



Taradale Bridge Club Incorporated

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Covid-19 2020 Mini Newsletter #7

Hi Taradale Bridge Players

As we are hopefully in our last few days under Covid-19 Alert 3, 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 as shown by two days of no new cases being halted by a death plus two new infected people.

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

Bridge Activities - apart from BBO, the main activity has been the stream of cancelled tournaments being announced. A reminder to check out the NZ Bridge website (<http://www.nzbridge.co.nz>) for the latest *Daily Bridge Article*. These are certainly pitched at the regular bridge player and everyone can certainly learn from them.



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Congratulations to Therese Van den Ende on her recent marriage during lockdown. Last Saturday Therese (now Fontein) has remarried her former husband to whom she had four sons. The whole family are reported to have

been very happy with the news!



Taradale Bridge Club News - Last week we have had further generous donations to the club from our membership in response. Thanks again to all who could make this contribution.

The Donation Total is currently at: \$810 !!

Be Aware of Credit Card Scammers - I have recently heard of one of our club members receiving a scammer phone call. The person was phoned by a well-spoken person stating they were from their credit card company and that in the early hour of the morning someone had initiated payments of two lots of money to ebay - \$1000 and \$800. Our person thankfully was cautious and said they would phone the person back. The caller tried to get our member to do what was required then and reluctantly (hint #1

that all was not kosher) gave an Auckland phone number to be called aback on - hint #2 it was not the usual 0800 phone number. Our club member called the bank and it was confirmed that this was the new sophisticated type of scamming that has started up. So please be aware and **never trust** such unsolicited callers no matter how charming they may seem!!

Recipe of the week - Chunky Rocky Road Slice

This is a seriously good slice for special occasions and always popular such as for Christmas - although coming out of Alert 3 also warrants a good reason to make it.

Ingredients

- 360g White chocolate
- 250g packet Marshmallows - cut them in half
- 1 Cup dried Cranberries
- ½ Cup each of Macadamia halves and Pistachios

Method

- Lightly grease and line a 20cm square cake pan with baking paper
- Place chocolate in a heatproof bowl. Bring a saucepan half filled with water to a gentle simmer on low. Position the bowl over the water and stir chocolate until melted
- In a large bowl, combine all remaining ingredients
- Pour chocolate over, stirring to coat well
- Spoon into cake tin, pressing down evenly with spoon (Barrie R - the “cook” gets to lick the spoon and tidy the bowl naturally)
- Chill for 30 minutes or until set
- Cut into small squares to serve or store in airtight container in the fridge.

Alps to Ocean Cycle Train December 2019 - late last year my wife, Jane, and I joined our friends, Trudy and Graham, who had organised a group of eleven intrepid cyclists to bike from Mt Cook village to Oamaru.

Sunday 1 December

A prompt start packing our Alps 2 Ocean gear and off to Rolleston to meet up with the guide Rob



The Team - from left: Jenny, Don, Rob, Robin, Jeremy, Robyn, Graham, Gary, Trudy, Janie and me.

Connolly, Trudy and Graham and the rest for the minibus ride to Mt Cook. A morning tea stop in Geraldine and a weather check proved the suspicion that the windy weather at Mt Cook had grounded the helicopter that was needed to carry us and the bikes across the Tasman River. So, we went only onto Tekapo for lunch and started the alternative route for Day 1 of the Trail. Of our group of 11, only Graham and I had “real” bikes with the rest on ebikes. The wind at Tekapo was very strong and it was tricky staying upright and

moving forward compared to the ebikes. It also further deteriorated with whipping rain/hail for the latter part on the rough shingle road. We met Rob on the shore of Lake Pukaki by the Tekapo B Power Station and loaded the bikes onto the trailer for the drive up to Braemar Station for our

accommodation for the night. We got two fires going, warmed up with a hot shower, and had a great dinner of salmon steaks with salad. It was early to bed!

Monday 2 December

We awoke to a simply beholding clear morning with no wind. Photos of the rising sun upon the



Early morning panorama of the mountains on the southern side of Lake Pukaki and Mt Cook to the far right.

snowy mountains - including Mt Cook were impossible to resist. We decided to try again to start



There go the bikes in the crate below the chopper. Note the wind sock showing a building breeze up the valley!

the Trail from Mt Cook, riding our bikes through to Twizel - two days in one! So, we left early - 0630 - by the minibus around Lake Pukaki clockwise up to Mt Cook which was over an hour drive. Back on the bike and a quick wind assisted 7km ride downhill to Mt Cook airport for the helicopter. The chopper first took all of our bikes in a crate then 5-6 passengers at a time over the Tasman River to the road leading towards Braemar Station. From this drop-off, we biked down the thick recently graded gravel road the length of Lake Pukaki. It was amazing how quickly the weather can change and from a nice westerly wind we suddenly were heading right into the teeth of a stiff easterly. Lunch was at the Tekapo B Power station and then off to the Lake Pukaki Visitor Centre, and I was quite pleased to leave Lake Pukaki as it had been hard yakka and it is a jolly long lake. The Trail took us across expansive grasslands - typical McKenzie landscape - and onto Twizel to *The Lodge* for our night's accommodation. A tough 71km. After a soaking hot shower, we were driven to *Poppies Restaurant* for dinner - venison entre, pork belly main, and crème brulee for desert. Back at *The Lodge* we had a brief chat

over a small whiskey then off to bed.

