



Taradale Bridge Club Incorporated

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Covid-19 2020 Mini Newsletter #3

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*.
 - Attached also is the latest NZ Bridge **Newsletter #2**
 - **Club Happenings around the Country** - the Taradale Bridge Club featured on this section for 7 April - <http://www.nzbridge.co.nz/latest-updates,listing,6054,club-happenings-around-the-country.html>
- **The Hawke's Bay Congress** Organising Committee has made the regrettable, but necessary, decision to cancel this year's event. With the country in lockdown for the next four weeks and the venue currently closed, there is no alternative. We trust that you are all keeping safe and well and look forward to seeing you at the 29th Hawkes Bay Congress in 2021.

Covid-19 - Face Masks and their effectiveness- you will have seen a number of people out in the public areas wearing home made masks and would have been thinking of making your own. The face masks can be divided into two broad groups and should be worn covering both nose and mouth. **A light hearted video is also attached** regarding the importance of a well fitted mask.

- **Surgical Face Masks** - these include the home made masks which should be made from a fine fibre material such as cotton. These masks will not stop virus but can stop large droplets of body fluids that may be splashed on you. They should be fitted as close to the face as possible to reduce inhalation of air around the sides or around the nose. It is important to not touch the mask once fitted - and that presents challenges to us all! When you remove the mask, do not touch the front as this may contain viral particles captured from large droplets. Wash cloth masks, and reuse when clean. If you have covid-19, the wearing of a mask may reduce the chance of infecting your family. Unfortunately, once the mask gets damp - which may not be long into use - its effectiveness is further reduced. Don't remove to eat or speak then put the same mask back on!
- **Respirators** - these are also called N95 respirator masks and are available commercially. They can filter out 95% of airborne particles, including virus. They must be fitted perfectly sealed around your face so no air leaks from around nose etc is permitted for the reported effectiveness.

And we weren't aware of the threat of Covid-19? - back in 2015, Bill Gates told the world about coronavirus and the threat to humanity. Listen to this on Youtube at the following link!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Af6b_wyiwl

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 added Part I for this mini newsletter.

Back in March when life was normal, and we all went to Bridge, my husband Pete and I joined a couple of friends, Lyn and Dennis, and headed down to cycle the Otago Rail Trail, from Clyde to Middlemarch, a distance of 150 km. We drove down and as we got to Otago wandered around the historic centre of Oamaru before heading to a couple of iconic sites – the Moeraki Boulders and Fleur’s Seafood Restaurant, where the Seafood Chowder and Blue Cod were delicious. On to Ranfurly which was to be our base for the next 4 days – each day our host/driver Nick dropped us at our starting point and at the end of the day he would pick us up and take us back to Ranfurly. After a clean up he would take us to a local country hotel for dinner, a different one each night. The next morning he would take us back to where we finished the previous day, giving us a detailed history of the area, especially about the gold-mining towns. This was an excellent setup as we only unpacked once, and certainly didn’t miss out on seeing anything on the way.

We were joined by a British couple who had been visiting their son in Wellington, Sue and Tom, and they were great company.

Day 1 – Sunday March 15, Clyde to Lauder



All looking fresh and keen to get on the trail.

The four of us from Napier, with an average age of over 70, had hired ebikes, but Tom and Sue just had standard bikes. It was a foggy morning but cleared by the time we set off from Clyde with a real sense of excitement and anticipation. After a couple of hours' easy cycling we stopped at the historic Chatto Creek Tavern for a light lunch.

As we contemplated the challenge of the steepest part of the trail, Tiger Hill (a gradient of 1:50), we decided that on e-bikes it would be a piece of cake, easy-peasy. The statement “Pride comes before a Fall” should have come to mind! Yes, after a moment’s inattention I was soon on the ground with my



Left: Cheers! Enjoying the cold water! Right: Chatto Creek Tavern was most enjoyable and then after that...

bike on top of me and a nasty grazed knee. (The one lucky thing is that I didn’t rip my fancy new bike pants!!) After a bit of first aid we were away again. We certainly appreciated the e-bikes going up Tiger Hill, as Tom and Sue struggled a bit on their standard bikes.

Down the other side to Omakau and on to the end of the day's ride at Lauder. We popped in to see a friend who ran the Lauder Railway School, now converted into a B&B with bedrooms called Library and Detention etc! Then back on board our minibus with bike trailer and back to Ranfurly before off to the Waipiata Hotel for dinner. Casual dress a must – suits me!!

Day 2 – Monday March 16, Lauder to Ranfurly

An absolutely stunning day, not a cloud in the sky as we called in to see the small town of Ophir with the oldest working Post Office in NZ, built in 1886, before setting off again from Lauder. Tom and Sue were now on e-bikes, having seen the merits of them the previous day!!

