

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

August 2023



Farewell Joe

All at the club should be aware now of the passing of Joe Keys. Our thoughts go out to Barbara and her family. It seems almost impossible to think of Joe and Barbara separately as they were married for 64 years. Last year, I was privileged to be able to listen to and record for this newsletter a synopsis of their life, a truly fascinating story.



As a tribute to Joe, I will reflect on here of that story. They both grew up in Te Aroha and met at a basketball fund-raising dance at Te Aroha West. Other than their many trips overseas, and there have been very many, they lived since 1957 in Matamata.

Joe was Service Manager at Matamata Motors for 27 years and at Ford for a further 9. Travel has been in their blood and a phrase they use to describe themselves is “rich in memories with not much money.”

Initially, it was holidays around the Pacific, then two years travelling around Australia in a camper van. Then came the visits to American summer camps, firstly to Camp America and then 13 visits to a camp in New Hampshire for the children of predominantly wealthy Jewish New Yorkers or those from Boston. The children were in the 7-15 year old age group coming for 4 or 8 weeks. In later years, the camps opened up for under-privileged children too.

Jo and Barbara spent 8 weeks at a time at the camp. Jo did maintenance while Barbara helped Joe out as well as working as the receptionist in the camp infirmary. What was most unusual was that most of the staff were in the 18-25 year age bracket. When they first went, Barbara was 54 and Jo 59.

The camp owners really appreciated Jo and Barbara. The camp had a “Keys Lane” while they developed a garden there from thick bush called “Keys Corner”. The respect in which they were held was well summed up by the cloth parchment they were given on retirement, with words of thanks from many of the children.



They did plenty of travelling like on a “Young at Heart” 42 day tour across USA and Mexico with those aged about 20-25, one third of their age at the time. There were many visits to Australia too.

Although Barbara learnt to play bridge earlier, Jo only learnt about six years ago. They were members at both Matamata and Te Aroha. Among other activities, he enjoyed golf croquet and bowls while for 19 years, he kept the garden at the local hospital.



Barbara and Jo have been a couple who have always got up and gone rather than wondering if they should. They created a big impression at the American camp they returned to on a regular basis. They are people who are interested in being with/ helping other people. Jo moves on, rich in memories and experiences and has left a big impression on all those he and Barbara have come across at home and on their travels.

Te Aroha at the Cambridge 6's

I think we can safely say that the enjoyment experienced by the Te Aroha players who went along to the Karapiro Events Centre in early August exceeded the reward from the day. I can report that Joy won a raffle prize (there were heaps of them) and that Joy and Guy's Bowlers were second in the quiz...but there were no bridge prizes from our teams.

However, there were plenty of us and dress up we all certainly did. The theme was sport.



This team were called "The Mackenzie Raiders". Is that Alan Mace who is about to drop kick?

Then, we had "The Bowlers"



They may be Matamata based but that's Guy and Joy on the left.. but neither seems to be taking a bowl. Are you just "the bag carrier", Joy?

Cycles Te Aroha



Rumour has it that they all cycled to Cambridge for the 6's... but it is only a rumour! That's Ross and Gaye in the distance (maybe they were slow peddlers?) "one wheeled" Malcolm, Katrina, Laurie and Peter. Meanwhile Gaye is working out the answers to the sports questions, aided, maybe, by Malcolm!

A reliable rumour said "The Bowlers" did finish second in the quiz.

There were 34 teams in all, each with an Open, an Intermediate and a Junior pair. When it came to the bridge, we had:

Bowlers	7 th	
Mackenzie Raiders	15 th	
Bikes Te Aroha	31 st	(oops...slow peddling on this day)

and this next lot finished 12th:

“The Shot duckers”



There’s Anna and Richard on the left in case their camouflage is too good for you to recognise...along with their Hawera teammates and the young Hamilton player Aengus Moore (second right)

A Shotducker and his alter ego!



This “shotducker” just had to be photographed with this member of Mt Albert’s “Grandmaster Caddies”. This team, dressed in white, wore the names of bridge Grandmasters on their backs. I will leave you to work out the connection of this chance meeting part way through the day. A good choice of names..flattery, indeed!

So, a good time was had by all from Te Aroha. If you are any good at quizzes, can win raffles, don’t mind a little dress up or can play bridge (now one of

those must apply to most of you), then do come along to the Cambridge 6's next year.

Rigter Racers in town?



has anyone seen this car?

The above not so strange sight was seen at a vacant section in Terminus Street in early August. Boy racers are not an unusual sight these days as in many NZ towns. The above was recorded the day after our Tim had visited a neighbouring house to watch our women's footballers tumble out of the World Cup. Tim...he was rumoured to have got stuck in some rather swampy ground, the above being the end result. So, if you have strange ruts in yours or a neighbour's paddock...and Tim's been in the area....then you know who has been responsible. Call on "Rigter's Racers".

Under the bench-top, hidden away

Cups



That's tea-cups, not trophies. I discovered recently there were trays of them, along with saucers, some nice whiskey glasses too (not that anyone at this "port" club would imbibe 😊) stored at the back of the club kitchen....and that they are ancient, being inherited from the tea-rooms who rented our property before the club took over in 1980. They are not cheap "market" ones either, Crown Lynn Pottery. Now, we seem to be a "mug" club these days and the cups and saucers are not used and it seems we

may try to find a new home for them in the next few months. Watch this space. The way we play bridge and our drinking habits seem to have changed quite a lot over the years. (We do still bid slams and drink tea, though!)

Bridge!

Well, I have not forgotten this is a bridge club newsletter. So, we should mention a little about the game.

Those who did well

Tournament successes have not been too numerous for our club members recently. However, well done to Joy and Peter (Daffurn) who creamed the field at the Te Aroha Intermediate during the month, winning both sessions and overall with a 65% average.



