



Taradale Bridge Club Incorporated

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December 2021 Newsletter

Hi Taradale Bridge Players

We have a number of new members on our committee and they have hit the ground running with extra meetings and catering for the best Christmas Party in my memory! The fundraising for the building project got an important double boost and the sign-off on the lease by the Council was another important milestone. No doubt members are busy filling in their bridge schedule for 2022 and would have noted the changes – especially for Monday morning, Tuesday and Thursday sessions.

Recent Club Results

Spoon Cuisine Handicap	Mike Williamson & Alison Williamson	1 st
	Lynne Bowcock & Sally Woods	2 nd

Other Tournament Results

The Hawke's Bay Christmas Tournament was run as a Swiss Pairs tournament, with several members doing very well. There were 34 pairs playing and Sylvia and Henny had a very meritorious win in the second to last round over two Gold Grandmasters (Scott Smith and Bob Hurley) to be leading into the last round.

Pair	Result
Sylvia Brown & Henny French	3 rd
Jane O'Brien & Jennie Turbitt	4 th
Alison & Mike Williamson	5 th

Volunteer standins - As a way of encouraging new members, the committee would like to promote our sessions by saying that anyone can turn up to any session, even without a partner. This would mean that we have a "spare" player at every session, so that if someone turns up without a partner they can still play. We would like to ask for volunteers who might be available, say once a month, to come along to a session prepared to play if necessary, and if they're not needed, then they just go home.

So if you're willing to do this, then contact Viv Pinkham who will collate the replies to get a roster organised. email: viv.pinkham5@gmail.com or Ph 021 717 407

NZ Bridge

- National Bridge Congress - We had to defer Congress from September this year but we have new dates for the same 2021 National Congress. The exact dates will be Thursday February 10th until Thursday February 17th. We have updated the Congress website to reflect this including new dates for each event. All events will be rescheduled. The most significant change will be that the Congress will start with New Zealand Open and Restricted Open Teams and finish with New Zealand Open and Restricted Open Pairs. We will still have a National Congress, Covid permitting. We are confident that as long as Tauranga remains orange or green that the Congress will take place, live. You will need to be double vaccinated to attend.

- Covid Advisory No 21 – **this is attached**
- Game Force bids – the rules around opening with such bids were revised in 2020 and published in NZ Bridge Manual, however there is still confusion around the change. Please read the **attached Game Force Bids document** – that includes the “Rule of 29” to clarify the bid.
- New Brand and Beginner’s website - Our current website is a wealth of resources and information ... but was targeted towards existing bridge players – We found new players and those curious about the game couldn’t easily find information about learning the game or request information. So we have developed a ‘landing page’ that we will use in our future PR and communications – www.playbridge.co.nz - and will essentially be our brochure to the non-bridge playing fraternity and capture enquiries from those keen to know more about the game ... and eventually where we will provide an online teaching portal. **See the attached for more information.**

At our AGM it was pleasing to announce the various prizes for members over the various bridge sessions for the past year.

Most Club Points gained:	
Monday AM Session (Murphy Cup)	Mary Burney
Monday PM Session (Garbutt Tray)	Kevin Holmes
Tuesday Session (Marjorie Nilson Vase)	Peter Ramsey
Wednesday Session Tray (played on Mon PM)	Lyn Bowcock
Thursday Session (Gwen Wilson Trophy)	Carolyn Yeomans
Overall Club Points (Mason Rosebowl)	Sheryn Thomson
Most improved Trophies:	
Most Improved Thursday Player (Joan Croskery Cup)	Theresa Bevin
Most Improved Monday Morning Player (June Lomas Cup)	Ngairie Billington
Championships:	
Monday Night Junior Championships (Summerset Trophy)	Alice Dravitzki / Dave Dravitzki
Senior Championship	Shona Richards / Lyn Bowcock
Top Intermediate Pair in Championship (Handyside Trays)	Kay Glenny / Bruce LeQuesne
Special Trophy	
Ngairie Bright Memorial Cup	Alison Hucker



Alison Hucker.

Congratulations to the players listed above. A special mention should go to Alison Hucker for her continued contribution to our club from behind the scenes – especially with running the Wednesday Learner’s sessions.

We had a number of committee members retiring and their contribution towards the club during somewhat difficult times was acknowledged. The thanks went to Margaret Hall, Margaret O’Leary, Margaret Williams (so many Margarets!), Doreen Nunn, Jan Davis, and Carolyn Yeomans. Several of these members are continuing to perform a vital role for the club from outside the current committee and that is to be applauded.

Princess Alexander Garden Visit – Last month we were invited by our Sponsor to visit the Princess Alexandra (PA) Village. It was a beautiful Bay Day and about 20 of us assembled at reception and were met by Shona and two of the Village gardeners. They took us up the walkways, as well as along pathways in between the village houses, to admire the amazing variety of plants that Spring has to offer and which all seem to be represented there. Many of

the owners seem to enjoy making their own plot look individual and attractive but it's the responsibility of the Village gardeners to attend to the public areas.

We were shown the lovely pool area and then were taken into the Library for a delicious coffee (from the Village Café) with scones. It was very pleasant couple of hours in a very attractive Retirement Village. Shona told us that there was a waiting list for houses/units in the Village and if a vacancy came up, it's those on the list who are 'cashed up' and ready to buy, who have the best chance of moving in.

