

**BRIDGE TE AROHA: lovely place, lovely game ♠♥♦♣**

## **Te Aroha News May 2025**



### **Top of the WAPS.**

That's Rochelle and Tim who scored more than any of the other 33 pairs at the Te Aroha heat of the Waikato Area Pairs held at the clubrooms on April 27<sup>th</sup>. Their score of 59.94% in the morning left them in a close 4<sup>th</sup> position. 3 pairs scored 62.7% in the afternoon and they would not have minded at all recording the third highest of those scores because when the two sessions were added together, they had scored 122.54%, nearly 2% higher than Aucklanders Graham Wakefield and Mark Robertson (120.55%) and over 2% ahead of Matamata's Lynette and Ian Bond (120.01%). Anna Kalma and I finished in 5<sup>th</sup> place.

Pat Johansen and Peter Daffurn won the prize for the closest score to 50%.

Thanks to all those club members who helped out during the day, to Gaye and Paul who were reserve pair (in the end because of a late cancellation not needed to play), to all those who brought morning tea and to Irene Stewart, the event sponsor, who provided both cash and product for some of the prize winners... and of course to Judith Howard for the lovely fish. Also to William, the director, and Anna the scorer who both had a busy eventful day.

This year, we have seen an increase in interest in the WAPS heats with 18 tables at Matamata and 17 at Te Aroha. Hopefully, all those playing enjoyed what at 15.00 is a pretty cheap day out.



*The winners with cash and product. Pat and Peter judged their scores just right to win the prize for the nearest to 50%.*



**Careful Counting.** in each hand!

Well, Rochelle says she has to because Tim never does! He is far too keen to count all the aces and kings he holds. On the last night of the Championship Pairs, Tim was declarer when a little problem arose. Their opponents were down to 3 cards each but Tim realised he had only two left in dummy...and amazingly, there were four left in his hand!

“Careful counting” by both of them! Amazingly, Tim had not revoked in dummy, as if he would! I believe a card was plucked from his hand and placed back in its rightful spot and play proceeded as if nothing had happened. Do they deserve each other? Just a quick reminder to them both that we normally start with 13 cards.

## Looking after Partner



Well, it had been a successful weekend in Christchurch for Anna and her bridge partner (tops in the Canterbury 10A Teams) and while they were waiting to catch their flight home at the airport, Anna saw to her partner's needs and recorded the occasion for posterity. What does a keen bridge player do while he eats a cheese toastie, has a nice coffee and washes it down with an even nicer liquid? Paws over a hand record, of course! Oh, Anna, too, had similar refreshments, the difference being that she was much quicker recording the event for posterity!

## Championship Pairs at Te Aroha

The main Pairs event of the year has been completed and, of course, there were three winning pairs. Anna and I had a successful time with these being the top **scratch** placings:

( top 5 scores out of 6 nights...lowest score dropped)

Anna and Richard	332.10
------------------	--------

Jan and Hanna	289.57
---------------	--------

Gaye and Malcolm	285.61
------------------	--------

The winners on Handicap were:

Katrina and Shirley Townsend	270.51
------------------------------	--------

Ross Stewart and Holly	267.98
------------------------	--------

Anna and Richard	267.25
------------------	--------

Katrina and Shirley were also the top Junior pair but as one can only win one prize, the top Junior pairs off scratch were:

Paul Decker and Peter TJ	227.17
--------------------------	--------

Lisa and Sharon	220.99
-----------------	--------

Moira and Anne	218.08
----------------	--------



**Give a Man a Lift, Tim!**

**or Matamata!**

Now, Malcolm (not an accurate picture above!) has been needing a few lifts to the Quilty Trays at Matamata. Yours truly came to the rescue the first week and Tim the second. So, naturally, for the third week, Malcolm picked up the phone to ask Tim for a lift. What a poor excuse Tim had for saying “no”. He reckoned he was in somewhere like Coober Pedy heading north to Darwin!

Actually, the ever-helpful Tim rarely says “no” but he really could not help Malcolm this time. All was good when Malcolm came with me, a little quicker than waiting for Tim to turn up. Oh, enjoy travelling through Australia. That is addressed to Tim. Malcolm made it safely to and back from Matamata.



## Revival among Younger Bridge Players

Singles tired of dating apps are discovering a different kind of partnership, one that involves bidding, finessing, daring and, hopefully, plenty of grand slams.

The following is part of an article in “Stuff” on May 11<sup>th</sup> under the “Fast Facts” heading. It was produced by NZ Bridge Marketing Manager, Mel Auld. It refers to a couple of players you all know well at our club.

“The card game Bridge is enjoying a revival with a younger crowd, drawn to its social aspect, forming bonds, friendships and sometimes love.

Mel Auld of New Zealand Bridge says she’s witnessed friendships and seen “love blossom” over card tables and that she’s not surprised the game is somewhere people are finding connections they can’t on dating apps.

“In a world increasingly defined by fleeting online interactions, bridge offers something refreshingly analogue and enduring. It’s about connection in the truest sense—no Wi-Fi required.

“The game brings people together across generations and backgrounds, making it the perfect breeding ground for friendships, rivalries, and yes, the occasional love story.”

Players finding a life partner at Bridge can be on the cards, Auld says.



Charlotte, 32 and Tyrel Glass, 33, met at a Bridge tournament in Thames, and found it wasn't just their declarer play that was on fire, so was the chemistry.

"I was actually on Tinder looking to date. I didn't have 'must play Bridge' on my profile but told friends that I wanted a man that I could play Bridge forever with."

Tyrel fitted the assignment. His Bridge-loving father taught him to play when he was 10 so that he had someone to practice with.

