

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

March 2022



You do not need me to tell you of the strange world we are living in at present, even here in Te Aroha. We are enduring the omicron virus. Hopefully, if you catch it, or indeed feel unwell, please stay home away from our bridge club. We are maintaining satisfactory numbers on both sessions and will be starting our 2022 Beginners' Classes at the club at 7.00pm on Monday March 28th. Get those friends or relatives who have been "I must learn some day" to make Monday the day...that's March 28th.

Meanwhile, there were supposed to be 2 on-line events scheduled to be run by clubs in this area on the weekend of 26th/27th March, an 8B Open at Matamata on Saturday March 26th and the following day, the first heat of this year's Waikato Area Pairs. The Matamata event is taking place but alas not enough entries for the Area Pairs at Te Aroha on Sunday.

For those not so lucky

Our hearts go out at present to the poor people of Ukraine. We can only pray the situation will improve and also can give a little to help the people there whose conditions are so desperate.

One thing bridge players in this country can do is to take part in a 2-night on-line fund-raising bridge tournament in aid of Ukraine. This is being run by the Auckland Bridge Club on Thursday 31st March and Friday 1st April on

RealBridge. There are separate 2-night tournaments for Open, Intermediate and Junior levels, for Ukraine Humanitarian Support. The cost per player is \$25.00 per night with a minimum \$20.00 going directly to the cause. Just press this link for details. You can just play one of the nights.

<file:///C:/Users/Richard/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/INetCache/IE/98A4Y043/Bridge%20Fundraiser.pdf>

I do not have to emphasise how worthwhile a cause this is.

Now, for something a little lighter.

The two dishwashers

Meet the two dishwashers.



One is named Nick: the other is nameless. Nick got the job as the Friday

dishwasher because he got caught committing an awful crime, taking a pen from the club which was not his! However:

All the Friday players were worried that Nick Whitten might get this job permanently! No worries for Nick or the Friday players. The club has splashed on a new machine and washing by hand is a thing of the past.

Welcome then to dishwasher number two and rumour has it is that number two is much better at the job than Nick. Number two is brand new and Nick can relax and leave those dishes to be cleaned by others. I cannot report whether the pen has been returned!

Spring Clean Hannah

A big thanks to Hannah who took it upon herself to give the clubrooms a good spring-clean (even though it is autumn now!). That was a big job. So, thanks very much.

Doing nicely

That's Adri and Richard Symes doing well..61% on the first Tuesday in March. That's nice.

ps. Any chance of asking Richard to change his initials? There is some chance we could get confused, especially in the club booze book. Now, mistakes do happen, Richard S. 😊

Back to Bridge, Norma

A sad part of being a dog owner is when you have to say good-bye to them. That happened to Norma a few months back and she ended going to the doctor because, being on her own, she just could not sleep. Pills did not seem to work. The medical advice was "get another dog!" And she did.. and it worked. She still had to find someone to look after Tag (the new cavalier poodle cross) while she went to bridge.

All sorted, now, though, and the last couple of weeks, while Norma's daughter looks after Tag, we have seen Norma whipping Peter TJ into shape. Nice to have you back, Norma.



You can see who is the centre of Norma's attention

And talking of Peter TJ...

Were we? Well, at a recent Te Aroha session, he was heard to give advice on two successive hands. Nothing unusual about that, you may say. Yet, there was because on both occasions, the advice he was giving was correct! Now, there was one person who thought that was newsworthy. So, here we are reporting that, Peter. Happy to oblige. 😊

Hip Hop

Judith has to have a hip operation early in March. So, we 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.

and to anyone else who is not too well including Mieke: wishing you well.

Escape from Linda Jones: the “whisper and the whiskey”

Who is Linda? Well, she is of course a Retirement Home in Hamilton and with Covid around, its residents have to stay put... but not Gerry Maguire who escapes every Friday and can be found at the Te Aroha Friday sessions. Shhh..do not tell Linda’s staff. Oh, and the whisper has gone out that Gerry would not mind a drop of Scotch after play, or was that during play, Gerry?

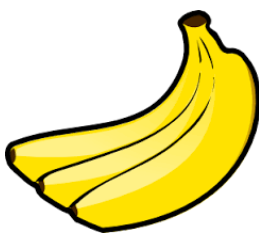


The “escaper” from Linda Jones

Who hates what?

Here's a little competition for you. We have some Te Aroha players listed and then their favourite food **dislikes**. Your job is to match the player and the food.

