



Taradale Bridge Club Incorporated

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April 2019 Newsletter

Hi Taradale Bridge Players

The club members have continued their success at recent tournaments which is great! We, under Ruth Spittle, have Lessons for Beginners Classes currently running with at least twelve regularly attendees. You will see below some excellent opportunities for those members wishing to extend their knowledge and playing abilities. Please ensure you take up these opportunities, as the generous offer for our club members to learn from such experts does not readily happen. The Hawke's Bay Congress ([see attached Flyer and Entry documents](#)) is again being held at the Taradale Club over Queen's Birthday Weekend. So, get your partnerships in synch and register for this most enjoyable tournament in your home club rooms. With the great results from many members thus far, we have high expectations for partnerships from our club to take part in the up coming Interprovincial Trials.

We welcome the following **new members** – please add their phone numbers to your membership booklet:

Ron Janes	027 536 2766
Yvonne Doole	027 933 4579
Marie Lock	870 0037
Tony Gilbert	834 1051

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

- 18 May – Taradale Tierney Open Teams 8B

Also

- 4 May – Hastings Junior Pairs 3B
- 25 May – Waipukurau Intermediate/Junior Pairs 5B
- **31 May – 3 June: Hawke's Bay Congress at Taradale Club**

Club Bridge Results – as you are no doubt aware several bridge sessions have the winners accumulated over the whole year i.e. Monday morning, Monday evening, Tuesday afternoon, and Thursday afternoon. The Wednesday evening bridge sessions are accumulated over a month and the recent results for those have the following winners of the month

Competition	Winners
Wharerangi Pairs (Wednesday Night)	Chris Hagen & Cath Halpin

Tournament Successes

We are pleased to have our own club members featuring strongly in the *New World* sponsored Taradale Lawson Jugs tournament. A couple of weeks later and a team from our club members came second in the Hastings Open Teams Tournament. This was achieved by defeating several teams packed with grandmasters and drawing with the team that came first. Outstanding.



Winners of 2019 Taradale Lawson Jugs - Janice Willoughby and Ngaire Crow



3rd in 2019 Taradale Lawson Jugs - Wayne Burney and Sheryn Thomson



Second Place at Hastings Open Teams (and pretty pleased about it!) - Wayne Burney, Julian Herbert, Megan Eddy, and Bridget Willcox

Inter-Provincial Trials 3-4 May at Wanganui Bridge Club

Our club members are urged to continue on their recent success and have a go at the above trials. We had two club members represent Central Districts a couple of years ago and look forward to more club members representing at the national tournament. [See the attached document.](#)

From The Co-President Desk

Hello all.

The Club continues to flourish with another very



successful, well run tournament (thank you, Sue and all of the helpers), and excellent numbers at our day sessions. We have had several new members join, and around a dozen potential new members currently enjoying the lessons run by Ruth Spittle. A special thank you to all of those outside of the committee who help to keep our club functioning so well: the dealing team, the convenors, the directors, those who help with the lessons, tournaments, maintenance, fund raising, and keeping the room tidy. This probably covers most of our members, so thank you all for making Taradale a great club to belong to.

Jo Hayes

From the Committee –

- The committee is looking for suggestions for a beneficiary from our Charity Tournament that we are holding on Sunday 16 June. Please either contact a committee member or leave a note in the Suggestion Box by 1 May.
- Bridge Room – the door will be locked from 1 May. A spare key is available from the Taradale Club Office
- Looking for a Partner? – the convenor of a particular session is not responsible for finding partners. If your partner is unable to play a particular session, the convenor may know of others and can pass on that name but is not expected to set one up for the whole month.

Improve Your Bridge Opportunities – for the many club members having completed their lessons within the past couple of years, plus those who have steadily gained C points to rise above the Junior grading there are some excellent options available. Peter Ramsey has approached his home club Havelock North Committee, to arrange for our club members to join in either of their improver lessons. Please use the unique and generous opportunity to learn from these exceptional bridge players. NZ Bridge also has on-line learnings for newly taught players:

- <http://www.nzbridge.co.nz/latest-updates,listing,5046,new-to-the-table.html> This is advance notice of a new feature which will run on this website. It is aimed at new players, perhaps those who have just come out of a Beginners' Class or those who need a bit of a refresher. It is quite likely that such players do not currently use this website. You may know some such players at your club. Please let them know that this feature is for them. (Of course, more experienced players are welcome to read it too.) Every Friday we will discuss the bidding (go to <http://www.nzbridge.co.nz> to find the *New To The Table* under "Latest News") and then on a Sunday the play and defence. The hands are real hands from recent sessions, instructive deals but ones which we hope newish players can follow.
- Lessons for experienced Juniors or Intermediates - The lessons are aimed at Juniors and Intermediates with a serious ambition to improve. It is better to come as a partnership because the emphasis is on learning together and building partnership agreements. They are challenging and thought provoking and introduce new topics at quite an advanced level. They are NOT the next step up from Beginner lessons. The lessons will be changing to Mondays, starting at 1.30 pm, from the beginning of May. They will be held on the first, second and third Monday of each month and they will be ongoing throughout the year. Normally the lecture part runs for an hour or so and then we play some hands with coaching and mentoring available during play. The charge is \$4 per session - table money style. So far, we have covered some aspects of defensive card play - analysing the bidding - planning the defence etc (first 3 weeks). We are currently working through a whole bunch of stuff around 1NT. I intend to have a different topic each month going forward. Peter Ramsey
- Lessons for Novice players - I supervise a novice group at Havelock North Club on Thursday afternoons, starting at 1.30 pm. We usually have about six tables and any novice players are welcome to come along. \$4.00 table money and I arrange partners if necessary. Noel Woodhall

Opening Leads – against No Trump contract (Next month we will cover Leads against Suit Contracts)

The one advantage the defenders have against the declarer is having the opening lead where you can attack the opponents and try and get sufficient tricks to defeat the contract. Use this opportunity to tell partner your preferences and/or support your partner to defeat the contract. Look at the bidding carefully – does it suggest any weaknesses? Ask any questions of the opponents if necessary – does a NT bid allow for a five card major? When you lead, tell your partner if you like the suit where possible a low lead encourages; high discourages.

