



Taradale Bridge Club Incorporated

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February 2021 Newsletter

Hi Taradale Bridge Players

It has been most gratifying to see the large number of comments and suggestions regarding the draft floor plans for our new building. Just fantastic. With the most recent issues with Covid-19, the recommendation, in the last newsletter, for members to trace their movements around the community using the NZ Covid Tracer is even more important.

Neil McDonald

It was a very sad day last month when we learnt of Neil's sudden death. He was an all-round nice guy and a real gentleman. He contributed to many facets of running the Taradale Bridge Club from behind the scenes, including organising fundraising and sponsorship. He was a most worthy recipient of the Ngaire Bright Memorial Cup in 2017. Neil also was successfully nominated for a NZ Bridge Volunteer of the Month Award. Richard Soloman from NZ Bridge said that Neil was exactly the sort of volunteer wanted for such an award.

He was also a very valued member of the Building Committee. On the weekend before his passing, he was emailing me lists of what we need to cover off, in sequence, for the build. He also was in some instances my "handbreak" when I was disappointed with something, counselling me to wait until the next day before firing off the email - which I naturally did! The Building Committee will have a significant gap to fill. When we talked to the Lotteries Commission last week we found out that Neil had already three quarters written an application for funding in anticipation. Neil was interned at a private service with his loved ones. Initially a memorial service was a possibility, however the family have decided to move on from their grief.

We will miss him. Ash F

And from Dave Halliday:



Neil (left) with Dave Halliday - both smiling so they must have gone well!

It was with some disbelief that I learned of Neil's death on Tuesday 12th January. I had played bridge with him twice just a week ago, had dinner with him, and Jen, a few days later, and spoken to him just the day before. His passing was sudden, unexpected and a shock. Neil was not only a stalwart of the Taradale Bridge Club but similarly, was a valued and highly respected player at the Napier Bridge Club. Not only was he a skillful bridge player he was also a very skillful fundraiser, raising thousands of dollars to improve the Napier Club's facilities and amenities, something for which the club is extremely grateful. I can't remember when I first started playing

regularly with Neil but it was some years back. He was a keen student of the game and after play he would often discuss tactics and options which were frequently followed by an email of tips and conventions that he thought would be helpful. Being a true gentleman of the game Neil was very tolerant of my bidding lapses, my errant leads, and my ability to frequently ignore the systems we had decided upon. Between hands Neil would often gently suggest an alternative play I could have done; or remind me of the system we had agreed on. Over time I noticed the nearest thing to annoyance from Neil at the playing table, particularly after I had made a bad lead, was a slight, almost imperceptible frown which only the trained eye would notice. He was great to play with and we had many enjoyable moments and the occasional success. I will, along with the members of both clubs, and in particular his regular playing partners, certainly miss Neil's presence. On behalf of the Napier Bridge Club. I would like to extend to Jen and her family our sincere condolences and sympathy for their loss.

Dave Halliday

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

- Sunday 14 February - Taradale Intermediate Pairs.
- Saturday 20 March - Lawson Jugs 8B

Other Club Tournaments

- 27 February - Taupo Intermediate Pairs 5B.
- 27 March - Hastings Open Teams 5A

From the Co-President's Desk, Jan Davis



It's hard to believe that Christmas is only six weeks behind us, some of us are still holidaying or in the holiday mode. NOT your Building Committee, however, who are working away on the next stages to create our new "home".

The Air Conditioning unit has made it so much more pleasant on those hot Bay Days we had last month and it's good to see members getting back to Bridge. And now the Tournament season is beginning to warm up. I hope all our Junior/Intermediate members who are able to, will support our Tournament on 14th Feb. I will be travelling all the way to Christchurch that weekend – yes, you've guessed - to take part in a Bridge tournament too - I wish all participants North and South, an enjoyable time.



It was especially good to see the great turn-out we had on 1st Feb when John Sowerby, (a hard-working member for many years), celebrated turning Eighty Years young. It was a very happy celebration, made more so because it was a 'surprise party' for John.

Daily Bridge in New Zealand -

Richard Solomon from NZ Bridge runs a daily quiz on bidding, defending, or playing. You can access these either from the Bridge Website (<http://www.nzbridge.co.nz>) or by setting up under your NZ Bridge login to receive the link by email every day. Some of the more recent beginners may have decided these were at too high a level to follow. Richard has set up the Wednesday quiz called "Jan's Day" for the less experienced players. These articles have featured in the New

Zealand Women's Weekly for about 10 years. They are fun and easy to read and are instructive. They are for the less experienced players. Enjoy.

- If you are having trouble setting up to receive the daily emails contact me for guidance.

From the Committee

- Name badges: There are some new optional Name Badges if you are interested in buying one. The new badge, made in NZ, is a smart resin coated design that simply shows your name and bridge number. It does not have a Club name, so can be used at any Club you are a member of and also at tournaments. It will usually be supplied with a magnet rather than a pin (but don't order the magnet option if you have a pace maker – you can still order a pin). The badges are \$15. Here is the new badge beside one of the current badges so you can compare the design & size.