Winners at Tauranga

Peter repeated his success on the last weekend of the month when he and Malcolm won the Tauranga Intermediate Pairs. Congratulations.

Then, our Open team who qualified for the finals of the Waikato Bays Club event can at least boast that they beat the winners of the event, the Waikato Bridge Club. Unfortunately, we have two “alases” to make. Firstly, Te Aroha finished 4th which means that the team did not fare so well against Tauranga and Mt Maunganui. Secondly, and perhaps this was a blessing, it was quite hard to find the results which meant the scores were quite well hidden. Who said technical problems were a bad thing? 😊

We can say for certain that Tim, Hermanna, Alan and Peter all enjoyed themselves and since they beat the winners, maybe Tim’s statement that that makes Te Aroha the winners may even come true....in his dreams.

At which is he better? A Second and a First!

Richard and his two partners

“You have to hit the ball, Alan!”



It was the day of the final round of the Waikato Area Pairs at Hamilton and afterwards, Richard and his bridge partner were caught celebrating finishing second on the day, celebrating with a bottle of water!

Later on, the Te Aroha group moved on to slightly stronger refreshments and also took to the pool table. Alan, who seems to sneak into most pictures, and Rochelle took on Tim and Richard....and with the pool equivalent of a revoke (Rochelle missing the black when poised for a great victory), Rochelle and Alan finished second best. The many spectators mused that was the only way Tim and Richard could win...and they were probably right!

As you know (or maybe you don't?), I try to put good bridge hands into this newsletter. So, this contributed to a success one night in the recent Auckland Cup event. You may judge whether or not it was "good bridge".

After your partner opens 1H and your right-hand opponent passes, what would you bid with the following hand:

North Deals
Both Vul

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A J 7 6 2
 ♥ J 10 9 7
 ♦ Q J
 ♣ K 3

It looks like you are going to game in hearts. Depending on your system, 3H is either invitational or game-forcing. For us good old Acol players (*not so much of the old!*) 3H is invitational. So, you bide your time by bidding 1S and then will subsequently raise to game. That is called a “delayed game raise”. Such is the theory. Occasionally, something happens and you are unable to raise:

North Deals Both Vul	♠ Q 4 ♥ 8 5 ♦ 10 9 8 5 ♣ Q 8 7 4 2										
♠ K 10 8 3 ♥ 4 3 ♦ K 7 6 4 ♣ A J 9	<table style="border-collapse: collapse; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">N</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 20px; text-align: center;">W</td> <td style="padding: 2px;"></td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 20px; text-align: center;">E</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">S</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td> </tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ 9 5 ♥ A K Q 6 2 ♦ A 3 2 ♣ 10 6 5
	N										
W		E									
	S										
	♠ A J 7 6 2 ♥ J 10 9 7 ♦ Q J ♣ K 3										
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>								
	1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠								
All pass											

As South, I was a little taken aback by North’s pass, a rather extreme point of view, I thought. Maybe my partner, Tyrel, did not think I could make a contract above the 1-level? If so, he was right!

Now, Tyrel’s 1H opening is not a bid he teaches to our new players. It is a psyche, an attempt to grossly misrepresent his hand and to make it extremely

difficult for his opponents to find their best contract. It must fool his partner, too...and this certainly did!

The board was played in 1S, a contract that slithered home. Despite the fact that East-West, with their combined 24 hcp can, with some difficulty, make 3NT, N/S only scored a 40% board for their +80.

Now, if an opponent psyches against you, you can regard it as a compliment. An unwritten but well known saying is that you only psyche against strong opponents. So, Hanna and Tim should regard it as a compliment that Tyrel psyched against them. It is, though, a shame that we do not take more notice of the X Club results because on X-Club, + 80 was worth 73% to the “good guys”. So, thanks, Tyrel. Here’s to many more “delayed game raises”. Maybe next time, I might get to game!

Welcome to our “newbies”

You have been through the lessons and had some extra sessions on Thursday nights. Now it is time to dip your toes in the water on Tuesday nights in the three-night Saxon Teams competition. You will get to play with several of our existing players. We hope you will enjoy the experience... and thanks too to existing members who are welcoming the new players and giving them a game, welcoming them into our club.

Looking ahead



Our National Congress... not just for “the guns!”

There is the National Congress just down the (Old Te Aroha) Road and over the (Kaimai’s) hill to Bay Park, Mt Maunganui during the week starting Saturday 22nd September for 8 days until the following Saturday. There are events especially for Junior players (and separate events for Intermediates too),

Teams on the Tuesday/Wednesday, Pairs on Thursday afternoon/Friday morning and Swiss Pairs Friday afternoon/Saturday.

There's also an Intermediate/Junior Pairs on the first Sunday and a walk in on the Thursday morning. Why not experience the atmosphere of a bridge congress? It's just a little different from playing at the club. There is no evening play.

Have a look at the events at <https://www.nzbridge.co.nz/summary-of-events-1.html>

And a date for your diaries...

Friday evening November 10th at the Te Aroha Bridge Club

Our own heat of the Loveblock New Zealand Wide Pairs, in conjunction with the Matamata Bridge Club. All are welcome from Te Aroha, Matamata, Morrinsville and points in between, even farther away.

Hands played nationwide (like X Club)...and rumour has it that there could be a pot-luck dinner first. More details in the next couple of months but for now, put it down in your diaries.

Stop Press

Meanwhile, back at the club, a couple of club members can say a big thank you to their partners for topping the tree in the Auckland Cup competition. Joan Darby-Smith took out the handicap prize and thanks to "psyching" Tyrel and others, I came top in the scratch competition.

So, that's all for August. Next time, we will check out what happened at the Jo Mayall and the National Congress. See you then.

Richard