

Hamilton



Hamilton Contract Bridge Club

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Newsletter Editor: Catherine Cameron

Newsletter - May 2026

From the President

Hi Everyone

It has been a good time so far this year as in May we had Duncan White and Elaine Rayner come second in the March Intermediate Pairs tournament and for the Junior Pairs Aini Su and Annette Downey came first. Very well done and thanks to all those who also played in and helped with the tournaments.

The committee has been working hard for the club. We have started to get a plan for the future of the club which is very important for all club members.

MICHAEL

Michael Davies, Club President



HAMILTON BRIDGE CLUB

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A New Silver Grandmaster

Congratulations to Karen Harris who became a Silver Grandmaster in April. The Silver level requires 2500 A&B points and at least 1250 A points - which means placing well in many tournaments. Karen has been playing for 30 years and has done very well to achieve a level most bridge players can only dream of!



Obituary - Barbara Daly

The Hamilton Bridge Club was saddened by the death of Barbara Daly on 22 March after a short illness.

Barbara joined the Hamilton Club in 2019 after moved here from the Wellington Region. Until late last year she was one of the most regular players in the Tuesday afternoon and Friday morning groups.

Barbara, a bridge Life Master, also enjoyed playing tournaments and played in numerous events in the Waikato / Bay of Plenty Region over the years.

Until last year she also directed both day and night sessions at the Club She is missed by her many friends at the club.



Craigs Tournament change from Programme book

Tuesday 26 May is the annual Craigs tournament, starting at 10am.

The listing in your programme book on page 13 is incorrect. This tournament is a Multigrade 8B pairs, meaning that all grades are eligible to enter. Prizes will be given to the top pair in all possible combinations of Open, Intermediate, Junior and Novice players where there are sufficient entries within that grade combination.

Social events coming

As the days get colder, what better way to spend a Sunday afternoon than with lunch and a social afternoon of bridge with your friends?

A Soup and bun event starts at 12:30 on Sunday 17 May, followed by one session of bridge starting at 1.15pm and finishing with afternoon tea, all for \$8. There will be spot prizes as well as prizes for the winners.

A Midwinter themed Christmas event is planned for Sunday 26 July. This will start at 12.30 with one session of bridge. Further details are still being worked on but pencil it in your diary now. Watch out for the poster closer to the time.

Car Park Etiquette

The painted markings in the front car park have been renewed. There are arrows marking the direction cars should travel. Please only enter at the entrance by Phoenix (closest to the Stadium) and leave the car park by the exit next to Plunket. This will prevent accidents happening.

Mobility parks are now clearly marked - these are only for cars displaying mobility cards.

Club Swiss Pairs in April and May

The Tuesday afternoon players have just completed a first - a successful Swiss Pairs event with 12 tables of players each session. The format for the club Swiss Pairs is 3 sets of 8 boards each session (24 boards total) played over 3 sessions.

Two more Swiss Pairs events are scheduled in May:

The Friday Richmond Swiss Pairs started on Friday 1 May with 14 tables. Thursday night 7 May is the start of the Elsie Pohio Intermediate and Junior Swiss Pairs Championship with 10 tables entered. Both of these Swiss Pairs events are for 3 rounds of 24 boards each session and 3 sessions.

When you sign up to play in the SWISS PAIRS event at the club it is VERY IMPORTANT that you commit to play all three sessions of the event. The draw is based on an even number of tables each session and cannot be changed once the event is underway. If you are unable to play on a night for any reason you **MUST** find a substitute to take your place or contact the partner steward if unable to find anyone.

To be eligible to be selected for the coming Waikato Teams Championship you need to play with a player in the same grade - two Juniors, two Intermediates or two Open players.

Winners of each grade in the Tuesday Swiss Pairs were:

1st Open-Open: Jenny Millington and Michael Curry

1st Intermediate-Intermediate: Bill Barwood and Jiwan Dhaliwal

1st Junior-Junior: Geoff Turner and Geoff West

For many of our Junior players this will be their first experience playing Swiss pairs.

Some Dos and Don'ts for Swiss pairs play:

DO - Bid game if it has a chance of making, particularly if you are vulnerable.

