



Taradale Bridge Club Incorporated

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April 2019 Newsletter

Hi Taradale Bridge Players

The bridge tournament season is in full swing and a number of club members have performed with distinction. We urge all club members to enter into the upcoming Hawke's Bay Congress that runs over a series of days of Queen's Birthday Weekend. For those junior and intermediate players, this is a special opportunity as your games will be played in our Bridge Room at the Taradale Club so the surrounds will be very familiar!



ANZAC tree in Napier. We had a good number of club members at the Hastings Charity that was run on the afternoon

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

- **31 May – 3 June: Hawke's Bay Congress at Taradale Club**
- 16 June – Taradale Charity (Sunday)
- 6 July – Taradale Junior Pairs

Also

- 25 May – Waipukurau Intermediate/Junior Pairs 5B
- 22 June – Hastings Intermediate Teams
- 29 June – Dannevirke Junior/Intermediate Pairs

From The Co-President Desk



Despite our committee being temporarily depleted due to absences – for holiday and family reasons, it was great to see the rest of the team step up and take over the many roles that your committee fill. I especially thank Chris Hagen, Margaret Hall, Ash Fitchett, and Margaret O'Leary who worked so hard to make our Tierney Teams event run so smoothly. It was sad to receive Chris Stack's resignation from the committee, for health reasons, as she has made such a valuable contribution for some years.

However, we look forward to seeing her lovely smile and friendly personality at the Bridge table again soon. We all hope that Chris and Jo are making the most of their holidays overseas. We are always looking for new committee members who want to contribute to our Club, so please don't feel shy in coming forward.

Club Bridge 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
Ada Kelly Pairs (Wednesday Night)	Chris Stack & Diana Lees



Diana Lees and Chris Stack - winners of the Ada Kelly Pairs

Currently the Monday and Wednesday evening groups are part way through their pairs championships, so best of luck to those participating. We encourage players graded above junior to come along Wednesday night rather than Monday evening whilst the junior championships are being run.

Tournament Successes

Hastings Charity – Julian Herbert and Jane O’Brien came a meritorious second (East/West).

Interprovincial trials – we had probably a record number of club members taking part in the Central Districts Inter Provincial Trials in Wanganui earlier this month. Diane Pye, Henny French and Robyn Anderson were in the Intermediate section; Carolyn Yeomans, Diana Lees, Yvonne Whittle and Noel Woodhall contested the Senior/Women’s section; and Francey Rolls and Ken Carmichael were in the Open section. Congratulations to all for giving the trials an earnest effort. From these intensive trials, Noel has been selected to represent

Central Districts in the Senior section so special congratulations Noel!

Taradale Tierney teams – we ran this tournament on Saturday 18 May with the twelve competing

teams well directed by Peter Ramsey – who has recently joined our club. The overall winners were Caroline Yeomans, Noel Woodhall, Alistair Buchanan (Taradale Club members) and Peter Collinge.



2019 Tierney Teams winners L-R: Alistair Buchanan, Noel Woodhill, Carolyn Yeomans, and Peter Collinge

From the Committee –

- Charity Tournament this is being held on Sunday 16 June and the charity chosen is Hawke’s Bay Cancer Society. **Could members playing bring a small gift for the prize table.**

- Bridge Room Key – A spare key is attached in a lock

box attached to the door. If you are not privy to the combination to unlock the box then a spare key is also available from the Taradale Club Office.

- A reminder to all club members that the air conditioning is set to automatically start prior to the commencement of our routine week sessions. Please do not override this to Manual mode as invariably those people omit to reset the switch to Automatic when they leave. This causes an unnecessary wastage of power. The heat pump in the corner of the room is turned on/off by the hand control and it is also imperative that if turned on then must be turned off before leaving.

Opening Leads – against Suit contract

The one advantage the defenders have against the declarer is having the opening lead where you can attack the opponents and try and get sufficient tricks to defeat the contract. Use this opportunity to tell partner your preferences and/or support your partner to defeat the contract. Look at the bidding carefully – does it suggest any weaknesses or did the opposition finally settle

on a suit after bidding another? Ask any questions of the opponents if necessary to clarify suit length (and strength) of bids? When you lead, tell your partner if you like the suit where possible a low lead encourages; high discourages.

