

History of Taradale Bridge Club: 1975 – 2010

In January 1975 a group of enthusiastic Bridge players decided that there was enough interest to form a Bridge Club for Taradale. A meeting was called and presided over by Mavis Murphy.

The Taradale Bridge Club was formed and met to play Bridge at the Bowling Club, access being up rickety old stairs. During their time there the committee searched for more suitable premises.

A building at 5 Devonshire Place became available for sale and was purchased with the financial assistance of many of the founding members. They also assisted with the furnishings.

Over the years the building saw many changes and additions, thanks to the dedication and hard work by members with a vision. In 1990 part of the room was turned into a small office to accommodate a computer and later electronic scoring pads and a card dealing machine.

Arthur Bennett designed the fantail logo, which is still enjoyed and used by the Club today.

In 1997 Taradale became a smoke-free Club.

As the club grew, there was an awareness that more suitable rooms would be needed to accommodate the growing number of players. Over a period of years various committees explored a number of different options. These were all unsuccessful, until 2009 when an opportunity to use a very suitable room at the Taradale Club in Wharerangi Road became available.

A special meeting was called for club members to discuss the move. It was attended by 100 members. There was a unanimous decision that the Taradale Bridge Club relocate to the room at the Taradale Club. After negotiations with the Taradale Club Board of Management and the Committee an agreement was reached that the Taradale Bridge Club have exclusive use of the room for a period of not less than ten years. Conditions of the lease were drawn up in a legal document.

After several weeks of hard work by all of the committee, the once shabby and uninteresting room turned into a very fine bridge room, which would hold up to thirty tables. A fine office was built and a suitable kitchen area. The view outside was most pleasant, as was the garden area which members built outside. One member, John Sowerby took over the role as project manager and with his knowledge of the building trade led the team of willing workers.

The room was officially opened on 29 November 2009 and was blessed by Bishop Murray Mills one of our Bridge players and the Rev. Marie McDonald. This was followed by afternoon tea.

The benefits of belonging to the Taradale Club include an excellent parking area, access to the Restaurant, catering facilities for tournaments and other activities within the Club.

Our old room in Devonshire Place has been leased out and the profits returned to the Bridge Club.

At present the Club membership stands at 250, a considerable increase on the last year. There are six sessions of Bridge played each week and eight tournaments held each year.

The Arthur Willoughby Tray is a match held between Havelock North and Taradale on alternate years.

Since the move the Club has grown from strength to strength. It is a vibrant and active club where visitors are always welcome.

Foundation Members:

Ethel Adams, Les Adams, Evelyn Ashenden, Noel Ashenden, Dora Birchall, Margery Boake, Iris Buckley, Wilf Buckley, Kath Butler, George Blunsdon, Kathleen Blunsdon, Gladys Bartle, Wynn Boyd, Cicely Boyd, Mahine Creagh, Christina Cameron, Rae Campbell, Frances Cashen, Margaret Columb, Enid DeNorville, Joe Dell, Lois Dolbel, Joan Fullerton, Elsie Fielding, Anne Gillies, Laura Gates, Phil Grimes, Neil Hannah, Anne Hannah, Rosemary James, Ada Kelley, D Knell, Molly Lister, Ennis Mason, Lorna MacDonald, Mavis Murphy, Vivienne Nelson, Marjorie Nilson, Ada Painter, Irene Pirie, Eric Parkinson, Lorna Parkinson, Marjorie Read, Ronald Read, Jessie Richards, Gladys Sorenson, Margaret Shaw, Norman Shaw, Margaret Swailes, Pauline Tierney, Norman Turnbull, Kath Turnbull, Gwen Wilson, Helen White.

Life Members:

1985 Mrs. Ennis Mason Mrs. Mavis Murphy Mrs. Lois Dolbel
1986 Mrs. Jessie Richards Mrs Carol Herbert
1987 Mrs. Marjorie Nilson Mrs. Margaret McKinley
1993 Mr Arthur Willoughby
1996 Mr Bernie Carr Mrs. Joan Carr
1997 Mrs. Lillian Chittenden Mrs. Bobbie Melling Mrs. Marjorie Page
2004 Mrs. Maureen Underhill
2009 Mrs Shirley Carrington Mrs Trish Patterson
2012 Mrs Joy Moroney Mrs Phyllida Isles
2015 Mr Alan Haslett

Past Presidents:

1975-76 Mrs. Ennis Mason 1977-78
Mr Wilf Buckley
1979-80 Mrs Carol Herbert 1981-82
Mrs. Ennis Mason
1983-84 Mrs. Carol Herbert
1985-86 Mrs. Marjorie Nilson
1987-88 Mrs. Lillian Chittenden 1989-90
Mrs. Sue Smith
1991-92 Mrs. Carol Herbert 1993-94
Mr Arthur Bennett
1995 Mrs. Bobbie Melling
1996 Mrs. Sue Smith
1997-98 Mr Michael Mountcastle
1999-00 Mr Ted Weaver
2001-02 Mrs Trish Patterson
2003-04 Mrs Therese Van den Ende
2005-06 Mrs Shirley Carrington
2007-08 Mrs Trish Patterson
2009-11 Mrs Joy Moroney

2012 -Mr Alan Haslett
2013-14 Mrs Sue Tarrant

2015- Mrs Viv Pinkham

Honorary Members:

Mrs Iris Buckley, Mr Lawry Spackman,
Mrs. Margery Boake Mrs. Gwen Wilson
Mr Frank Nicholls