DO - Bid slams that have a good chance of making

DO - Take risks if necessary to make your contract

DO - Take risks to defeat a contract

DO - Aim for the safest slam, game or part score

DO - Be careful when sacrificing - your opponents are bidding chancy games so may go light and if they double you, it could be expensive

DO - Take care dealing with pre-empts - bad breaks are likely; they may go light - remember, you are aiming for a positive score

DON'T - Double your opponents at the 3 level and give them a chance of a 'free' game bonus for an overtrick

DON'T - Make risky overcalls, especially when vulnerable - a score of -800 (3 light) is a disaster!

DON'T - Sacrifice against vulnerable games

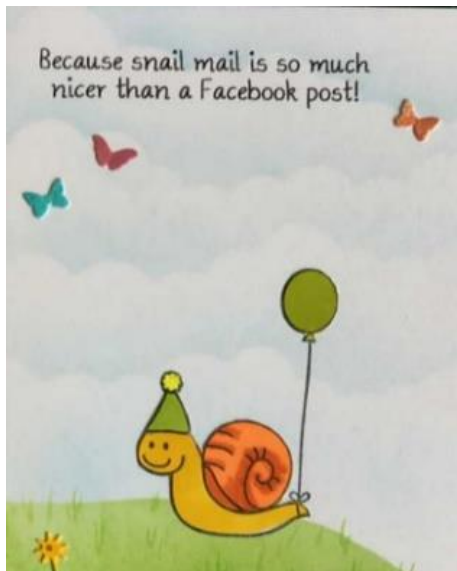
DON'T - Take a risk going for that overtrick as the additional scoring value is minimal !

Car Parking helpers

This year we are well into the swing of providing car-parking for events at FMG Stadium. This is a major fundraiser for the club. Once again the Chiefs are doing well in Super Rugby. There are two more home games at the Waikato Stadium in the regular season still to come - on Friday 15 May vs Highlanders and on Saturday 30 May vs Blues - and hopefully more home games in the Super Rugby playoffs.

Thanks to those who are already helping with the car-parking. If you would like to add your name to the helpers, contact Richard Wagstaff.

Cynthia's Cards - For Sale



Cynthia Clayton produces a great range of greeting cards that cover every need you might have.

What many of our members may not realise is that the money raised from the sale of the cards comes to our Club. So rather than purchasing commercial cards why not get one of Cynthia's stunning handmade cards and help our Club at the same time?

The cards are priced at a reasonable \$5 each. The current selection of cards is found on the table in the passageway or some more examples are shown on-line on our web site [here](#).

If nothing really suits for a special occasion then have a chat with Cynthia and ask her to make a one-off card for you (\$8).

Cynthia can be contacted at the phone number in the Hamilton Club Programme Book or at this email address : cynclayton@gmail.com

Cynthia's a Champion Fund-raiser

Cynthia Clayton walked 85km in March to raise money for Starship Hospital's National Air Ambulance which transports critically ill or injured children from across New Zealand to the hospital. Cynthia received sponsorship from family, friends and our club members - so far she has raised over \$10,000 and is the top fundraiser for a very worthwhile cause.

The fundraising page is open until the end of May so if you want to add to the support the link is:

<https://www.kilometresforkids.org.nz/fundraisers/cynthiaclayton>

Congratulations Cynthia! Also, many thanks to her generous supporters.



Club Scorers and Directors needed

Our club needs some more directors. If you are at all interested, please speak to any of the Committee or directors. If directing seems too much at present, how about becoming a scorer? This helps the directors out and is not as onerous as directing.



Club director training for 2026 starts online on Saturday 4 July. This consists of 7 Zoom sessions approximately every Saturday fortnight where you will learn the Rules and have practice making decisions. At the end of the course there will be a quiz and plenty of help before you sit the final exams (also online).

For those who are currently scoring and / or directing or wanting to know more, the Waikato region has arranged two sessions to get together to learn more about these processes.

First, the **Scorers Forum** will be on 23rd May at Cambridge Club. The primary focus will be on Compass VB which is about to be launched to replace the current Compass V6.

This will be followed by the **Directors Forum** on 7th June at Matamata Bridge Club. Allan Joseph, a very personable and experienced director, will present some of the content. This will cover aspects of both laws and movements as well as other director related issues.

The sessions are free to attend. At each session pizza lunch will be provided. The sessions will run from 10am to about 4pm. Please register on the NZB tournament website (for catering purposes).

