money to treasurer Maureen Nelson or Jim Buckland when you're at bridge, and they will give you the cards.

Or do it from home: put the money into the club's bank account (details below, but hopefully it will already be loaded in your account from when you paid your annual sub).

When you do that, let Maureen know, either with a quick email or tell her at bridge, and she will give you the cards – easier for both you and our treasurer.

The banking details are: Franklin Bridge Club 01-0403-0040699-01.

Put your name and Table Money in the details boxes so Maureen knows who paid it.

70% Club

Wednesday Waitangi Pairs 9 February **76.49% Henriette Annabell-Carol Moore**

World Bridge Condemns Russia and Belarus

The World Bridge Federation Management Committee, with all its members present, met via Zoom early this month to discuss how the war promoted by Russia with the support of Belarus is impacting the 2022 World Bridge Teams Championship to be held in Italy from 27 March to 9 April, and the wider bridge movement; and released this statement about it.

The committee unanimously expressed its concerns and sympathy for Ukrainian bridge players and citizens alike. It was also united in its strong condemnation of the governments of Russia and Belarus for the treacherous attack on Ukraine and the unacceptable invasion of its national territory.

In accordance with the resolution of the International Olympic Committee, the committee unanimously decided to not allow the Russian national teams to participate in the world bridge teams championship.

The Committee was also united in stating that this resolution has to be seen as a consequence of the despicable invasion of Ukraine by Russia, expressing its great regret towards the Russian bridge players community and the athletes who cannot attend the event.

Member News

from Our Roving Reporters

Following our report last month on two hip replacements and a broken arm – wait – there's more!

First, the tennis accidents. One from former Franklin stalwart Richard Solomon, who explains: “That right hand! It should have stuck to holding cards rather than a tennis racket. It missed the ball (I take no blame for this!), knocked its owner out as he catapulted to the ground and fractured a few fingers in the process! Not a good look.

“Indeed, with many an inquisitive ‘what happened?’ as I played bridge one-handed (fortunately, unlike at tennis, I am predominantly left-handed), partner suggested the cause of the injury should be included as part of our system card!”



In the same week, Neil Christensen came to bridge on crutches and in a cast – a snapped Achilles tendon on the tennis court.

And one of our players is sporting two broken ribs, having been attacked by a row of tomatoes in his extensive vegetable garden.

Our secretary Susie Longdell has also been in the wars! She's had severe whiplash following a fall. She reports that her convalescence is heading in the right direction, but too slowly ...

At last the good news: Maria and Chris are having a great time in the South

Island, on their two-month campervan odyssey. Recent news included tramping on Stewart Island, and a wonderful two-hour helicopter flight over Fiordland, photo left, plus a cruise on Doubtful Sound. They are now pottering around Central Otago, and have e-biked the Clutha Gold cycle trail alongside the Clutha River by old gold mining areas. Next stop another bike trail at Alexandra, then Cromwell, Arrowtown and out to Glenorchy (where Judy Collins grew up).



Ilian Trifanov, part of the NZ Steel group of players, went off last week in his campervan for about five weeks, accompanied by his wife Nora.

Off to Australia are the Geursens to Queensland and the Spencers to Tasmania, all four of them really looking forward to catching up with family members there.

Also looking forward to their break are John and Bron Fergusson, who've gone off to a remote coastal settlement in the King Country – sea, sand and a river where John hopes to do some trout fishing. And no cellphone coverage! Lots of time to think peaceful thoughts. Carol Moore is filling in for John with the beginner lessons.

And during the last lockdown, Bron's mother celebrated her 100th birthday. She was delighted to receive birthday cards from the Queen, the Prime Minister and the Mayor of Auckland, plus the Minister for Seniors.

The last Friday bridge session in February saw Ann Anderson surprised with a cake and card for her birthday the following day. (Cake was delicious, passion-

fruit icing, made by president Caroline – come to Friday bridge to be included in similar treats!)

And players at the last Monday bridge session in February celebrated with Teresa and Neil Philips on the birth of their first Philips-surname grandchild – and it was a very happy double celebration because he was born on Teresa's birthday! Teresa and Neil brought along some very yummy bubbly which we enjoyed before bridge (come to Monday bridge to be included in similar treats)!

