

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

Te Aroha News October 2025



Hopefully, you survived the whole of September without a club newsletter. It's back, as indeed I am, after a 5 week jaunt around England and Ireland. That's right. Plenty of visiting friends and family along with just a little Guinness sampling at a few pubs along the way.



Where every bridge player finishes up on overseas' family visits. Here's the home of Acol, in West Hampstead, London, with the appropriated named Acol Road very close by.

Bridge can be a dangerous game

I left you in August with the happy news that Alan Mace seemed to be recovering well from his major operation in Melbourne. I came back with the news that he has been in the wars again. A pulled hamstring, I believe. I thought that kind of injury was reserved for footballers. Now, is that what Alan tries to do when he is not playing bridge? Maybe you should stick to 13 cards, Alan. Hope to see you back at the club very soon.

He was not the only casualty when I fronted up in early October. Leon's left arm looked very much the worse for wear after taking a tumble off a ladder. Similar advice, Leon. Stick to hands of 13 cards! Again, a speedy recovery to you, too.

Jo Mayall

Late September saw our club host the annual Jo Mayall event where Morrinsville, Waihi, Kati Kati and Te Aroha each field two teams with each member of a team playing two matches with each of their teammates. Sufficiently confused? Well, you were not alone as there was some confusion as from which their opponents came.

This resulted in some confusion in scoring the event. At the end of the day, it was pretty certain that Waihi had won the day with Katikati second and Te Aroha in third place. Thanks to all who contributed with food, to Ross who was a very busy director and to Alan who ended the day with far less hair than he started. The main thing was that all enjoyed a very pleasant get-together between the four clubs.

Te Aroha Memories

Story by Joachim (BBO: joachim99)

Anna Kalma came across this item in the BBO (Bridge Base Online) Newsletter dated September 27th.

We had played bridge three or four times with friends, who had explained the basics to us. We were interested, and since they did not have time, we decided to join the bridge club in Te Aroha.



This is what winners look like, but in 2018

We received a very friendly welcome. We were allowed to take two cookies and were asked which convention we preferred. We were not sure if we wanted to disclose anything about our private life, but we definitely did not know what they were talking about. So they decided to seat us with the beginners.

In the beginners' corner, they were quite surprised that we knew the difference between an ace and a king, and that we knew we had to get more tricks than the opponents to win.

The next Sunday there was a tournament. The Te Aroha bridge club was polite enough not to tell us that we were not experienced enough to participate. We had a very entertaining Sunday and tournament.

Several days later, some neighbors congratulated us for winning the tournament. It had been reported in the local newspaper.

Knowing close to nothing, we had always passed, and on that Sunday in 1977, it was obviously the winning option. We were more surprised than proud, and we never participated in a tournament again. But we still love the Te Aroha bridge club!"

Nice memories..... but back to the more recent:

Second at Taupo



That's Malcolm who had a great day at Taupo's Kefi 8B Swiss Pairs tournament in early October. With Te Awamutu's Kate McFadyen, he finished in second place in the 34 pair event. Well done, Malcolm and Kate.

Two stories of Tyrel

The first is to extend congratulations to Tyrel on winning a place on the Matamata Piako council. As you know, our club was well represented in the election. Paul Decker got a decent number of votes but not quite enough to gain election. However, Linda's husband, Greg, did. Please pass on our congratulations, Linda, to Greg. It is just possible he does not read this newsletter.

Peter Jaeger is new to our club but he has been a councillor for many years. He decided it was time to stand down. Thank you for your contribution to local politics.. Time now to concentrate on playing a bit of bridge, Peter.

Tyrel, Charlotte... and Sophie at the National Teachers' Conference



Tyrel and Charlotte were keen to attend the National Teachers' Conference held in Wellington over the weekend of 17/18th October... and, of course, that meant that Sophie went as well. Charlotte wrote the following piece about the weekend:

“ Tyrel, Sophie, and I (Charlotte) were lucky enough to attend the Bridge Teachers Conference in October. It was a fun-filled two days of learning alongside 50 other bridge teachers from around New Zealand, held at the Wellington Bridge Club.

