

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



Welcome to what I hope will be the first of monthly newsletters about bridge in Te Aroha, about those who play bridge at the club, about what has

happened and will happen at the club and a little bit about the game of bridge, perhaps a tip, and a deal of interest that could well have been played at the club.

I'm the "newbie" to the club and so will rely on some local club sleuths to tell me what is happening about whom. Don't worry. Your closest hidden secrets will remain so (well, probably!). I have a bad habit of slipping players' names into bridge hands, though. So, make sure you play well, though that is not necessary when you play against me!

With Kath (you will meet her in a few sentences' time), I have moved to Te Aroha after 33 years of living in the lovely rolling hills of Onewhero and of playing bridge at the Franklin Bridge Club in Pukekohe and at the Akarana Club in Auckland. I could also be found (prior Covid) on a Wednesday night at the Hamilton Bridge Club.

I used to write a regular column for the Franklin County News called "Bridge from the Hill" and for the last six years wrote a monthly on-line newsletter for the Franklin Club, called "Table Talk". In my role with New Zealand Bridge (I am a full-time employee), I write up a daily bridge hand five days a week. So, you could say "I'm qualified" to give this newsletter a go.

Enough about me. What about the club? I have discovered that a Tuesday evening at Te Aroha starts about 5.30 pm a few metres from the club...and it's a pretty pleasant start to the evening's bridge:



As you can see from the glasses in the foreground, everyone is drinking something very soft and water-like. ( you can substitute the word “everyone” with “one or two” if you want a truly accurate picture!)

Now, I am sure that all those in this picture need no introductions. Again “all” is not quite accurate. So, just the one introduction to my wife, Kathleen, sandwiched between our new President and Peter TJ. I can guarantee you she will never ever ever sit down to play bridge but she does not mind coming to “The Grand” and socialising and drinking a glass or two of that watery substance!

Oh, finishing time on a Tuesday night is a little variable but we will only say that I do not get home very early.

“The new President! “It’s time to go back to the AGM....and welcome the new and say thanks to the old Committee.

### **Te Aroha AGM 23rd November**

Welcome then to Rochelle who has stepped up to take on the Presidency from Tim, who has occupied that seat and done so much more for the club in the past 6 years. Tim will of course keep helping out.... But a big thank-you for your many years as “the boss” and good luck as well to Rochelle.

Thanks also to Peter TJ who has been a very diligent Club Secretary. Same name, different face as Peter Daffern takes over that role. Victor will still be counting the dollars and cents while others on the committee are Anna, and yours truly.

### **Prize-Giving and Party Night – November 30th**

A really lovely evening at the club, to celebrate those who have done well throughout the year, socialise with those we know well and less so, enjoy a beautifully catered meal by Corolyn and then play bridge.



*Corolyn with a special certificate of thanks Shirley, who along with Pamela Clydesdale won the Hemmes-Kalma Cup*

**Best Novice of the year**



*Katrina Sweetman, winner of the Te Aroha Cup, also the trophy for the most improved player and with Hanna Frischknecht, the Mokena Cup. Ashlee Hemmes, winner of President's Cup*

## Auckland Cup winner



*Peter Daffern*

## Winner of the Jim Shine Shield



*Tim Rigter*

## Are you an NZ Bridge player? Then, our National Congress is for you

Maybe some of you Intermediate and Junior players might like to take part in your own events at the National Congress at Bay Park, Mt Maunganui? You can drive there each day with play finishing by 5.30pm each day. (start times 9.30am) Check out these events:

**Sat Feb 12<sup>th</sup>      NZ Intermediate Swiss Pairs**

**Sun Feb 13<sup>th</sup>      NZ Intermediate Pairs**

**NZ Junior Pairs**

**Mon Feb 14<sup>th</sup>      NZ Intermediate Teams**

both Sat and Monday events open to Intermediate and Junior players.  
each event \$54 per player.      **and for Novice Pairs**

**Sat Feb 12<sup>th</sup>      NZ Novice Pairs** 1pm start \$10.00 per player

If you have a query or need a partner/teammates contact me or see

<https://www.nzbridge.co.nz/summary-of-events-1.html>

(Vacc. passport required)

*and more prize winners*

### Club Championships winners



*Joy and Judith, looking so colourful,*

### What we all enjoyed



*and there was barely a carrot in sight<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> *the relevance of this comment will become apparent to all in the years to come. For now, just accept that this vegetable's near absence made at least one player very happy.*

There was, of course, bridge afterwards as in any pleasurable evening.

**For next time** Next month, we will have a little look at why this club is punching well above its weight. We will also check out on the Covid situation with respect to playing at the club.



### Bridge Time

However, we cannot let 2021 go without a bridge story. And it is going to start with a quiz. I am going to give you a bidding sequence. One of the players in this deal held 22 high card points. My question to you is “which one?”

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

Please cast your votes at this point. This means placing a sum of money into my bank account!

A word of explanation...well two. 2♦ (well, the first 2♦) was either a Weak 2 in a major suit or 20-22 balanced.

Then, North-South seemed to be aware that East's bid was insufficient. South elected to accept the insufficient bid as they are entitled to do.

The rest of the bidding was natural.

Now, many of the deals I will feature in these newsletters will be real deals at the Te Aroha Bridge Club. I would normally have named the four players by now but want to retain some readership! So, you will have to resort to blackmail to find out those involved.

So, one player held 22 hcp, while others held 8, 6 and 4 hcp. Have you made your deposit yet? Good, time to reveal.... the four hands, of course!

North Deals	♠ K 4 3											
E-W Vul	♥ J 7 6 4 3 2											
	♦ K J 6											
	♣ 7											
♠ Q 10 7 6 2	<table style="border: 2px solid green; border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ A 9	
	N											
W		E										
	S											
♥ 8		♥ A K Q 5										
♦ A		♦ 7 5 4										
♣ 10 9 8 5 4 2		♣ A K Q 6										
	♠ J 8 5											
	♥ 10 9											
	♦ Q 10 9 8 3 2											
	♣ J 3											
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>									
	2♦	2♣	2♦									
3♣	3♦	4♣	4♦									
5♣	Pass	Pass	5♦									
6♣	All pass											

The two hands which did the most bidding held respectively 4 and 6 hcps while the joint fewest bids was made by East, our 22 count. Of course, your money was on East..correct?

**The serious tip** : if you think you are going to open the bidding, make sure no-one has bid before you. East's failure to do so caused the insufficient bid and plenty of confusion.

We must point out that 6C was absolutely unbeatable. Well bid by West... and of course, East!

**Serious observation:** this month's deal is not meant to teach you much. It does carry an important message about the aims of this newsletter and those who will read it.

## **“Bridge is fun!”**

Let's keep it that way. Compliments of the season to all readers and members of the club. Here's hoping for a full year of bridge in 2022.

**This is me!**



*In case you have some news for me, email me at [rksolomon@xtra.co.nz](mailto:rksolomon@xtra.co.nz) or just call me on 027 245 5418.*