

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

Te Aroha News December 2024



Christmas comes in late November

What a lovely night it was at the Club as we celebrated Christmas a little early, cheered those who have won trophies this year and naturally indulged in a bit of bridge playing too. Two “northern travellers” got wind that the club was a nice place to visit and in a whirlwind week in New Zealand, Swedish bridge player (he’s also the Chairman of the Swedish Bridge Association) Martin Lofgren, and his German friend, Nico Bausbeck, made coming to Te Aroha on this particular Tuesday night a must.



Martin and Nico enjoyed a quick glass of port after play. We also see Tim and Martin take on Foster and Karen. With Tim concentrating more on the picture than the play, it was obvious that his opponents would have come off better in the bridge game!

Rochelle and Tim discovered that their partners were no slouches at the bridge table. Naturally, our guests had a glass of port before collapsing into bed, only one though as they had started the day in Wellington leaving at 6.30am to drive north.

The night though was about our club members and about 50 of them turned up, a huge percentage..not a night to be missed. After some socialising time, we sat down to a lovely Corolyn feast and then came the prize- giving:

Protag Pairs champs: for the second year running 3 week Pairs winners



Enid Nicol Winners...again



While the Gilligan Barclay trophy went Thames-way, Richard and Joy kept their grip on the Enid Nicol Trays.

Championship Pairs Winners



Overall: that's Rochelle and Tim

Mokena Junior



Ross and Adri.

Where are you, Adri.....

Mokena Handicap



Victor and Mark

and Mark?



Well played, Bernie and Joy who are the first winners of the Rigter Cup in winning the Senior/ Junior Pairs. Meanwhile, Tim proudly displays the Auckland Cup he won this year, in no small way thanks to his various partners.



Two of the winners of the Saxon Teams in celebratory mood after winning this event with Adri and both Paul Farac and Paul Decker.

Latest Jim Shine winner



and 3 Week Individual winner



Winners of the Hemmes Kalma Cup, Austin and Katrina, along with Henk and Anna representing their 2 families presenting the trophy

Open/Intermediate winners at the Hemmes- Kalma event



Top Score of 24



While Austin and Katrina were winning the Hemmes-Kalma, Victor and Guy won the Open/Intermediate section. However, Joy and Laurie had the top score of the year, 76.43% in one of our sessions with Morrinsville.



Most Improved Player award went to Cam while our Slam Cup Champion was like last year Rochelle.

Two cups in her first year



Debbie was not able to be at the prize-giving but we caught her later with the two trophies she won in her first year at the Club. She won the President's Trophy for the Best Novice player and the Handicap Trophy in the Te Aroha Cup Individual competition. That's pretty good for her first year at the club.

Three winners for "Strike One"



*It may be the new "Strike One" competition but there three winners for the award to the player who had the most successful slams bid **against** them*

during the year. Well done, or shall we say “hearty commiserations” to Jan Baker, Mary Allen and Shirley Bailey. Maybe the “Slam Cup” for them next year.

That concludes the trophy and certificate winners (great certificates, Peter...many thanks). The Friday Town Clock winner was Nick Whitten. It was lovely to have so many of our members present, as well as our special guests. We have already seen our European visitors and here, all the way from Tirau, is our regular Party Night guest, Sonia:



Sonia along with Joy while it's lovely seeing our first year players there too,



Pauline and Steve

A nice night with a friendly session of bridge to follow.

A Question?



Whose feet are these and what is the significance of these to bridge at Te Aroha...or somewhere close by? If you cannot contain yourself from wondering, then the answer appears very soon.

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Cam, Contract Milker, Te Aroha

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Go, Cam. In bridge, “stripping” means taking away all the cards in a suit from the declarer and dummy hands. Now, then there’s “herd stripping”!

We have all got “card sense” and Cam’s showing off Quad Sense too. Will it be the movies next, Cam?

Player News

A very Happy 95th birthday to Ari Rigger. It was a nice family celebration for Ari who still is very much into card games even if he does not make it to the club these days.

“Barefoot Bridge”



Apologies for repeating this picture. Can you identify those legs?

A few weeks ago, Thames held its Christmas Party 2-session Tournament with Te Aroha well represented. Shortly before, new carpet was laid in the club-rooms and on the morning of the tournament, the food was brought to the club including rice which had been washed. Well, a little accident saw the carpet get a little damp and rice taken off the otherwise excellent dinner menu later in the day.

So, either to save the carpet or people's footwear, players were asked to remove their shoes on arrival. There was a huge pile of shoes near the entry-way and some quite bare feet under the tables. Caught in an unfamiliar pose (at least his bottom half) was Alan Mace. It would be highly uncharitable to say it was a good picture of Alan. Well, if I did, he might refuse to play with me next year! It remains to be seen whether Te Aroha adopts this standard approach below the knee. I can report the day and the rice-less feed at the conclusion were most enjoyable....and the carpet is just looking great.

I am only writing this because it is the season of goodwill, goodwill to all, although I did not feel much goodwill when this deal occurred. The message is quite simple: "if you think you can beat a contract..and it is not a situation where double is for take-out or where they can run to a different contract, then double the contract, no matter how good you perceive the opposition to be. Sometimes, the defence's cards are just too good and not even a good player can escape. Double them for penalties! Don't be afraid. Watch.

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

(hand repeated for convenience)

Here, South really wanted to redouble but he could see the joy oozing from West's lips. Maybe this guy really meant it. He did. South lost one diamond and one club trick and could not avoid 3 trump losers, down 2 or -500.

Some players are too afraid to wield the penalty double because declarer will “find a way”. Sometimes they might but many juicy (that is for the defence) penalty doubles have been missed at the club and elsewhere because the declarer is perceived to be just too good. Don’t be afraid!

You may draw your own conclusion as to who the declarer was...and I am sure you will be right!

Oh, I am hoping that the rule about not doubling new players will be extended to new players' partners..and that the rule will be backdated! Perhaps, Peter TJ will not agree with that request.

A Stack of Goodwill



Yes, it's Christmas time down on the farm and that means a bit of bailing..and don't those bails look both seasonal and cheerful. A group of players were ushered down to the farm after bridge and port one recent Tuesday night and saw the bails nicely lit up with "solar" energy. They look pretty nice by daylight, too.

"On which farm" you may ask? Well, it may be a clue that it is in Tim's front paddock. The story even reached a recent edition of the Te Aroha News. Who knows, it may yet go viral!

The designers included Tim's daughter-in-law, Brooke. She and two sharemilkers filled in the hours between milking and in the evening, to finish the Christmas tree design with solar-powered lights.

The “tree” will remain until sometime in January or earlier if the bales are needed for a more traditional use!

Hay Bales by Night.



So, on that seasonal note, here's hoping all members have a happy Christmas. There's bridge at the club on every Tuesday except Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve (and who knows, watch this space and there might even be bridge then too!)



And plenty of good bridging in the New Year.

Season's Greetings to you all. *Richard*