Any questions can be directed to Hugh McAlister on 027 2663488 or secretarywbbc@gmail.com

Check your member balance with Compa\$\$

Want to know how much money you have in your Compa\$\$ account? No need to wait for an email from the club. *[If you are a current paid up member of the club you should get monthly Compa\$\$ balance emails - if you are not receiving these emails it is most likely that we have not got your correct email in our database. Please contact Julie and confirm your email address is the same as that in Compass].*

To check your balance at any time, you can log into your individual Compa\$\$ account. First, you need to set up a username and password. Information on what Compa\$\$ is and how to set up as a user is found [here](#). Please read the section on Compa\$\$ registration before setting up your user account. Remember to keep a record of your username and password for next time you use it!

Once you have registered and logged in, a screen for Compass Scoring System will appear. Click on 'Check your wallet' and your account data for the last processed period will appear on your screen. You can change to any valid Compa\$\$ date range if you want to see earlier transactions.

Direct access to the Compa\$\$ login page from the club website is via the [Compa\\$\\$ Balance link](#) in the Results sub-menu on the Home page. This is the easiest way to get to the Compa\$\$ login screen.

Bridge Club Privacy of Information

As an Incorporated Society, the bridge club needs members to keep the Club informed of their contact details while they are a member and for a period after they leave - this is a legal requirement for the Club in the new Act. So, if you have moved house or changed your phone number or email address please let the secretary know so she can update our records.

Waikato/Bays Leagues

Waikato-Bays region has been running the Intermediate and Junior Championship Leagues for over ten years. They aim to encourage players in these grades to enter tournaments. Players accumulate points over the season to qualify for the overall league prizes.

Hamilton players occupy 6 of the top 10 places in the Junior league after two events, an excellent start to the competition. Aini Su and Annette Downey are well in the lead at this early stage.



NEW! - Restricted Open League in 2026

This year a new Restricted Open league has been added to the other leagues run by Waikato/Bays region. The restricted open league comprises 5 Swiss Pairs events held throughout the region. Entries to these events (all for 3A points) is restricted to those with a grade of National Master or below.

The restricted open league begins in May.

There are 5 scheduled tournaments as listed below. Note that some of these have changed from Open 8B as listed in our programme book to Restricted Open 3A. These tournaments are all for National Master and below players only.

Te Awamutu Restricted Open Swiss Pairs Saturday May 16 (3A)

Morrinsville Restricted Open Swiss Pairs Saturday June 27 (3A)

Waitomo Restricted Open Swiss Pairs Sunday July 12 (3A)

Rotorua Restricted Open Swiss Pairs Saturday September 12 (3A)

Matamata Restricted Open Swiss Pairs Saturday October 10 (3A)

The region has also provided trophies for the champions for all leagues for the first time. Good luck to all entrants in these events.

Waikato Area Pairs (WAPs)

The Waikato area pairs is a friendly event played against members of other Waikato clubs (and some from further afield), on Sundays for 5 rounds. This is a great chance for intermediates to play in an "A" tournament.

The next heats of the WAPs are Sunday 24 May at Cambridge and 19 July at Te Awamutu.

Enter online, then arrive between 9:30 and 9:45 with a partner, \$15 for the entry fee, and your lunch.

Waikato Interclub teams

The Waikato interclub teams will be held on 21 June at Cambridge Bridge Club. Clubs enter three teams (Open, Intermediate and Junior). If you are asked to play in any of our teams, please consider representing your club. The top two teams in each section will then qualify for the final to be held at Matamata Bridge Club on 23 August.

New for Novices: PIPS (Card Play and Instruction Practice Sundays)

Waikato Bays region is providing this programme for players with less than 2 years' experience. All sessions start at 1pm on Sunday afternoons and will be 2-3 hours duration. They will involve a bit of instruction first then a set of 8 hands to play. Notes will be handed out. There will be one session a month from June to October so this will be an ideal follow on for new players from this year's lessons or those who learnt last year.

The first session will be coming up fairly soon so keep an eye out for the poster which will be on the noticeboards at our club. The sessions will be held at different clubs in the Waikato so check the venue.

If you need more information please contact Nick Whitten to register interest: nickwhitten@xtra.co.nz or phone 07 889 7831.

