



**Taradale Bridge Club
Incorporated**

P O Box 7051 Taradale, Napier 4141

Jo Hayes 835 2452
& Jan Davis 843 7066 (Co-Presidents)
Trish Patterson (Secretary) 844 5179

January 2020 Newsletter

Hi Taradale Bridge Players

We wish all members the very best of bridge for the new year and that your goals are all achieved. I happened to watch the TV on New Year’s Eve where an English visitor was asked for his New Year resolution. He responded, “for 2019, I resolved to lose 20 lb, and I still have 22lb to go!” The bridge year has got off to a cracking start with Lyn Bowcock’s Improver Lessons attracting 52 participants on the first evening. **We have an important meeting with the Napier City Council and invite all our club members to come along in support.** Our next decade of bridge started on a sad note with the passing of Chris Stack, our vibrant past president, on Sunday 5 January.

Membership

1. Thanks to those who have paid their subs – a large number already. Remember to pick up your Membership booklet from the table in the foyer.
2. New members whose details are not in the new booklet:

Graham Budd	Full member for 3months. From Vancouver Island.	020 4183 1582
Marg Budd	Full member for 3months. From Vancouver Island.	
Allison Armstrong	New associate member, home club Napier	022 461 1050
Julie Wright	Returning player	835 8102

Upcoming tournaments, being run by Taradale Bridge or local Clubs -

- 22 February - Taradale Intermediate Pairs 5B
- **Other Club Tournaments**
- 9 February - Napier restricted 8B - **see attachment**
- 29 February - Taupo Intermediate Pairs 5B

During January, Lyn Bowcock is running Improver Lessons on the Monday evenings instead of the Summer Individual competition. This commenced on 6 January with 52 people attending week one and 65 in week two! A fantastic start to the bridge year and obviously the place to go for tips on improving your play. Also read the Larry Cohern’s article below about thinking from trick one!

Results – as you are no doubt aware several bridge sessions have the winners accumulated over the whole year i.e. Monday morning, Monday evening, Tuesday afternoon, and Thursday afternoon. The Wednesday evening bridge sessions are accumulated over a month and the recent results for those have the following winners of the month

Competition	Winners
Christmas Individual (Wednesday Night) -	Megan Eddy*

*In the Christmas Individual there were 0.53% separating the top three individuals with Chris Hagen second closely followed by Sue Lambourn.



Chris Stack - always liked red and other vibrant colours!

Chris Stack - Past President.

Chris passed away in the morning of 5 January after a courageous battle with cancer. Chris's contribution to our bridge club either as a player, a committee member, or through her two years as President was significant. Her unique personality in the bridge room will be remembered fondly and sorely missed. Chris and I were part of a large group who learnt our bridge craft under Cynthia Clayton and Janet Rolls at the Napier Club and Chris's character became readily known to all. As fledging Juniors, Chris and I were matched to play the second month together in the Junior evening sessions. I didn't actually know her name so wrote my name on the next month's list as "Ash and Rowdy". Sylvia Brown, who was the Junior convenor, using her initiative understood immediately who my partner was. When Chris was doing well in a session, her table was notably quieter than when her bridge day was not going quite so well. Some years later, Chris and I were playing a series and I bid 4♣ asking for her ace count. We were doing CRO responses, or so I thought. However Chris's response was obviously incorrect to me and when she laid down her hand I discovered we had a new response system - which we then called ORC! From that day on we always confirmed our ace asking system as ORC. Chris's caring and generous nature was demonstrated many times as a mother, club president, and throughout her working life as a paediatric and special care unit nurse. During her illness, Chris took on the challenge with her usual positive manner playing whatever bridge tournaments were on offer. Our lives will be the poorer for losing her. Our sincere condolences to Mark, her husband, and family.

Ash

2020 Regrading of our full club members

Congratulations to the club members listed below who have been regraded for 2020. There will no doubt have other associate members who have also been regraded but their "home" club will have that information

Name	Grade 2019	Grade 2020
Linstead Castle-Allen	Junior	Intermediate
Colleen McGettigan	Junior	Intermediate
Murray Mills	Junior	Intermediate
Doreen Nunn	Junior	Intermediate
Margaret Vaughan	Junior	Intermediate
Robyn Andersen	Intermediate	Open
Joy Rose	Intermediate	Open



From The Co-President Desk

The pre-Christmas build-up takes weeks of planning and anticipation and then in a few days -it's all over! However, I hope that everyone enjoyed Christmas and made the most of being with family and/or friends. Already we're over a week into 2020, but The New Year has had its sad notes with the passing of Chris Stack - who gave so much to our Club as a keen, good player, a fun partner, and a valued committee member. Personally, I find it hard to watch the News and see the devastation and loss from the fires in Australia and learn that over a Billion helpless animals have perished already. So I think of the last thing in Pandora's Box and HOPE that soon, things will improve.

