

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

## **Te Aroha News September 2024**



### **Auckland/Te Aroha Cup Champs**

As August neared its end, so this event reached its climax. It looked like Alan Mace was going to win the Open event. Not only was he in the lead but he ensured his nearest opponent, me, was not going to be a threat as I was his partner on the last night and thus could not overhaul him.

However, he had not reckoned on that powerful Tim Rigter who wisely recruited June to partner him on the last evening. Alan and yours truly posted a fair enough 61.93% but Tim and June had a wonderful 71.59% and that left Tim victorious with a total of 318.09% with breathing space ahead of Alan on 313.06 and yours truly lagging on 311.62%. Next year, June will be in much demand.

Meanwhile, on Handicap, the winner was Debbie, a huge result considering she only learnt this year. She finished 9<sup>th</sup> in the overall event too, with a very impressive 53.83% average.

### **Jo Mayall Victory for Te Aroha**

The annual Jo Mayall competition took place on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> September at Morrinsville with the local club, Te Aroha, Katikati and Waihi each fielding 2

teams of 4 players. That meant 6 x 8 board matches for each of the teams, with each player playing 2 matches with each of their three teammates.

The vp scores of the 2 teams are then added together to see which is the winning club...and the news for our teams was excellent even though the top team score of the day came from Waihi B:

1	WaihiB	86.40
2	Te Aroha B	82.01
3	Te Aroha A	69.94
4	Katikati B	63.88
5	Katikati A	54.41
6	WaihiA	45.42
7	Morrinsville A	41.75
8	Morrinsville B	36.19

**Overall**

1	Te Aroha	151.95
2	Waihi	131.82
3	Katikati	118.29
4	Morrinsville	78.94

Our 8 representatives were:

Te Aroha A    Jan Baker, June Zhu, Alan Mace, Ross McIntyre

Te Aroha B    Anna Kalma, Mark Kooter, Victor Kooter, Rochelle Van Heuven



**Board 21**

North Deals

N-S Vul

♠ K Q 10 9 7

♥ K 10 7 2

♦ 10 9 6 2

♣ —

♠ 2

♥ J 5 4

♦ Q J 8 4

♣ J 10 7 4 2



♠ A J 8 6 5

♥ 6

♦ 7

♣ A K 9 8 6 5

♠ 4 3

♥ A Q 9 8 3

♦ A K 5 3

♣ Q 3

Anna, South, ended in 5H and received the lead of S2. She played SQ from dummy and East won SA. East could tell that S2 was a singleton and thus returned a small spade for West to ruff. Yet, that was the only way Anna could make her contract!

West exited a club and Anna ruffed and drew trumps in 2 rounds. She played SQ discarding a diamond and then S10. Whether or not East covered, Anna's other small diamond will be discarded on the S10 or S9...contract making.

Had East exited either a high club, Anna could not draw trumps and make use of the spade suit and indeed still had another club as well as the diamond losers to deal with. The contract would have to fail. With the other table in a heart part-score, it was vital that Anna made 11 tricks.

Bridge can be tough. You lead a singleton, score a ruff and help declarer by doing so!

## **The way we were...and maybe more recently too!**

By popular demand, the dress- up theme for the last night of the Saxon Teams was “decades” and this meant looking back to the way we were and in some cases even before we were born! Everyone joined in the fun including the “MC”, or the judge, commonly known as Peter TJ:



*Do you recognise this man?*



*Much more colourful!*

He said how hard it was to judge because everyone was so well dressed up. That sounded like a plea for more money to perform his job successfully. Well, he could hardly have got less!

He indicated there were three finalists for the Best Individual Costume but then named five (is counting his strong point?). Receiving honourable mentions were Karen Kalma, Jan Baker, Paul Decker and Steve Southall but taking the award was Debbie Hughes in her so colourful 80's outfit.

