

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

September 2022



Guy Fawkes Came Early....

By a whole week! Maybe he arrived to check out the pyre which us loyal citizens of Te Aroha had prepared for him? He should be safe, though, with all the rain we have been having. Anyway, dress up night at the Saxon Teams was only a week after our Gary, oops, sorry Guy, turned up like this:



Now one of these is Guy? Do you know which?

The Real Saxon Teams Finale

Everyone, yes, including Gary, came along in full regalia, on the final night of this neat event in the bridge calendar. A couple of teams started the night with the aim of coming first and indeed Queen's (or is it now "King's) Gambit took the honours with a 10-imp thrashing of Guy Fawkes' Bombers in the final.

Queens' Gambit: the Champs



with apologies to "King Ross" who somehow got missed

Bombers

and

Bunnies!



And everyone else just came along to have a good time. The awards for fine looking outfits went to the Easter Bunnies and Guy (Fawkes) and his “Bombers” and they were duly awarded with chocolates, one each!

There was some relevance in the team themes and the food they brought for supper.

Anzacs...and their biscuits!

Thanksgiving Turkeys...and their eggs!



not sure of the quality of the eggs our male would produce! He looks a bit down

though I was less clear of the relevance of the chocolate eclairs to any theme...
But, wow, they were nice!

The most bon-amie seemed to come from the Christmas Crackers who seemed to be “cracking” open a bottle of port every couple of rounds.

Matariki Stars

and the “Crackers”



while Halloween arrived a little early this year.....



So, a really nice tradition thanks to everyone.. and also thanks to Anna and Tim who managed to make sense of the scoring when even the computer let them down.

Tim on Weak Twos: Tim knows best.

You may not have realised it but Tim (that's Tim Rigter) knows plenty about Weak Twos. I had the pleasure...and it was a pleasure despite results which kept us some way short of the victory podium... of playing with Tim at the Auckland Club 3A event at the end of August.

These three boards occurred in rapid succession at that event. I offer no immediate opinion. You be the judge!

Tim's partner opened 2S on Board 16 and Tim held:

S J64

H J863

D AQ6

C J32

There was a pass on Tim's right and Tim decided to pass too. There's nothing wrong in that though a testing "to play" 3S might have been a good action too.

That would have put the pressure on South below and North would almost certainly have finished in the unmakeable 4H, a plus score for “the good guys”.

But no! Our Tim waited for South to show a strong 2NT before venturing in with 3S. Masochism? North passed with relief and South too chose to defend. You do **not** want as West to play 3S below. Wise Tim knew better!

West Deals		♠ K										
E-W Vul		♥ 10 9 7 5 4 2										
		♦ J 10 8 4										
		♣ 10 8										
♠ A 10 9 7 3 2		<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid black;"> <table style="border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center; width: 40px; height: 40px;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table> </div>		N		W		E		S		♠ J 6 4
	N											
W		E										
	S											
♥ K			♥ J 8 6 3									
♦ 9 5 2			♦ A Q 6									
♣ K 9 4			♣ J 3 2									
		♠ Q 8 5										
		♥ A Q										
		♦ K 7 3										
		♣ A Q 7 6 5										
West	North	East	South									
<i>Richard</i>		<i>Tim</i>										
2 ♠	Pass	Pass	2 NT									
Pass	3 ♦	3 ♠	All pass									

A combination of good fortune, H AQ doubleton in the South hand and poor defence, the defence playing clubs not diamonds allowed a relieved declarer to make this contract with just the loss of one trick in each suit. A mere 88% board. **Tim knew best!**

Along came Board 17. I was fourth to speak and holding S 732 H 875 D AJT9 C KQ7, I did not have a problem because the other three players had all passed. “Pass” from me too.

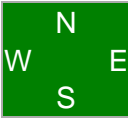
Tim looked horrified. “Oh”, he exclaimed (maybe it was something stronger!) “I had a Weak 2 in spades. I should have opened. Sorry, partner.” Tim is the first to apologise when something goes wrong, even when nothing goes wrong! I wondered why he had passed. Maybe he held 4 hearts on the side. Maybe he had a really poor suit. Maybe he just forgot to bid! We missed our 9-card fit.