- **Blind Leads** – Where the bidding was uninformative i.e. 1NT:3NT
 - 4th highest from longest and strongest – unless contains a sequence including at least one honour. Best if 5+ length in suit. Partner can then use the Rule of 11 to decide how they play.
 - Solid sequence with 3 touching cards e.g. K-Q-J-x then lead K – this would be preferable over a longer but weaker suit.
 - Near sequence = 2 touching cards then a gap of one card e.g. K-Q-10-x then lead K
- **Informed Leads** – from the bidding – including your partners
 - Lead partners suit – unless it was an artificial bid! If you have at least 3 of the suit, lead highest. If you have only one of partner's suit, consider leading your longest suit especially if you have another entry card in another suit.
 - Avoid their suit – UNLESS

- With a 4 card sequence such as K-Q-J-10-x where you are stronger than them
 - With a 3 card sequence such as Q-J-10-x-x – lead 4th highest as partner may hold a useful card.
 - What do you do if your long suit is out (declarer may have bid it)
 - Prefer an unbid major over an unbid minor – opponents may not bid a 5/6 card minor and their bidding could indicate no major suit fit
 - Prefer a 3 card suit over a doubleton – gives you a better chance to lead again to partner if they are strong in the suit.
 - Prefer the strongest of equal length suits
- **Lead directing doubles**
 - A double by partner of an artificial bid asks you to lead that suit – e.g. 2C stayman is an artificial bid. Make sure your partnership understands the lead directing doubles however! Recently I doubled an artificial Club bid only for partner to jump in that suit. A 4-2 fit in a doubled contract did not have a promising outcome!!
- **Leads after pre-empts**
 - After auctions such as 3C-3NT the long suit will quite likely provide enough tricks for the contract to be completed so start from a short strong suit rather than a weak long suit – e.g. A-K-x rather than J-x-x-x
- **Leads against NT slams**
 - You only require 1-2 tricks to take the contract down. Count your points and guess partner's to decide who has the best chance to take the required tricks. Choose a valueless suit and make declarer find the missing points.
 - Lead a 3 card or longer sequence
 - Avoid leading any suit with an honour card – be passive
- **Leads to Avoid**
 - Suits bid by the opponents – especially declarer
 - Weak long suits when you don't have any entries from the other suits
 - 3 or 4 card suits with only one honour
 - 3 or 4 card suits with a high tenace e.g. A-Q or K-J

Sponsor Corner

The Taradale Bridge Club has many generous sponsors whose financial assistance allows the club to run our weekly club sessions, tournaments, and the printing of our Membership Booklet. We encourage our members to reciprocate such valuable support. This month we are highlighting New World Supermarket, Greenmeadows.



Opened in January 2009, Greenmeadows offers the best of New Zealand and overseas retail innovation. After 72 years trading in Gloucester Street, Taradale as New World McDonalds, New World Greenmeadows is located less than 1.5km down the road in Greenmeadows. The store has been developed with the latest shopping innovations and trends.

Monthly Humour – focusing on bridge play during a session is paramount to success! Almost invariably however, one hears the distant beep or ring of a cell phone within the room (I must admit to being guilty). Perhaps members can be “encouraged” to turn off their phones with this strategy?

Judy, Trudy and Meg wanted to play in the Mixed Pairs, so they went to the Director beforehand. He greeted them warmly but warns, “We have one rule here: No mobile phones!” Sure enough, before another word could be spoken, Judy’s phone rings, and the Director says, “Sorry, Judy. For that I must pair you with Joe, the worst male bridge player of all time.” A few minutes later Trudy’s phone chimes, and the Director says, “Too bad, Trudy. Your partner will be Sam, who is about as hopeless as they come.” Meanwhile, Meg waits patiently for almost an hour with her phone carefully turned off. Finally, the Director walks over with Zia Mahmoud and says, “Congratulations, Meg! Your partner is the world’s best player.” Meg is awestruck as she turns

to Zia, "I can't believe it! What could I have done to deserve a partner as great as you?" "I don't know what happened to you," grumbled Zia, "but my damn phone went off!"

Recipe of the Month

As requested by popular demand, Chris Stack has passed on her Feijoa Loaf recipe

1 cup Feijoa

1 cup hot water

50 g butter

Put in a pot and simmer for 5 minutes

Add 1¹/₂ teaspoon baking soda

1 egg beaten

2 cups of self raising flour

Spices to taste

Cook at 180 C for 50 minutes - in a fan oven preferably

Reminders

- **Improve Your Bridge Opportunities**
- **18 May** - Taradale Tierney Open Teams
- **4 May** - Hastings Junior Pairs
- **31 May - 3 June: Hawke's Bay Congress at Taradale Club**
- **Suggestions for the Charity Tournament by 1 May**

Ash

Ash Fitchett
Newsletter Editor