



## Taradale Bridge Club Incorporated

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Chris Stack (President) 844 9983

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### April 2017 Newsletter

Hi Taradale Bridge Players

The Special General Meeting of the Taradale Bridge Club had a great attendance and the committee were very pleased of the input from all those who attended. In case you have not heard, the meeting decided to unanimously support the motion to sell the Devonshire Place property. The offer has become unconditional and the appropriate deposit received. The handover is to be in late June. A reminder that the club has a suggestion box that is located on the bench of the internal wall adjacent to the kitchen area. The committee monitors the suggestions and acts appropriately, as mentioned below under the Committee Meeting News.

**New members** – We welcome Isa Anderton to our club as a full member.



Chris Stack - President

**From the President's Table** – I have been away from middle March and just returned now having been and continue to be on babysitting duties. I have forgotten how busy one can be with 2 small children!

What a wonderful turnout for our special meeting re selling of Devonshire Place and big thanks goes out to Ash, Jo, and John for all the hard work they put in. Please remember to enter congress as it is at our club this year. It will depend on entries to keep this great tournament going and there are good prizes especially for junior and intermediate grades. Please speak to a committee member if you are unsure and they will be happy to help.

Happy bridging - Chris Stack

**Interprovincial Trials Wanganui 13 & 14 May** – this is to select the teams to represent the Central Districts region at the national competition being held in Wellington on 25-27 November. There will be various grades to be represented – Open, Women, Senior, and Intermediate. We consider that **our club has a number of very strong intermediate players and would like to encourage all intermediate players to seriously consider finding a partner and entering.** The club committee would consider financial assistance to members wishing to take part in these trials. *See the Flyer attached with this Newsletter.*

#### Upcoming tournaments, being run by Taradale Bridge or local Clubs -

- 20 May – Taradale Tierney Teams 8B – *See Flyer attached with this Newsletter*
- Also
- 6 May - Hastings Junior Pairs
- 27 May – Waipukurau Intermediate/Junior Pairs
- 2-5 June – Hawke's Bay Congress - for further information and to register go to <http://www.hawkesbaycongress.nz/>
- **Friendly Fridays at Napier Bridge Club** is being started up and is available for all Taradale members

- Starting on April 7th (not Good Friday) and goes until daylight saving starts.
- Have fun, social bridge afternoons, great place to gain confidence, try systems, meet other players. You can come with or without a partner,
- Starts 1.30pm - please come 10 -15 minutes early to be seated. Table money \$4
- Refreshment Centre at the end of play when you can discuss hands or socialise with other players.
- You don't have to be a member of the Napier Bridge Club to play on Friendly Fridays.
- **Contact Judy MacDonald 8365440 (Jenny Peters for 21 and 28 April).**

**Taradale Club Website** – for those who are unaware, the website can be opened at <http://www.taradalebridgeclub.org.nz/>. This is regularly updated with Committee minutes, club and tournaments results, photos, and other relevant information.

**Mr Bridge online** – for those who enjoy congress newsletters this website has many good bulletins with similar information. <http://www.mrbridge.co.uk/library.php> . I have copied a short article below covering the *History of Cards* for your interest.



Diana Lees and Lynnaire Hampton - winners of the New World sponsored Lawson Jugs tournament

come out on top of the strong 24 pair field.

**Club Bridge Results** – as you are no doubt aware several bridge sessions have the winners accumulated over the whole year i.e. Monday morning; Tuesday afternoon, and Thursday afternoon. The other bridge sessions are accumulated over a month and the recent results for those have the following winners of the month. The latest Taradale tournament for 2017 was the Lawson Jugs run on 18 March and it was great to see the Taradale pair, Diana and Lynnaire

Competition	Winners
Devonshire Pairs (Monday Evening)	Paul Canham / Diane Canham
Wharerangi Pairs (Wednesday Evening)	Wayne Burney / Ash Fitchett
Hastings 5A Open Teams	Carolyn Yeomans' team came second

**Beginner Lessons Update from Lyn Bowcock** - The class has filled 5 tables. We hope to progress them all to attending club sessions. Thanks to Alison, Denise, Cath, Helen, and Lavinia who have volunteered to help. **Any of our members are welcome to join the class on any or all sessions.** This would be particularly relevant for those who have recently learnt Bridge

The programme as follows:

- 20 April. Review bidding, play hands, leads
  - 27 April. Review bidding, play hands, leads
  - 4 May. Review bidding, play hands, leads
  - 11 May. Responder bids new suit and openers rebids
  - 18 May. Overcalls takeout doubles and scoring
  - 25 May. Pre-empt bids
  - 1 June. Strong opening hands
  - 8 June. Card play, Using bridge pads, Defending
  - 15 June. More card play, Directors role
  - 22 June. More card play,
  - 29 June. More card play. Prepare to join club sessions
- All sessions start at 1.30 and finish at 3.30

**Bridge Rules & Etiquette** – this month we will touch on opening leads and when the defenders can ask questions related to the bidding by the opposition. There is also a clarification on a claim by declarer

#### **LAW 41 Commencement of Play**

- Face-down opening Lead  
After a bid, double or redouble has been followed by three passes in rotation, the defender on presumed declarer's left makes the opening lead face down. the face-down lead may be withdrawn only upon instruction of the director after an irregularity the withdrawn card must be returned to the defender's hand.
- Review of Auction and Questions  
Before the opening lead is faced, the leader's partner and the presumed declarer (but not the presumed dummy) each may require a review of the auction or request an explanation of an opponent's call. Declarer or either defender may, at his turn to play a card, require a review of the auction; this right expires when he plays a card. the defenders (subject to Law 16) and the declarer retain the right to request explanations

#### **Claim by Declarer**

- When a claim is made by Declarer, they must state their proposed line of play. This should make mention of any outstanding trumps (e.g. "drawing trumps"), and how they plan to travel between hands if relevant.
- A careless or incomplete claim may cost you tricks that you would otherwise make.
- Claims should be made where possible - it is discourteous to continue play when the outcome is certain.

