

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

July 2023



The first two Tuesdays in July saw the home and away evenings with Morrinsville. Firstly, there were 13 tables at Te Aroha and half a table extra at Morrinsville.

On both evenings, there was a very friendly welcoming atmosphere and of course lovely suppers. At Te Aroha, the top local pair were Gaye and Malcolm while Maureen and Jess produced the best Morrinsville score. Victor helped his partner to the best score in the second session though Hannah and Jan ran them extremely close. Also, June and Cam were in the mid 60's, a neat result. Nick Whitten and Rob Power were the top Morrinsville pair on home soil. It was great to see a number of brand new players taking part.

It was not just the players that were brand new. This was a "brand new" experience for me. I will give it to you in the form of a quiz.

Board 18

East Deals

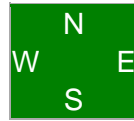
N-S Vul

♠ A K Q J

♥ 10 7 4

♦ K Q 10 4

♣ 6 5



<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		Pass	Pass

1 ♦ ?

You can see my first bid as West. The question is what do you think the next two bids were, one by North and the other by East? It's OK. I will not keep you in suspense too long!

Tops per club at Te Aroha



Gaye and Malcolm



Maureen and Jess

best scores by new players



Jo Chase



and Anna Michels

“Sock it” to them, Jo and Anna.

Well, back to those bids. Remember my hand, with some rather good spade cards. Well, North’s first bid was 1S and after passing initially, East came out with 1NT! Now, who would you believe had the best spade stop?!

Board 18											
East Deals	♠ 10 8 6 5 4 2										
N-S Vul	♥ A Q J										
	♦ A 9 8 7										
	♣ —										
♠ A K Q J	<table border="1" style="background-color: #008000; color: white; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ 7
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥ 10 7 4		♥ 9 5 3 2									
♦ K Q 10 4		♦ J 5									
♣ 6 5		♣ A K J 10 7 3									
	♠ 9 3										
	♥ K 8 6										
	♦ 6 3 2										
	♣ Q 9 8 4 2										
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>								
		Pass	Pass								
1 ♦	1 ♠	1 NT	All pass								

I can understand North’s bid. I would have bid it myself. However, 1NT does seem a rather strange choice from East. Personally, a negative double seems

fine, despite the quality of East's hearts (and I think I would have passed that out, probably successfully). Anyway, I did not venture another bid... and 1NT became the final contract. When South tried C2, I underestimated my club holding with my C5 taking the first trick! The soon made 9 tricks for a rather good result for our side. Can't argue (too much) with success! "Success" was the word for Te Aroha players over the two nights, too.

Good time for a holiday away

Other than that it means one would miss bridge at Te Aroha, the last few weeks' weather, in fact really the whole of this year's weather, has meant it has been a great time for a getaway. For Tim and for Anna Kalma, it was more of quality than quantity but both managed a time away. Tim found cruising from Cairns to Auckland via Norfolk Island was very much to his taste while Anna spent about the same length of time seeing how they celebrate Independence Day in "The Big Apple", New York.

Victor, too, left in mid- month for a trip to Europe.

Oh, Anna did comment that a session of bridge in New York cost US\$ 30.00 per player. You did get a small lunch included in that price but it did rather make a session in Te Aroha rather good value, especially as tea, coffee and a not inconsiderable supper is included in our \$4 per night. Oh, the company's pretty good too.

Two Night Pairs and the Rainbow Evening

There was a two-night Pairs event at the club at the end of June. Rochelle and Alan rather enjoyed themselves averaging 64.75% over the two nights to win quite comfortably from Gaye and Malcolm who starred on the first night with 69%. Jan and Tineke finished 3rd. Apologies for not having the handicap results.

Then, after the two evenings with Morrinsville, we had a very pleasant Rainbow Movement Individual. I was the victim of a piece of roguery from Shirley Bailey.

Board 20		♠ Q 3 2	
West Deals		♥ K 9 3	
Both Vul		♦ Q 9 7 3 2	
		♣ 8 6	
♠ K 7 6 5	N	♠ A 10 8	
♥ 10 8 4	W	♥ Q 6	
♦ K 6	S	♦ A J 10 8	E
♣ A 10 7 5	♣	K 9 4 3	
		♠ J 9 4	
		♥ A J 7 5 2	
		♦ 5 4	
		♣ Q J 2	
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	Pass	1 NT	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	2 ♠	All pass

Shirley sat West and saw her partner, Hanna, open 1NT, 12-14, in 3rd seat. There is no particular reason for Shirley to bid with only 10 hcp and only one 4-card major. However, forgetting temporarily how many trumps you need to transfer your partner to a major, Shirley did indeed do just that as Hanna became declarer in 2S. There were blushes from dummy who admitted to have made a slight error as she put her dummy down. I had led the CQ so that Hanna, who took a successful diamond and club finesse only lost one spade and two club tricks for a score of +170.

