

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

Te Aroha News May 2026



Farewell to our last Foundation Member

In early June 2023, this club celebrated its first 70 years. We had two tournaments and an anniversary dinner. Guest of honour at that dinner was Lindsay Reid who was then the only Foundation Member (there were 16) still alive. Sadly, Lindsay died on 15th May this year. He was 95.

Lindsay was born in Te Aroha and grew up in Hikutaia. Around 1950, aged 19, he was an apprentice builder in Te Aroha and was one of two carpenters building the Catholic Church. While staying with his grandparents, his uncle, Don Conning, taught Lindsay to play Bridge. Don was one of the most influential members of the Te Aroha Bridge Club in its first 40 years. Both Don and Lindsay were Foundation members of the club back in 1953. Back in the early 1950's, Don and Lindsay played 3 or 4 times a week.

Lindsay played in the club's first ever session of Bridge, in March 1953 with 38 pairs taking part. 15 minutes was allowed for each board with all the experienced players being asked to sit North-South. Lindsay played East-West partnering Sam Driver, another of his uncles. Lindsay and Sam won their way.

Lindsay was a club committee member from 1955 until 1957. He married Levena in 1957, a marriage that lasted 69 years. They lived in Thames and Lindsay commuted regularly to Te Aroha for Bridge. In 1957, Lindsay and Don jointly donated the Waihou Boys Trophy to the Club for the Championship Pairs. He left the club and area in 1961, becoming a building supervisor for the Ministry of Works in Auckland.

Later, he and Levina moved to New Plymouth. Bridge was still his passion. In 1971, with Richard Stephens, he finished 3rd in the North Island Pairs and a year later won the Centre Island Pairs with Harry Lenk. He was New Plymouth's Club President in 1973/74 with his greatest achievement at the table being to win the 1976 New Zealand Teams with Dave Riseborough, Cedric Friis and Keith Bishop.



The club was 70 in 2023 and Lindsay 22 years older than that. His association with the club went back to its first days in 1953.

Lindsay and Levina eventually moved to Hamilton where he was a very active member of the club almost until his passing. Such was his enthusiasm for the game that even when not playing, he could regularly be found watching the play at local tournaments. He also frequently represented the Hamilton Club at NZ Bridge's AGM's. He was always pounding the streets

advertising Beginners' Lessons and then always turned up to help during the lessons.

Lindsay was passionate about what he enjoyed, both bridge and golf. He was well known for his loyalty, honesty, kindness and for being a true gentleman. He was rewarded in 1995 for Life Membership of Waikato Golf and for his huge contribution to Junior Golf over many years.

Playing "in the dark" : the show must go on!

Maybe you often feel like that when you are playing. You cannot see which card to play! That was certainly true during the session of bridge on Friday 15th May at our club. Part way through the session, the power went off leaving a rather strange atmosphere in the club.

It takes a lot to stop bridge at Te Aroha. Tables were moved near windows and "the show just had to go on"! It was time to distribute a few blankets to the hardy players but the important thing was that the bridgemates were still working.

The bridge saying that a contract was "cold" was truer than normal even if the players were colder than the contracts!

Nevertheless, the session was completed. The cold certainly did not affect Carol Parker and Nick Whitten who finished with 68% though only three of the eight pairs broke 50%.

Meanwhile, a couple of Fridays later, a shadowy figure was caught in the dark one early Friday morning at the club. No pictures were allowed to be taken but the figure was performing a very important job for the Friday players. Clad in just a dressing gown, our hero had been in to the club to turn on the heaters prior to play, a very noble deed for sure.

The lights revealed he bore a very close resemblance to Peter TJ. Well done, Peter. Our Friday players are very grateful for you doing this task.

Dates for your Diary

Spa Town Teams and Restricted Open Swiss Pairs Our own 5A and 8B Events taking place at Silver Fern Farms Event Centre on **Saturday June 6th**. It is neat to see many club members have entered for these events... and there is still time to enter if you have not yet done so. We have so far a good turn out of 20 teams (including 12 Te Aroha members) and in the Restricted Open Swiss Pairs 17 pairs (including 7 Te Aroha members). If you do not

want to play, maybe you could help on the day... and it would be great to have a reserve pair (s) to play if needed. Please contact me or Paul if you can help in any way. Also, some more raffle prizes from members would be greatly appreciated. ... and morning tea, too, please.

