

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

**July 2022**



### **A Social and Friendly Club**

If we are a little short of news this month, we can at least reflect on what we bridge players do before and after bridge on a Tuesday night in Te Aroha. In olden days, there was much more social interaction around sessions of bridge at NZ bridge clubs. Nowadays, many clubs do not stop for supper breaks and if you want a cup of coffee, you sneak it between rounds.

Not so, Te Aroha and how good this is. Take a look.

From 5.30pm until 7.00 pm



The table is far too long for a game of bridge but long enough for some Te Aroha players to meet, have a good feed and have a general catch-up. So, if you fancy a nice atmosphere and feed before play, come to The Grand. It's only a few steps away from the front door of the bridge club...a brisk mid-winter gallop!



Not only do I vouch for the friendly atmosphere but you can even catch one or two who do not set foot in the club turn up, like Kath, my wife. We really are a friendly lot.

### **After 7.00 pm**

Some time after 7.00 pm, depending on how many announcements Rochelle remembers to announce, we do start playing bridge...and some do not wait for the coffee break for a bit of liquid refreshments!

Eventually around 9pm, we stop for coffee, tea, maybe something stronger and always some food to go with it. I have decided that having dessert at the pub is ridiculous as there are always nice nibbles, and often more than nibbles to eat. And what makes it so nice is that everyone gets up from their tables and talks. Maybe the break is supposed to last for 10 minutes. Maybe it should but it usually lasts longer.

### **After play**

Around 10.15 ish, play ends and for many, maybe the sensible ones, that is enough for one evening...but not all. Indeed, this group leave closer to midnight..more talk...more socialising. This is a very good bridge club. You just



gotta believe it!

## **Meeting Morrinsville**

There were two Tuesdays this month devoted to meeting up with Morrinsville players, one at each club. I was Covid bound and thus unable to go to Morrinsville but was able to play in the return "at home". It was two pretty successful nights for the Te Aroha players though the main success was that the contact between the two clubs was maintained.

## **Two Still Alive** (it's OK..There's more than 2 of us alive and kicking!)

You may remember that we had three pairs contest the Waikato Bays heat of this year's National Rubber Bridge competition. Well, we are down to the last 4 pairs and 2 of them come from Te Aroha. Rochelle and Tim won their first match but the cards went against them when they took on Hamilton's Mereana Cullen and Barbara Daly. Tyrel and Charlotte are very much alive and take on Jenna and Christine Gibbons in one semi-final while Anna and I aim to revenge Rochelle and Tim's loss in the other.

## **Cambridge 6's coming up**

On 6<sup>th</sup> August on the shores of Lake Karapiro. At the time of writing, there is one Te Aroha team, Anna, myself, Malcolm, Peter Daffurn, Adri and Ross McIntyre while there are some familiar names popping up in other teams. Te Aroha aim not just to win the bridge but the dress up competition too. Watch this space!

## **Have your say**

NZ Bridge is currently having a major review of on-line versus social bridge. If you would like to have your say about any aspect of this, club play, tournament play, teaching etc please submit to the Review Panel chaired by NZ Bridge Board member, Kate Terry but you will need to do so by August 12<sup>th</sup>. The email for submissions is [kate.terry@nzbridge.co.nz](mailto:kate.terry@nzbridge.co.nz)

Everyone's views is very important. The arrival of Real (on-line) Bridge is likely to have a major impact on our game.



### **More on the after-bridge**

Now, please do not get alarmed but it seems there is a murderer amongst us. Do not worry because the police have got him! He slunk off after bridge, or so we were told, and was rather enjoying his time without a bridge card or drink in sight. We can reveal it was “Dug Graves.”

“Dug who” you may ask? If you do, then you have not seen the recent production of “Death and Taxe\$” at the Te Aroha Little Theatre. So, you do not believe me? Well, we can reveal now that the play has finished that Dug was indeed the murderer being caught “having a fling” and taking vengeance with a tennis racket! He slunk off after a night at the local bridge club. Perhaps he would have been better off staying for late night drinks!



Any resemblance between Dug and our own Peter TJ is entirely not coincidental. Well done, Peter, a neat performance and a great night out for all those bridge players and others who saw the play.

I really, though, find it strange that a tennis bat was the deadly weapon. I am sure far more damage could be inflicted by a bridge board or bridge mate!

### **Worthwhile Thursdays**

Yes, they have been. I hope those who came to my Improvers classes enjoyed them..and even learnt something! Then, we had the Beginners’ Classes and some very casual friendly sessions which helped our new players get the feel for what a session of bridge is like.

It has also been great seeing Sharon, Dee and Cam come along not just on Thursdays but on Tuesday evenings as well....and we hope to see Christine on Fridays.

Thursdays will stop for now but surely can be restarted if and when there is a need for them. Thank you, Victor and Tim for organising these sessions.

### **A Hand for this month**



Well, it's not so much a tip (you are getting those each week now) but the story of two events that occurred recently when Anna and I were playing at Cambridge. Firstly, a question.

How come we did not win a trick when defending a 4S contract despite the fact that one of us held the SA? The result was 4S making 7!

Just before that occurred, Anna was playing a 4S contract, a slightly aggressively bid one, I seem to recall. We awaited the opening lead and in perfect unison, our two opponents placed the HK and HA on the table, face up, of course!

As Anna had nothing like an honour in the heart suit, very wisely she forbade the lead of a heart from the correct hand. You often see leads out of turn but rarely simultaneous leads by both defenders, the leads being the highest cards in the same suit.

So, have you worked out how the SA did not win a trick for the defence even though spades were trumps?

It was about trick 3 and a medium spade was led from the North hand, which was dummy. East discarded and that card S10 won the trick. Next a smaller spade came from dummy to declarer's jack as again East discarded and this time West took the trick with their ace.

There was a slightly surprised look on the declarer's face as to why SA had won the trick because they were missing 4 spades, 2 small ones, SQ and SA. Where was the queen?

Yes, you guessed. A slightly embarrassed laugh came from East as they quietly put down the SQ on the table! The director was summonsed and one trick passed from the defence to the declarer. One card..two revokes...one trick penalty!

Now which of us was sitting West? Wouldn't you like to know!

Oh, by the way, Anna made her 4S contract in the other hand.

### **And a curiosity from Victor.**

He was my partner on a recent hand. He opened 1D and my right-hand opponent called 1H and with 7 points and 7 spades, I called that suit at the one level. Pass on my left which rather confused Victor as he produced a double in this sequence: 😊

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Richard</i>		<i>Victor</i>	
		1D	1H
1S	Pass	x	

Now, either he was making a negative double or he thought I could not make my contract! It is a bit tough when you have 3 opponents!

He got me banned from the bidding but made up for that by jumping to 4S, a contract I made with an overtrick. His hand included 3 spades. I am finding some interesting partners these days..oops, sorry, Anna!

*Well, quite a lot of news in the end for a short month's newsletter.*

*See you later in August.*

*Richard*