NZ Bridge Board

NZ Bridge announced last month that two nominations had been received for two vacancies on the board for the 2022 election cycle, so no election was required. Anne Barrowclough of Auckland returns for a further term and Kate Terry of Tauranga joins the board from 1 April.

Auckland Club Partial Re-opening

The Auckland bridge club has partially reopened, holding live sessions at the club on Tuesday evenings at 7.15pm and Friday mornings at 11am (bring your lunch).

New Auckland Grandmaster

Alan Currie of Orewa reached the rank of Grandmaster last month; and Murat Genc of Otago has become a Gold Grandmaster.

Sitting The Right Way Online

The National Congress was of course played online last month, and so the personal or funny stories that sometimes come from the tournament were not as many as when everyone is playing together.

But early on, the congress scorers let players know the day's results were delayed in two events because some pairs sat in the wrong direction after lunch. One bridge player reported that his non-bridge-playing wife was perplexed by this, and wondered why they weren't facing their computer monitor.

Online Help



This month's website is aimed at Juniors to lower Intermediates – copy and paste the link below in your browser to watch the video. The theme for this one is not to bid your hand twice. It is part of Christchurch grandmaster Tina McVeigh's series of Common Mistakes In Bridge, which is a very useful series for improving Juniors and Intermediates.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=obxw41VHLhk

Ruffing Finesse

by Trevor Robb

Level: Intermediate

	S	N
♠	AQJ4	8
♥	Q874	K1052
♦	K	AJ1094
♣	Q964	AK7

A similar hand to one we played on a recent Friday – how to make or plan to make 6H from South?

The bidding was:

West	North	East	South
			1 ♣
Pass	1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	5 ♣
Pass	6 ♥	All pass	

The lead was 6D from West (through the diamond bid). The traveller sheet shows that 6H is a make, and a couple of players asked how.

So it seemed that they were not familiar with the ruffing finesse.

To make a ruffing finesse you pay the second highest of a running suit and ruff if the higher card covers it and otherwise discard. In this hand it is the JD that you lead out: if it is covered, you ruff – otherwise throw a loser, and repeat the process.

First of course you have to give only one heart loser to the opposition. Partner did this easily by immediately leading 4H to KH.

The opposition hands:

	W	E
♠	K732	10965
♥	A63	J9
♦	63	Q8752
♣	J853	102

A point in defence. The best lead from West is a trump lead, the 3H. Expecting to play the Ace next round and then follow up with the 6. Let declarer have to open up the suits.

There are in fact two ruffing suits for this hand. The diamonds in North and the spades in South; together with a simple finesse also in South.

Director? Please?

by Ninth Wicket

Introducing The Director

The director is the person, along with any assistant(s), assigned the task of providing a remedy when something goes wrong.

Players must never attempt to resolve matters amongst themselves.

The director must follow the Official Laws which are set out in the yellow-covered book published by the World Bridge Federation and titled The Laws of Duplicate Bridge 2017.

Also the website www.nzbridge.co.nz/directing-regulations can be referred to for further information specific to New Zealand. Particularly useful are the flow charts in the Quick Reference Guides tab in the same website.

The Laws of Bridge deal only with the accidental departure from proper procedure. Common examples include the accidental exposure of a card, a bid or play out of turn, or a bid or play which is illegal such as an insufficient bid or a revoke.

A departure from one's own partnership methods is not an infraction and if the opponents are disadvantaged as a consequence they are not entitled to any redress.

The director should be summoned immediately once attention has been drawn to an irregularity. To summon the director raise your arm and call "Director, Please" only loud enough so as to be easily heard by the director.

The process of rectification is not intended to punish players who do things wrong; nor provide gifts for their opponents although, because of the desire to avoid too complicated laws, that can happen at times.

Some situations require the director to make a calculated assessment (like a cricket umpire deciding if a batter is out LBW). But many situations are black and white (like when a batter is bowled) and the director simply applies the relevant law.

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

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