You can order one by sending an email (Subject: Badge) to taradalebc@xtra.co.nz with the name you would like to appear on the badge & your bridge number, or putting your name and number on the order form which will be available at the Club.

Your badge must be paid for before an order will be placed, so please bring cash or a cheque to the club or pay \$15 direct into the bank **03 0631 0174234 000** using your name as a reference.

- Biscuits: As you are all aware, we are watching our expenditure carefully as we proceed with our building plans – we received a suggestion that one way to save money would be to stop providing daytime biscuits. However your committee disagreed and will be continuing with these, however, let's be fair and please just take ONE with your cuppa.
- Monday night supper: Usually we don't provide biscuits for our night session, but the good news is that there will be something to eat on the last evening of each series.

Building Update

Since gaining approval in principle just before Christmas from the Napier City Council (NCC) to build at Park Island adjacent to the Central Football offices the building subcommittee has been busy. As soon as possible in January we met with Debra Stewart from NCC to establish the order in which to proceed. The first requirement is to get Resource Consent and work has begun on this. The draft plan is finalised and draughtsman's prices are being obtained. Meetings with possible builders are being planned to get quotes. Three prices for a geotechnical report were obtained and Dave Dravitski's company has been chosen to undertake this. This report will identify the type of foundations needed.

Grant applications are being prepared for Eastern and Central Community Trust (ECCT), the Lotteries Fund and Higgins Bequest Fund. To be successful both the Lotteries Fund and ECCT require evidence of wider community use. Jan and Jo used the NCC list of community groups to identify possible users, phoned all possibilities and have obtained letters of interest from ten potential users. These include Napier City Country Music Club and U3A. Having the separate room adjacent to our main room will enable wider use of our facility as another group can be using this while we are playing Bridge.

Members of the subcommittee have attended seven meetings since 13 January, as well as making numerous phone calls and emails. The building subcommittee members and their current areas of responsibility:

- Ash Fitchett: Resource Consent application, Budget establishment and control
- Janice Willoughby (joined the subcommittee late last year, has experience from her professional life that will assist us in the pre building process): Resource Consent application
- Kevin Holmes: the plan and the building process
- John Sowerby: the building process
- Alan Haslett (joined the subcommittee late last year, his business experience will be invaluable): the building process

- Trish Patterson: grant applications
- Jo Hayes: grant applications, subcommittee chair
- Jan Davis: building interior design

Other members with special skills will be called upon as required, especially when we get nearer to actually building. Already Terry Stone and Robyn Andersen have assisted with obtaining quotes. Thank you to everyone who commented on the draft plan. A number of changes were made as a result of your comments. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any suggestions or think you can help in any way.

Jo Hayes

Building Fund Donations to date

To 30/9/2020	\$1,230
1/10/20-31/1/21	<u>\$2,332</u>
Total	<u>\$3,562</u>

Monthly Humour – A good bridge partnership can lead to a successful outcome. This month we cover another important partnership - marriage.

Sharing and Marriage

An old man and his wife went to the local fast-food restaurant. The man placed an order for one hamburger, French fries, and a drink. He unwrapped the plain hamburger and carefully cut it in half, placing one half in front of his wife. He then carefully counted out the French fries divided them into two piles and neatly placed one pile in front of his wife. He took a sip of the drink, his wife took a sip and then set the cup down between them. As he began to eat his few bites of hamburger, the people around them were looking over and whispering. Obviously they were thinking, “that poor old couple who they can afford is one meal for the two of them.” As the man began to eat his fries a young man came to the table and politely offered to buy another meal for the old couple. The old man said, they were just fine they were used to sharing everything. People closer to the table noticed little old lady hasn’t eaten a bite. She sat there watching her husband eat and occasionally taking turns sipping the drink. Again, the young man came over and begged them to let him buy another meal for them. This time the old woman said no, “thank you, we are used to sharing everything.” Finally, as the old man finished and was wiping his face neatly with the napkin, the young man again came over to the little old lady who is yet to eat a single bit of food and asked what is it you are waiting for? She answered, “the teeth.”

Recent winners and placegetters:

Monday night Summer Individual: Sheryn Thomson

Alister Buchanan Memorial (Napier): Yvonne Whittle/Jan Davis, 1st

Napier Restricted: Colin Dolley/Jan Davis, 1st in Junior./ Open section

A Special thanks to -Sheryn Thomson who has diligently been checking all the packs of cards for grimy sets and cleaning them at home over the festive season. Apparently a good quick 15 minute cycle in the washing machine brings them out sparking again! Thanks also to **Sue Fenwick** who made up a new set of table numbers as she observed the others were getting “am bit tatty” - lovely initiative.

Reminders

- Sunday 14 February - Taradale Intermediate Pairs
- Saturday 20 March - Lawson Jugs 8B
- Scan the Covid-19 Tracer app

Ash

Ash Fitchett
Newsletter Editor