It was only after we had played the third board against the same opponents that we picked up the hand record for these three boards. I checked Tim’s hand. S KJT96 H J63 D 854 C AJ. Stand up that man who thought he had 6 spades and who apologized profusely. An 83% board this time as the

opposition could make a part-score in every suit, even no trumps, except spades. Great counting, Tim. Passed in! **Wise Tim knew best!**

Board 18 saw our Weak 2 expert roll out 2D. Has he got 4 diamonds, 5, maybe even 6! With South passing, I had an interesting collection.

S 532 H AQJT2 D A92 C T2. No game here for us. I thought the best way to keep our opponents out of spades was to raise to 3D which of course Tim knew by then was “not-forcing, indeed to play”. So, he passed as did both opponents. These were the 4 hands:

North Deals None Vul	♠ K Q J 10 7 ♥ 8 7 4 ♦ 10 ♣ K 9 7 4		
♠ 5 3 2 ♥ A Q J 10 2 ♦ A 9 2 ♣ 10 2		♠ A 8 4 ♥ 9 6 5 ♦ J 8 7 6 5 3 ♣ A	
	♠ 9 6 ♥ K 3 ♦ K Q 4 ♣ Q J 8 6 5 3		
West <i>Richard</i> 3♦	North Pass All pass	East <i>Tim</i> 2♦	South Pass

I was right that we did not make game. We made slam! 3 overtricks after South led CQ. There is plenty wrong with a 2D opening, a terrible suit which you would not want partner to lead if we ended on defence. With those two aces, there is almost no chance of the opponents making slam on a different day. Silence here would often be much better.

Not on this day. **Wise Tim knew best.** Tim played trumps like a champion by leading DJ from hand and afterwards played hearts correctly. As it happens, our side could make game in either red suit but +170 was still a good result, a well-above average score. In opening 2D, **Wise Tim knew best!**

So, if you want to know anything about Weak 2s, Tim’s your man. Count on Tim to get it right. He is still “counting” the number of spades he held!

Te Aroha on top again

That was true on the weekend of 27/28th August. Joy and Malcolm were a late, last-minute entry to the Tauranga Intermediate Pairs and were rather glad they came! A second round 63.13% saw them leapfrog into first place by 1.25%. Alan and Judith were equal sixth in the 22 pair field.

Te Aroha's Day at the WAPS



Meanwhile, the WAPS have not been too well supported this year. 6 tables at Hamilton, the last of the series on 28th August was more than there had been at some heats. Not that the number of pairs worried Anna and I as we averaged nearly 65% to win comfortably. Joy followed up on her success the previous day by finishing second here with Peter Daffurn. They were well pleased with that placing in a field of several Open pairs.

Settling into Te Aroha.... and experiencing life on a farm.

No, it was not a Bridge Club Committee Meeting when Rochelle invited me to her farm one recent not so wet day. Hubbie Honk and their helper, Cam, (yes, Tuesday night players are getting to know him well) had gone off to buy bulls leaving the farm in four very capable hands (Rochelle's words, not mine!).

Now who's the Boss here?



Rochelle's Favourite

and "Two Posers"



Yes, I was there too!



The milk took second place!

Now one aim was to see a calf being born and we sat it out on the 4-wheeler in abominable conditions, helped only by some choice liquid, for an age but in vain. Seems like I will have to return next year. I am not quite knowledgeable enough to buy my own farm yet but another nice session like this one will go a long way to completing my education. Thanks, Rochelle. A nice change from sitting in front of the laptop and counting to 13, or whatever we bridge players do!

Te Aroha at the Jo Mayall

We had two teams of 4 players travel to Katikati to take part in this event where each "4" played against the other three clubs, changing partners for each match. Waihi, Katikati and Morrinsville were the other clubs...and although our two teams came home 5th and 6th in the 8- team ranking, Te Aroha finished 2nd overall.



The 5th finishing B team certainly had bragging rights over our A team. Congratulations also to Alan Mace who "defected" to play for Waihi, the club that were the comfortable winners on the day.

Captain's Orders

Apparently, our A Team captain, Rochelle, gave her team a pep talk before the last match saying they needed to bid slams..oh make them too! Rochelle and Tim duly made slam 4 times but all were played at the game level!



*The A Team. Perhaps they needed something stronger than tea on the day?
They did not finish that far behind the B Team.*

And finally:

It took Anna a while to get her Grand Master certificate. It seemed rather appropriate she should receive it at her home club.



and hopefully Anna and other club members who attend the National Bridge Congress at Bay Park in early October enjoy themselves and collect a few more master-points in doing so.

Richard Solomon

