

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

November 2022



Two New Life Members

That's Henk and Hermanna, both really deserving of the honour bestowed upon them at this month's AGM.



Hermanna has been a huge asset to both Te Aroha and Matamata Bridge Clubs since she learnt to play in 1991. Her interest in Te Aroha came when the club really started to struggle. Her role was that of partnership steward and she saved the club from closing by getting the likes of Laurie Belfield, Ross Stewart,

Joan Darby-Smith and the late George Sherrell to the club. She also increased club membership from her own family with all three of her children and grandson Jacob all learning.

Henk came from Holland in 1955 and joined the Te Aroha club in 1981. He is now the club's longest serving member and "served he has". He became the club's vice-President and when the President, Barry Jones, moved on, Henk became President. He also served as club Treasurer.

Both are also the backbone of Friday bridge. Hermanna just loves the game any time anywhere. They have always just stepped in where needed, the sort of members every club needs. Where else would the Friday sessions have been during the recent toilet renovation but at their home.

For their huge service to the club over many years and in particular for saving it at its lowest ebb, they are fully deserving of Life Membership.

When Te Aroha descended on Matamata

November 11th was the night this year for the annual New Zealand Wide Pairs event this year. The event had a new sponsor, Loveblock Wines, and it was nice to see heats played at 56 clubs all around the country. One of those was at Matamata where there were 9 tables in play, 36 players. I did a quick add-up and I think there were 15 Te Aroha players taking part. The director has been often seen down Whitaker Street too! There would have been more but Foster's son's wedding that night stripped the event of the Kalma family.

It was a good night at the office for Joy playing with Lesley Quilty. They scored well in the club heat and listened to the director's advice of having their worst results on Boards 25-27 which did not count in the across the field results. Their final score was 62.15% up 4% on their local score finishing 58th out of the 865 competing pairs. Tim and Rochelle and Charlotte and Tyrel also did well coming home with mid 50% scores.

It was not all about match-points though. The event raised money for New Zealand Bridge Foundation which supports players and clubs around the country.....and then there was the food and drink and chocolates!

Judith organised a lovely cooked dinner beforehand. Then, there was supper part-way through....and this was the scene at the table occupied by Te Aroha players at the end of play.

Christmas Time in Thames

It always does happen there in mid-November. The recent club-nights between our two clubs showed what both could offer when it came to food though Thames, Carol especially, really excelled on the Sunday Christmas Pairs with a wonderful 2-course Christmas spread.



Victor and Peter Daffurn did well in their category coming first though the highlight (my highlight!) will give hope to those of you who never win a raffle prize. Eventually, even your bad luck will run out as mine did on this day. A first time for everyone and this was a very rare prize for yours truly.

Over 70 and Under 50 but enough to win

Christmas came early for Victor and Peter Daffurn at the recent Te Awamutu Christmas tournament. They set the pace with 71.68% in the morning and held off the strong challenge of two grandmasters, Blair Fisher (he is “gold”!) and Jeremy Fraser-Hoskin who put in 68% in the afternoon. However, Victor and Peter scored 54.02% in the afternoon to win by 0.53%: well judged! Henk and Hermann had a good day as well finishing 6th in the 28 pair field. They topped 60% in the afternoon.

The “under 50” refers to how Jan and Hanna finished in the 3-night Hemmes – Kalma Open, held this month over three nights at the club. They did enough on the second night, a mere 67.46%, to secure themselves victory by 2% even though they fell below 50% on the last night. Malcolm and I were a couple of per cent behind and Joy and Victor 3rd. Meanwhile, victory in the Junior event

went to Katrina and Adri with Ross McIntyre and Richard Symes second and Austin and Peter TJ third.

Formality on a Tuesday night?

AGM

Yes, even at Te Aroha occasionally when the Annual General Meeting of the club took place. Being Te Aroha, there was a nice friendly atmosphere throughout. Rochelle reviewed her first year as President, quite a challenging one as the club had to survive Covid, vaccine passes etc.

