## MATAMATA BRIDGE CLUB

TIPS FOR BETTER BRIDGE Thursday 9 February 2016

Leads

## 4<sup>th</sup> highest and the rule of 11

There is a good reason for leading 4<sup>th</sup> highest of your longest and strongest suit, particularly against No Trumps as it is sometimes possible to get an exact reading of the distribution of all 4 hands.

## How does it work?

If you believe your partner or a defender has lead 4<sup>th</sup> highest; Subtract the number on the card lead from 11 The result gives the number of higher cards than the one led in the other 3 hands

	DUMMY	
	К52	
WEST		EAST
7 led		A1093

If the lead of the 7 is 4<sup>th</sup> best, subtract 7 from 11 and find there are 4 cards higher than the 7 are held in the other 3 hands, therefore declarer has no card higher than the 7 so East can safely play the 3.

Frequently only the declarer gains from the application of this rule

	DUMMY	
	AQ954	
WEST		EAST
6 led		3 played
	DECLARER	
	1072	

Declarer sees in his own hand and dummy 5 cards higher than the 6 (11-6=5) so he can bring in the entire suit by successfully finessing against the K,J and 8

The rule of 11 can often dete	rmine a singleton lead	
	DUMMY	
	A10874	
WEST		EAST
5 led		K932
	DECLARER	
	QJ6	

(11-5=6) East can count 6 cards higher than the 5 led between their own hand and dummy. If Declarer ducks the lead, East wins with the King and declarer plays the 6,J or Q which is a 7<sup>th</sup> card higher than the 5, so East knows their partner has not led from 4<sup>th</sup> best. East can also see all the cards lower than the 5 2,3 and 4), so East knows their partner has not led from a doubleton and can safely assume that their partner has led a singleton.

There is a modern tendency to be less revealing on the opening lead so care must be taken to ascertain what the opening lead may be from.