On a happier note, It was great to see so many keen member return to the Bridge table last week and I hope that this year gives us all something to look forward to in many ways

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Jan Davis, Co-President

Taradale Bridge Club Rooms Update

The most important news is that we have a date with the Napier City Council: 10am, 30 January. The Business Case is complete (a very big task largely carried out by Neil and Ash) and we are now preparing the presentation for that meeting. We have up to 10 minutes at the Public Forum in which to convince the Council to provide us with some suitable land so it is very important that we get this right. We would welcome lots of support at this meeting.

Whilst we have a healthy sum in the bank it is likely that we will need additional funding to build what we require so we are making preliminary enquiries to see what grants are available. This Friday we are meeting with Sandy Keen from the Lottery Community Facilities Fund. Last month Neil and I met with Rose Artemiev from the Eastern and Central Community Trust, a group that makes grants to community groups. We would be applying to their Community Assets & Facilities Fund, designed for larger, new build projects. The grants can be quite generous, especially if more than one club would be using the premises. To that end we continue to seek other groups and clubs that may be interested in sharing the premises. We have contacted the NCC Community Strategies person who sent out an email to all the clubs she has on her database. From this we had a call from the Napier City Country Music Club and we are meeting with them this week. We contacted SportsHB. We also have a letter of interest from U3A. Following a meeting with the CEO of HB Rugby Union, Jay Campbell, we are writing to their Board to ask if we could be incorporated in their future building plans, with our own room but shared toilet and kitchen facilities. We have previously met with the Pirates Rugby Club but it appears they won't be ready to build for another year or two.

Jo Hayes

Fundraising

The committee is looking to raise some funds to help pay for the furnishing of our new building. If you have any ideas please email them to the Club or else hand a note to any committee member. Carolyn Yeomans, Committee.

Bridge with Larry Cohern - Larry's Advice (A New Bridge Magazine November 2019)

"Think at Trick One!" This is a theme I constantly try to drill into students. I am still drilling. So many hands are lost at trick one due to failure to think. Usually, this is associated with declarer play, but defenders, too, must think at trick one. Here is a recent example from a deal I played in a knockout teams:

You hold:

♠ A72

♥ K 10

♦ K72

♣ 86543

The dealer on your right opens 1♣. The eventual dummy, on your left responds 1♥. RHO rebids 1♠ and LHO bids 2♦, 4th suit Game Forcing. RHO bids 2NT, raised to 3NT:

West You	North	East	South
-	-	-	1♣
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦*(4 th suit game force)	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

It sounds like they are prepared for all four suits. You try a ♣, selecting the 6. You don't want to lead low, because that will encourage partner to continue the suit. When he sees your highish spot, maybe he can read it as from a bunch of low cards, and switch if appropriate. Down comes the dummy:

North
♠ KQ10
♥ AJ97
♦ Q10982
♣ 10

West (you)
♠ A72
♥ K10
♦ K72
♣ 86543

Declarer thinks about the hand for maybe 10 seconds, then tries dummy's ♣10. Your partner plays the ♣J and declarer thinks some more. What are you thinking? Are you thinking? Are you daydreaming? Is this hand too difficult (they made all those bids, alerted, etc.)? Should I just wade through this deal and hope I don't have to do anything important and just wait for the next deal which might be simpler and more fun? What was the bidding again? Why are you bothering me with this?

Here are the many things to consider: What is the club situation? Declarer was maybe hoping dummy's 10 would hold. Partner's jack is making him think. Declarer won't have ace-king-nine - he would take partner's jack without being too troubled. Partner would have played the king with king-jack (third-hand high), so the most likely scenario is that partner has queen-jack (if he had only the jack, declarer wouldn't be thinking). Also partner rates to have the 9. (Again, declarer would not be thinking so long with ace-king-nine). So it looks as if you might have hit partner with the QJ9 of clubs - a good lead for a change.

Did your thinking end there? I hope not. Are you ready for trick two? What if declarer wins the club and plays a spade? In general, it is never good to play second-hand high. Grabbing your ace will almost always help declarer in these situations. Not only will it help his timing and entries, but he might be missing the ♠J, and face a guess in this suit. You don't know enough about the full deal yet, so the best policy would be to duck and to do so smoothly! If you think about it at trick 2, you will be telling declarer where the ace is. So you should be getting yourself ready for a spade play at trick 2 (smooth duck).

Is that all? No. What if declarer leads a low diamond from hand at trick 2? Again, you should follow general principles. Be prepared to duck, and to duck smoothly. Don't give away the location of the king.

