



Taradale Bridge Club Incorporated

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Covid-19 2020 Mini Newsletter #4

Hi Taradale Bridge Players

We have decided to send mini newsletters to all members with email during the Covid-19 enforced isolation under Alert Level 4.

We more than welcome contributions to this mini newsletter and these can be emailed directly to Ash at napfitch@xtra.co.nz

Bridge Activities -

- **NZ Bridge - Daily Bridge Column** - a reminder of this being freely available for all. You can see these from the main page of the NZ Bridge website - <http://www.nzbridge.co.nz> - under *Latest News*.
- **Bridge Base Online (BBO)** - <https://www.bridgebase.com/v3/> Many of you will have been tempted to try one of the daily bridge sessions on line. As mentioned in a previous mini news, this is both fun and a learning curve. Earlier this week on the NZ Bridge website there were sensible down to earth instructions on how to set yourself up and play on BBO. **These instructions are attached with this mini newsletter email.** One of the big changes is that you have to **self-alert** your own bid. This article below was copied from the NZ Bridge Daily News and well worth reading. **This also reinforces the importance of being transparent with your opponents at the face to face bridge sessions.** If you haven't had a crack at BBO, give it a go. Jo and I have "met" several of our club members on-line as opponents!

"ON-LINE" SELF-ALERTING: The New Normal by Patrick Carter.

Just imagine that you had the following auction 2 months ago:

South	West	North	East
	1♥	2♠	Pass
3♥	X	4♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♥	Pass
6♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

2 months ago none of the bids would have been alerted. The jump overcall as long as it was a relatively normal natural 6 card suit would not be alerted, regardless of the range. 3♥ would not be alerted because you don't alert cue bids. Double would not be alerted because you don't alert doubles. None of the later bids would be alerted because you don't alert bids higher than 3NT (unless they are an artificial opening bid). What would happen next is that the opening leader would ask about the strength of the 2♠ jump overcall and what had been shown by the 5♥ response to 4NT. Then after the opening lead, declarer would ask East how they played the double. That is all very easy when you are talking. However, even if you are adept on the keyboard, it is just a darn nuisance when all the questions and answers have to be typed.

Fortunately, the solution to that problem is that alerts are different on the internet. Anything that you opponents might possibly want to ask about should be covered by typing on the 'EXPLAIN' line in the bidding box before making the call. Using this method, when you get to the end of the auction, nobody has to ask any questions, because the information is already there in front of them. Using this wonderful method, there is no danger of giving you partner information that

they are not entitled to. Not only can your partner not see the explanation, they cannot even see that your bid was alerted.

We shall go through the example auction again. The 1♥ would not be self-alerted by most pairs, but if E/W were playing Precision it would be self-alerted as 11-15 with 5+♥." 2♠ would be self-alerted regardless of the range so it would be something like 6-10 with 6+♠." 3♥ would be "♠ support, at least game try." There would be no explanation for 4♠ (or 6♠) by even the most diligent self-alerter, but the 4NT would be alerted as "RKCB" and the response of 5♥ would have the explanation of "2 key cards, no ♠Q." Nobody should need to ask any questions. Good self-alerting makes the game run much more smoothly.

Finally, I cannot stress enough that self-alerts are done **BEFORE** making the call. That way the explanation comes up in front of your opponent instantly. Do not make the call and then quickly try to alert it, even if you are very adept on the keyboard and can do it in just 2 or 3 seconds. Sometimes your opponent has an obvious call and they have made that call in 1 second. Look at the following example where you are sitting East. You hold:

♠KQ1053

♥6

♦AJ74

♣J105

South	West	North	East
1♣	Pass	1♥	

You have already bid 1♠, haven't you? It took you a fraction of a second to decide that. Then a moment or two later, the explanation comes up for 1♥ of "4+♠." You don't want to bid 1♠ now, do you? It is just so much better if the information comes up instantly rather than with a few seconds of lag. It does not matter if your opponents say "When we arrived at the table a couple of boards ago, our greeting included that we played transfer responses to 1♣." The greeting is polite of them, but even though that has been said, it is not your responsibility to remember the opponents' system. That greeting is to remind you that if you haven't discussed what you do over that unusual method, you might want to do it now. One of you might say: "Double shows the suit they have bid. Cue bid the suit they show is like a takeout double." Partner would probably just say "ok" and play would start. It doesn't mean that you have committed yourself to remembering their convention. Your opponents still have to properly self-alert when it actually comes up.

Taradale Bridge Club During Lockdown - as club members will be aware, we are currently operating out of the Napier Club premises and paying a monthly amount towards the costs. This cost obviously would be less during the lockdown period and we approached the Napier Club for the monthly amount to be altered to reflect that reduction. Whilst we would have liked to negotiate on the new amounts charged by Napier Club, that has not proved possible. For full transparency the payments to the Napier Club are shown below

	Regular Monthly Amount	Covid-19 Lockdown Amount
GST incl.	\$1403.00	\$450.00

In addition to the \$450 payment to Napier Bridge, we are also paying an average of \$257.10/month for the storage of our other bridge assets that are not required on the Napier Club premises. You can be assured that your committee is aware of any unnecessary costs and are limiting the damage in our revenue streams occurring during the Covid-19 lockdown where possible.

