



Taradale Bridge Club Incorporated

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Covid-19 2020 Mini Newsletter #8

Hi Taradale Bridge Players

So today we are now at Alert Level 2. Well done to all of you as I can appreciate there have been significant sacrifices done by many of you. Last week we ran a competition to identify who of our members indulged in a Big Mac hamburger. It was a very tight finish with Cath Halpin guessing the "replete one's" name just a minute or so before another of our members came up with that name. We are inching closer to real bridge but still have to show patience as detailed in the NZ Bridge message that is attached with this mini newsletter. Our donation fund continues to increase which has been really appreciated as the committee grapples with no income and ongoing costs.

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

Bridge Activities -

- We have received a strong recommendation from NZ Bridge for clubs to remain closed until we reach Alert level 1 under the Covid-19 crisis. **The letter is attached**
- **What makes Bridge brilliant?** - recently I have come across a short video publicising the game of Bridge. A great video for people to watch when considering taking lessons to learn the game. The link to YouTube is below:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SIKfWioojWQ&fbclid=IwAR305-EpL2lZS4u8uveRq7072LhtLSeBUvGcWVNj4JPtkeRzNJTZyFEBbyEk>
- Recently one of our members has been looking at the website for "**No Fear Bridge**". The link to this where they allowed a two week free introductory membership is worth a look at. They accommodate Acol bidding systems which is great for KIwis. The website link is <https://www.nofearbridge.co.uk>
- **BBO** - due to the large number of people playing now, they have split their platform onto two different servers. Read the information about this at <http://www.nzbridge.co.nz/latest-updates,listing.6137,important-message-for-those-playing-on-bridge-base-online.html>

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: \$995 !!
- **Relocation of our storage items** - Since we moved from the Taradale Club we have had the bulk of our assets in commercial storage awaiting the build of our new clubrooms. Through a very generous club member, we have accessed storage at a better rate. The added bonus is that we will be able to retrieve items from this storage which we are not able to do at the moment. We are most appreciative of this opportunity to hone down unnecessary costs.



- **Update on our Possible Building** - with the Napier City Council understandably occupied with Covid-19 issues, consideration of our Business Case for Council land was held back. We understand that this is scheduled to go to the Council meeting later this month.

Recipe of the week - Barrie Russell has been in the kitchen again and couldn't resist sending me a picture of his latest gastronomical creation. He made these "Cheese and Chutney Scrolls" using the Nadia Lim's recipe. He tells me they were as yummy as they look! The link to the video showing Nadia Lim baking them is <https://www.tvnz.co.nz/shows/nadias-comfort-kitchen/extras/cheese-chutney-scrolls> I also enjoyed her

interaction with her children.

Alps to Ocean Cycle Train December 2019 Part 2 - 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. Last week I described the beginning in somewhat less than desirable weather conditions. Read the final part of the journey - in nice weather!

Thursday 5 December

Our big day of riding (70km) started with an enormous cooked breakfast at the restaurant next to the motels we were staying in. This, combined with sunny but windy NW (a tail wind at last!) weather, was a great base for our ride as we headed along smooth shingle to the top of the Chain Hills then down to along Lake Benmore. The downward ride was fast and enjoyed by all. At Sailors Cutting we joined SH83 for the climb up to the Otematata Saddle. The steady climb to the saddle went well and the 6km downward slope was an idyllic end to the section stopping in Otematata for morning coffee. Refreshed with caffeine, we then headed up to cross the Benmore Dam - a nasty steep road requiring a really low gear! We took the nicely tar sealed road along the outflow from the dam to lead into Lake Aviemore and along the northern side stopping at Deep Stream for lunch. There were a few bluffs to climb initially then the road became flat and a quick wind assisted ride past several really nice camping areas. Following the refreshing lunch, with another 20km to go, we enjoyed the tail wind until we had to cross the Aviemore Dam which with a strong cross wind was somewhat dangerous. Having all successfully negotiated this we re-joined SH83 and sped along to



Lunch at Deep Stream.



Lake Waitaki and the Waitaki Dam. Following this we went up a zigzag track that finally lead us into Kurow. As one does, we stopped off at the Kurow Pub for a refreshing ale (naturally for electrolyte replenishment purposes) then rode another 4km to our overnight destination - *Western House* a nice comfortable B&B that was built in 1861 out of Oamaru stone. After a tidy up we all headed into Kurow for some wine tasting at the Ostler shop. *Ostler Vineyards* are run by a retired GP, Jim Jerram, from Nelson who then covered

Otago University Student Health Clinic whilst establishing his vineyard. His signature wine - a Pinot Noir wine named *Caroline* - has understandably won a gold medal at the London International Wine Challenge, so it was rude to not buy a bottle! After that we simply walked across the road to the *Wild Sage Café* for dinner.



The Great Hall within Burnside Homestead. Bruce is seen talking to Trudy and Janie.