Three new members emerged from the beginners' classes and there was plenty of bridge, like the Spa Town Teams held in the clubrooms and inter-club with Morrinsville and Thames, Jo Mayall etc.

Rochelle thanked those involved in the calf scheme and Katrina for taking on the role of partnership steward. Then there is the huge support Tim always gives along with the behind-the-scenes "always there" role of Anna. A new fridge and dishwasher for the club. All up, plenty happening, including these newsletters!

Victor showed the club was in great heart too financially (no need to change rates of subs and table money) and then we had the election of the new committee. No change, thankfully, in President and Treasurer..thanks Rochelle and Victor while it is nice to see Shirley Bailey come onto the committee as Secretary. The committee is made up of, I believe, (ask the old Secretary for confirmation (oops, he thinks he knows!) Tim, Tineke, Tyrel, Charlotte, Jan (Baker), Ross (McIntyre) and yours truly. Great to see new names there but thanks to those who stood down, Laurie, Anna (Kalma), Linda and Malcolm. We know they are all still around to help where needed.

When the formalities ended, there was an informal meeting of those present from which Peter "TJ" emerged as the new Sponsorship Co-ordinator. Thanks, Peter...and I believe there will be a separate small committee to run Friday bridge.

Chasing Tim!

Tim has been the "slam king" at the club this year. There were plenty of opportunities for those playing the club session at the AGM to catch him up. The following is one on which over half the North-South players failed to capitalise. Firstly, though, what is your bid as South with:

S 973 H A D AKQJ84 C K93 when the bidding starts:

West	North	East	South
	Rochelle		Richard
Pass	1C	Pass	1D
Pass	1H	Pass	?

Some of you will have heard of the “4th Suit Forcing convention. If your side has bid 3 suits and the player to speak next has a hold in the unbid suit, assuming they are strong enough, they can bid no trumps. This allows them to bid the unbid suit when they do **not** have a hold, or just want to find out more information about their partner’s hand. The bid of the unbid suit is 100% (or more!) forcing. The partner has to find the most suitable bid.

That was the situation here. As South, I bid 1S. Now, my partner, Rochelle, did not know whether or not I had 4 spades (we could still have had a spade fit in this auction...and if she had 4 spades, she should raise the suit). However, her spade holding was A5 and because she had a better hand than she had already shown, she jumped to 2NT. That was joy to my ears:

West Deals	♠ A 5
E-W Vul	♥ K Q J 2
	♦ 6 5
	♣ A J 10 8 7
♠ K Q 6	
♥ 10 6 4 3	
♦ 10 7 3	
♣ Q 6 5	
	♠ J 10 8 4 2
	♥ 9 8 7 5
	♦ 9 2
	♣ 4 2
	♠ 9 7 3
	♥ A
	♦ A K Q J 8 4
	♣ K 9 3

West	North	East	South
Pass	1 ♣	Pass	1 ♦
Pass	1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	2 NT	Pass	6 NT
All pass			

Surely I could count on 6 diamond tricks. Added to that were 4 heart tricks, CAK and SA..13 in total, though it would have been very hard to tell from the bidding that Rochelle had HQJ needed for a certain 13. Reaching 6NT with our combined 32 hcp was a reasonable result and bidding the slam with any

certainly came down to my knowing Rochelle held a trick in the unbid suit, spades.

So, that was one slam bid in pursuit of Tim. He could not really be blamed for missing this slam as he sat in the East or West seats 😊.

A “Grand” Lady

..and talking of slams. Kind of nice seeing Hermanna and Malcolm bid and make a grand slam in the last few days. Just a small request, Hermanna. Choose a different opponent next time, please!

Visitors Return



That’s Annie and Sylvan fulfilling their promise that they would return to play a second session at Te Aroha earlier this month...oh and have a second glass of port too. Nice also to see Charlotte’s veterinary friends play a session too.

Prize-giving and Christmas Party Time.

All the winners will be mentioned in our December issue. See you then.

Richard