In the Best Dressed Team competition, two teams came joint third:



## The Roaring 20's and The 20's



*Foster, Karen, Steve and Peter*



*Joan, Anna, Leon and the absent  
Henk*

*That, I believe is what it was like in the 1920's. Fast forward then: In second place, coming from the 1970's were*

## The Magic Bus



*Oscar, Austin, Pauline and Anna were really "living it up".*

And taking first place, with our judge saying that they “thought outside the square” was

### **Be Kind: 2020's**



*They certainly struck a chord about this current decade. Great work: Nancy Katrina, Hanna and Sharon.*

Normally, I would say that the above would take the main accolades for the evening. However, I am unashamedly bias in saying the “top top” were the bridge winners over the three nights:

### **Happy Hippies**



And why shouldn't the two Pauls, yours truly and Adri be happy after coming home in 1<sup>st</sup> place. Let's also remember our "super sub judge" Peter TJ on week 1. The top three teams were:

- |              |                                       |        |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|--------|
| 1. Farac     | Paul, Paul, Adri, Richard, Peter TJ   | 123.25 |
| 2. Southall  | Karen, Foster, Peter Daffurn, Steve   | 118.36 |
| 3. Odd Balls | Linda, Victor, Tim, Bernie and others | 114.66 |
| 4. Hill      | Shirley T, Ross, Annette, Rochelle    | 99.20  |

And since the "Oddballs" were not an official team, 3<sup>rd</sup> place goes to Annette's team.

A wonderful atmosphere especially on the last night and thanks to all for dressing up and making it such a fun occasion.



One little bridge story. At one point in the bidding, a player leapt from his seat to seek help, not about what to bid. He knew that but he did not know how to make the bid. So, a few seconds later he returned and put a big cross on the bidding pad...and Alan was none too happy that Paul Farac had acquired this knowledge as a few seconds later, Alan was recording – 1100!

Now, there are various rules around saying that one should not be doubling our newer players. There are none though saying they cannot do the doubling! No more over-bidding, Alan!

Here then is a sample from a couple of the other teams:



*Hey, Ross. The 50's was a great time for Brylcreem!*



*Were they really like this in the 1980's Shirley B, Norma, Debbie and Alan thought so!*

So, a really neat night and competition. Thanks to Anna K, Ross, Rochelle and all those involved in its organisation.

## Welcome Kiwi Cam

Never mind the accent, it is nice to record that Cam is now officially a Kiwi.



*A pretty happy one, too.*

## The Wisdom of Solomon



Definitely, I am talking to our newer players this month, though you are all welcome to read on. Charlotte and Tyrel did a great job introducing them to the game and I hope they are improving their knowledge with the current Wednesday night sessions. There's just a few things they need to know....and here's one of them.

**Against a suit contract, never, ever, ever** (got the message?) lead low from a suit in which you hold an ace.

Look what happened recently:

East Deals  
Both Vul

♠ Q J 10  
♥ A Q 9 8 2  
♦ J 10 6 4  
♣ 2

♠ K 8 3  
♥ J  
♦ A K 8 3 2  
♣ A Q 10 5

N  
W E  
S

♠ A 9 5 2  
♥ K 10 4  
♦ 9 5  
♣ J 8 7 4

♠ 7 6 4  
♥ 7 6 5 3  
♦ Q 7  
♣ K 9 6 3

The contract was 4C by West. North had bid hearts and South had supported them.

This is a tricky contract for West to make but it became a lot easier when HJ in the West hand won the first trick! Yes, North had led a very low heart!

Sometimes such a lead will not matter. On a few rare occasions, it is an unexpected brilliancy but quite often as here, it cost the defence a trick and any chance of beating the contract.

If you must lead a heart, lead the ace but the top of sequence SQ looks like a really good lead from the North hand.

So, you have been warned! Such a lead may work against a no-trump contract but not against a suit contract.

## Off to Tauranga..or is it Mt Maunganui?



Bay Park is sort of half way between the two cities and it is where the National Congress starts this coming Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> September and lasts for a whole week.

I will be there as will Anna (Kalma), Guy, Peter (Daffurn), Charlotte, Tyrel, Joy, Rochelle and Tim.... and some of our newer players at the one session Novice Pairs. There's the New Zealand Teams and Pairs...and Swiss Pairs and many other events. So, you think 8 days of bridge might be a bit much for you? Well, we do get the evenings off! We all aim to have a great time...and will share some of the stories in October.

Oh...and in case you are wondering if I am really off to the World Champs in Buenos Aires, well, that starts on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. So, a busy and exciting month for me.

More news in the October issue.

*Richard*