Upcoming Events

COMING UP AT OUR CLUB

Hamilton Craigs Multigrade Pairs	Tuesday 26 May
Hamilton Swiss Pairs (Online)	Wednesday 17 & 24 June, 1 July
Hamilton Open Teams	Saturday 11 July

EVENTS COMING UP IN OUR REGION

Junior/Novice Tournaments:

Matamata Junior/Novice Pairs	Matamata	Saturday 9 May
Mt Maunganui Junior/Novice Pairs	Mt Maunganui	Saturday 18 July

Intermediate Tournaments:

Katikati Intermediate Pairs	Katikati	Sunday 17 May
Waihi Intermediate Pairs	Waihi	Saturday 13 June
Mt Maunganui Intermediate Pairs	Mt Maunganui	Saturday 18 July

Open/Restricted Tournaments:

Taupo Open 5A Pairs	Taupo	Sat/Sun 9/10 May
Putaruru Open 8B Pairs	Putaruru	Thursday 14 May
Te Awamutu Restricted 3A Swiss	Te Awamutu	Saturday 16 May
Te Puke Restricted 8B Pairs	Te Puke	Saturday 23 May
Waikato Area Pairs (WAP) 3	Cambridge	Sunday 24 May
Spa Town Open Teams	Te Aroha	Saturday 6 June
Spa Town Restricted 8B Swiss	Te Aroha	Saturday 6 June
Rotorua Open 5A Pairs	Rotorua	Saturday 13 June
Morrinsville Restricted 3A Swiss	Morrinsville	Saturday 27 June
National 20A Swiss Pairs (2 days)	Tauranga	Sat/Sun 4/5 July
Tauranga Restricted 8B Charity	Tauranga	Wednesday 8 July
Waitomo Restricted 3A Swiss	Waitomo	Sunday 12 July
Waikato Area Pairs (WAP) 4	Morrinsville	Sunday 19 July
Matamata Open 5A Swiss Pairs	Matamata	Saturday 25 July
Tauranga Ladies Multigrade 3A	Tauranga	Wednesday 29 July
Whakatane Restricted 8B Pairs	Whakatane	Saturday 1 August

Cambridge Sixes - Saturday 8 August

What are the Cambridge Sixes?

The Cambridge Sixes is a fun concept aimed at getting more players from each bridge grade playing in tournaments. Three tournaments take place at the same time, a 3A for the Open players, a 5B for the Intermediates and a 3B for the Juniors. It is the only Swiss Pairs tournament specifically for Intermediates or Juniors. Since 2016 it has been at the Don Rowlands Centre at Lake Karapiro, a wonderful venue with all mod cons along with great views out over the lake.

What makes the Cambridge Sixes different is that entries must be made up of one pair from each grade. Open players who wish to try getting three A points must find an Intermediate pair and a Junior pair to come along with them. While there is prize money in each grade, most of the \$3000+ in prizes goes to the best performed Teams of Six when the scores get totalled across the grades.

The day provides not only serious bridge but also some fun between rounds with Trivia quizzes and prizes for the Teams judged to be wearing the most "distinctive team costume". This is the 13th time the event has been run and so the dress-up theme is 'Superstition'. Morning tea at 9am and a light lunch are included in the entry fee, with bridge starting at 9.30am.

What is Swiss Pairs?

Swiss pairs has a scoring format which resembles teams scoring but is different from the usual club session matchpoint scoring. In Swiss pairs it is the actual size of the difference in score that counts. Bidding to game is important, especially when vulnerable. But going down in a game contract can be expensive with this scoring, while making an over-trick gains very little. As declarer, it is most important to make your contract, so don't take a finesse for an extra trick if there is a risk of going down. As defender, always look for a play that allows the contract to be beaten and take your chance.

Recent Events at our Club

Hamilton Junior & Intermediate Pairs - 14 March

A very successful pair of tournaments were held at the bridge clubrooms on Saturday 14 March with over 100 players across the two rooms. 34 intermediate pairs competed, with Duncan White & Elaine Rayner finishing 2nd, Catherine Cameron & Trini Lin 3rd and Mary Girvin & Lois Jones 5th.

The Juniors had 18 pairs competing with our Novice/Junior combination of Aini Su & Annette Downey winning after topping both sessions - a very impressive result! Karen Mackenzie & Maggie Fisher came 3rd overall with Kevin Lawrence & Sean Dwyer 4th. Well done, Hamilton players!