Message from Carolyn Yeomans - as mentioned earlier in the Covid-19 lockdown period, Carolyn's husband Owen had an unfortunate accident. Carolyn wishes to pass on a message:

Please thank everyone for all their messages of support. They mean a lot to me. The Taradale Bridge Club truly is a kind and caring community.
Thanks Carolyn

Otago Rail Trail, March 2020 - Chris Hagen, a dedicated member of our committee, has had her arm somewhat twisted to tell us about her recent adventures through Central Otago. We have completed her story, started last week (Mini Newsletter #3), below.

Day 3 –Tuesday March 17, Ranfurly to Hyde

A very brisk start, at only 2 degrees. The fingers were just about frozen by the time we got to the Waipiata pub. With a roaring fire on and great coffee, it would have been a lovely place to while



Pete and I riding together - coming into Daisybank.

away the morning, however we had places to be, so after a short break to thaw out the fingers on we went. Then we rode following the Taieri River to Daisybank, past the Red Dwarf Hut (!) and on to Prices Creek with another Viaduct and 152m long Tunnel. On to Hyde with a picnic lunch stop at the Hyde Railway Station. There's a very informative museum inside the old railway building with a display about the 1943 Hyde train crash that killed 21 people.

We packed up and headed back to Ranfurly for some timeout, then headed to Naseby to try out curling on the ice. I would have to say that

this is a very skilful game, because at the end the Girls' Team thrashed the Boys' team 7 – nil! (Nearly a downtrou!) So off to the Royal Hotel for dinner and a bit of gloating!

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Day 4 – Wednesday March 18, Hyde to Middlemarch

This final day was the shortest and cruisiest ride, which suited us as we were heading to Dunedin later in the day. Virtually downhill all the way! So starting back at Hyde again we went past Straw Cutting where the tragic accident occurred in 1943, and stopped at a memorial cairn 50metres further on.



The highly skilled game of Curling, naturally won by the ladies!



Left: Setting off from the Hyde Railway Station. Right: The monument to the 1943 Hyde train crash.

Finally an easy ride into the Strath Taieri valley and to the finish line (gate) in Middlemarch!



The finish line in Middlemarch!

Overall it was a fantastic experience, wonderful scenery, excellent company and a great sense of achievement. Even though we had ebikes 150 km is still a long way!

As we had travelled south and biked the Trail, the situation regarding the coronavirus was getting dramatically worse, with new cases being discovered. NZ's borders were closed to all but NZ citizens and permanent residents,

and all Bridge Clubs had closed. By the time we took a few days to travel to Dunedin, Christchurch, and up to Picton, people 70 years and older had been asked to stay at home as much as possible. We crossed on the ferry on Monday 23rd, and heard the announcement about the impending lockdown while driving through the Wairarapa (The next day was absolute bedlam at the ferry terminal in Picton, so we were very lucky with the timing). It was great to get home! So in the months ahead, when people are doing more domestic tourism, I would highly recommend the Otago Rail Trail as a wonderful experience.

Weekly Humour - with the lockdown, many people have had a significant disruption to their usual pay packets. This lady's quick thinking would be a great asset at the bridge table!

A Miscalculation

Jane is delighted one day to look at her banking details and see an extra \$300 in her account. Looking closely at her statement, she realises her salary has been overpaid by \$300, and she decides to keep quiet and take advantage of the situation. Next payday, she checks her account – hoping for another \$300 extra. She is horrified to see that she was paid \$300 **less** than usual. The

very next morning she goes straight her boss' door and loudly knocks. Her boss opens the door, and says, "I think you've made a mistake! I've been underpaid \$300!" "So?" her boss says. "So I want to be paid correctly!" Jane exclaims. Her boss pauses, "Well last month I overpaid you \$300 and you didn't complain, what's the problem now?" Thinking quickly on her feet, Jane says, "Well, the way I see it, I can understand making a mistake once, but making a mistake twice? That's becoming a habit. I have to put my foot down there!"

Covid-19 - exercising is essential for your physical and mental wellbeing. Whether this is out walking the dog, biking, or even jogging (!) we have been blessed with a good stretch of autumn

weather. Recently, I was biking with my wife Jane and during our travels came across another bridge club member!



A great morning for Shona Richards to bike along the stop bank of the Tutaikiri River.

We seem to have a reasonable number of positive cases within Hawke's Bay so make sure you get tested if you display any associated symptoms. You might get lucky and be almost as perfect as a certain "world leader"! It has been great on my walks to see



"...MY TEST WAS NEGATIVE. IN FACT IT WAS SOOO NEGATIVE, THAT THE DOCTORS SAID THEY NEVER SAW A NEGATIVE NUMBER SO LOW! IT WAS PERFECT; PERFECTLY NEGATIVE. ACTUALLY, IT WAS HUGELY PERFECTLY NEGATIVE. AND TREMENDOUS TOO! MY DOCTOR SAID IT WAS THE BEST

the large numbers of houses displaying teddy bears in their



windows. Just be aware of how to display such enthusiasm within the community!
Take care

Ash

Ash Fitchett
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