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

Te Aroha News November 2026



TE AROHA
BRIDGE CLUB

Top Team at National Congress.

All Te Aroha players who went to the National Congress in Palmerston North earlier this month had a great time and for some a most successful time. Rochelle, Tim, Guy and Victor performed extremely well in the Restricted Open section of The New Zealand Teams event winning this 40 team competition by 2.99 vp. They won 7 of their 8 matches over 2 days (each match lasted 14 boards), their only loss being by just 5 imps. That showed great consistency throughout the 112 boards.



Why is Rochelle in costume? Read on….

This team also finished 9th in the 36 team Congress Restricted Teams later in the week. Both pairs missed qualifying for the finals of the New Zealand Restricted Pairs though Rochelle and Tim finished 3rd in the 40 pair Congress Restricted Swiss Pairs at the end of the week. .

The following board was good for our local team in the Restricted Teams. When both sides can make game, though both games could/ should be defeated, would you rather be declaring or defending at both tables? Well, defending maybe but one slip and there's a good swing for the side that declared at both tables. Watch:

North Deals
N-S Vul

	♠ K Q J 9 3 ♥ Q 10 5 4 ♦ J 10 6 ♣ 4	
♠ 7 5 ♥ 9 7 6 ♦ A 9 8 7 2 ♣ J 10 8	N W E S	♠ 8 ♥ A K J 8 2 ♦ K 3 ♣ K Q 7 6 3
	♠ A 10 6 4 2 ♥ 3 ♦ Q 5 4 ♣ A 9 5 2	

West	*North*	*East*	*South*
	Pass	1 ♥	1 ♠
2 ♥	4 ♠	5 ♥	All pass

When Victor and Guy were East-West, the bidding was either as stated..or else Guy, East, bid 5C on their way to 5H. This contract was beaten by 2 tricks when North scored 2 trump tricks along with 2 black aces.

This looked like being a small loss for our team as at the other table, East-West elected to defend 4S by Rochelle, South. The defence started well with a heart to HK. To defeat 4S, East must switch to DK and subsequently score a diamond ruff. When that switch did not happen, Rochelle was able to draw trumps and concede just DAK.. game made. and 11 very useful imps to our team.

A great week for Joy

Joy also had a great time in the Congress Open events. Her partner was the Cambridge President, Clare Coles. In a field of 70 teams in the New Zealand Open Teams, filled with Grand Masters, their team finished a very

praiseworthy 16th. This placing also earnt them victory in The Cormack Cup competition for the top finishing all women team in this event.

Cormack Cup Winners



Gillian Corbett (Tauranga), Jane Stearns (Paihia), Clare (Cambridge) and Joy

Joy and Clare finished 8th East-West in the 50 pair NZ Open Swiss Pairs and 9th in the 50 team Congress Open Teams (with Bev and Allan Morris), very consistent results in strong Open fields.

Alan, Anna and I were also there though did not star this time.

However, there was one other event which has been a speciality for Rochelle, Tim, Victor and Guy in recent years. That has been the Wednesday dress-up. The theme this year was the letter “D”. If you cannot tell from their front what they paraded as, then the following picture from the back should clarify what they dressed as.

Dress up from both sides



and from the rear!



Jack, Queen, King and Ace of: "Diamonds"

The Matamata/Putaruru “Dalmatians” (Luda Watts, Heather Sharp, Anne Breben and Eileen Barker) took out first prize this year with the Te Aroha Diamonds coming in a very praiseworthy second. Meanwhile:

Beware of the Danger Hand



Joy, Clare and Allan and Bev Morris talking about playing a board in the right way ,avoiding “the danger hand”.

They were the only team in the Open (as opposed to the Restricted Open) event to take part in the dress-up. No prize this time but neat to have taken part. Back then to bridge at the Club…..

Thomas and TJ win the Hemmes Kalma

The final Tuesday event for the year was decided just after Congress. Victory in the Hemmes Kalma Junior Pairs went to Thomas and Peter “TJ”. Pairs are allowed one substitute and with Thomas unable to take part on the third evening, Paul made a very suitable substitute. However, the big score was on the first evening when Thomas and TJ scored a fine 64.06% to give them a very handy lead which they never relinquished.

Wisdom of Solomon



The Big Sin!

We will start with an opening bid problem. With both sides vulnerable, what is your choice?

East Deals
Both Vul

N
W E
S

♠ K J 10 9 6 3 2
♥ J
♦ 3
♣ Q 9 8 4

West	*North*	*East*	*South*
		?	

