

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

May 2022



Bridge Club Being Used for..... Bridge!

Now, there's a revelation! It's getting more the case at Te Aroha. It is great seeing our clubs echo to the sound of bridge players enjoying themselves not just on Tuesday but now on Thursday nights too. On that night, we have not just one table of new players learning but also keen more experienced members coming along for an extra session in a very casual environment. Victor had hoped there would be more members playing and has suspended these sessions for a couple of weeks. However, when our new learners finish their course of lessons in a couple of weeks, we hope they will join in these sessions. Victor will give you all reminder and we hope more of you will come along on Thursdays and help out these new players.

It would also be nice to see a few more members come along to the Friday 11.30am session. Surely, not every one is at work on a Friday....and, without encouraging bad habits, even if you are, how about skipping out for a quick session at the club?



"Someone said 'good morning,' so I decided to leave work while I was ahead."

or maybe try the bridge club!

We'd Love to see you but..

If you are not feeling well, please be cautious....stay home. Some of our members have already experienced Covid. It is around our community. We do not want to spread it around at our club sessions.

May Feature

From Te Aroha to Matamata...and the world! The Keys to travel!

My secret spies told me that I should seek out Barbara and Joe whose life-story is certainly unusual. They are really popular members of our club and their story deserves to be told. So, off I went to Matamata..and I was not to be disappointed.

The heading might sum up the travel taken by Barbara and Jo Keys. They grew up in Te Aroha, met at a basketball fund-raising dance at Te Aroha West, married and in 1957 moved to Matamata where they have lived ever since, except for the many many trips overseas. Barbara was very sporty and was a Thames Valley rep in Netball and Badminton. She went to school and played tennis with Peter Snell and went to a tennis coaching school in Auckland. They are in their 63rd year of marriage.

Their daughter lives in Matamata and their son in Kaeo. They have three grandsons and great grandsons in Perth. Their daughter was the first disabled overseas Rotary exchange student, the travel lust being passed down a generation.



I was recently privileged to be able to listen to some of the stories of their life and travels. They have been to so many places. They describe themselves now as “rich in memories with not much money”. I do not think the second half of that phrase bothers them.

I do not think anything really bothers them. They could do more than a bit of complaining but what shines through is their positive get-on-with-it approach..and get on with life they certainly did.

Joe was Service Manager at Matamata Motors for 27 years and at Ford for another 9. Barbara worked at the local ANZ Bank where her contemporaries included Lesley Quilty, whom she knew from school, and Carol Wilson.

Then came the kids and then came the itchy feet, especially Barbara’s. They had holidays around the Pacific but in 1986/87, it was more than a few weeks’ holiday. It was two years travelling around Australia in a camper van....and literally all the way round and back again! It was supposed to be a trial run for a similar experience around Europe though this big European experience never eventuated.

Instead, what did happen was visits to American summer camps. It started with Camp America where they were accepted as workers. There was the little issue of getting the US Green Card to work in the US, which they were granted

temporarily each time. They had imagined going to work in a camp for disabled children though ended for 12 years (they went 13 times in all) to a camp in New Hampshire for the children of predominantly wealthy Jewish New Yorkers or those from Boston. The children were in the 7–15-year-old age bracket, with some coming for 4 and others for the full 8 weeks. The camps were run for profit with there being about 300 children and 100 helpers. However, in later years, the camp opened up for under-privileged kids from the cities.

Now, most, if not all, of those who were employed to work at such camps were in the 18–25-year age bracket. When Barbara first went, she was 54 while Jo was 5 years older. Still is!

The camps did not educate in the learning sense but specialised in all kinds of sports and also hiking. Joe learned archery.

Each time, they spent 8 weeks at the camp, living in one of the tiny cabins which were dotted around. They had their airfares paid and received a bit of “pocket money” which became a bigger bit as their value to the camp was recognised. Joe did maintenance while Barbara worked as the receptionist in the camp infirmary though she also helped Joe out, mowing lawns etc. Joe commented that initially their cabin had no window, a bit draughty: he soon remedied that!

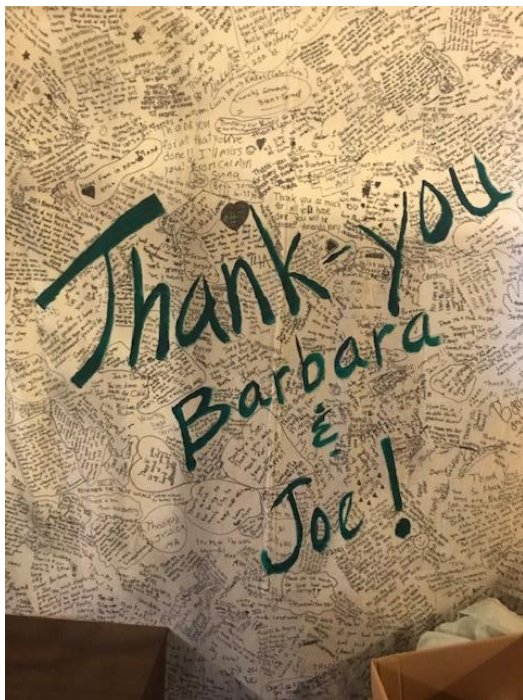
It was probably just as well he did as black bears came down from the hills looking for food. Food was banned in the cabins for that reason. However, they trained the local chipmunks to come and feed from their hands. If the chipmunks survived the winter, they would recognise Joe when he returned the following year.

