

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

February 2022



It's nice to see 8 tables on recent Tuesday nights at the club and 4 tables on Friday. It is a nervous time at present playing live Bridge with Covid spreading rapidly. The message is simple. If you feel unwell, then it is best you do **not** come to Bridge. If you feel fine and have a vaccine passport, then please do come.

Back to January

You must remember the “Pack of Bastards” from January who contributed gleefully to Anna and Tim’s rather lowly score and then subsequently how Tim and Rochelle found themselves at the wrong end of the results tables again. Well, it is only right we should report on the form of Tim in February and whether he was still blaming female partners for the low scores he was achieving.

There is no need to reproduce charts but on February 1st, Tim and Rochelle stayed in the 30’s, 38.75% before a savage handicap was applied which had their score hurtling towards the 20’s. Well, they just avoided going under the big 30.

The following Tuesday was the second week of the Jim Shine with Tim escaping to Dunedin on the pretext of a bowling trip (like a “pub with no beer”, the trip was a bowling trip with no bowls, or so he reports.). We think it was the only

way he could manage not to record a score under 40%. Meanwhile, Rochelle hurtled upwards towards 50%.

However, there is some really good news. Rochelle and Tim did play together on the first Friday of February and yes, there was a sudden happy reversal of form...61.32% and top of the tree.

So, we can put to rest Tim's bad run of scores... well, for now until we notice the number "3" appearing first on the sheet again. Tim, you have been warned!

What we want: more club members.

Beginners' Lessons starting at the club on Monday evenings at 7.00 pm

Starting Monday March 28th.

We are telling **you** for a good reason. **You** know one person, probably more than one, who has been meaning to learn, perhaps have a liking for cards. The best form of advertising for bridge lessons at the club is "word of mouth". You the existing members can help to get your friends, your relatives, your work colleagues along.

They can just come along for a look, no pressure, no charge for the first couple of weeks. Then, at some point, we ask them to pay 40.00 to cover the lessons, a simple to read text book, the first-year sub.

Please help our club to grow. Come on now..have you thought of anyone yet? If we all could get **one** new person to the lessons, our club will be even better than it already is. Please help.

National Bridge Congress On-line

It could not be live because of Covid. So, an abridged version took place on Real Bridge on-line in mid-February with Te Aroha well represented. These were the best performances by our players:

Judith Howard, Joy Williams, Peter Daffurn, Guy Kalma: 5TH out of 16 teams in the Restricted Open Teams and 4th out of 18 teams in the Intermediate Teams.

Judith Howard and Joy Williams: 12th out of 42 pairs in the Restricted Open Swiss Pairs.

Rochelle van Heuven and Tim Rigter: 9th out of 30 pairs in the Restricted Open Pairs.

Tyrel, Charlotte and their medals



We did mention that Tyrel and Charlotte had done rather well late last year..and not just by getting married. They were in the Waikato Bays Youth Inter-Provincial team which won the Youth Inter-Provincials for 2021 (as was Jacob Kalma). It had taken three months for them to be presented with their medals. Let's blame Covid for that! However, here they are with the medals presented to them, naturally at their home club one recent Tuesday night.

Ill-timed Advice

Same surname but different partner greeted me on the first night of the Tuesday night Championship Pairs. Not Anna but Guy. Nothing too complex system-wise though I did ask Guy whether he really only played negative/ take-out style doubles up to and including 2♠.

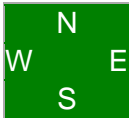
He agreed that some doubles at the 3-level would also be for take-out. So, I said "let's go all the way and play take-out doubles up to and including 4♥." Guy agreed.

So, fast-forward about three hands and I picked up the following:

North Deals		♠ 10 7
Both Vul		♥ 9 6 5 4
		♦ A K 10 8 7 3
		♣ 9

North opened 2♦. There was no alert but I had no interest in bidding even if this was a Multi. So, as East, I passed disinterestedly.

The auction was about to accelerate quickly.

