



Taradale Bridge Club Incorporated

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March 2020 Newsletter

Hi Taradale Bridge Players

The bridge tournament calendar is getting busy with plenty of opportunities for our club members to play. Don't also forget the HB Bridge Congress 29 May - 1 June. It was with sadness that one of our lovely lady members passed away after a short illness. The lessons have commenced under the careful tutelage of Ruth Spittle and we look forward to the new members getting enjoyment of the game of bridge. The threat of Covid-19 virus is ever present and I will [attach the information sheet](#) we circulated by email recently as a reminder.

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

- 21 March - Lawson Jugs 8B
- **Other Club Tournaments**
- 28 March - Hastings Open Teams
- 29 March - Napier Charity - in aid of Dementia Hawke's Bay - *See attached Flyer*
- 4 April - Dannevirke Open Pairs 5A
- 5 April - Napier Intermediate Pairs 5B - NOTE This is a Sunday

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
New Partner Pairs (Wednesday Night) -	Trish Peters & Megan Eddy



Margaret Atkins

Margaret Atkins - It is with sadness that Margaret Atkins, a long-standing member of our club, has passed away after a short illness. Margaret was a well liked, gentle, quiet, and canny bridge player with a lovely dry sense of humour. Although born and raised in the area, as was her late husband, she had spent most of her adult life in the Wellington area where she took up bridge. She joined the Club in 1998, on their return to the Bay upon their retirement. She regularly played on Monday morning, and Tuesday afternoon, and was happy to play either Acol or Five card majors according to her partner's preference. Margaret was also an excellent sewer and knitter - having contributed over 1000 knitted teddys to the Children's Ward at Hawke's Bay Hospital. Margaret was strongly community minded and very organised. Her "weakness" was a Rush Munro Maple Walnut ice cream! This kind lady will be sadly missed by all club members and her many friends.

Taradale Intermediate Pairs Results - this well run tournament featured several of our club members in session prizes, although the top two places went to Havelock North pairs.

First	Michael Caris & David Cormack
Second	Rachele Bertoldi & Diana King
Third	Ron & Yvonne Janes - From Taradale!!
Session Winners outside place getters	Maggie Reddington & Viv Pinkham 1 st morning
	Viv Howles & Trish Murphy 2 nd morning
	Barbara Twyford & Jennie Turbitt 1 st afternoon
	Dave Halliday & Neil McDonald 3 rd afternoon



Intermediate Pairs Winners - from left Michael Caris & David Cormack

From the Committee

- Raffle - Currently the security costs per session exceed the additional amount collected. It has been decided to initiate money raffles to help make up this shortfall. The first raffle will commence on Thursday 19 March so remember to bring an extra \$2 for your winning ticket.
- Emergency Contact Details - we have revised the Health & Safety Policy and we now require an emergency contact number for each member to be recorded in our club rooms. Please phone/email these details to the committee.

- Player Unwell Guidelines - in conjunction with the above, we are

currently revising these guidelines and they will be available alongside the emergency contact details when completed.

- End of Play for Sessions - we greatly value our conveners for our sessions and must support them at the end of play every session. Each table of players should take responsibility for ensuring:
 - The Boards, Table Number, and Bridge Pad are returned to the central table
 - The used bidding sheets and other rubbish is removed into the bins
 - Mugs and glasses are put into the dishwasher and turned on by someone.
 - The coffee/tea urn is tidied and benches wiped
 - The chairs are neatly placed back under the table
 - Thank the convener for the great job they are doing!!

From The Co-President Desk



Wearing my Social Almoner hat, it has been a busy month so far with more than double the average number of members having surgery or health set-backs. To add to the cards sent to each (that I hear about), we wish everyone all the best for a speedy recovery - and look forward to seeing them again at the Bridge table. On a personal note, I am still looking back on a wonderful week spent at the Gold Coast Bridge Congress. It is reputed to be the largest Bridge Tournament in the Southern Hemisphere and it seems to me, that each time I go there are even more players taking part. The variety of systems, and hands, make it very stimulating. Competing in the Open section, with well over a hundred pairs competing in the event, it is gratifying to be in the top half (or

quarter) of the field. I highly recommend that if you haven't had the Gold Coast experience, add it to your Bridge calendar for the future.