Meanwhile, I had an obvious and very successful heart lead to 1NT had Shirley used the pass card. Even if Hanna finessed correctly in diamonds, she could not score more than 7 tricks, +90. So, great timing for the transfer, Shirley, a result which helped both Hanna and Shirley to high 50% scores that evening.

The Tournament Scene ...and the winning Guy.

Anna and I had a reasonable time in Auckland's recent Regional Pairs and Teams finishing 3rd in the Pairs and 4th in the Teams. Meanwhile, at the Matamata Open, both the following had to be satisfied with a session prize:



However, Guy has a great technique for winning, well winning raffles! At the Matamata Open, he was sitting at the far end of the room from where Judith was drawing the raffle prizes. She announced she was about to draw the winning numbers and Guy called out with everyone listening “Draw red star 72” and you can guess which number was then drawn out for first prize! A cool way of winning \$100. Sorry, Guy, I know the technique now and will beat you to it next time.

...and once more, Te Aroha can boast the Waikato Bays winners of the National Rubber Bridge tournament. For the second year running, Charlotte and Tyrel have won through to represent our region in the National finals which will take place during the National Bridge Congress at Mt Maunganui in late September.

21 pairs took part in the Te Aroha heat of the Waikato Area Pairs. A nice day though there were very few home town pairs playing. Congratulations to Ross Stewart and Elaine Rayner who finished 3rd though there were very familiar winners in Yuzhong Chen and Gary Foidl. Thanks to Pam Moore and Jan Spaans for directing and scoring. Pam’s husband and regular partner was no “Cinderella” for the day and finished 2nd playing with Ella Gray.

Good Counting, Anna.

A fairly straightforward bidding sequence. Anna opened 1C. I bid 1D and Anna bid 1H. I jumped to 3H and she bid the heart game. The lead was SJ which went to Anna’s SA.

She turned her card face down on the table and was about to play to trick 2. The other three players were of course interested in what she was about to play though were far more interested in the fact that the colour of the card she had played to trick 1 was red while all the rest of her cards and indeed those of the other three players were blue.

The director was summonsed and sure enough, it transpired that Anna had indeed started the bidding with 14 cards and 13 of those were blue.

Everyone else had 13 cards. Yet, what was mysterious was that that was the only SA at the table. There were not two SAs.

The mystery never got solved as both pairs were given a 60% board and could not play the board. The SA was not the duplicated card and yet there were 53 cards present.

A pack without a SA? How could that be?

Did Anna count her cards before opening the bidding? She claims she did. She certainly did on the next board!

A Bridge Seminar, perhaps?



What are these bridge players doing? Improving their bridge, perhaps? Well, they are at the club and are listening very intently. Concentrating much harder than were they playing! (*not my words, of course!*)

The answer, of course, has nothing to do with bridge. For the first time in its 70 year history, a session of bridge at the club was delayed by a game of football, yes, the round ball one! The delay of Round 1 of the Auckland Cup was around 15 minutes and the match was the Women's World Cup match from Wellington where the Philippines were the big party-poopers spoiling the Kiwis dreams of back to back wins and qualifying for Stage 2.

The slow play and the game's only goal came from the Philippines but once play could be started at the tables, it was Joan and Ross (McIntyre) and Laurie and Hermanna who came out on top. Maybe Joan and Laurie could have given our footballers a hand when they took on Switzerland!

A New Group of Members A big thank-you to Charlotte and Tyrel who have been teaching a large group of new players at the club on Thursday nights. There have been as many as 19 turn up on some nights as they learn the basics of the game. 14 of these have joined the club and been issued with NZ Bridge numbers. The Thursday sessions have carried on with practice sessions of bridge with 10 attending including one new Morrinsville last Thursday.

That's all very promising for the club. Thanks also those who have come along to help at the lessons and subsequent play sessions.



Hey, was that a good result, Sharon, you are entering in the bridgemate or are you just posing for the camera?

Until next time. Richard.