We crossed the Manuherikia River again, got off our bikes to walk through the Poolburn Gorge tunnels, torches in hand, and then onto the Poolburn Viaduct which is 37m high. Fantastic scenery at every stage of the trip.



Left: Riding through fantastic scenery. Right: The Poolburn George Tunnel.

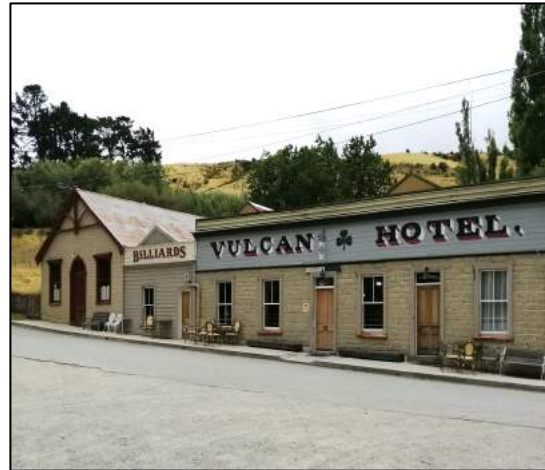


Poolburn Viaduct.

Down to the Ida Valley, we passed the Ida Burn Dam, which is a natural skating rink in winter. Lunch was at Hayes Engineering (at the table next to Brian Turner - he's the poet with sporting brothers cricketer Glen and golfer Greg.) On to Oturehua with its historic Gilchrist's General Store. The weather forecast wasn't great with very strong winds predicted, so while the others headed directly for Ranfurly, Pete and I did a slight detour up a side road first to an old goldmine, the Golden Progress mine, established in 1868, where you can still see the old boiler and dilapidated sheds.

Another hill up to the highest point of the Trail at 618m, then downhill to Wedderburn and the final 8kms into Ranfurly. Those last few kilometres on the seemingly never-ending straight into Ranfurly were tough, even on an e-bike, as we had that very strong headwind.

For dinner Nick took us to St Bathans's, a former gold mining town. There is a beautiful scenic man-made "blue" lake, made during gold sluicing. We had dinner at the historic Vulcan Hotel, next door to the Billiards Hall! To be continued.....



St Bathans - Left: "Blue" Lake. Right: The iconic Vulcan Hotel



Wordsworth

by Lauren Buckeridge

Readers were asked to submit an up-to-60-word short story that includes the words "armchair" and "diamond".

Paul Kelly, Palmerston North: *I arrived late. Outside the church, people chatted. "He was a rough diamond," someone said. Another joked about his money-making ventures. Much later I went to see the family. They had moved. "About time too," came a voice from his favourite armchair. "You're alive!" The life insurance pay-out was substantial. He smiled, "My best scheme ever."*

Irene Absalom, Rangiora: *"A blind man could catch better than you!" Dave's career in softball failed to take off. Now, at 93, he dozed in his balcony armchair facing the local softball diamond. Thwack! The ball soared high, over the boundary, up to Dave's balcony, landing in his lap. Dave opened his now sightless eyes and smiled. At last. The perfect catch.*

Lyn Toka, Cambridge: *They just missed winning the bridge championship cup. Second prize was an elegant paper knife. He was delighted, but she was furious. "We should have won," she spat, driving home. The police, responding to her call, found him in his armchair, the paper knife deep in his chest. "What happened?" "It was his fault. He should have led a diamond."*

Kaitia's Helen Yuretich is this week's winner: *She stood there, frozen, the diamond necklace spilling from her hand. "Speak," I willed her, but she stared at the overturned armchair, petrified. The policeman repeated himself, "What's all this then?" Her eyes flicked towards me, but she seemed dazzled by the lights. "Say something," I prayed. Then a whispered prompt, she delivered her*

Extract from the "Listener". They obviously play serious bridge up in Cambridge.

Weekly Humour

In a plane were Donald Trump, Boris Johnson, The Pope, Angela Merkel, and a 10 year old boy when they were told the plane was in trouble and they would need to use the parachutes to leave the plane. But there were only FOUR parachutes.

Trump said "I'm the most intelligent man in the World and it needs me", grabbed a parachute and left. Boris Johnson said "well as Prime Minister of the UK , of course I need to be saved". Took a parachute and left. The Pope putting his hands together smiled gently and said " As the leader for all the ROMAN Catholics in the World you understand why I'm needed". Took a parachute and left. Angela Merkel turned to the boy and said "I've had a long full life but yours is only beginning. Take the last parachute and go"

The boy replied "Thank you, but there are two parachutes left, "Two..? But"

The boy smiled sweetly "The most intelligent man in the World took my school-bag"

Our thoughts - are with Alison Hucker and more specifically her husband Brett, with the latter being nastily attacked by a dog whilst cycling.

Ash

Ash Fitchett
Newsletter Editor