Rakis Railway Tunnel. After lunch, we went through the tunnel which was curved such that we couldn't see the other end which made it a bit tricky without head lamps. The now downward track went along the former railway line and some fast riding took us through Windsor and onto and adjacent to the Windsor-Ngapara Road. We turned off into aptly named Pig (because of the sharp hill at the end) Island Road that ran into Burnside Road where our stop for the night at Burnside Homestead - a Category 1 registered historic home. Wow what a lovely place! We were formally greeted at the front door by our fantastic hosts, Bruce and Alison Albiston, and went into the octagonal Great Hall from which lead bedrooms, the formal dining room, the ladies lounge and the gentlemen's drawing/billiard room. We were invited to use the Forrester Suite which had a large double bed and lovely views of the rose gardens. The ensuite had an original claw foot bathtub, whilst the bedroom included the original antique dressing table. This Suite was the original dressing room for Mr J Forrester Reid, who built the homestead in the 1890s. For the evening meal, Bruce and Alison drove us into Enfield and the Fort Enfield hotel where we enjoyed both the liquid refreshments and meal. It has been a special day riding another 72km as well as enjoying the vibrant ambiance of a homestead and a country hotel.

Friday 6 December

After a great breakfast at Western House we rode into a bright sunny day alongside SH83 with some of the track washed out we spent time also on the actual road. The travel was somewhat wind assisted with the occasional small hill but not insurmountable and we were soon in Dunroon for morning tea. The hills were still to come. With a strong NW wind behind us we climbed the first hill without too much bother then rode along through good dairying farmland albeit with the same wind now coming across us. The second hill was deceptive and most of us thought we have arrived to the top only to turn the corner and more + more! We finally achieved the top then rode along then down for our lunch stop near the

Saturday 7 December

We woke up early to a nice morning so went for a



Leaving Burnside Homestead for the final day on the trail.



Bruce and Alison dressed in period costume put on a sumptuous breakfast.

walk outside. We came across Alison, wearing

her maid uniform, in her vegetable garden gathering for our breakfast. This was the entrée for the formal breakfast served in the dining room.



Elderslie Stables where Phar Lap began.

Whilst we ate, Alison gave a history of the homestead and the associated Elderslie farming estate that at its height covered 35,000 acres. The homestead was bought by the Hudsons (of Cadbury Hudson fame) from Dunedin in 1930 and sold to the Albistons in 1974. Coming from Auckland, Bruce and Alison took a great deal of adjusting to the country life and after 45 years have decided to sell. We somewhat sadly left Bruce and Alison and headed towards the Elderslie Estate and stopped to look at the stables - where Phar Lap was bred - and to the site where the original Elderslie mansion stood before being destroyed by fire. Some real history to be seen. The former railway track, and now trail,

alongside the road was a gentle rolling ride and we were soon in Oamaru. We all rode onto the foreshore for our official finishing photo.

Weekly Humour - if you are amazed when you read how the grandmasters manage to manufacture the final trick from nothing you would appreciate how a debt can also be made to magically disappear in this story:



The finish in Oamaru!

It's a slow day in Napier and the streets are deserted. Times are tough, everybody is in debt, and everybody is living on credit. A tourist visiting the area drives through town, stops at a motel, and lays a \$100 bill on the desk saying he wants to inspect the rooms upstairs to pick one for the night. As soon as he walks upstairs, the motel owner grabs the bill and runs next door to pay the debt to the butcher. The butcher takes the \$100 and runs down the street to repay his debt to the pig farmer. The pig farmer takes the \$100 and heads off to pay his bill to his feed supplier, the Co-op. The guy at the Co-op takes the \$100 and runs to pay his debt to the local hooker, who has also been facing hard times and has had to offer her "services" on credit. The hooker rushes to the motel owner, the one she often uses for 1 hour appointments. The motel proprietor then places the \$100 back on the counter so the traveller will not suspect anything. At the moment the traveller comes down stairs, states that the rooms are not satisfactory, picks the \$100 bill and leaves. No one produced anything. No one earned anything. However, the whole town now thinks that they are out of debt and there is a false atmosphere of optimism and glee. and that, is how a "stimulus package" works.



Covid-19 and our recovery from the lockdown

- I came across this delightful video for your entertainment. It is a lovely blend of the good old competitive nature we all have, and the realisation

that we live in a beautiful country where we don't need to have overseas travel to see some spectacular places.

Enjoy the **Sweet As 100% Pure New Zealand** video on YouTube by following the following attachment

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZtK4XxEXt2E>

- **Grandchildren returning to school next Monday** - many of you will know of children about to go to school post lockdown. There is a great video on YouTube for children to watch to help them prepare and protect themselves. The link is pasted below

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yZvtoVrykb8&feature=youtu.be>

Finally, an oldie from years gone past was forwarded to me and it still sends shivers up my spine to listen to. Many of the performers are no longer with us but it does not detract from the enjoyment - **Sailing Away - All of Us** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K1Md20KNs98>

I hope all those "getaroundtoit" jobs have been completed and all members get the opportunity to enjoy the residual days of autumn. Keep up your handwashing standards and social distancing and we will hopefully see our case numbers of Covid-19 infections maintained at the current low levels.

Take care

Ash

Ash Fitchett
Newsletter Editor