Barbara and Joe were very well treated and were respected by the camp owners. Indeed, after they had retired from their roles, the owners visited Barbara and Joe in Matamata. The camp had a “Keys Lane” and they developed a garden from the thick bush which was called “Keys Corner”.

The respect in which they were held could be so well summed up in the cloth parchment they were presented when they retired, with words of thanks from so many of the children.

Barbara and Joseph Keys, known to all, have:

- resided and worked at Camp Walt Whitman, 1000 Cape Moonshine Road Piermont New Hampshire, every May through August since 1991;
- been exceptional ambassadors of their native country of New Zealand, sharing its history, culture and love with so many Whitmanites counting the days until they can visit;
- made Camp Walt Whitman a more beautiful place by caring for its grounds and planting gorgeous gardens;
- distributed thousands of pills and cough drops to the weary, to the sick, to the not so sick, the solace and warmth;
- kept countries...



Now hanging in their garage, a cloth signed by so many of the children at the camp with words of thanks

And more Travel

Their trips to USA were often preceded by visits to European countries and afterwards by travelling round USA meeting and staying with people they had met in the camp. Whenever they travelled, they were not “hotel people” much preferring Backpacker accommodation. They also hated organised tours “queuing for the loo, for everything, being organised.” They travelled with tea-towels with maps of New Zealand printed and prominently showing on the maps was a town called Matamata. I am sure many of their hosts still have that town somewhere in their homes.

Once they travelled on a “Young at Heart” tour from New York to San Francisco via Mexico...42 days’ worth. “Young at Heart” meant those aged 20-25 about a third of the ages of Barbara and Joe. Joe smiled as he told the story of the young German student who left her back-pack each night so she could reserve a good place for herself the following day. Each morning, Joe moved the pack to the back of the bus! While the rest of the group spent most of the days asleep catching up on lost sleep from the night before, Barbara and Joe were awake and interested in their surroundings.

For 9 successive years around the time they were in the summer camp, they spent the southern winters at Maroochydore in Queensland. So, there was not much time for other activities like...

Bridge

Barbara learnt the game at Matamata from the late Joyce Catchpole but for reasons explained above, there was not much time to play or perfect the game and later had to relearn. Joe learnt only five years ago. They play for fun at both Te Aroha and Matamata, though Joe has to be “dragged along” sometimes. He has plenty of other activities like golf croquet and bowls. He also kept the garden at the local hospital for 19 years.

They may play for fun but keep an interest in how others fare at the bridge table, like in the recent Inter-Provincial Trials. “Not so well”, I had to explain!

Many people wish they could go explore, do something different. Barbara and Joe have got up and done. They seem so positive and have so many happy memories. It was a joy to listen to what I believe was only a small number of them. Thanks to them both for sharing their life-story.

3 x 30 on 1 night

There always seems to be something or someone to celebrate on a Tuesday night at Te Aroha. For celebration read “cake” or some form of extra food at supper time. A few Tuesdays ago, there were rather suitably “three” celebrations, all connected with the number “three”.

We had Joy celebrating 30 years of marriage.

We had Tyrel celebrating 30 years. (I can also report he and Charlotte have celebrated 5 months of marriage.)

And the biggest of them all, we had Joe celebrating 3 by 30 years. (and pretty close to 63 years of marriage)

Such occasions add to the great camaraderie at the club. So, please let us know when you have something to celebrate. We are happy to toast you and eat the cake!

30 years wed



a cool 3 x 30



Just 1 x 30



and here's our 1x 30-year-old, along with Linda who the following week was celebrating 2x 30 years...with more cake!

A CURE FOR SCIATICA **Well, so it seems....**



Firstly, though, what have Rochelle and Ross been doing? It all happened after a recent session of bridge

at the Te Aroha club. There was the usual “serious” discussion after play about the boards just played. Ross and Rochelle were involved, Ross laying on the ground to try and ease his back problems.

Then, all of a sudden, he, aided by Rochelle, could be seen rushing up and down behind the curtains in pursuit of an intruder, a mouse...and yes, Ross nabbed the mouse who is no longer causing any problems at the club. It seems mouse-catching is a great cure for sciatica.

Changing Direction North East South West or some combination!

A discussion could be heard recently at one table. It seems both sides had diamonds and it was not clear which side had been the declaring side. Rochelle was involved in the discussion and was asked which side had played the board. The reply did not really clarify much: “North West!”. So, now you know!

The Toughest Session at Te Aroha: in the era of “fake news”.

