



# HASTINGS BRIDGE CLUB NEWSLETTER



[hastingsbridgeclub@xtra.co.nz](mailto:hastingsbridgeclub@xtra.co.nz)

[www.hastingsbridge.co.nz](http://www.hastingsbridge.co.nz)

## COMING UP

The Jenness Clarke Intermediate Swiss pairs will be played on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October. It would be great to see Hastings well represented. We would also love to see some of our junior players enter. Swiss pairs are played in a series of matches. After each match the room is ranked based on score and you play pairs around the same place on the ranking as you. We will also be looking for members who may be able to offer their time on the day.

The club's AGM will be held on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> November followed by Christmas lunch and a social game of bridge. Save the date in your calendar now!



## FROM THE COMMITTEE

The committee met for their monthly meeting on Tuesday 3rd September. The following were key points of conversation;

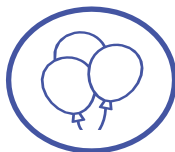
- Work on the switch board has now been completed.
- We are beginning to organise the club books for next year. If your contact details have changed, please let us know via the club email.
- There are committee members who are standing down following the club's AGM in November. We are happy to discuss what involved with anyone who may be interested in joining.

## CONGRATS!

Here are our series winners from last month;

Monday Ladder -  
Mairi Fitzsimons

Wednesday Winter Pairs -  
Greg and Sue Whitten



## Stop cards no longer mandated by NZ Bridge



NZ Bridge (NZB) has made the decision that stop cards will no longer be used at bridge tournaments. Although we don't use them during club play they are used in other HB clubs and previously in tournaments.

Stop cards were introduced to reduce the likelihood of players receiving unauthorized information from their partner if they hesitated after a jump bid by the opponents.

Their inconsistent uses, inconsistent pauses after use and their use by some players to alert their partner to the fact they have made a skip bid means that using them often creates unauthorized information.

NZB have provided a document outlining the arguments for and against if you are interested to know more. A copy is attached to the newsletter email or available on the NZB website.

---

## GEORGE MASTERS MOTORS OPEN SWISS PAIRS

The club hosted an open Swiss pairs tournament on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September. 18 pairs played, many of them regular players at the club. Congratulations to George Masters and John Pitts for taking 1<sup>st</sup> place.

Thank you to members who offered their time support play, take care of the kitchen, and to those that contributed baking for our players.





## THE LEARNER'S CORNER

We welcomed seven new players into our Thursday junior session this month. Thank you to members that offered to support their transition through from the lessons.

Steve's lessons are based on the beginner lessons produced by NZB, but there are also improver and intermediate lesson available on their website if you are looking to add something new to your game. Topics range from stayman, opening leads, signals and discards to Roman Key Card and splinters.

NZ Bridge has just appointed a teaching review co-ordinator to review the current teaching and learning resources with new, revised lessons expected in the new year.

### IMPROVER LESSON 6: STUDENT NOTES



## Opening Leads

### Look at the auction before you make the opening lead

The following are the most commonly used guidelines for the defence

#### 1. Leads versus a Notrump Contract

The defenders aim to establish their longest or strongest combined suit

##### Which suit?

1. Lead partner's bid suit (if they have bid one)
2. Lead your longest or strongest suit (the suit that gives the best opportunity to win tricks)
3. Lead an unbid suit (a major before a minor)

##### Which card?

*The lead is underlined*

1. Lead top of a sequence of 3 honours or broken sequence  
KQJ3    KQ109    QJ97
2. Lead a low card - a low card promises an honour(s)  
AJ875    K932    Q64
3. Lead top from small cards - a high card denies an honour  
974    8742    83
4. Lead top of an interior sequence of 2 or more honours  
KJ103    Q1094    AJ104

## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

Last month we were confronted with the situation of both pairs holding the QH. Sue Kay provided the most entertaining version of what was happening at the table.

*"The Queen of Hearts is a childish, foul-tempered monarch who is quick to give death sentences at even the slightest of offences, she is a bad-tempered, fat and pompous villain. Everyone is terrified of her and her reactions.*

*On this occasion the March Hare and the Cheshire Cat had bid to a cold 4S. This infuriated the Queen who was on lead against the contract. She knew she could not take the contract down so she transposed herself into a card - the Queen of Hearts.*

*After the Director was called, there was only one action and the Queen, screamed, 'Off with his head!'*