Are you still thinking? Are you ready for a heart at trick two? This is a (rare) situation where you should actually play second hand high! If declarer has the queen, he is always entitled to four heart tricks - your play won't matter. But if your partner has the queen, and you play the 10, dummy's jack will go to partner's queen. This will simplify the suit and the entries for declarer. Meanwhile, if you hop up with the king, he will have more difficulty. He might duck (playing you for king-queen). Even if he does win the ace, he will have to come back to his hand in some other suit to lead hearts again (he doesn't know your ten is falling). Lastly, if he happens to have ♥Q83, he might win the ace and finesse into your ♥10 on the next round of hearts.

Do you play Smith Echo? This is a wonderful defensive signalling method. When declarer starts his suit (for the first time), you don't give count. Instead, you tell partner if you are happy with the opening-lead suit. Playing high-low says "I like the opening lead." Playing low-high says "try some other suit - not the suit our partnership led at trick 1." This method applies to either defender (opening leader or third hand). Almost all experts use this method. If you are playing Smith Echo, it is a good (ethical) idea to try to make your signal without lots of thought. So in addition to all the above thinking, you should be ready to play the right Smith card. On a heart play, your king won't mean anything (honours are honours). BUT - if declarer plays a spade or a diamond, you plan to duck. Which spot you duck with will send a message. Are you happy with clubs? Do you want partner to continue? If so, you will follow (smoothly) with the ♠7 or ♦7. If

not, you will play the deuce of that suit. In fact, declarer does cross in spades. When dummy's king wins, he plays the ♦ 10 and lets it run. And you? Were you ready for a smooth duck of your ♦ K?

I'll leave you here. The full deal is not important. I just wanted to illustrate how many things there are to think about. The time to do this thinking is at trick one. Part of good defence is not only knowing what to do, but being able to do it in tempo when the time comes. The way to become a good defender is to think through all of these matters at trick one. You must give every deal your full concentration. And yes, I suppose some of you are wondering about slow play. You can't sit there forever at trick one - sometimes you can't prepare for everything.

Smith Echo

Smith Echo is a defensive signalling method (usually used only against notrump) and quite popular amongst experts. Playing hi-lo in the first suit declarer plays says nothing about that suit. It sends a message about the suit the defence has led at trick one. Hi-lo means "I like the opening lead suit." Lo-hi means "I don't like it." This signal is used by both defenders and requires lots of judgment and inference. If count is important (for example, a long entryless suit is in dummy), then that overrides the Smith signal.

Example 1

The opening leader has ♠KJ976 and ♦82. He leads a low spade and dummy has ♠xxx. Third hand plays the ♠Q (yeah!) and declarer wins the ace. Declarer plays diamonds. The opening leader plays the ♦8 to say: "I like spades."

Example 2

The opening leader has ♠108762, ♦82 and ♥AQ10x. He leads a low spade and dummy has ♠Jxx and ♥xxx. Third hand plays the ♠K and declarer wins the ace. Declarer plays diamonds. The opening leader plays the ♦2 to say: "I don't like spades; try something else." (Usually, partner can figure out from the context what that "else" means.)

Example 3

Third hand has ♠QJ102. His partner leads a low spade and dummy plays low with ♠xx. The ten forces the ace. Declarer now plays diamonds. With such a great spade holding, 3rd hand plays hi-lo in diamonds to tell partner to persist with spades when he gets in.

Monthly Humour – psych bidding is more common with play in the higher grades, however as demonstrated below, not telling the full story with your bidding may have benefits!

A Mafia Godfather finds out that his bookkeeper, Guido, has cheated him out of \$10 million. His bookkeeper is deaf and dumb. That was the reason he got the job in the first place. It was assumed that Guido would hear nothing so he would not have to testify in court. When the Godfather goes to confront Guido about his missing \$10 million, he takes along his lawyer who knows sign language. The Godfather tells the lawyer, "Ask him where the money is!" The lawyer, using sign language, asks Guido, Where's the money? Guido signals back, "I don't know what you are talking about." The lawyer tells the Godfather, "He says he doesn't know what you're talking about." The Godfather pulls out a pistol, puts it to Guido's head and says, "Ask him again or I'll kill him!" The lawyer signals to Guido, "He'll kill you if you don't tell him." Guido trembles and signals, "OK! You win! The money is in a brown briefcase, buried behind the shed at my cousin Bruno's house. The Godfather asks the lawyer, "What did he say?" The lawyer replies, "He says *@## you, you don't have the balls to pull the trigger."



Improver Lessons - 65 people attending week two listen carefully to Lyn Bowcock

A Special Thanks - to the club members who supported Chris Stack and her family through the last months.

Reminders

- **30 January 10.00 am: - Napier City Council Meeting - all members welcome to come along and support our 10 minute presentation. They have space for 80!!**
- January - Monday Evening Sessions - Improver lessons
- 9 February - Napier Restricted Tournament
- 22 February - Taradale Intermediate Tournament

Ash

Ash Fitchett
Newsletter Editor