There's no catch. Have you made your choice? You do not have enough high card points to open at the 1-level. So, you have a decent 7 card suit. 3S is a good choice. If you are feeling a little adventurous, you could try 4S. You do have a reasonably good shapely hand.

Basically opening either 3S or 4S is fine. What is **not** fine is opening with one of these bids and then deciding to bid again. Watch what happened at one table on a recent Tuesday night:

East Deals
Both Vul

♠ 4
♥ A 10 9 8 4
♦ A K 10 8
♣ K 10 6

♠ 8
♥ K Q 7 6 5 2
♦ 9 5 4 2
♣ 7 2

N
W E
S

♠ K J 10 9 6 3 2
♥ J
♦ 3
♣ Q 9 8 4

♠ A Q 7 5
♥ 3
♦ Q J 7 6
♣ A J 5 3

West	*North*	*East*	*South*
		3 ♠	Dbl
Pass	4 ♥	4 ♠	Dbl
All pass			

When East doubled 3S, for take-out, West was very happy to defend 4H. That first double by South was not a good bid since they would be in a very difficult position if and when their partner bid 4H, which really was quite

likely. They were not strong enough to bid higher and were thus in a rather poor contract.

Yet, to their rescue came East who thought their opponents had found a good fit…and so decided to bid their spade suit once again. Wrong! West would have been very happy to defend 4H. They were not so happy in putting down their dummy in 4Sx. Yes, East's second double was much better… for penalties!

4Sx went four down for -1100. In a way, that was not much different from what should have happened with this a better sequence:

East Deals
Both Vul

	♠ 4 ♥ A 10 9 8 4 ♦ A K 10 8 ♣ K 10 6	
♠ 8 ♥ K Q 7 6 5 2 ♦ 9 5 4 2 ♣ 7 2	N W E S	♠ K J 10 9 6 3 2 ♥ J ♦ 3 ♣ Q 9 8 4
	♠ A Q 7 5 ♥ 3 ♦ Q J 7 6 ♣ A J 5 3	

West	*North*	*East*	*South*
		3 ♠	Pass
Pass	Dbl	All pass	

Notice South's pass of 3S. They are not strong enough to bid 3NT, cannot (or should not) double with that heart shortage and cannot overcall a 4-card minor at the 4-level. Yet, North can make a take-out double of 3S. Now, South's best bid is to pass for penalties. +800 (down 3) is not the best score North/South can get as they can make all 13 tricks with diamonds as trumps. Even bidding 6D was too tough after East's pre-empt. No-one in the country bid even to 6D. +800 was thus a great score and +1100 even better!

The moral for East is once you have made your choice, stick with it without any indication of support from your partner. North-South may have ended in 4NT or even 5 of a minor had East passed 4H. Neither partner had enough to bid slam. East turned perhaps -620 or -660 into – 1100 by their second bid. Their opponents may even have drifted into a contract they could not make.

Stick with your first choice**. Do not bid the same hand twice!**

A "Nice" Quick Meeting

That was certainly the case for this club's AGM. It passed off very smoothly, timed at 21 minutes including a short delay for the 15th person to arrive. (For those who did not attend, please remember we need at least 15 for a quorum… thus, a big thank you to those who came). There was time for Paul and Lee to give their reports, for a new committee to be elected (as per last year with Charlotte stepping down. Thanks for your contribution both to the committee and in Beginners' Lessons, Charlotte) and Damien now on in her place. Subs and table money remain the same. The club seems in good heart in every respect, hence "nice" being very appropriate. 21 minutes was ample time.



Here they all are, our new Committee…well nearly all as maybe the most important member (the one who buys the sausage rolls!) could not make the Meeting but she did not evade the paparazzi!



Maybe, just maybe, we have here the reason why Charlotte chose to stand down from the Committee…..and he certainly is a very valid reason. Welcome to Te Aroha to James Peter Glass, born in mid- month….and possibly, but not yet, a new bridge club member.



Well, that's all for this month. We will be celebrating the prize winners and our Christmas function in the December issue. Here's hoping many of you can make it on the first day in December. If you have not booked in and paid for this coming Tuesday celebration of our 2026 winners, it's not too late… but please let Shirley B or me know so that there is enough food for you. The "show" starts with pre-dinner drinks from 5.30 pm. A great night for just $35.00. Hope to see you there.

Richard