

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

Te Aroha News July 2024



A Special Night

Tuesday July 2nd was a special night for the club and for yours truly. I believe I can say with confidence that I will be the first club member to represent New Zealand at bridge when I go to Buenos Aires in late October to play for the New Zealand Seniors in the World Bridge Championships. On this evening, the Club Committee saw fit to turn the Rainbow Pairs event into a fund-raising evening for me.

This gesture was just wonderful. The amount raised of \$3,000 was truly amazing. That will make the trip much more financially comfortable for me. NZ Bridge has made the 6 team members of the Seniors' team a donation of around 20% of the cost of the trip.

The money was raised by the donation of the increased table money for the evening, by raffles, by a silent meat raffle (thank you so much, Victor, for donating the meat), by donations and by pledges. As those present know, the pledges were dependent on my eating a whole raw carrot and while a couple of eagle-eyed players claimed to have spotted a few traces of carrot on the carpet (I deny this, of course!), the task was achieved to the satisfaction of all present.

Before and After (nearly!)



No wonder he looks happy. Relief!

I would also like to thank Rochelle who tramped the streets of Te Aroha begging successfully for the raffle prizes and who also was hugely busy on the night. Thanks to Anna for the work she did beforehand in organising the novelty aspects of the bridge ("Bridge Bingo") and for setting up the movement and scoring it. (It was more practical to play Pairs than an Individual.)

Then, thanks to Shirley Bailey who was seen clearing up afterwards (and was probably busy beforehand too) and to all those who brought supper. Most of all thanks to all those who came, our own club members, along with players from Thames, Matamata and Cambridge.

The food was...scrumptuous



I just loved those chocolate eclairs, Katrina. It's OK: I restricted myself to one!

It was a fabulously friendly evening and I think, hope everyone enjoyed it. The end result...yep, I am so so grateful.



and do we talk while we eat? Certainly!

One of the novelty hands during play involved passing 3 cards to the left before bidding started. (How we would love to be able to do that to improve our bad hands on other nights!) Before I recall one particular hand, some of you may be aware of the Tuesday night Slam Cup, 1 point for every successful small and 2 points for every successful grand slam bid and made. Tim has mentioned many times recently how he is in double figures for points scored while I am a little behind on 2 points...yes, just two small slams all year!

I was pretty confident I would improve my total this evening:

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

After the other three players had their say, I was not going to leave my spade suit unbid even if it was a bit lacking in top honours. My partner, Hannah, thought that her SAK was more than useful and raised to slam. When West led a diamond (their partner's suit), I felt pretty confident that 12 tricks were coming.

I could discard a heart on the second round of diamonds, ruff my losing heart and if clubs were 1-1 maybe just concede a spade. No way!

♠ A K
 ♥ K
 ♦ 5
 ♣ A Q J 10 9 8 7 6 3

♠ —
 ♥ J 7 6
 ♦ K J 10 9 8 6 4 3 2
 ♣ K

♠ J 9 8 7 6 5 4 3
 ♥ 4
 ♦ A Q
 ♣ 4 2

When I played the second diamond, West ruffed low. I could overruff and still have a trump and heart loser or discard HK but HA by West would create a second trump loser. Either way, I was down 1 and still have just the two points on the ladder! My orders from Tim are to bid and make lots of slams when in Argentina. He said that partly (mainly?) because he knows that slams bid in



Thanks, once again, to you all.

Reaching up to the trophy cabinet....



...can be quite a dangerous occupation! Eh, Tim? It was all smiles afterwards though the chair looks somewhat worse for wear. Perhaps Tim had an extra sausage roll that evening, making him heavier than the chair could cope with?

While the milk's away, do the farmers play?

My own sleeping habits are not that much different in June each year but I am told that might not be true for the many farmers we have at the Te Aroha Bridge Club. What do our farmers get up to during the "off-milking season"?

Gary is a very diligent farmer and said it was a great time for catching up on all those odd jobs which had been left in busier times. However, for others, it has been time to be away from the farm. Holly, for instance, headed off to Ashburton for some good family catch-up time. Tim and Adri were seen catching a plane to Melbourne where they caught up with Adri's son and where Tim caught a cold! (Should he have stayed at home?)

Kalma Catch-up!

What about the Kalma family? Foster and Karen headed off to Europe and enjoyed a trip up the Rhine amongst other adventures. Guy headed for colder climates, inland from Ashburton for a spot of hunting in a most scenic part of the country:



That's the same man, I believe...wrapped up when the snow's around but far warmer at other times. Mountains in the area included Mt Potts, the "Big Hill Range" and a rather aptly named Mt Guy.

and Anna...well, spending just a little extra time on New Zealand Bridge and other activities, like playing bridge!

Then, we have Leon in Ireland doing artificial insemination, while Anna (Blattler) was visiting family in Switzerland. Cam, as we know, headed off to Taupo to get engaged.

and a less fortunate farmer

It was not so nice for Carl Goudswaard (yes, I know he is officially Matamata) but he played for Te Aroha in the Morrinsville interclub and so can be included.