North Deals		♠ 10 7	
Both Vul		♥ 9 6 5 4	
		♦ A K 10 8 7 3	
		♣ 9	
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	2♦	Pass	3♣
3♠	4♦	?	

I became very much more interested in the auction now. Maybe North did really have diamonds, a Weak Two, perhaps? It seemed time to put in a double. I did not really expect South to stay there though maybe Guy could double clubs or hearts if South ran.

Yet, South did not run. So, there was just one more hurdle to a rather nice time in defending 4♦x. Guy.

He started thinking, surely not a good sign. Perhaps I should have put my pen down, even made the opening lead, face-down of course!

Yes, you guessed. He remembered my “wise words” about 4-level doubles...and, yes, you guessed, bid...4♠.

No double but plenty of trouble for Guy... three down. Very bad timing for that system discussion, Richard. These were the 4 hands:

North Deals	♠ 9												
Both Vul	♥ K J 10 7 3												
	♦ Q 9 6 5 4 2												
	♣ A												
♠ Q 8 6 5 4 3	♥ A Q 2	♦ —	♣ Q 6 5 3										
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	N												
W		E											
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				♠ 10 7									
				♥ 9 6 5 4									
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				♥ 8									
				♦ J									
				♣ K J 10 8 7 4 2									
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>										
	2♦	Pass	3♣										
3♠	4♦	Dbl	Pass										
4♠	All pass												



“The more we try to be different, the more we are all the same.”

This monthly newsletter is about bridge at the Te Aroha Bridge Club and those who play there. This piece falls into the latter category. I am sure you all know Malcolm. He first started bridge lessons with Hermanna back in 1990 and played for a couple of years but then stopped for 25. When he returned, he learnt from the “next generation” as Anna was the teacher.

He's on the club committee and rents one of the club's side buildings for his motor-bike business parts. He's now a regular at the club.

You may or may not have seen this next to his home in town.

“Cistern Chapel”



A few words about the structure from Malcolm:

“Adrian Worsley built the original, too big for the Te Aroha winds. Peter Tait Jamieson felt that re-creating it was something akin to touching up the Mona Lisa, but Adrian was relaxed about it, and I'll end up with two smaller creations that will still display the spirit of what Adrian initially created, more so with the next one.

The rib cage in the sculpture was not done by Adrian. He added to a small character that I managed to obtain years ago.

The metal is reinforcing steel bar (used to brace concrete) and the weatherboards came from the back of the bridge club.

Thanks to Peter TJ for the toilet seat and to Graeme Turner for the welding and help with the design. So, all in all, the roof ornament is the work of four people.”

If you are wondering how the first title above fits in, Malcolm added the following quote: “whoever, wherever you are, you will need a poo.”

The following chalk inscription is across the road from Malcolm, where the road was washed away in the 1986 flood. Malcolm likes it and so do I. I hope you do too.



Nice words.

Aggression Unrewarded?

Remember the guy who went over zealously for the ball on a tennis court recently. Well, I can report that he had a second operation on his right hand in Rotorua Hospital to “unfracture” his fingers and then was in a cast for the next three weeks. The cast is now mercifully off but the fingers are still not behaving properly.



Well, the cast was really big! It took half an hour to be cut off, to the great relief of the wearer.

Patience and physiotherapy are required and the wearer is looking for a lot of sympathy in the way of top boards for many Tuesday nights while the fingers heal.


Come back soon, Judith

Judith has to have a hip operation early in March. So, we all wish you well and hope you will be back at the club very soon. I certainly do, being one of the beneficiaries of the absolutely gorgeous fish you brought along recently. Here's hoping both you and the fish will be running soon.

BID 'EM UP and PLAY 'EM RIGHT

That's my advice at the table for you. Take a look at the following pair of hands from a Tuesday night in February in Te Aroha. Eight pairs held these cards but only two bid them to 6♠ and alas, the seven other declarers only made 12 tricks when they should have made all 13.