Taradale Bridge Club Rooms Update - We are very much in waiting mode with nothing to report this month. No word yet from the HB Rugby Union so we assume our request will be considered at their board meeting this month. We will be following up with them if we have not heard back by the end of the month. Our request to the Napier City Council is being considered at a Council committee meeting on 9 April which should result in approval in principal. This approval then goes to a full Council meeting later in April to be ratified. Of course, this approval would just be the start of the project and we have been advised that actual building won't be able to begin for at least 12 months.

Napier Bridge Club Special General Meeting - those club members who also belong to the Napier Club will be aware of their committee calling a meeting to discuss a resolution sponsored by their committee. They subsequently decided to withdraw this although continued with the meeting to hear their members views. The Taradale Bridge Club had not been consulted regarding the resolution/SGM and our members will recall the letter we sent Napier stating that the new building project was currently a priority. Members of our Club attended the SGM this evening and the outcome was strong general support for both Napier and Taradale Bridge Club committees getting together and discussing the opportunity to work together for the future.

Hand of the Week - for those who like short bridge quizzes where you compare your next bid against a range of experts try registering on line to receive their weekly bidding test. This website link takes you to the American Contract Bridge page then look under *It's Your Call/Retro Edition*. <https://bridgefeed.acbl.org/category/tips-tools/> . Click on *Read more* where you can subscribe at the bottom of the page.

Monday Evening Sessions - With the move to Napier club rooms we want to update the names of members who would be free to be on a ringing list to join us at short notice if we are short of a partner on Monday nights 7pm sessions. It doesn't happen too often, but saves us embarrassing new players or the Director. Could volunteers please contact me at 835 0884? Many thanks Murray Mills.

Bridge with Larry Cohen (A New Bridge Magazine December 2019)

2♣ Opener (What do you need?)

What should your HCP requirements be for a 2♣ opener? Again, with a balanced hand, there is no decision. With unbalanced hands such as A,B,C above, it is a matter of personal preference. Some people count losers or quick tricks. Others insist on having a certain number of aces or HCP. I tend to open 2♣ more than most people, fearing that my one-level opening could be followed by three passes. I'd probably open 2♣ with all of these hands. That doesn't make it right; many experts would open 1♠ with all three hands. All of those hands are much too strong for a 4♠ opening.

For now, let's presume that 2♣ (artificial) is the only suit bid to depict a strong hand. (In the old days, all 2-level openings were strong, but sanity has since prevailed.) What do I mean by "strong?" If your strong hand is balanced, I can tell you an exact point range. Presuming a 2NT opener is 20-21, then when 2♣ is opened with a balanced hand it shows 22+ HCP.

What if unbalanced? This is a pet peeve of mine. After an opening 2♣, an opponent asks: "How many points?" Poor question. It has no good answer. (And why ask in the first place – does it matter to you? Will you interfere or not interfere depending on the answer? By the way, if you do interfere, make sure you and your partner know what double shows – typically clubs).

Anyway, if balanced, the answer (if you are silly enough to ask what 2♣ shows) is easy: more than a 2NT opener. But what about unbalanced hands? Who is to say which (if any) of these hands are worth 2♣:

♠AKQJ1098	♠AKJ96542	♠KQJ10987
♥AQJ2	♥—	♥—
♦5	♦AK42	♦KQJ
♣4	♣5	♣KQJ

The HCP for each hand above are 17, 15, and 18, respectively. Depending on which experts you asked, you'd get votes for opening 2♣ with A,B,C, none, or all. There is no right answer! That is why it is silly to ask your opponent: "How many points does 2♣ show?" What should your HCP requirements be for a 2♣ opener? Again, with a balanced hand, there is no decision. With unbalanced hands such as A,B,C above, it is a matter of personal preference. Some people count losers or quick tricks. Others insist on having a certain number of aces or HCP. I tend to open 2♣ more than most people, fearing that my one-level opening could be followed by three passes. I'd probably open 2♣ with all of these hands. That doesn't make it right; many experts would open 1♠ with all three hands. All of those hands are much too strong for a 4♠ opening.

