



## Taradale Bridge Club Incorporated

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### Covid-19 2020 Mini Newsletter #5

Hi Taradale Bridge Players

As we are hopefully in our last few days under Covid-19 Alert 4, we should all be giving ourselves credit for the individual contributions we have made to help save lives and reduce the spread of the virus. But the job is not finished. After five days of no cases in the Bay another one pops so keep following the rules - we must continue and finish what we started.

We more than welcome contributions to this mini newsletter and these can be emailed directly to Ash at [napfitch@xtra.co.nz](mailto:napfitch@xtra.co.nz)

#### Bridge Activities -

- **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. There will be others who have felt they were not confident enough to try it. Julie Atkins from the Auckland Bridge Club is starting up a **special morning session for the novice to low intermediate player**.
- **I have copied information regarding this from the website** - A new morning session starts this Friday 24th April at 10:00 am on BBO (Bridge Base Online). Please contact Julie Atkinson (details below) so she can make you a friend and then you will be able to register for the session. This is for novice to low intermediate players. If you are too good, Julie will let you know. The new Friday session is in addition to the Novices Monday and Thursday morning sessions. Again, contact Julie to pre-register and join. Contact Julie on BBO direct [qwikjanz@xtra.co.nz](mailto:qwikjanz@xtra.co.nz) or 021 175 4701
  - I contacted Julie for more information and she has kindly replied: *"I need the BBO usernames of anyone interested, but I also need the assurance that they are lower level players or those too nervous to play in the other events. I would want you to vet those interested and email me the usernames so I can add them as friends and then they can play. I imagine some will need instructions on how to become a BBO member etc and we have plenty of material on the website. I have also attached some other info for you to send"*. **Julie's information is attached with this Mini Newsletter**.
  - So please email me at [napfitch@xtra.co.nz](mailto:napfitch@xtra.co.nz) with your BBO user name and I will pass them onto Julie. Don't miss this golden opportunity to learn plenty as well as have fun!!
- **Bored silly?** - Master Bridge was a TV series created and broadcast in England in 1983. You can see all 14 episodes **here**. For a 2019 update you can check out. The Pakistani expert, Zia Mahmood, stars in both series. I watched the first episode and it was interesting to see Zia and Omar Sharif battle it out at the bridge table. They must have been sponsored by a tobacco company as they all seemed to be heavy smokers whilst playing! The link is also copied below in case the click on "here" does not work.  
([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6sZADqJBP3g&list=PL5BMXqIK7\\_Er0YhOEAQkQM03i0ojic-r](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6sZADqJBP3g&list=PL5BMXqIK7_Er0YhOEAQkQM03i0ojic-r))

**Gold Coast Congress** - Jan Davis our co-president has been to this Australian tournament several times and this year she joined up with Hayden Seal, a former member of our club but now living in Christchurch.



Ash has asked me to write something about this annual bridge congress which takes place in Broadbeach, Gold Coast, in the last part of February. It is the biggest congress in Australasia and as I mentioned in the March newsletter, every time I go, the

entries have increased. It is held in the Convention Centre which is HUGE and when one walks inside the coolness of the air-conditioning is always welcome. It is eight days of Bridge and each event usually has an option (you can see this if you go to the Gold Coast Congress website - <https://www.qldbridge.com.au/gcc/>). The first event Saturday to Monday had over 700 pairs in the four separate sections (Open: Intermediate: Restricted: Novice) and the alternative Swiss Pairs Saturday to Sunday had 260 pairs. The first time I went most of the (Australian) opposition were playing 5 card Majors but this year there was a predominance of the Two Over One System. We are usually recognised as Kiwis when we say we are playing Acol ??????? Any points you earn in Swiss or teams goes on to your Kiwi points, so that's another plus.

The two daily sessions start at a sensible 10.30 am which means you can go out for breakfast or a coffee beforehand. The afternoon session begins at 3.00pm so there is time to walk to a café for a leisurely lunch or if your accommodation is close enough, as ours was, 'home' it is. There is also a side event to enter in which teams explore the Congress chosen theme and create costumes. This year it was



*The Convention Centre has huge rooms for playing the bridge.*

“Feathers to Fauna” and there were some amazing entries.