Let's look at the bidding first.

<p>South Deals E-W Vul</p> <p>♠ 10 ♥ K Q 10 9 7 2 ♦ Q 4 3 ♣ J 4 3</p>		<p>♠ A K 5 ♥ 8 ♦ A 9 7 6 2 ♣ A K 9 7</p> <p>♠ Q J 9 8 4 3 2 ♥ A 3 ♦ 8 ♣ 10 6 5</p>	<p>♠ 7 6 ♥ J 6 5 4 ♦ K J 10 5 ♣ Q 8 2</p>
<p><i>West</i></p> <p>Pass</p> <p>Pass</p>	<p><i>North</i></p> <p>4 NT</p> <p>6 ♠</p>	<p><i>East</i></p> <p>Pass</p> <p>All pass</p>	<p><i>South</i></p> <p>3 ♠</p> <p>5 ♦</p>

Why is the North hand so good? It's all those aces, with the back up of a couple of handy kings. We know that an ace really is worth more than four high card points, certainly in comparison with the other honour cards. In addition, in the suit where North did not hold an ace, they held a singleton. North knows that their partner holds 7 spade cards. It would also be a very unlucky day when South did not hold a couple of cards in hearts with one able to be ruffed in the North hand, even if South did not hold the ace.

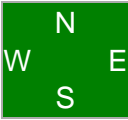
That would leave South with four cards in the minor suits. Three of those would be accounted for by AKA in the minors. Thus, assuming South held ♥A and one more heart, they could have no more than one loser in the minors.

So far, we have given South just ♥A. We presume they have ♠QJ though even if South did not have ♠Q, that card would be favourite to fall in two rounds. There is also the chance that South held ♣Q or ♦K which would give South all 13 tricks, though we cannot rely on their holding either of those cards.

Thus, bidding to 6♠ when South does hold ♥A should be certain: there are very reasonable chances of making 12 tricks even if South did not hold that card. Give it, the small slam, a go.

The play. Making 12 tricks on the actual cards should be straightforward....7 spades, ♥A, a heart ruff in the North hand alongside ♦A and ♣AK. Everyone made 12 tricks. Yet, we all know that an important part of the Pairs game is

scoring overtricks. South's singleton diamond offers the chance of an overtrick here.

South Deals E-W Vul	♠ A K 5 ♥ 8 ♦ A 9 7 6 2 ♣ A K 9 7	
♠ 10 ♥ K Q 10 9 7 2 ♦ Q 4 3 ♣ J 4 3		♠ 7 6 ♥ J 6 5 4 ♦ K J 10 5 ♣ Q 8 2
	♠ Q J 9 8 4 3 2 ♥ A 3 ♦ 8 ♣ 10 6 5	

So, with the likely lead to 4 or 6 ♠ being ♥K, you win the ♥A and ruff South's second heart high in dummy. Now play a spade to ♠J followed by ♦A and ruff a diamond with ♠Q (just in case there is a foul diamond break).

Cross back to dummy with a trump to ♠K and ruff another diamond (all the opposition's trumps have been drawn now). Cross again to dummy, this time with a club to the ace and ruff a third diamond. Now, as long as both opponents have followed to the first three of diamonds (i.e., diamonds break 4-3), all the opposition's diamonds will now have been drawn.

So, use your last entry back to dummy, ♣K and play ♦9 to discard the only loser in the South hand, ♣ 10. All 13 tricks made. All South players should have played as above to make all 13 tricks whether or not they were in small slam.

So, why not bid to 7♠? Because, the 13th trick was only possible if South held a singleton diamond or the ♦K or the ♣Q and North could not be sure their partner had one of those holdings.

It is usually wrong to endanger your contract by trying to score overtricks but especially playing Pairs, you should always be on the look-out for overtricks if they can be made.

Don't forget to give me some interesting, funny or good news stories for March. at rsolomon@xtra.co.nz or call on 027 245 5418.

See you then. *Richard Solomon*