This was the result of a mountain-biking mishap. It takes more than a broken neck to keep Carl away from the farm or the bridge table. He assured me he was not in pain and will soon be moving again more freely. and a happier note to finish as flying high was Richard Syme along with his wife, Davina.

Power-Gliding



Can you tell which is Richard? Some people call this fun...but others like me prefer our two feet on dry land!

Two dates with Morrinsville

As usual, that happened in July, firstly when our nearest visitors came to our town and then when we headed off to theirs. We were the perfect hosts and not just with the catering but at the bridge table too. We were a clear second with an average 48% score, some 5% behind our visitors.

However, fast forward a week and we more than reversed those scores, magnificently led by Laurie and Joy who were unstoppable finishing the night with a huge 76.33% score. Jan and Hanna also scored well and overall our team average was around 53% as compared to our host's 46%. So much for home advantage counting. Te Aroha scored 812.86% over the 2 nights with Morrinsville recording 732.18%

What was most important was the nice friendly atmosphere, helped by great catering, both evenings. Both clubs fielded new players in their line-ups...and finally it was lovely to see 15 and a half tables both nights. These nights, along with similar ones with Thames, are a really important part of our Tuesday night calendar.

p.s. Laurie is "on a roll" at present as one week after "cleaning out" at Morrinsville, she and Cam were winning the first night of the Auckland/Te Aroha Cups with a more modest 63.75%.

Kiwi Jigsaw Champs from Te Aroha

There's not just some good bridge players at the Te Aroha Club but we have a pretty good jigsaw player too. Take a look below and you will see Charlotte Glass finishing 2nd in the Individual Nationals but also Charlotte, her father, her sister-in-law and a good friend coming 3rd in the Teams event.

9:01

97%

← New Zealand Jigsaw Puzzle Associ... 🔍



New Zealand Jigsaw Puzzle Association



9h · 🌐

At Nationals we have found the fastest three for 2024! An amazing competition with not much between them all! Some Kiwi superstars for sure out of 75 entrants. Huge congratulations to you all - especially Alison who is the Champion for 2024!

1 Alison Jacobs	TIME: 0:51:31
2 Charlotte Glass	TIME: 0:56:20
3 Jacqui Davis	TIME: 1:00:34

Full results can be found here

<https://www.worldjigsawpuzzle.org/nzjpa/2024/individual>



Write a comment...



9:09

96%

Images and stories from the day to come over the next week. Let us begin with Morning event - Teams! The stunning 1000 piece Ravensburger was attempted by 50 Teams. But only a few can lead the pack!

1st Wonky Donkey (Alison Jacobs, Donnalouise Gragg, Helen Haigh, Jacqui Davis) with an amazing time of 0:56:34

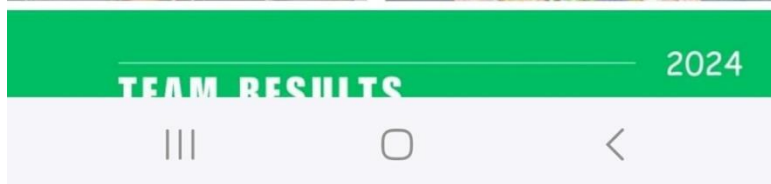
2nd Northern Fury (Frederique Hurly, Mona-Lynn Courteau, Amber Greaves, Amy Hurly) with a equally incredible time of 1:05:12

3rd Anything'S Puzzible (Charlotte Glass, Peter Jager, Caitlin Jager, Rachael Bergquist) a team to watch with a time of 1:07:44

Full results can be found here

<https://www.worldjigsawpuzzle.org/nzjpa/2024/teams>

Congratulations to everyone who took part!



That's pretty fast going for a 500 piece in the Individual and a 1,000 piece in the Teams event. Congratulations to Charlotte and the rest of her team.

The Wisdom of Solomon



When your partner overcalls in a major suit and you have 5-card support, bid to game quickly and let the opponents work out whether you can make it! Watch here:

East Deals None Vul		♠	10 6		
		♥	A 7 6 4 3		
		♦	A 8 6 5		
		♣	A 10		
♠	K J 5 3			♠	A 8 2
♥	J			♥	Q 5
♦	J 10 7 4 3			♦	K 2
♣	K 3 2			♣	Q J 9 8 7 4
		♠	Q 9 7 4		
		♥	K 10 9 8 2		
		♦	Q 9		
		♣	6 5		
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>		
		1 ♣	Pass		
1 ♦	1 ♥	2 ♣	4 ♥		
All pass					

South has no idea whether their side can make game in hearts but they know they have a 10-card fit. What should happen is that East leads CQ. Declarer is best to duck this and East continues a second club. North wins, draws trumps but has to lose 2 spades and a diamond for down 1.

However, East might lead DK at trick 1 or when in, West does not play DJ...and then the contract makes! You never know! (on a different day, I would explain why West should bid 1S not 1D...when weak, bid the major suit: you may only have one chance.)

Well, that's all for a lively July. See you again in August. Richard