As to accommodation – there is a wide variety of apartments and most are within walking distance of the Convention Centre. After the days ‘work’ there are a huge variety of great restaurants to choose from and to visit one of these is always a perfect round-off to the day (no matter how the day’s play went). There is also a well-stocked supermarket, if you want a meal at ‘home’ (although they don’t sell wine – you have to go to a wine shop). Broadbeach is a popular tourist resort, so there is good shopping there, or a short tram drive away to the Plaza, and because you don’t have to enter every event, shopping is a good option. I’ve been four times and loved each one.

### **Taradale Bridge Club News -**

- **Club Finances** - What wonderful people Taradale Bridge Club member are!! After last week’s newsletter mentioning that we are paying over \$700 per month during the lockdown with no income coming in, several members contacted us concerned about our funds being diminished while our club is closed. One suggested that as a fundraiser we charge members

\$5 per month to receive the newsletters. We do not want to do this as we feel the newsletters are an important means of communication and not something our members should have to pay for. However, we are very grateful for the suggestion, which has made us think carefully about what we might be able to do. Of course, we want to preserve our cash reserves for the building project. I personally am very happy to make a donation each month (or at the end of the lockdown) to help pay for unavoidable fixed costs while we are closed and I am sure there are many others of you who will be willing to do the same. We know that members are in differing financial situations, and there is certainly no obligation on anyone to donate any amount. We are all saving money staying at home, and we would be grateful for any amount you may be able to donate. **The club bank account number is 03 0631 0174234 00, or you could drop off a donation in a committee member's letter box.** Please include the word "Donation" in the details of any online banking. Your committee will be looking at other fundraising ideas for when we reopen and are very happy to receive suggestions from members. We plan to run regular raffles. During the lockdown some of you will be converting excess produce into chutneys, jams etc. If you have too many jars for your own use then when we reopen we could have a sales table for people like me who don't have a garden. We could run a fundraising mixed grade tournament with small prizes (e.g. cakes of chocolate) just to celebrate getting back to Bridge.

Jo Hayes (Co-President)

- **Our Sponsors** - these people and companies are an important contributor towards funding our weekly bridge and tournament sessions. As we move out of Alert 4, many of the companies whom have been closed will be opening for business in some format. The club urges all members to try and support our sponsors during these financially difficult times.

<b>Sponsors of the Taradale Bridge Club</b>
Taradale Roast
Craig Smith @ Harcourts
Pak'nSav Tamatea
Dent magician
Michaela Vodanovich – GAMECHANGE
Eastern and Central Community Trust
Sommerset in the Bay
Suzelle Taradale
Taradale Upholstery, Kelly Brown
Orbit Neighbourhood Café Greenmeadows
Boots & Awl Repair Centre
New World Greenmeadows Supermarket
Unichem Taradale Pharmacy
Falcon Safety & Fire
Princess Alexandra Retirement Village
Hayter & Fleming
Visique Taradale Optometrists
Classic Kitchens
Jackson's Flooring Design
Huxtable Motors
Beth Shan Funeral Services
MèCHE Hair
Easyprint

- Club members will recall **the letter received in January 2020 from the Napier Bridge Club** regarding their Special General Meeting to discuss a motion to close their club down and reform into a new club with our members - on the understanding we would likewise dissolve

our club. The letter was discussed by our committee in February with the decision to arrange a meeting, chaired by an independent chairperson, between the two committees to clarify and discuss the possible opportunities. Due to the intervention of the Covid-19 pandemic, this meeting has not been held. Very recently we have received another letter from the Napier Bridge Club **which is attached**. Regardless of the latest letter, it is still the intention of our committee to continue with the planned meeting when it becomes appropriate under the Covid-19 alert system.

### A Poetic Contribution from a Club Member

I am in this little "bubble"  
Nearly forgotten how, I quite got here  
I was told to 'shut the door' no visitors  
And that's the way it has been.

For those of you who know me well  
This has not been an easy task  
I love to get out there, visit family and friends  
And welcome to my home, so many.

