



Taradale Bridge Club Incorporated

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Covid-19 2020 Mini Newsletter #2

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 -

- In the last mini newsletter, I mentioned how the Auckland Bridge Club was running BBO sessions. Jo and I had a go earlier this week and after the first two shaky boards, we managed to get most things right ending up with 51%. So, I recommend you have a go. On the NZ Bridge website they have a good link on how to get started with BBO <http://www.nzbridge.co.nz/latest-updates/listing,6039,more-help-to-get-on-bridge-base-online-bbo.html> . For further information on how to join a game go to the Auckland Bridge Club website - <https://www.akbc.co.nz/online-bridge-march-2020-newsletter>. So, phone up your bridge partner and have a crack!
- Many of you will have read one of Ron Klinger's bridge books. He is currently arranging daily hands posted on the Australian Bridge Federation's web site <http://www.abfevents.com.au/abfdbbc/>
- GeO Tislevoll is a NZ Bridge representative and states *"I am writing a blog for the Norwegian Bridge Federation (in Norwegian) and right now when no reporting of events is possible, I am presenting a "Hand of the day" for Norwegian players. I have decided to translate and share some of those hands with you. Most of these hands are not spectacular column hands but possibly still instructive for some players. The solutions are not necessarily complicated, but the **reasoning when planning a hand and throughout the play** is very important. Good habits before acting and throughout the play will help avoid saying "Should have made that contract" too often after hands are played. That is sentence we all say, and often hear, and more than often it happens after having played a not too hard hand we should have made."* I have found these blogs excellent and not at all difficult to understand. Go to the KiwiBridge group on FaceBook for these daily.

NZ Bridge Newsletter - we have received a newsletter from the NZ Bridge Chairperson which is **attached with this mini newsletter (I promised this in the last newsletter so hopefully this time!)**

Covid-19 Diagnosis - most of you will be watching the 1.0 pm news on TV where they announce the number of patients confirmed with the virus. To the lay person, the time taken for the testing may seem inordinately long. There are two types of testing that can be done:

- Testing for the actual virus by PCR- this is what is used for the daily report. The virus particle contains within genetic material called RNA which is a long chain of amino acids and it is this that is being detected. The testing actually is detecting unique parts of the Covid-19 sequence of amino acids that make up the Covid-19 RNA. These unique

sequences of amino acids are specific to Covid-19 and not shared with the other coronal virus family, hence the high accuracy and specificity of the test. To detect the minute amounts (reportedly one virus particle) of Covid-19 RNA a technique called Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) is used to convert the RNA to DNA and then make many copies of the transcribed DNA. The large volume of copies can then be detected. The process of getting multiple copies of the transcribed DNA requires the solution to be rapidly heated and cooled to trigger the replication of copies and it is this process that can take hours. The instrumentation, technical expertise, and specific lab accommodation for this testing is really expensive which is why we have testing at the major labs at present. Hawke's Bay testing is currently done in Christchurch with results taking about 24 hours from couriering, however I understand they are hoping to bring this in-house within the next period of time with a new piece of equipment and modified accommodation. In the USA, their guru for infectious disease testing - CDC - developed a test that did not specifically identify Covid-19 specific RNA sequences so gave a lot of false positive results (due to detecting other coronal viral particles) that didn't match the clinical picture. As such the doctors had little faith with the test and relied solely on clinical judgement. The USA lost almost a month sorting out this huge error hence part of the reason they are now deeply in trouble with rampant infection. Another contributing reason can be left for your imagination! There is another quick 15 minute test developed that detects the Covid-19 viral antigen but it requires a good number of viral particles to be detected and reports show it will diagnose only 60% of the cases so a negative result could well be falsely so.

- Testing for the antibody to Covid-19 that the patient has developed. When you get an infection, your immune system identifies the pathogen (bacteria/virus) and develops an antibody. The antibody you produce can then attach to the virus and promote its destruction. It can take several days before your immune system can produce the specific antibody however. So, detecting the antibody is rather like closing the barn door after the horse has bolted as the patient needs clinical care a lot sooner. I have seen this rapid 15 minute test for the antibody to Covid-19 promoted overseas as THE answer to quick results, which in my mind is unethical.