Peter Daffurn	Laurie	Richard (Solomon)	Linda
Peter TJ	Rochelle	Tim	
Leon	Joy	Anna (Kalma)	



Can you contain yourself? The answers will soon appear.

Two Views of Friday

Well, there was so many Friday players that we could not get them all in one shot. So, for no particular reason than that they are all a really important part of our club, here are the Friday players:



Hints for those bringing food to the Te Aroha Bridge Club.

Please bear in mind the following:

Macaroni cheese and baked beans will not go down well with Peter TJ and Anna

(You might ask whoever would try that combination anyway!)

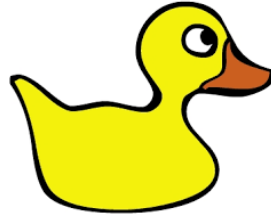
Leave bananas and melon out of a fruit salad to keep Rochelle and Peter Daffurn happy

No offal on Linda's plate....and Leon will not appreciate the sauerkraut!

A nice roast meal will not please Laurie, Tim, Joy and yours truly if it contains chicken, asparagus, Brussel sprouts and carrots! That's one item each though there might not be much left if we left them all out!

Now, who is going to bring a roast anyway?!

So, now you know what some of us do not like foodwise. We may explore other innermost secrets of club-members in the next few months, if you are interested!



Another Heart Pre-empt and an Interesting

Last month, we featured a deal at the club where one's partner opened with a 3♥ pre-empt. This time, it is the turn of the opposition to open with that bid and you have the problem of deciding what to do with this hand.

Only your side is vulnerable and you are playing Pairs.

			♠ Q 4 2
			♥ Q 5 4 3
			♦ Q 7 6 3
			♣ A 7
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	Pass	3♥	Dbl
Pass	?		

One good guideline in this situation is that unless you have an obvious major suit to bid, that if 3NT is an option, then that is the choice you should make. That would be a good choice here. Most of the time with their double, your partner will have enough high cards to give 3NT a good chance of making. You provide the heart hold. Here, with the opening bidder likely to have ♥AK, they are unlikely to have an outside entry with which to regain the lead once your ♥Q has been played. Also, West is unlikely to have more than one heart.

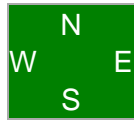
Another option is to pass 3♥x for penalties. That might be a good option here were the vulnerability different. Assuming your side can make game, you would need to beat this contract by 4 tricks to get a decent result and your trumps are not good enough for that to happen.

However, when this deal occurred on a recent Tuesday night at the club, North chose a rather conservative 4♦ call. South then bid 4♠ to end the bidding. Let's see all 4 hands.

West Deals ♠ Q 4 2
 N-S Vul ♥ Q 5 4 3
 ♦ Q 7 6 3
 ♣ A 7

♠ J 10 7 ♠ 8 3
 ♥ J ♥ A K 10 9 8 7 6
 ♦ J 9 8 5 2 ♦ 4
 ♣ 10 9 8 5 ♣ J 4 2

 ♠ A K 9 6 5
 ♥ 2
 ♦ A K 10
 ♣ K Q 6 3



<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	Pass	3 ♥	Dbl
Pass	4 ♦	Pass	4 ♠
All pass			

In 3NT, North should score 11 tricks (5 spades and 3 in each minor) for a score of + 660. In 3♥x, East will score 6 heart tricks, 3 down or +500 for the defence.

How many tricks do you think South can score in 4♠? There are 5 spade and 3 club tricks, a club ruff in the North hand and 3 diamond tricks, a total of 12 tricks (+680), a top score for North-South. Can you see a way that the defence could score 2 tricks and thus get a very reasonable E/W score of -650?

At most tables, West led ♥J. One South played low from dummy (it could not benefit declarer in covering with ♥Q.) What should East do? The answer is win the trick with ♥K. On some days when West holds ♦A, a diamond switch at trick 2 would be best. Not today, though. In order to gain a second trick for the defence, East must continue hearts, any heart, though in practice a low heart is a better continuation preserving your high heart.

Although East could not know for sure, they would hope to promote a trump trick for West. If declarer ruffs low, West overruffs and if declarer ruffs high, then ♠JT7 becomes a certain trick. South feared that and that was why they played low from dummy at trick 1. When East did not overtake, South could score 12 tricks comfortably.

The declaring side must aim for the highest score possible, 680 beating 660, 650 or 500. The defenders here seek the opposite. Match-point Pairs is tough in such areas with the margin between a top and a bottom is perhaps only 10 points. See you all in April... and do not forget to send your friends to learn the game starting next Monday. *Richard Solomon*