So, you reckon it is Tuesday nights? Hard to get a good score there. That may be true but our friendly relaxed Thursday sessions could be getting a bit tough too. Let me show you the results from a couple of weeks ago when there was a two- table Individual:

Place	ID	Name	MPs	%	Max M
1	7	Mark Kooter	38.0	67.86	56
2=	1	Laurie Belfield	28.0	50.00	56
2=	4	Shirley Bailey	28.0	50.00	56
2=	5	Peter Daffurn	28.0	50.00	56
2=	6	Malcolm Kirkby	28.0	50.00	56
6=	3	Victor Kooter	26.0	46.43	56
6=	8	Unknown	26.0	46.43	56
8	2	Richard Solomon	22.0	39.29	56

Now, the person who scored 46.43% was wise, remaining anonymous but what about our sub-40% player? Pretty tough on Thursday nights.

My lips are of course sealed about what really happened. I am not sure why they are sealed, though. Please do ask. It seems in these days of fake news, one has to check on where one's name is used. Strange it is never misused in first place, or is it?

Only a month and a bit away...

That's our own Spa Town Teams, Saturday June 25th to be exact. All the "guns" will be playing in the Open field which leaves the Multigrade section for lots of the locals. To play in this section, the 4 players must not have more than 300 A Points between them.

What, that's you and you have not got a partner or teammates? Then, put your name on the board at the club or tell me or Rochelle and we will fix you up with a partner and teammates.

Starts at 10.00 am and you will be home for tea. Come on, a Saturday at the club or the sports stadium to be exact. Enjoy.

Tuesday Results

We've finished the Jim Shine for the year and rumour has it that Joy came out on top. Congratulations...and also to Guy who stayed away from the squash club for 6 Tuesday nights to play with me in the Mokena Championship Pairs...and will find his name on the honours board for the first time.

Counting Down the Points...and she has made it!

That's Anna Kalma, who for a while has been seeking master-points she needs to become a New Zealand Bridge grandmaster. That's 1,000 points of which at least 500 must be A Points. She has been hovering very close for a while and after the Waikato Area Pairs on 22nd May at Cambridge, her totals were:

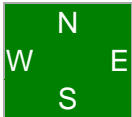
540.22 A Points 459 B Points 0.78 C Points.

Add them all together ...and you have the country's latest grandmaster.

Congratulations, Anna. Hopefully, we will have a photo next time of Anna with her certificate.

Not the quantity but where they are

That's high-card points. Sometimes, you do not need that many, well under 25 to make a game and well under low 30's to make a slam. Here's how to bid a slam with just a mere 25 hcp, the key being which honour cards each partner held.

South Deals None Vul	♠ K Q 10 7 3 ♥ — ♦ K J 8 7 ♣ 9 8 6 3	
♠ 8 ♥ A Q 10 8 7 2 ♦ 3 ♣ A Q J 5 2		♠ A J 9 5 ♥ K J 9 5 ♦ 6 5 4 ♣ K 4
	♠ 6 4 2 ♥ 6 4 3 ♦ A Q 10 9 2 ♣ 10 7	


<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			Pass
1 ♥	1 ♠	2 NT	Pass
3 ♦	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
4 ♣	Pass	4 NT	Pass
5 ♠	Pass	6 ♥	All pass

What is interesting about this deal is that if East held the DK instead of the CK, then 6H would be a very average slam despite West's extreme shape. The key to the bidding this superb slam is for East to value their CK highly. Watch.

Despite North's overcall, East's 2NT showed at least 4 hearts and the values to bid game. The next bid, 3D, was very important as it showed a singleton or void in diamonds, great news for East who had no honours in that suit. 3S said that East held SA or SK and 4C was also what is called a cue bid, showing the CA or CK.

That was great news for East despite holding only 12 hcp. East asked for key-cards and the 5S response showed 2 of the 5 key cards (including HK) and the HQ. Thus, 6H was reached. East knew their partner held some club cards as they had only one diamond and surely North held the missing spade honours. So, other than HAQ and CA, West just had to have other honour (s) in clubs.

When North led SK, West won, drew trumps and played 5 rounds of clubs, discarding East's 3 diamonds. SA, 6 hearts, 5 clubs and a diamond ruff at trick 13, gave West all 13 tricks.

<p>South Deals None Vul</p>	<p>♠ K Q 10 7 3 ♥ — ♦ K J 8 7 ♣ 9 8 6 3</p>	
<p>♠ 8 ♥ A Q 10 8 7 2 ♦ 3 ♣ A Q J 5 2</p>		<p>♠ A J 9 5 ♥ K J 9 5 ♦ 6 5 4 ♣ K 4</p>
	<p>♠ 6 4 2 ♥ 6 4 3 ♦ A Q 10 9 2 ♣ 10 7</p>	

The convention used, other than key card Blackwood, was Jacoby, the 2NT bid and 3D response. It is one convention we could cover in improvers' lessons in a couple of months at the club. It makes bidding good low high-card-point slams much easier and enables you to stay clear of bad slams.

Have you picked up your sticker from the club?



You can display them on your car, on your bag, on your bed, anywhere really where you might meet people! Tell them what you think of our wonderful game.

See you all in June. Richard Solomon