Jan Davis.



Jan Davis enjoying the visit to the PA gardens.

Wednesday Learners Bridge - Following on from the beginners' lessons ably taught by Ruth,



The Wednesday coordinating team: From Left - Catherine Barker, Alison Hucker, Jan Davis, Helen Grant, & Ruth Spittle.

the group were offered the opportunity to continue consolidating what they'd learnt with informal coaching sessions on Wednesday afternoons. Participants enjoyed them so much that they kept being extended! It was a wonderful opportunity to progress in a non-threatening environment, get to know one another and most importantly, develop a passion to keep playing Bridge. This was only made possible by a number of willing helpers over the course of the year who offered meaningful support in different ways....thank you so much to you all. Alison Hucker, Jan Davis, Ruth Spittle, Catherine Barker and Helen Grant were the "mainstays". However, Alison, in particular, needs to be acknowledged for the tremendous amount of time and effort she put into co-ordinating these invaluable sessions. As an expression of gratitude, the participants provided afternoon tea after the final session.

Meg Rodel

Our Christmas Party - we have an amazing team of caterers within our club who, with other helpers, created a magnificent luncheon to cap off our bridge year. Together with the good news of our building fundraising efforts, the lunch, the decorations, and the positive attitude of members gave a great vibe throughout the afternoon. This highlighted what a great club we are. The catering team, led by Debbie Gibson and Shona Richards, deserve special thanks for making such lovely food, which began our great afternoon.



Christmas Party Lunch. Left: Raewyn Davidson & Debbie Gibson proudly show the beautifully glazed ham; Right: Serving up from left – Shona Richards, Viv Pinkham, Linda Smith, Raewyn, Chris Hagen, and Jo Hayes.



The Bridge Room was beautifully set up and everyone got into the Christmas spirit – all we missed was a visit from Santa and his reindeer!

From the President's Desk



A huge thank you to everyone who helped to make our Christmas Party such a success. There have been many positive comments. Special thanks to our catering organisers Debbie Gibson and Shona Richards.

Thank you also to all of you who contribute to the smooth running of our club: the convenors, the dealers, the directors, the committees, and all those who help with the day to day tasks. Thank you all members for your patience with the compromises of operating out of rooms that are not our own, especially the difficulty of trying to keep the room cool at this time of year. Your assistance and support are very much appreciated. And thank you to Lodge Oamaru for allowing us to share

their premises. I am sure it is very inconvenient for them at times to have us there. We have been extremely fortunate to have suitable and safe premises from which to run our sessions. We have come a long way this year towards our new clubrooms becoming a reality. It was a year ago that the Napier City Council approved our application to build on Council reserve land. Now we are ready to start the build, hopefully next month. I think I can confidently say that next year's Christmas party will be in our own rooms.

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year to you all. 2022 will be an exciting year for our club.
Jo Hayes

Building Update

This last month we have made substantial progress towards the building becoming a reality.

- The Napier City Council has officially approved us leasing reserve land on which to build, subject to there being no objections during the 30 day public notification period which expires on 24 December. We have been advised that there have been no objections so far.
- We have secured a corporate sponsor who will make a substantial contribution to our building fund.
- Our application to the Lottery Grants Board was successful and we will receive \$74 000.
- Yesterday we received a draft copy of the NCC lease. The lease would begin on 24 December 2021 provided no objections to the public notification is received. The initial annual will be \$1500+GST. The draft document will be perused. The NCC officer indicated there was very little opportunity to make any changes as it is a standard council lease for clubs leasing reserve land.
- We have received the quote for the shell from Coresteel, and as you are aware the costs of building materials and the freight has increased hugely. The price is a lot higher than the original estimate. We arranged a meeting with Coresteel this Tuesday. The outcome is we will need to continue to fund raise to ensure we start our occupancy debt free.

Fundraising

YTD, including November, (from 1 October 2020) we have raised \$8436 from the additional \$1 table money and raffles etc.

The latest cost estimates however have risen substantially and there is a shortfall of tens of thousands of dollars.

We would very much welcome any donations from members (don't forget we are a registered charity so you can claim a third of the donation) .

From the Committee

- Charity Tournament – we are looking for ideas of whom we should make our charity for the tournament on 29 May next year. Please talk to a committee member with your ideas.

Monthly Humour – Sometimes in playing bridge, one has to think and react smoothly but relatively quickly – a hesitation in bidding for instance can silence your partner from the bidding sequence. This month's humour displays similar good reactions

I was sat on the bus this morning, when I noticed the beautiful young woman sitting next to was reading a book entitled "Strange But True Sexual Facts". "is it interesting?" I asked. "Yes", she replied, "for instance, did you know that the North American Red Indian man has the longest genitalia in the world, and the Irish man has the thickest?" "Oh, I am sorry", she continued, "my name is Helen, and what's yours?" she asked.

"Tonto O'Riley" I replied.

A special thanks to Sally Woods for the great job with the 2022 membership Booklet.

Reminders

- Have a great Christmas
- Monday 3 January – bridge starts for 2022!
- 10-17th February – National Bridge Congress Mt Maunganui.

Ash

Ash Fitchett
Newsletter Editor