



HASTINGS BRIDGE CLUB NEWSLETTER



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WELCOME BACK!

Welcome to a new year of bridge and also to a new-look newsletter for the club.

The club newsletter has been in hiatus since October 2022 but is back with a fresh new look. The aim is to give you a brief update of what has been happening at the club each month.

Alongside the monthly newsletter you will find updates on our Facebook page and in the club news section of our website. We want to ensure that these spaces are kept updated and current so that anyone that searches out or stumbles upon the club can see that we are a great group of people having a great time.

If you have anything you would like to contribute to the newsletter (content, photos, celebrations etc.) please get in touch.

FROM THE COMMITTEE

The committee met for their monthly meeting on Tuesday 13th February. The following were key points of conversation;

- Planning has started for our charity bridge session taking place at the club on Thursday 25th April 2024. It was agreed that the proceeds from the day will go to support Big Brothers Big Sisters Hawke's Bay who provide mentoring and support to see our young people thrive.
- Income from leasing the premises has been important over the last two years. The committee is continuing to explore further opportunities with prospective users.
- We have changed gardeners in an effort to improve the outdoor appearance at the club.
- The next series of beginner lessons is starting this month. We are keen to take names of potential members who may benefit from joining our club.

CONGRATS!

We have a handful of members who have moved up a grade during 2023.

Congratulations to;

Bev Penny - Open

Trish Murphy - Open

Jillian Ramsey- Open

Trish Andersen- Intermediate



They call it "bridge" because it makes you want to shove your partner off one.





HAVE YOU MET DEB?

Deb Renton-Green has kindly agreed to be the first member to feature in our newsletter this month. We hope that these profiles will help you get to know some of our fabulous members a little bit more or spark some conversation around the table.

Where did you grow up?

I was born in South Wales but most of my memories of the UK are living in a little village, Dry Drayton, just outside Cambridge. We lived in a thatched roof cottage built in the 1600s. We emigrated to New Zealand when I was 13 and I went to high school and university in Hamilton.

What did/do you do for work?

I worked in Human Resources as a manager and a consultant. I was in Wellington for most of my working life but also lived and worked in Asia for 4 years. When my husband retired, like many Wellingtonians, we shifted up here to Hawke's Bay and I did quite a bit of contract and voluntary work.

How did you discover bridge and how long have you been playing?

My Dad was a keen bridge player so I always thought it would be something I would enjoy. I learnt in Waipukurau a while ago but it wasn't my priority and I didn't play much. I'd lost my confidence as I didn't really know what I was doing half the time! I came to Steve's learner's class in 2022 with a friend who wanted to learn and it has absolutely kick-started my bridge and kindled my enthusiasm!

Tell us one thing most members wouldn't know about you

I'm the Club's Treasurer so a lot of people ask me if I am an Accountant. I'm not but I have been the Treasurer for another Incorporated Society and I used to manage quite big budgets when I was working. It's fun learning the software the Club uses (Xero) and understanding through the finances what makes the Club tick. I love working with a team and being on the Committee feels that way.

How do you like to spend your free time?

We live in an old farmhouse on 20 acres so I don't ever seem to have enough spare time. There is always the garden to tend and sash windows to paint. But I am an avid stitcher, making many of my own clothes and I love art quilting and free motion machine embroidery. My happy place is our sunroom, also my sewing room, which has the most fabulous view over the garden. I also belong to two Book Clubs....and then there are bridge hands to practice!

Where is somewhere you would love to visit/travel to?

In my dreams I walk Te Araroa. The best holidays I have had are long walks on the Coast-to-Coast Walkway through Yorkshire and the Lake District and also the Offa's Dyke walk (the border of Wales and England).





THE LEARNER'S CORNER

At the AGM last year, it was requested that the club consider running some 'improver' or 'refresher' lessons for our players to refresh their knowledge and be introduced to some new conventions. The first of three improver lessons were held at the club on Thursday 8th February and proved very popular with 27 players attending. The lessons even attracting interest from players outside the club as well. A big thank you to Steve Armon (and his helpers) for the preparation and running of these sessions.

We also have a new series of beginner lessons starting shortly. If you know of anyone interested, please pass on their details to Steve.

When: Starting Thursday 29th February

Time: 1900 – 2100

Where: Club rooms – 911 Railway Road

Cost: Free



FROM THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

DID YOU KNOW?

When declarer leads from the wrong hand, our frequent first reaction as defenders is to kindly suggest that the lead should be from the correct position. But by doing this, defenders are being somewhat more generous than they are required to be. Rule 55A gives either defender the right to accept a lead made out of turn by declarer, providing neither defender has played to that trick.

Dummy's role in this situation is also clearly defined by the rules. Dummy may suggest to declarer where the lead should be made from if dummy feels that partner is about to lead from the incorrect hand. However, dummy is not permitted to make continuous comments or gestures as to which hand the lead should come from.