Thanks to Mereana for organising the day, including the delicious food, Cherie and Barry for directing and to our sponsors:

- . Craigs Investment Partners sponsored the Intermediate tournament
- . Virscient sponsored the Junior tournament



Annette and Aini - Junior winners

Hamilton Restricted Pairs - Sunday 19 April

18 tables took part in this successful tournament. Our club members did particularly well. Congratulations to you all!

Notable results were:

1st Junior-Junior : Carolyn Downey & Kevin Brown

1st Junior-Intermediate : Aini Su & Lois Jones

1st Junior-Open : Annette Downey & Marcus Dudley (6th Overall)

2nd Junior-Open : Adele van Weerden & Cherie Barton

2nd Intermediate-Intermediate : Catherine & Jol Glyde

1st Intermediate-Open : Catherine Cameron & Karen Harris

3rd Overall: Duncan White & Cynthia Clayton

Thanks to Mereana for organising the tournament, Jenny Seavill and Jennifer Humphries for running the kitchen and organising the delicious food, Richard Fletcher for collecting and collating all the payments on the day, Richard Wagstaff for running the raffles and prizegiving and to all other members who helped on the day.



Congratulations to Cynthia and Duncan, 3rd overall

Recent Regional Tournament Successes

Hamilton Junior Pairs	14 March	Hamilton
1 st	Aini Su & Annette Downey	
3 rd	Karen Mackenzie & Maggie Fisher	
Hamilton Intermediate Pairs	14 March	Hamilton
2 nd	Duncan White & Elaine Rayner	
3 rd	Trini Lin & Catherine Cameron	
Kelly Peirse Memorial Teams	21 March	Rotorua
2 nd	Blair Fisher, Liz Fisher & teammates	
Cambridge Junior Pairs	28 March	Cambridge
2 nd	Aini Su & Annette Downey	
Matamata Open Swiss Pairs	11 April	Matamata
1 st	Richard Solomon & Anna Kalma	
Mt Maunganui Multigrade Pairs	18 April	Mt Maunganui
2 nd	Blair Fisher & Jack James	
Hamilton Restricted Pairs	19 April	Hamilton
3 rd	Cynthia Clayton & Duncan White	
Waikato Area Pairs (WAP) 2	26 April	Te Aroha
1 st	Mereana Cullen & Rob Davies	



NZ National Swiss Pairs Champions 2026

Congratulations to Blair and Liz Fisher who won the 2026 National Swiss Pairs held in Wellington in March. As a reward they gain 20 A points as well as prize money. 50 Pairs took part in the tournament with each pair playing 99 boards, a marathon effort!

Hamilton Success in Ranks Reports

Every 3 months NZ Bridge reports on the top-ranking Players in each grade, measured by number of masterpoints gained since the start of the year. Successful players from our club in the year to 31 March are:

Blair and Liz Fisher - 1st & 2nd Gold Grandmaster

Yuzhong Chen - 4th Silver Grandmaster

Annette Downey - 5th Club Master

Aini Su - 1st Certificate of Proficiency

Well done!

2026 National Congress

The 40th New Zealand National Bridge Congress is the premier competition in NZ. Last year over 800 players took part. This year it runs from Saturday November 7th to Saturday November 14th at the Palmy Function and Conference Centre in Palmerston North.

There is no early-bird discount, but all players who have paid in full by 30th September 2026 go in a draw, with one of four chances, to win their entry fee back! Youth players (under 25) get a 50% discount on any Congress event.

For all event information and to book, start at: [NZ Bridge Congress 2026](#)

For general enquiries or to organise teammates contact Bridget on 027 243 8321 or Bridget@nzbridge.co.nz



Club Results

Tuesday Day Opening Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Linda Lin & Richard Fletcher
- 2 Tim Healy & Helen Healy

Handicap

- 1 Linda Lin & Richard Fletcher
- 2 Ian Ross & Kevin Turner

Tuesday Evening Opening Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Debbie Weston & Don Weston
- 2 Aini Su & Lucy Schumacher

Handicap

- 1 Aini Su & Lucy Schumacher
- 2 Annette Downey & Cate Anderson

Thursday Night Opening Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Pam Burns & Catherine Cameron
- 2 Mark Thomson & Richard Hooper

