

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

**December 2022**



### **It's Christmas Early at the Club.**

29<sup>th</sup> November was the night to be exact that a very high percentage of members turned up for Corolyn's lovely two course meal, for prize-giving, for catching up with other members and of course for an evening's bridge. There were over 40 present for the meal and 38 for the bridge. That number included two Matamata visitors, Sonia and Noel: 39 if we include the "phantom waitress".

The dinner was preceded by a short "bridge players' "grace" or prayer presented by Foster:

"Lord, grant me a partner who won't trump my Aces.  
Deliver me from short suits and cards without faces.  
Grant me finesses that work as I've planned,  
And just once today, please, a nice Grand Slam hand"

Well, there was one, Foster, on Board 8. We might have a look at later on. In the meantime, the food was really yummy: thanks, Corolyn.



*the food and the “phantom waitress” a room full of wine and dined players*

The “phantom waitress” was Rochelle who served liquid and at some point chocolaty refreshments to those at the phantom table or really to anyone who wanted a drink! **And to the prize-winners:**

**Jim Shine winner**

**Mokena Cup Champion**



*Joy and the shield*

*Austin who won with Ross Stewart*

## Winners of the Championship Pairs



*Yes, all these Kalma's know how to play. Guy was my partner this time.*

## Auckland Cup winners



*Tim*



*and*

*Charlotte*

**Tops in Saxon Teams**



*Foster, Tineke and Gaye. Missing was Ross Stewart*

**and Gilligan Barclay Thames winners**



*Joy and Richard*

Now in snaring the Gilligan Barclay cup, Joy and I had a rather enjoyable round of 75.85%. However, if you think that was the highest club score of the year, you would be mistaken, being well eclipsed by Anna Kalma and visitor, Anne-Marie Russell's 75.94%! Take that!

**Hemmes-Kalma Cup Winners**



*Katrina and Adri*

**and in the Open/Intermediate Section**



*no cup here but a nice improvised bell for Hanna and Jan*

Who has won “The Slam Cup”? and “ The President’s Cup”?



*Why, Tim of course. A drink for each slam he has made this year?*

*The first of many for Cam, our top Novice this year.*

**Most Improved Player**



That's Victor not just at the club but for those 70+% rounds and successes he has had recently in tournaments.

## QUIZ TIME!

And now a question for you. What have these three handsome gentlemen got in common (apart from being handsome!)?



It's OK. We will not keep you in suspense for too long.

First, though, **Foster's Grand.**

I was going to include here a board from the club party night where you could make 13 tricks quite easily but where realistically you should only be in small slam.... but only Adri and Ross McIntyre even bid to the 6-level.

Since the 6-level was where you should be, I have decided to show this "grand" deal which occurred very recently in an Open tournament and offered huge possibilities for North, below.

S AKQJ

H K9


D AJ7

C AQ109

What would you do when having opened 2C Game Force, you partner makes a natural positive 3C call? No cunning plan, I hope and as long you are playing Roman Key-Card Blackwood, or Gerber if you prefer, there should be no problem. Say you bid 4NT and hear your partner bid 5H, showing 2 key-cards

(you have the other 3!) and no CQ (strange if they were to show it as that would make 2 CQ's in one pack!)

So, I have not seen your bid yet. 7NT or 7C if you are feeling a little unsure of 13 top tricks. Have you claimed yet?

North Deals	♠ A K Q J	
Both Vul	♥ K 9	
	♦ A J 7	
	♣ A Q 10 9	
♠ 10 9 8 3		♠ 6 5 4
♥ J 10 5		♥ Q 8 7 3
♦ K Q 10 6 2		♦ 9 8 4 3
♣ 6		♣ 7 2
	♠ 7 2	
	♥ A 6 4 2	
	♦ 5	
	♣ K J 8 5 4 3	

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	2 ♣	Pass	3 ♣
Pass	4 NT	Pass	5 ♥
Pass	7 ♣	All pass	

A nice 32 combined hcp grand-slam. Now, is that the board Foster was talking about in the poem? Only 15 out the 49 North-South pairs bid to a grand-slam on this board, not great bidding by the rest. Maybe Tim will slip this board into one of the future sessions at the club, a nice candidate for those trying to win "The Slam Cup" off him!

It's OK. We will ensure Tim is sitting East or West!

### Victor requests...

You to pay your subs to the club for 2023 and if you prefer lump sum in advance table-money for Tuesday nights as soon as you can. Full sub is just 40.00 and associate membership 20.00. Annual table money in advance is 170.00. Pay up now: what great value.

### The Best "Individual"

Yes, that's Alan Mace. He came out on top with the best score when we ran a "Rainbow Movement" Individual on a recent Tuesday night.

"Call me versatile". Certainly, a good partner for most. Note we will have some more Individuals on the 2023 Tuesday night program.



*Hi Alan. Maybe next time you will look at the camera, please!*

**What have they got in common?**



What have they got in common? It's time to reveal all...well nearly all!

Well, it's not their name even though there is a similarity in the first name of 2 of them.

It's not that they are all similarly dressed even though two are in shorts!

It's not that they are in white: come on, you know the next line which follows that!



Two Peters, two in shorts, two in white but three ex Te Aroha Club secretaries. Yes, all Secretaries in 2022. Yet, there is no Shirley Bailey in the picture as she will not be “ex” for many years to come. “Big shoes to fill” I am told, by at least three of them but we know Shirley will be the best of all.

**Looking Forward**                      70                      70                      70                      70

There’s plenty of good bridge to look forward to in 2023 but top of the list, we hope, for every Te Aroha player, should be the weekend of **May 27<sup>th</sup> / 28<sup>th</sup>** when our club will be celebrating its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary. There will be bridge for all on both days, a 10A (yes, that’s right, more As than normal) Spa Town Teams along with a Multi Grade Swiss Pairs on the Saturday and an 8B Pairs on the Sunday. After play on the Saturday, we will have social time, a lovely dinner and some reflections of the 70 years of the club.

For now, just mark down that weekend as a bridge weekend and we will tell you more a little closer to the time.

**and a little sooner.**

Tuesday bridge ends on 20<sup>th</sup> December for this year. Don’t pine too long as we will be starting up again on January 3<sup>rd</sup>! Friday sessions? I should know but I am



sure Rochelle will let you know by email

So, time for resolutions for the New Year  
May all your bridge hands make you cheer  
Finesses work at Te Aroha: they certainly ought!  
Plenty of grand slams and even some port.

What more could you wish for. Have a lovely Christmas and New Year. See you back at the club very soon.

*Richard*