Waikato Clubs Teams event Te Aroha is entering an Open, Intermediate and Junior team in these competitions which are taking place at the Cambridge Bridge Club on Sunday June 21st. The top two club teams in each division go on to play in the finals against the top two Bay of Plenty club teams in late July.

Improvers Night Number 2: Wednesday July 15th 7-10pm at the Te Aroha Club Rooms

This is the second of three Wednesday Night Improvers Sessions I am running at the Club this year. The first was in April. This evening will follow the same pattern of playing deals and talking about them afterwards, highlighting the points of interest.

It is aimed primarily at Intermediate players, though anyone is welcome. I hope you will come with a partner as you will be playing the boards first.

If you are intending to come, I would appreciate your registering with me, at least a week in advance. If you need a partner, please let me know.

Club Champs Update

As the month ends, we have had 5 of the 6 nights in the Club Champs and off scratch Rochelle and Tim have a handy lead. The leading positions are:

Rochelle and Tim	244.90
Anna and Richard	237.51
Laurie and Ross (Stewart)	236.61
Victor and Mark	235.93
Gaye and Malcolm	232.54

On Handicap, Thomas and Lee have a 6% lead over Laurie and Ross Stewart with Victor and Mark 3rd. Meanwhile, Thomas and Lee's main challengers in the Junior competition are Martin and Moira.

All to play for then on the first Tuesday in June.

Third at Taupo: That's Tim and his partner.



Third in a 5A tournament with the likes of Ken and Kathy Yule, Michael Ware and Liz and Blair Fisher taking part is no disgrace. (Ken and Kathy were 1st and Michael was 2nd.) The event was the Taupo 5A Swiss Pairs and the shame was with one of the seven x 10 board rounds left, Tim and I were leading by over 4 vps. Unfortunately, our last match, against the Yules, was one of missed opportunities.

Never mind, it was a neat tournament played over two days with a lavish two course dinner served after play on the Saturday as well as a light lunch on the Sunday. Everyone should have got value for their money.

Other Tournament Successes in May

We saw a number of good performances from Te Aroha players this month.

Winners at the Cambridge WAPS were our own Joy Williams who along with Cambridge President, Clare Coles, averaged 63.93% finishing 2 and a half per cent of Liz and Blair Fisher, a great performance.

Anna and I finished in a respectable 6th place in the 26 team Canterbury Congress Open Teams. Tim and Rochelle were also 6th in the 38 pair Restricted Swiss Pairs.

Matamata Junior Pairs saw Cam and Damien claim 5th place out of 26 pairs. They scored 60.56% in the morning and a little less in the afternoon session!

Wisdom of Solomon



Beware of Gaye!

Anna and I had the misfortune recently to play the following board in 3NT with Gaye on lead. Several South players were in this contract and all made their contract except for Anna. Let's see what happened:

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

After opening a 15-17 hcp, Anna and I had a straightforward Stayman sequence finishing in 3NT. Gaye, West, was on lead and chose, sensibly, her strong club suit. She led CQ and her partner, Malcolm, played his CK and then returned C2. Within a flash, Gaye had taken four more club tricks, 5 in all for the defence, and the contract was defeated.

At all the other tables, the lead was CA. The West players continued with a second club but East won the trick and could not continue the suit. All the declarers made 11 tricks, 4 in each red suit and 3 in spades.

What went wrong? Unless you have a solid suit, leading the ace is wrong unless you have a solid entry back to your hand in a different suit. So, West

should lead top of the sequence (CQ), not the ace. Often, declarer will have the king and will need to win with that card. Then, when your partner wins a trick (remember you are unlikely to yourself), they can play a club and you can take 4 club tricks.

Here, East could be a hero and throw the king under your ace though that only works when you hold CQ and CJ. It is hard for them to do that. It is much better that you start with CQ not CA. It is the best defence most of the time and it helps your partner, too.... and that is an important part of defending.

So, we did not mind the contract being defeated. (well, we would have preferred to make it!) but it should have been a shared bottom rather than a complete one. Well defended, Gaye and Malcolm.

Lee's on Vacation In case you are looking for Lee over the first 2 weeks in June, you will be out of luck. She will be away in Malaga, Spain, supporting her niece, Mae Hunt, who will be playing two matches debuting for the Football Ferns.

Have a great trip, Lee, and here's hoping this is the start of a great international career for Mae.

See you then in June with the Championship Pairs winners , a report on the Spa Town tournament and plenty more.



Will they be toasting success in the 2026 Championship Pairs?

Richard