I have eaten through the pantry and  
Found things I have never tried.  
Bought, because I thought 'I might'  
Now they are helping me survive.

I have done a bit of walking and that was going well,  
Till, I tripped up on the footpath, that set me back a while!  
Now I have pulled a ligament, just another minor hitch  
So, now the knitting needles will help me through this glitch.

Last year, I missed out on playing Bridge  
And now we are all locked out together  
I have yet to master Bridge Online, tho  
Instructions have been plenty.

I fear by the time I get back to play,  
My bridge friends will desert me.  
My rating points have disappeared  
And systems will confuse me.

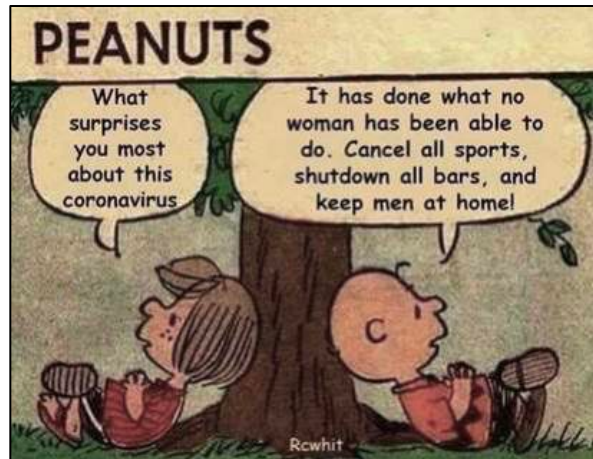
Like all of you, I am full of trust  
In our Leaders and our Covid workers  
We have done our part in staying put,  
May our Bridge return soon, forever.

**Cath H**

**Weekly Humour** - this week we discover our past life experiences have set us up for a new career!

### Lemon Pickers Needed

Ms Sally Mulligan of Coral Springs Florida read the sign. She decided to apply for one of the jobs that most Americans were not willing to do. She submitted her application for the job in a Florida lemon grove but she seemed far too qualified for the job. She had a Liberal Arts degree from the University of Michigan and a Master's degree from Michigan State University. For a number of years, she had worked as a social worker, and also as a school teacher. The foreman studied her



application, frowned and said, "I see that you are well educated and that you have an impressive resume. However, I have to ask you, have you had any actual experience in picking lemons?" "Well, as a matter of fact I have", she said. "I've been divorced three times, owned two Chryslers, and voted for Trump". She started work yesterday.

**Home "Comfort" Cooking** - It seems not only toilet paper has flown off the supermarket shelves recently but also home baking ingredients. Young Barrie Russell couldn't resist telling me, with confirmed evidence, about his culinary skills. Perhaps other equally inspired cooks would like to share their recipes for future editions of our Mini Newsletters? Email them to me at [napfitch@xtra.co.nz](mailto:napfitch@xtra.co.nz).

**Comfort Food:** *Hey if you thought the lemonade scone recipe was good, then try out this Muffin recipe, again with lemonade & cream!*

*2 Cups S/R Flour, ½ cup sugar, ½ tsp salt, ½ cup each lemonade and cream, and one egg. Mix lightly, put in muffin cases and 15 to 20 mins at 200 C to cook. Top with whatever, in this case peach slices and orange zest.*

*And yes I did make a dozen, but cooks privilege, had to test one!*



*The sight of Barrie's Muffins kicked my salivary glands into action!*

**Our thoughts** - are with the behind the scenes contributors within Hawke's Bay and throughout NZ who have looked after their neighbours, friends, and family during these unusual times. Many would have heard of Captain Tom Moore in England who, at 99 years young, took on the challenge of a fundraising walk for the health workers. There has been an adaption to the David Bowie Space Oddity track to celebrate Captain Tom's remarkable achievement in raising £27 million.

The link to *Ground Control to*

*Captain Tom* on Youtube is: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1L2vYx00hlc>

Take Care and have a go at the on-line BBO bridge.

*Ash*

Ash Fitchett  
Newsletter Editor