Tuesday 3 December Our tour has been joined by Marina who will take over from Rob as our tour guide. Marina is French with a strong accent and sometimes challenging to understand. A reasonable start turned soon into a shockingly wet day. We rode up and around Twizel then along to the Ohau-Pukaki Canal. During the ride, I learnt to slip in behind Robin on his bike to avoid much of the head wind! From here we rode around the bottom of Lake Ohau on shingle tracks to Ohau Weir, which was overflowing already with the rain. A tester by Rob, our tour guide, proved that it, "wasn't too bad to cross" so onwards we launched. Officially the Ohau Weir is closed if any water spills over onto the weir. The trail eventually met up with Lake Ohau Road and it was a

very long, cold, wet 11km ride up to Lake Ohau Lodge to end a somewhat arduous 41km. Amazingly, the host invited us all in, literally dripping wet, to warm up and strip off shoes and socks beside the roaring fire.

Wednesday 4 December

We awoke to perpetual rain that had not eased throughout the night. We were soaked within 2 minutes of leaving - if not from the sky then by the large puddles that had formed on the rough shingle track. The rocky track climbed steadily up to the highest point of the track at 900m. It took just under 1.5 hours to reach the high point where ebikers Robin (with whiskey), Jeremy, and Don had kindly waited. A quick shot of the amber fluid and it was downhill. Surprisingly the downhill ride was not as enjoyable as anticipated as the track having become a mini river, along with getting quite cold as you definitely did not have to peddle. We then rode a valley to a historic woolshed to greet the others who were enjoying coffee and food. The Trail from the woolshed into Omarama was flooded in many places. Omarama is world famous for gliding and where Richie McCaw is a frequent visitor. So, it was appropriate that Marina and Rob took us out to the *Red Glider Restaurant* which is located nearby the airstrip. The lady in charge was a real character and the meals were simply huge. My rib-eye steak was enormous and because I prevaricated on which sauce to have I got both - mushroom AND garlic butter sauces. Ironically as we were finishing our meal, the sun broke through the heavy clouds above to make for a nice evening. More to follow next week....

Weekly Humour - this week we discover that like a generous opening lead into your AQJ, a bargain offer is not always such a gift :

A doctor can't find a job in a hospital in the US, so he opens his own clinic and puts a sign outside: 'GET TREATMENT FOR \$20 - IF NOT CURED GET BACK \$100. A lawyer thinks this is a great opportunity to earn \$100 and goes to the clinic.

Lawyer: 'I have lost my sense of taste.'

Doctor: 'Nurse, bring medicine from box No. 22 and put 3 drops in patient's mouth.'

Lawyer: 'Ugh. this is kerosene.'

Doctor: 'Congrats, your sense of taste is restored. Give me \$20.'

The annoyed lawyer goes back after a few days to recover his money.

Lawyer: 'I have lost my memory. I cannot remember anything.'

Doctor: 'Nurse, bring medicine from box no. 22 and put 3 drops in his mouth.'

Lawyer (annoyed): 'This is kerosene. You gave this to me last time for restoring my taste.'

Doctor: 'Congrats. You got your memory back. Give me \$20.'

The fuming lawyer pays him, and then comes back a week later determined to get back \$100.

Lawyer: 'My eyesight has become very weak I can't see at all.'

Doctor: 'Well, I don't have any medicine for that, so take this \$100.'

Lawyer (staring at the note): 'But this is \$20, not \$100!!'

Doctor: 'Congrats, your eyesight is restored. Give me \$20'

It's a guess who.....

One of our bridge club members surprised one of her/his bridge buddies and turned up at their doorstep to take this member to the Taradale McDonalds drive through. This said member had been desperately missing the availability of McDonalds burgers and had mentioned this on previous telephone calls. They had not ventured out by themselves when Level 3 was announced for said purchase as they were worried about the advertised long queues and being a driver of a manual car!! Said person was delighted with the Big Mac (s/he did not opt for a meal pack as suggested by friend!) and the happiness on her/his face was priceless! One wanted to take a photo for the newsletter but this was denied so instead we have a *guess who it was* competition! Please submit answers to Ash and a bar of chocolate will be the prize for the first correct answer and this will be published in the following newsletter!

PS There is another member who may possibly know who it is as they are good friends of said person so maybe they could withhold from entering this competition!

Nutritional Value of a Big Mac (in case you are interested - Ash) - A Big Mac contains 540 calories and 25 grams of fat. Consuming this sandwich alone – without the fries and soda that often accompany it – makes up more than 25% of an adult's daily recommended calorie intake and over 40% of the recommended daily fat intake. The sandwich also contains 940 milligrams of salt – the majority of the 1,500 mg daily salt intake recommended by the American Heart Association. Another reference contends that it takes the body three days to fully digest the Big Mac because of its fat content - so a once per week visit is probably sufficient!

The True Kiwi Way - no doubt all members have been proud how NZers have in general reacted positively to the demands of the Alert levels to squash the Covid-19 infection rate. As we break towards our “freedom” perhaps playing this song link from YouTube will give you the determination to do it the True Kiwi Way, and finish this job properly! Click on this link and enjoy some faces and photos from years gone past. <http://bit.ly/214sh68>
By the way, where is that bar located - who said men could not multi-task?

Ash

Ash Fitchett
Newsletter Editor