Handicap

- 1 Pam Burns & Catherine Cameron
- 2 Annette Downey & Aini Su

Monday Opening Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Mark Thomson & Richard Hooper
- 2 Lois Jones & Ross Stewart

Handicap

- 1 Lois Jones & Ross Stewart
- 2 Mark Thomson & Richard Hooper

Friday Richmond Summer Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Ian Clayton & Richard Fletcher
- 2 Tim Healy & Helen Healy

Handicap

- 1 Don Macpherson & Donna Prentice
- 2 Ian Ross & Kevin Turner

Friday O'Neill Opening Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Roger Johnstone & Michael Davies
- 2 Bruce Bettany & Ken Couper

Handicap

- 1 Roger Johnstone & Michael Davies
- 2 Raewyn Higginson & Sheila Horner

Tuesday Day Summer Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Elaine Rayner & Helen Healy
- 2 Stewart Lawrence & Margaret Boyd

Handicap

- 1 Stewart Lawrence & Margaret Boyd
- 2 Mary Fear & Sam Armstrong

Tuesday Evening Summer Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Julie Hooper & Jane Sandelin
- 2 Cate Anderson & Annette Downey

Handicap

- 1 Cate Anderson & Annette Downey
- 2 Julie Hooper & Jane Sandelin

Lil Goodger Trophy

Scratch

- 1 Don Macpherson & Irene Stewart
- 2 Richard Hooper & Julie Hooper

Handicap

- 1 Don Macpherson & Irene Stewart
- 2 Mary Fear & Ross Stewart

Monday Summer Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Mark Thomson & Richard Hooper
- 2 Catherine Cameron & Pam Burns

Handicap

- 1 Mark Thomson & Richard Hooper
- 2 Mary Fear & Ross Stewart

Richmond Charles Holland-Goodwin Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Duncan White & Brian Dingwall
- 2 Richard Fletcher & Cynthia Clayton

Handicap

- 1 Duncan White & Brian Dingwall
- 2 Sam Armstrong & Mary Fear

Friday O'Neill Summer Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Kevin Brown & Richard Wagstaff
- 2 Bruce Bettany & Ken Couper

Handicap

- 1 Kevin Brown & Richard Wagstaff
- 2 Bruce Bettany & Ken Couper

Tuesday Day Individual Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Elaine Rayner
- 2 Stewart Lawrence

Handicap

- 1 Stewart Lawrence
- 2 Ross Stewart

Tuesday Evening Individual Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Vicky Holloway
- 2 Armand Petrin

Alder Trophy

Handicap

- 1 Armand Petrin
- 2 Vicky Holloway

Monday Individual Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Mark Thomson
- 2 Chris Jones

Handicap

- 1 Mark Thomson
- 2 Chris Jones

Thursday Night Individual Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Pam Burns
- 2 Catherine Cameron

David Head Trophy

Handicap

- 1 Pam Burns
- 2 Catherine Cameron

Tuesday Day Swiss Pairs

- 1 Richard Fletcher & Duncan White
- 2 Jenny Millington & Michael Curry

Tuesday Evening Ray White Pairs

- 1 Eddie Tan & Mark Hodges
- 2 Cath O'Connor & Vicky Holloway

Handicap

- 1 Judy Simonson & Margaret Gilbert
- 2 Cath O'Connor & Vicky Holloway

Richmond Individual Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Ian Clayton
- 2 Cynthia Clayton

Eileen Hartstone Trophy

Handicap

- 1 Ian Clayton
- 2 Cynthia Clayton

Friday O'Neill Individual Pairs

Scratch

- 1 Geoff Turner
- 2 Roger Johnstone

Handicap

- 1 Chris Goulding
- 2 Geoff Turner

Thursday Night Autumn Pairs

- 1 Cherie Barton & Karen Harris
- 2 Catherine Cameron & Julie Hooper

Handicap

- 1 Cherie Barton & Karen Harris
- 2 Catherine Cameron & Julie Hooper



RULE of 9

*Your partner makes a Take-out Double.
You have the opponents suit! What do you do?*

If ...

*the number of cards you hold in the opponent's suit
plus the honours you hold in that suit (including the 10)
plus the level of the contract*

= 9 or more

PASS!

Did you hear about the lady who always went down one in 3NT? When asked about this she said she was just following her teacher's advice: "Eight ever, Nine never."



Finally...to all the Mothers reading this