Another consideration is: "How hard will it be to show my hand if I open 2♣?"

For example, consider this hand: ♠AQJ2 ♥32 ♦A ♣AKQ1087

If you open 2♣, your next call will be 3♣. It might be hard to find a 4-4 spade fit. Meanwhile, if you open 1♣ (and survive, i.e., it doesn't go 1♣-P-P-P), you will get to jump in spades next, getting the hand "off your chest." For such awkward hands, I tend to risk a one-level opening.

Monthly Humour – bridge bidding can be tricky and sometimes it pays to simply rush in and go for game regardless of the consequences - as the mature fire fighters did on this occasion!

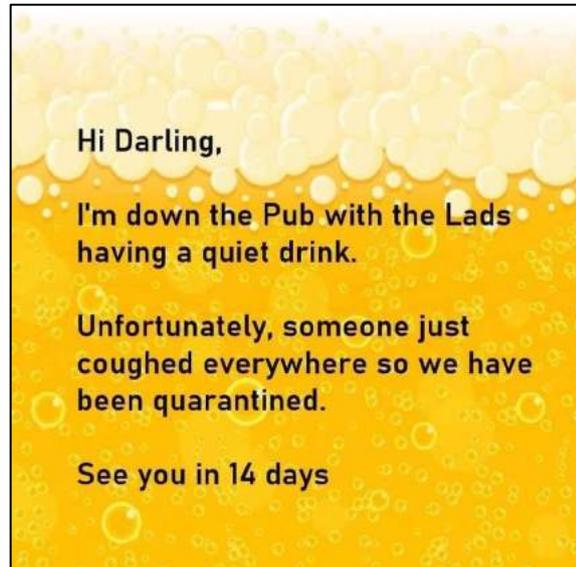
The bravest fire fighters

One dark night in a local township a fire started inside the chemical plant and in a blink of an eye, it exploded into massive flames. The alarm went out to all the fire departments for miles around. When the volunteer firefighters appeared on the scene, the chemical company president rushed to the fireman in charge and said, "All our secret formulas are in the vault in the centre of the plant... They must be saved. I will give \$50,000 to the fire department that brings them out intact." But the roaring flames held the firefighters off. Soon more fire departments had to be called in as the situation became desperate. As the firemen arrived, the president shouted out that the offer was now \$100,000 to the fire station who could bring out the company's secret files. But still, the fire companies could not get through. From the distance, a lone siren was heard as another fire truck came into sight. It was the nearby rural township volunteer fire company, composed mainly of fighters over the age of 65. To everyone's amazement, that little run-down fire engine roared right past all the newer sleek engines that were parked outside the plant... Without even slowing down it drove straight into the middle of the inferno. Outside, the other firemen watched as the old timers jumped off right in the middle of the fire and fought it back on all sides. It was a performance and effort never seen before. Within a short time, they had extinguished the fire and had saved the secret formulas. The grateful chemical company president announced that for such a superhuman feat he was upping the reward to \$200,000, and walked over to personally thank each of the brave firefighters. The local TV station caught the thank you on film and asked the fire chief, "What are you going to do with all that money?" "Well," said the 70-year-old fire chief, "The first thing we gonna do is fix the brakes on that damn fire truck!"

Covid-19 - while we are all (hopefully) taking the threat of this viral transmission seriously - staying away from bridge with any illness, and thorough washing of hands - we can take time out to consider the impact of this on our cousins in Australia. I have an Australian brother-in-law and couldn't resist sending him the first image on how to combat Covid-19. He quickly replied with



image 2 showing how he has isolated himself to avoid harming his family. Aussies - No surprises there!



A Special Thanks - to the helpers and home cooking gurus for assisting with our Intermediate and upcoming Lawson Jugs tournaments.

Reminders

- 21 March - Lawson Jugs 8B - get your registrations in asap!
- 28 March - Hastings Open Teams
- 29 March - Napier Charity
- 29 May-1 June - Hawke's Bay Bridge Congress
- Remember good hand washing before eating and if unwell, **please** stay away from bridge until recovered

Ash

Ash Fitchett
Newsletter Editor