Having learned the game young gives her husband the edge, while Charlotte discovered Bridge at Massey University studying to be a vet.

Six and a half years later, the now-married couple are boosting the numbers at their Te Aroha club as they give Bridge lessons. It takes around ten weeks to learn the game.

"Our club must have the most young people in, as we teach people our age or in their 40s, and they join, whether single or in a couple."

The couple have just had a baby, Sophie. "We will start her at two," says Charlotte."

Well, one year and seven months to go for Sophie. With Grace and Oscar getting married at Easter this year, our club is a great place to be for younger people, single or together. Well done, Charlotte and Tyrel not just for taking part in this article but for doing your own bit to boost our bridge numbers by taking the lessons.

### **Wisdom of Solomon**



### **Long suits can mean "Lots of tricks".**

This month's tip is addressed to our newer players (maybe a few others, too). It demonstrates the way to handle and the power of a long suit. It also demonstrates that with a long suit and a good hand, you do not rush the

bidding. The following was a real hand played at the club one recent Tuesday night.

Initially, your long suit may not look that good. This is your hand:

♠ K 4  
♥ Q J 9 8 5 4 3 2  
♦ K  
♣ A J

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		Pass	1 ♦
Pass	?		

Nice hand? Potentially very nice. Yet, do not rush. At at least a couple of tables, North jumped in hearts..2H, 3H. Yet, there was no rush to do this. These bids just cramped the auction and confused their partners. Just bid 1H and await developments. The “development” was very interesting:

♠ K 4  
♥ Q J 9 8 5 4 3 2  
♦ K  
♣ A J

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		Pass	1 ♦
Pass	1 ♥	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	?		

Wow! What has partner shown you...4 card support and 18/19 hcps. You have got much more than 13 hcps you hold. Almost certainly, you have 8 heart tricks....and partner should have much more than HAKJx. So, time to ask for aces (Key Cards if you play Key Card Blackwood)..4NT:

♠ K 4  
 ♥ Q J 9 8 5 4 3 2  
 ♦ K  
 ♣ A J

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1 ♦
Pass	1 ♥	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	5 ♠	Pass	?

That is 3 aces. The response playing Key Card would be different, showing 4 key cards (including HK). Either way, what is your next bid? Are you counting tricks? 8 heart tricks (even if you did not know whether your partner held HK), SAK DAK CA = 13 tricks. You do not even have to ask for kings! Come on...7NT. And claim once the opening lead was made. (You did not have to wait that long but politeness dictates!).

### Board 2

East Deals  
N-S Vul

♠ K 4  
 ♥ Q J 9 8 5 4 3 2  
 ♦ K  
 ♣ A J

♠ J 10 3 2  
 ♥ 7  
 ♦ Q 10 4  
 ♣ 9 8 7 4 3

N	
W	E
S	

♠ Q 8 7 6  
 ♥ —  
 ♦ J 9 8 6 2  
 ♣ Q 10 6 2

♠ A 9 5  
 ♥ A K 10 6  
 ♦ A 7 5 3  
 ♣ K 5



<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		Pass	1 ♦
Pass	1 ♥	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	5 ♠	Pass	7 NT
All pass			

CK was trick number 14! Well bid by Ross McIntyre and Richard S. Now I wish the “S” stood for my name but it was Richard Symes. I had to follow suit as East to a less good auction. No other pair at Te Aroha bid grand slam with only 3 out of the 7 pairs bidding small slam.

The keys are to bid such a hand as North’s slowly and on receiving such wonderful news as 4H to then check for aces.

I received a very happy text from Tim in the Aussie outback who checked in and saw I was sitting the wrong way for this slam. The Slam Cup is high in his thoughts even as he looks out at Ayres Rock!

Fear not, those who missed any slam. You are in good company. Out of 130 North/South pairs on X Club, 11 bid grand, 57 small slam and 62 missed any slam. Next time, all at Te Aroha will know better!

### **Illness and Injuries at the Club**

May has not been a great month for several of our players with illness and other unfortunate events a’ plenty. The good news for Peter TJ is that his stay in hospital was not as long as was first feared after a very nasty motor accident. No other vehicle was involved and Peter’s car is a write-off. However, it will be a little while before he will be racing into the bridge club. I know all our players wish you a very speedy recovery.

Pat Johansen has also had a rough time. At the time of writing, she is still in hospital while the medics try to discover what her problem has been. Wishing you, Pat, and all other players who have been unwell a speedy recovery.

## **Up Coming Events**

**Tuesday June 3<sup>rd</sup> 2025**

### **Alan's Benefit Night**

As most of you should know, the Club Committee have agreed to make this Tuesday Club Night a fundraiser for Alan who has had a rather an expensive operation in Melbourne..maybe another to come. Table money this evening will be \$20 (or whatever you can afford) and there will be raffles and other fun happenings with all the proceeds from the evening going to Alan, a small contribution towards his large expense.

**Do you know this man?**



**Please donate raffle prizes (maybe something **you** would like to win) and on the night bring something for supper.**

There will be fun bridge and, I am sure, a nice friendly atmosphere. There are car loads coming from Waihi and hopefully from other local clubs, too.

A very worthy cause. Thanks to all who contribute.

### **Spa Town Teams and Restricted Open Swiss Pairs**

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June at Silver Fern Farms Event Centre**

It is lovely to see a good number of our club members entered already for these two events. (Swiss Pairs is for those of National Master and lower ranks.) If any other pairs want to play, they still can.

Again, we would appreciate club members to bring something for morning tea. Rochelle and Shirley Bailey are helping out that day but would appreciate more help in the kitchen. If you can, please let one of them know. *That's all for now...but plenty to report on in June* Richard