Prefer a suit bid by partner

- Lead an encouraging card if you have an honour of partner's suit
- Can lead another suit IF
 - You hold A-K or K-Q-J of that suit
 - You and partner have 10 cards of partner's suit and the most you will get is one trick AND you have a singleton **plus** the control of trumps e.g. A-x. The plan is to regain the lead when trumps are lead **then** lead partner's suit to allow partner to give you a ruff. If you hold A-Q of partner's suit and are not certain from bidding if partner has the K

Avoid suits bid by opposition

- Risky to lead suit bid by declarer and rarely attractive to lead suit bid by dummy – consider a trump lead. If you have to lead dummy's suit, lead the second bid suit. It is not attractive to lead a doubleton hoping for a ruff as it takes too long to set up for a ruff and you will probably kill partner's honor in that suit.
- "Lead through strength" principle does not apply for opening leads and there must be strong evidence that partner is very short of the suit rather than declarer.

Lead unbid suit if partner has not bid

- When dummy has a 5 card side suit – and you are not strong in that suit – lead an unbid suit. **Do not** lead the long suit in dummy **or** trumps. Declarer will draw trumps then use dummy's long suit to discard losers in the unbid suits.
- **Great suits to lead**
 - A 3 card or longer sequence e.g. K-Q-J sets up tricks with minimal risk
 - Suits headed by A-K – allows a look at dummy + check for any signal from partner
 - Lead a singleton is good when you have few points and worthless trumps. Check what points partner may have – if he has none then singleton lead is a waste of time.

Avoid the "crap" leads

- An A high suit without the K
- Leading a doubleton honor
- Singleton trump (my pet hate from partner that usually kills my trump honor)
- Leading from a suit with one honor e.g. J-x-x-x-x

Trump Leads

- When dummy has not indicated a long side suit for declarer's discards and your trump holding is safe e.g. x-x, x-x-x, A-x (lead A), A-x-x (led low) or K-x-x. With 4-5 trump rags and having also a long suit, lead that suit to force declarer to ruff. Dangerous trump leads are J-x, 10-x, Q-x-x, K-Q-x, A-J-x
- Trump leads are good if:
 - Declarer has shown a two suiter and dummy has chosen one e.g. 1S:1NT:2H:pass – and you are strong in the other suit = spades in this instance. Also with unusual 2NT and declarer has chosen one suit so will try and ruff out the other suit
 - Declarer or dummy has 4-4-4-1 shape and no long suit discards so leading trumps will stop their ruffing
 - Each opponent bids a suit and settle on a third suit, so leading trumps will stop cross ruffing.
 - Your side seems to have the majority of the points and they are bidding on shape and probably expect to ruff.
- Trump leads **are not good when:**
 - Dummy has not shown good support for declarer and a lead could trap partner's good trump
 - Dummy has a long useful suit – lead an unbid suit

- Your trump is a singleton
- You have a good trump holding

Leads against suit slams

- Grand Slams – lead as safe as possible and a trump lead can be safe **but never a singleton trump**. A solid sequence is better than a trump
- Small Slams – a sequence such as A-K if available
 - Led a singleton if partner has A or A of trumps. Prefer an unbid suit especially if you have a sequence e.g. K-Q or Q-J. Avoid leading A of a suit they have bid, however leading an A of an unbid suit is okay

Monthly Humour – sometimes the opposition bidding may not be as it initially seems. Not being upfront in life can also have benefits as the following story shows.

Bob, a 70-year-old, extremely wealthy widower, shows up at the Country Club with a breathtakingly beautiful and very sexy 25-year-old blonde-haired woman who knocks everyone's socks off with her youthful sex appeal and charm and who hangs over Bob's arm and listens intently to his every word. His mates at the club are all aghast. At the very first chance, they corner him and ask, 'Bob, how'd you get the trophy girlfriend?'

Bob replies, 'Girlfriend? She's my wife!'

They are knocked over, but continue to ask.' So, how'd you persuade her to marry you?'



Margaret's flower arrangement

'I lied about my age,' Bob replies.

'What, did you tell her you were only 50?'

Bob smiles and says, 'No, I told her I was 95.'

Thanks to the dealing team of Sheryn Thomson and Shona Richards that made a special effort for the Tierney Teams to ensure there were always spare boards available during the play. Thanks also to Margaret Pattullo who did her usual exceptional effort for the flower arrangement for the Tierney Teams. Lastly, a special thanks to Mark and Chris Stack for the extra effort needed to install the lock box on the Bridge Room door!

Reminders

- **31 May – 3 June: Hawke's Bay Congress at Taradale Club**
- 16 June – Taradale Charity (Sunday) – remember to bring a small gift!
- 25 May – Waipukurau Intermediate/Junior Pairs 5B

Ash

Ash Fitchett
Newsletter Editor