

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

August 2022



Te Aroha Tops at the Cambridge 6's

Farmers excluded (as they have a legitimate excuse at this time of the year), why were there not more Te Aroha players taking part in this year's Cambridge 6's which took place at the Karapiro Events Centre on the 6th August?

As well as a nice day's bridge, all teams dressed up to theme of the Oscars while there was also a continuous quiz again around the movies' theme. There was also a nice layed-on lunch and plenty of prizes in the raffle draw..or so I am told as I had no first-hand experience of the prizes!

One Te Aroha team and that team came number 1 overall. A great result. Pride of place must go to our Junior pair of Adri Rigter and Ross McIntyre who creamed their field, scoring 82.74 vps from 6 x 12 board matches, Swiss scoring, winning 5 and losing the other by just 2 vps. That total was the joint highest vp total in any of the three sections.

Anna and I won 3 and drew 1 of our matches to finish 5th in the Open (out of 24 pairs) while Malcolm and Peter Daffurn saved their best until last in what was a tough day for them. 15 vps from that match sealed an overall victory for the Te Aroha "Slappers" when the results of all 3 competitions were combined.

The winning team



Adri, Anna, Peter, Malcolm, Ross and Richard

The theme of the day was a night at the Oscars and every one of the 24 teams contributed to the dress up theme including the Te Aroha Slappers. Adri and Ross show off their rouge!



Waikato Rubber belongs to Te Aroha

When two Te Aroha pairs won their respective semi-finals in the Waikato Bays heat of the National Rubber Bridge competition, there could be only one place for the final. So, it was on the afternoon of Saturday August 13th that Tyrel and Charlotte took on Anna and I at the club. Before we go any further, a little bidding problem for you:

What would you bid as South in this position:

West	North	East	South
1NT (15-18)	Pass	Pass	?
Holding S AK7652 H 74 D - C QJ964			



A brief photo pose in the midst of the Rubber final

For the first few boards, the match was quite even and Anna and I even had a small lead...but not for long! Deals like the following occurred. The cards were quite wild:

West Deals ♠ J 9 8 3
 E-W Vul ♥ 10 6 5
 ♦ A 7 6 4
 ♣ 8 7

♠ Q 10 4
 ♥ K Q 9 2
 ♦ K J 5
 ♣ A K 5

♠ —
 ♥ A J 8 3
 ♦ Q 10 9 8 3 2
 ♣ 10 3 2

♠ A K 7 6 5 2
 ♥ 7 4
 ♦ —
 ♣ Q J 9 6 4



West	North	East	South
<i>Charlotte</i>	<i>Anna</i>	<i>Tyrel</i>	<i>Richard</i>
1 NT	Pass	Pass	2 ♦
Pass	2 ♥	Dbl	2 ♠
3 ♥	3 ♠	4 ♥	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	5 ♦	5 ♠
Dbl	All pass		

2D was a single-suited major while 2H was “pass or correct to spades”. The rest of the bidding was natural. The only way to beat 6H by West is the lead of DA and a diamond ruff. 5Sx cost 500 points being 3 down. How I wished I had passed out 1NT!

Charlotte and Tyrel went on to establish a big lead of around 3500 by the time their opponents called it quits after 28 of the scheduled 30 boards.

Congratulations to Charlotte and Tyrel who will represent Waikato Bays in the National finals in Mt Maunganui in the first week of October. May all the aces go with them!

Te Aroha Tops at Te Awamutu

On the same day as the Rubber final, two more Te Aroha pairs were having fun at Te Awamutu Intermediate Pairs. Judith Howard and Alan Mace (yes, they both have different home clubs but we will claim them too!) had two nice steady rounds, 57.50% and 62.92%, a tad over 60% average. It looked like that might be enough with the only pairs ahead of them after Round 1 recording 53% and 50% in the afternoon.

However, they had not counted on Victor Kooter and Peter Daffurn who had scored a modest 51.82% in the morning. There was nothing modest about their afternoon session. 70.42% enough to give them overall victory by 1.82%.



Alan and Judith beaten by Victor and Peter's storming finish

Waikato Bays Inter-Club Championships

Both our Open and Intermediate teams had qualified in the top two in the Waikato heat and thus played in the final at Matamata on Sunday August 21st. Two clubs from each heat played 3 x 16 board matches and our Intermediates finished "in the top 4" while with a huge win over the eventual winners, Tauranga, our Open team finished 2nd, 7vps adrift.

Tim and Tyrel teamed up to bid the right slam on this board which made comfortably despite a 5-0 trump break!

Our Open Team



Charlotte, Tyrel, Tim and “super-sub” (who said that!) Richard Rochelle was sorely missed..or so Tim said!

Board 16												
West Deals	♠ J 6											
E-W Vul	♥ 10 8 7 3 2											
	♦ K 3											
	♣ J 10 7 3											
♠ A K Q 8 5 ♥ A 6 5 ♦ J 8 7 6 ♣ Q	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid black;"> <table style="border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center; width: 40px; height: 40px;"> <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> </div>		N		W		E		S		♠ 7 4 2 ♥ K Q J 9 4 ♦ A Q 2 ♣ K 9	
	N											
W		E										
	S											
	♠ 10 9 3											
	♥ —											
	♦ 10 9 5 4											
	♣ A 8 6 5 4 2											
West	North	East	South									
<i>Tyrel</i>		<i>Tim</i>										
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♥	Pass									
4 ♥	Pass	4 NT	Pass									
5 ♥	Pass	6 ♥	All pass									

2 ace response was enough for Tim to try for slam. He might have had a nervous moment when he realised North had 5 trumps but his were just good enough to draw them all in 5 rounds and then discard 2 diamonds on dummy's spades to make his contract. While the Tauranga pair stayed in game, note that 6S by West, a perfectly legitimate contract, would be defeated on a heart lead from North. So, great bidding by our 2 "Ts".

And the Intermediates



Malcolm, Peter and Victor with Alan trying to whip them into shape!

Looking Forward

Do enter pairs for the up-coming Tuesday night Saxon Teams. We will sort you out teammates so that all teams are roughly equal.

So, a big month of bridge in August. In the first week of October, we have the first live National Congress from Bay Park in Mt Maunganui. There are events for all grades of player, events you can go and come back in one day like the Junior and the Intermediate Pairs on Thursday 6t October and a one session Novice Pairs on the afternoon of Sunday October 2nd. If you are interested in going, ask me or Tim, Rochelle, Viktor or Malcolm. Fun for a day.

So more next month. Happy Bridging.

Richard