



HASTINGS BRIDGE CLUB NEWSLETTER



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To support new members who have just completed beginner lessons moving into the main playing room (which for many is a nerve-wracking transition) we are hoping to have partners organized for our new players to continue guiding them on their bridge journey. It is important for our club that we see our newer members enjoying the game as we do.

This week 7 new players are making the transition. If you are willing to support this and come along on a Thursday for a few weeks starting from 22nd August please approach Greg or Rachel.

We will look to do the same later in the year after the next round of lessons so even if you are not able to help over the next few weeks we are happy to note names for later in the year.

FROM THE COMMITTEE

The committee met for their monthly meeting on Tuesday 12th August. The following were key points of conversation;

- The club has received a generous grant from Pub Charities to support replacing the lights in the playing room with LEDs, upgrading the main switchboard and to replace the director's laptop.
- The committee is exploring new locks on the toilet doors to allow access from the outside in emergencies.
- Updates to the new constitution were finalized and plan made to present to members.

CONGRATS!

The Club Championship teams and junior pairs were completed last month. Our winners were;

Wednesday Teams

George Masters, Turei and Christine Haronga, Bev Penny, Trish Murphy

Thursday Junior Pairs

Alan Thurlow and Rachel Hooker



REMEMBERING DOUG COUCHMAN

It is with great sadness that club members heard of the sudden passing of Doug Couchman. Doug and Bobbie were a formidable bridge partnership and are ranked in the top echelons of national player rankings.

Doug and Bobbie Couchman have been members of the Hastings Bridge Club for over fifty years. Our honours boards record Doug's victories at the club over a period of forty years. Their enormous contribution to our club was recognized in 2002 when they were made life members.

In particular Doug took learners' lessons for many years. He was a great teacher; he and Bobbie mentored and played with their learners for years after graduating from their classes. Doug was able to imbue his learners with the same passion for bridge that he possessed.

In recent years, the Couchmans retired from playing bridge, but the memories of their prowess as players and their wonderful partnership triumphs live on in our club. Doug was a formidable opponent at the table. His bidding was aggressive but shrewd, his defence skilful, but Doug will be remembered most emphatically for his expertise as declarer. Everyone enjoyed playing with and against Doug. He was a gentleman at the table with impeccable ethics and a wonderfully gentle ironic wit.

Our sympathy and thoughts go out to Bobbie and the whole Couchman family.

-Mairi Fitzsimons





THE LEARNER'S CORNER

Steve is starting the last beginners' lessons for the year on Thursday 5th September. If you have any friends or family that are interested in learning, please let them know. They can either contact Steve or email the club with their interest.

When: Weekly from Thursday 5th September

Where: Hastings Bridge Club, 911 Railway Road

Cost: Free

For members who are looking to learn some new bidding conventions, NZ bridge are offering improver lessons. They will be repeating the series on Tuesdays starting from 3rd September so it is not too late to register.

ONLINE IMPROVER LESSONS

PRACTICE AND LEARN STRONG HANDS

- Suitable for all levels of players, but topics get more advanced as the series progresses
- Thursdays, 7pm-9pm
- Each lesson includes 8 play boards
- Come with or without a partner
- Very easy to login and play
- Costs \$8 per session or \$20 for the series of 3

15TH AUGUST: REFRESHER ON OPENING STRONG HANDS

22ND AUGUST: BLACKWOOD (4NT ACE ASKING)

29TH AUGUST: ROMAN KEY CARD BLACKWOOD (RKCB) AND SPLINTERS

REGISTER HERE:
NZBRIDGE.HELLOCLUB.COM

If you already have a Hello Club account, you will still need to register under NZ Bridge's account.

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

YES, THIS REALLY HAPPENED!

North/South bid their way to an uncontested 4S halfway through an afternoon bridge session.

South leads the QH and dummy goes down.

Dummy also includes QH and the director is called!

One free bridge session to the person who can provide Greg with the most entertaining version of what this was all about including a suggestion as to how the director should proceed.