#### **Committee Meeting News** – from the meeting held on Tuesday 18 April

- The Thursday morning session – in response to a number of requests in the *Suggestion Box*, it has been decided to arrange for a paid director to run this session. It appears there are a number of players, with director experience, who are continually being asked for rulings whilst they themselves are playing.
- Directors exams dates are 15-16 July 2017 – we have one response from the March Newsletter and are open to additional interest. The committee is keen for new Directors and will cover any reasonable costs associated with the exam.
- Charity Tournament 25 June – we are looking for suggestions of a recipient from this charity tournament. Please contact a committee member by Monday 15 May with your charity that would benefit from our support.

#### **A History of Playing Cards** (<http://www.mrbridge.co.uk/library/pdf/172.pdf> by Paul Bostock)

- The Ace of Spades tends to be highly decorated, unlike the three other aces, and has somewhere along the way acquired a special status. It was neither makers nor players of any special game that brought this about, so the story is highly unusual. It began in England in 1765 and it came about through the collection of tax. As the tax was very high – presumably intended as a deterrent to gambling – makers could be tempted to take short cuts, a temptation that ended badly for one maker, the story of which appears below.

The taxation of playing cards was not new in 1765, but that year saw the introduction of a new process: makers would supply the Tax Office with paper (to match their other cards) and the Tax Office would print the Ace of Spades using engraved metal plates, a printing technology that was expensive and not widely available. The maker would then buy the printed Aces from the Tax Office – thereby paying the tax – and the cost was passed on to the customer. In order to make it more difficult to forge these Aces, a more elaborate design was made – and that is how it started. These new Aces had other features: from 1765 they carried the Maker's name, they identified the King and they were numbered to identify which printing plate had been used. Before this, the Maker would have appeared on the wrapper but not necessarily on the cards. The wrappers were deliberately flimsy and were thrown away and usually tore when they were opened (this

prevented a wrapper being re-used, with the 'tax' being kept by the seller second time around.) The named Aces mean that we can identify the maker of any pack. Thereafter, the tax changed every 10-20 years, and the design was changed too. In short, the Tax Office has given the modern historian a way of identifying both the maker and a rough date for all cards made after 1765.

One card maker, Richard Harding, decided that if he printed his own Aces, he could sell the cards for the same money but not have to pay anything to the Tax Office. The problem was that card-makers had wooden blocks for printing, which simply cannot reproduce the fine detail of an engraving. In short, given one or two examples to look at, anyone can tell the difference. Suspicion was raised, as he seemed to have a thriving business but bought few Aces. Various manufacturing items were found with family and accomplices, including 2,000 forged Aces. At the time, the tax on one pack was about the same as a week's wages for a labourer, which indicates the scale of the forgery. Harding was found guilty at the Old Bailey and hanged in 1805.

From 1862, each Maker was once again free to design an Ace of Spades as the wrapper now showed the tax. Makers continued with elaborate designs because that was expected, and ever since, the Ace of Spades has had its own design style. The tax on playing cards was finally abolished in the UK almost another century later in July 1960, but the special status and appearance of the Ace of Spades is here to stay.

### **Bridge Humour (from Ron Klinger)**

At most clubs, there are special sessions for novice players. At our club, the Director is a very experienced player who can help the novice when a problem is encountered. On such a novices' evening, the following incident took place:

The bidding had started No bid : No bid : No bid . . .

The fourth player contemplated his cards and from his consternation it was clear that he did not know what he should do. Finally, he put his cards down and, excusing himself from the table, he sought out the Director.

'What should I open if I hold thirty-two points?' he asked.

'Who are you kidding? Look, if you have thirty-two points, you can sleep with my wife.'

'Which one is your wife?'

'The Director pointed out his wife, whereupon the player returned to the table.

'No bid.'

**Thank you** – for the various helpers within the club and their spouses for their contributions towards the club. This month **Neil McDonald** deserves a special mention for his vital role as Fund Raising and Sponsorships. Neil has carried out this role for many years and the fact that our sponsors for tournaments continue their support is a tribute to Neil's communications with the sponsors. After every tournament, Neil send a letter to the sponsor thanking them for their support. Thanks Neil for continuing to be a great contributing member.

### **Reminders**

- Suggestions of Charity Tournament recipient 15 May
- Fish & Chips Night Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April
- Hastings Junior tournament 6<sup>th</sup> May
- Tierney Teams 20<sup>th</sup> May
- Waipukurau Intermediate/Junior tournament 27 May
- Hawke's Bay Congress Registrations (2-5 June)

*Ash*

Ash Fitchett (Newsletter Scribe)