We heard formal presentations from the NZ Bridge Teaching and Learning Committee, which focused on the new learning materials available and on strategies for improving member retention. There was also plenty of opportunity for discussion in smaller workshop groups.

Our biggest takeaway was the importance of *club culture*. For most people, competing or winning is far less important than simply having fun.

We've come away with lots of exciting ideas, which we shall be discussing with the committee soon.

The photo shows Sophie and Tyrel at the trivia event held at the end of the formal talks on Saturday. They are holding up their consolation prize (the winning team can be seen in the background)."

Saxon Teams

It is arguable which is the major part of this three night competition, winning the bridge or the dress-up. It looked like the team of Laurie, Ross, Henk and Anna (Blattner) were on course to success in the bridge as they led after two weeks but they were overtaken on Week 3 by Shirley (Bailey), Paul (Decker) Austin and Tim who finished comfortably in front on 113.67, ahead of Laurie's team on 104.23 and Joan, Adri, Damien and Leon on 94.32.

It's time for a pictorial look:

Pyjama Party



Bridge winners

On then to the “party” side as that was the theme of the third evening. It was great that everyone came to the party suitably attired.

Rescue Party.. the best dressed



The best in town whether they got an emergency call-out or simply helping another team who were in a bad contract. “Help all round” . Well done.

Let’s take a look at the rest:

Toga Party



No doubt, they play Roman Key Card Blackwood

Beach Party



There can be no words to describe this team. Will they really be attired like this when they next walk up Whitaker Street?

Alice in Wonderland Tea Party



"Wonderful".

Political Parties



very appropriate during the Local Elections.

Christmas Party



Who will turn a game of bridge into a great celebration!

Hens' Party



Which of them is about to be the bride?

Mad Hatters' Tea Party



"Heading" for a great party night!

Black and White Party



Were the shirts that white after supper?

Loveblock at Te Aroha

It was our turn this year and as well as a great turn-out of players from our own club, we welcomed visitors from Matamata, Thames, Morrinsville and Waihi.

You could say we were perfect hosts as two Thames pairs led the way at our heat on both the initial result at the club and after comparing with the other 46 heats. The top scores from our own players were Malcolm and Laurie (58.67% East/West) and Victor and Guy (58.04%) and Shirley and Adri (55.48%) both North/South.

For the second time in a week, after the Thames visit, our players came with plenty of nice food and hopefully all enjoyed what was a good fund-raiser for the New Zealand Bridge Foundation. The director discovered his duties extended to clearing and washing dishes as well as more standard director duties!

Tussles with Thames

We had our two final nights with the Thames Club which in the end saw our club come out victorious though as usual, it was the good social atmosphere which mattered most, along with large amounts of delicious food at supper time. *Well, bet you are now hanging out for a bridge story! We are going to continue the "party" theme. It's a time to celebrate!*

Caught Smiling. That was Debbi, one recent Tuesday at an after-play discussion. "Why" asked Rochelle? "Was it your birthday, maybe a big Lotto win?" "No, was the reply but she had great cause to celebrate:

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

West	North	East	South
	<i>Gaye</i>		<i>Debbi</i>
		Pass	2 ♣
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	6 ♠
All pass			

It was not the first slam that Debbi had bid and made. Rumour has it that it was the second but was the first one she had taken up the initiative, bid and then made it. The C10 lead was not a danger to the slam making (she made all 13 tricks). An 82% score on this board. A cause for celebration. Why not!

Congress Time upon us.

The National Congress has moved time of year from early October to mid-November and has moved location from Bay Park, Tauranga, to the Convention Centre in Palmerston North. A trusty band of our players will be heading down that way for a week of bridge. Watch out for their results on -line or in the November issue of this newsletter. Already, there are more players attending this National Congress than any previous one.

Well, no time this time for any “Wisdom” from yours truly! So, hope to see lots of you at the 3 night Hemmes-Kalma event and after Congress at the AGM and Prize Giving/ Christmas Dinner nights.

Richard Solomon