Can Pastilla and return - within 17 days! Part 2- Sue and Peter Lambourne recently had a trip to Europe and this is the story of the second part of their journey



Sue, Peter, with son Jason and his partner Susannah enjoy a bottle of wine

Walks, beautiful Italian food, family time continued to fill our days. A trip to the gypsy fair with sideshows and watching our daredevil 9 year old granddaughter Macey riding everything she could get her father onto was a highlight. Rafa is more "grounded" and preferred to throw darts - so we carried home a purple llama, a lava light and a huge panda. He was so thrilled with himself. By day two of lockdown in Spain, people were gathering on their balconies around 8pm at night and were clapping or banging saucepans or making whatever noise they chose. The reason - to send a vote of thanks to the health professionals, sanitation workers and all those who continued to keep the country ticking over in times of such adversity. As Italy was closed to us, we were starting to think about a family side trip to the Canary Islands for the following week and returning to NZ round

end of March. We were registered with MFAT and Safe Travel and I was reading the daily bulletins as well as NZMOH, WHO and Singapore MOH. Friday,13 March was a big day for Jason and something Peter was looking forward to. For more than 10 years Jase has organised the Baby Jesus Christmas classic - a golf event fund raising in excess of E12,000 for under privileged children on the island. Early that morning I waved farewell to father and son in kapa hapa costumes including tattoos for the big event. Later than day I went and joined the party - lots of fun and lots of money raised and a great day. Rumours were starting to circulate that Spain was going into lockdown next day but no official announcements. Awoke Sunday,15 March to find we were in day one of lockdown - we had been able to drive to get bread water and long life milk, soup and pasta from a corner store but as soon as we stepped out for a walk were sent firmly back to the apartment by the police. A gorgeous day and I was becoming envious of those who owned dogs and taking them for walks. By the time we left Mallorca the army was patrolling the streets. Citizens allowed to buy groceries and medicines - all educational institutions closed - however people were still allowed to go to work. Contacted travel agent to get us out and we were planning to leave 18 March via Dubai. Sunday evening I was cooking for the four of us when we got call from travel agent saying Emirates were chopping and changing flights - instruction given to get us out immediately. A brand new one way Emirates ticket was purchased (the cost eye watering!). We left family on 17 March not knowing how far we were going to get - we were fortunate. NZ never seemed so good despite non-stop travel and a 6 hour long followed by a 16 hour flight.. Because of being overseas we are now on day nine of lockdown, plus our two in Spain! Old hands does not make it easier! One day I may get to Italy - but in the meantime keep warm, stay safe and keep those communication chains intact.

Coronavirus Rhapsody - many of us youngies enjoyed music from the group Queen - with the recent film popular Bohemian Rhapsody rekindling the memories. I have had sent an adaption to this popular song with the great singing albeit with totally different lyrics. Well worth a listen. The link to the song on *youtube* is: <https://youtu.be/8KPbJ0-DxTc>

Weekly Humour

Understandably many of you are itching to get back to simply playing a good session of bridge. Imagine how you would feel after an enforced break of ten years?

A man is stranded on a deserted island for 10 years. One day he notices a speck on the horizon, and he watches intently as it draws near. "It can't be a boat," he thinks. "It can't be a fish." Suddenly, a beautiful woman emerges from the sea wearing scuba gear and a wet suit. "Hi there!" she says. The man is amazed. "But... but... how did you get here?" "Never mind," says the woman as she unzips the left pocket of her wet suit and hands the man a *cigarette*. "Wow, this is terrific! I haven't had a smoke in 10 years!" "Enjoy!" says the woman as she unzips the right pocket of her wet suit and gives the man a flask of *whiskey*. "I can't believe it! This tastes so good!" Next the woman starts to unzip the long zipper that runs down the front of her wet suit. "Now I've got something you must *really* want bad." "What!" he says, "Don't tell me you've got a *deck of cards* in there too!"

Our thoughts - are with Carolyn Yeomans and family with her husband very recently involved in a train verse cycle accident. Also welcome back home from a short stay in hospital for our nonagenarian Rita Best.

Ash

Ash Fitchett
Newsletter Editor