

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

Te Aroha News June 2024



A busy few days for Anna

Anna Kalma has her fingers in quite a few pies. Some days she is “on the farm”. On others, she is a very active NZ Bridge Board Member and on the weekend before her busy week at the end of May, she was attending a weekend meeting in Christchurch of the NZ Bridge Teaching and Learning Committee. Then, she turned her attention to SMASH, the organisation which holds frequent seminars for “small farmers”...and Anna is one of the main organisers and hosts. She had three to organize this week, in Palmerston North, Te Awamutu and Te Aroha West, at The Forge.



Do you recognise the MC? She had a room full of interested locals at The Old Forge Café at Te Aroha West in late May.

Guess who turned up for the Te Aroha seminar. You might expect farming stock like Foster and Karen, Holly, Guy, Cam and Richard Symes to be there. They were! Yet, so was yours truly, a first such seminar for me. The presenter was Pita Alexander, a very accomplished, knowledgeable and entertaining speaker on all matters rural...and he did not disappoint his audience of farmers, others involved in the rural economy...and me!

Anna's week was completed back on her farm but it was no ordinary day as there was a fair piece of planting taking place. As Anna commented:

“Thanks to the community who turned up to help riparian plant the Waiheke Stream riverbed along the back of our farm including Tātuanui School and parents, Environment Waikato, Rabobank, PGG Wrightson’s, Tātua Dairy Company and Pioneer Maize. 1000 plants planted in under two hours.”

(in case, like me, you are not familiar with riparian planting, Riparian zones are “the areas that border streams and rivers, and other bodies of water like ponds and lakes. Planting riparian zones benefits the environment by filtering sediment and nutrients before they enter waterways. The plants also help prevent bank erosion and improve the habitat for native wildlife. The plants in these areas act as a filter and stabiliser, decreasing erosion and run-off to protect water quality.”)



A trailer-load of school kids en route to planting....and then the planting itself.

So, after a weekend bridge meeting, SMASH seminars and a big day planting, she was off (with yours truly) to the Hawke’s Bay Bridge Congress where our team finished 4th out of 34. Her life is rarely dull!

Spa Town Saturday. 8th June.

Last year, we celebrated the Club’s 70th anniversary. This year, it was 71 and of course, still counting. We were back to a 5A event for the Teams with a Multi-Grade Pairs running alongside it. It was another great day with typical

“Te Arr” hospitality, a great day’s bridge for all...and we had more teams (22) and pairs (18) taking part than last year. Indeed, were it not for some illness withdrawals including that of our “President Peter”, we would have had even more pairs in the Multi- Grade. The organisation was a true “team effort”. It may be wrong to name names but a really special thanks to Shirley and Rochelle for all they did during the day while the club is so well supported in varying roles by the likes of Tim, Victor and Anna.

A complete list of “thank yous” would cover most of the list of club members. You are all much appreciated as indeed is the support in loaned tables and equipment from the Matamata Club.

We had a lovely array of raffles though I have to report Charlotte was not one of the lucky 7 who shared the 50 million Lotto Powerball draw. She had won the ticket in the tournament raffle.

It was also lovely to see many club members playing. Anna and I had the same team line-up as last year when we were successful. This time, a disappointing last match left us in 4th place.

Our players did do well in the Multi-Grade with Alan finishing second with Luda from Matamata while Fritz and Malcolm were third. Alan and Luda won their first 5 matches and suffered a narrow loss to Joy and Heather Kneebone (from Matamata) in their last round. Shirley Townsend and Katrina won the prize for the top finishing Junior pair, as well as finishing a very creditable 4th overall.



Come on, Alan. You almost gave us a smile!



Victor is of course happy to give away the Prizes. A lovely day too for Katrina and Shirley.

It was also neat having our “regulars” in Allan Joseph to direct and Jan Spaans to score. Quite a day too for Debbie who found out what a caddie did at a bridge tournament and she performed her duties very well.

A Full house and new faces in June



It was neat seeing 11 full tables at the club on 4th June including 6 players from this year’s learners’ group. They seemed to enjoy themselves

too....and what about the score which Debbie Hughes achieved, coming second East-West with 59.77%. Yes, she had a little help from Linda Merriman but that is still a great score from one of our new players.

What's on that finger?



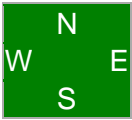
Yes, we told you as a Stop Press item last month and here is the evidence. Emma and Cam are engaged and here they are celebrating the occasion on Lake Taupo where the proposal took place.

On the playing front.

At the club, we have seen the completion of the Jim Shine competition. Victor was in sparkling form and won comfortably with yours truly runner-up.

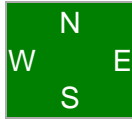
I have already covered our own events on June 8th. The following week, Anna and I finished 2nd in the Rotorua Open while the next weekend with Jonathan Westoby from Auckland, I came 5th in the on-line 2-day South Island Pairs. The following board helped:

What would you bid as East with the following:

South Deals E-W Vul				♠ A K 9 ♥ J ♦ A K 7 6 5 4 3 2 ♣ 2
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>	
				Pass
1 ♥	Pass	2 ♦		Pass
2 NT	Pass	?		

2NT showed 12-14 hcp.

This deal comes down more or less to how many aces our partner holds. Yes, SQ would be useful, too but surely there will be some way to get rid of the possible spade loser. I asked and partner showed one ace. So, I bid 6D. South led H6 and I saw a very agreeable dummy:


South Deals E-W Vul				♠ A K 9 ♥ J ♦ A K 7 6 5 4 3 2 ♣ 2
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>	
				Pass
1 ♥	Pass	2 ♦		Pass
2 NT	Pass	4 NT		Pass
5 ♦	Pass	6 ♦		All pass

I had 8 diamond tricks, 3 spade tricks and HA. That's 12 tricks. So would you take the heart finesse and try and make 13?

The answer most definitely is **no**! If it failed, you would go down in your cold slam and have a very disgruntled partner! However, that does not mean you would not try and make all 13. Win HA and ruff a heart. Then play DA and a second diamond to dummy's DQ. All the trumps had gone. So, ruff another heart.... and down came HK meaning I could discard my club loser on the HQ and scored a complete top making all 13 tricks.

South Deals ♠ 10 5 4
E-W Vul ♥ 10 7 6 3
♦ 8
♣ A K 8 7 4

♠ Q J 7
♥ A Q 9 5 2
♦ Q 9
♣ J 9 6



♠ A K 9
♥ J
♦ A K 7 6 5 4 3 2
♣ 2

♠ 8 6 3 2
♥ K 8 4
♦ J 10
♣ Q 10 5 3

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			Pass
1 ♥	Pass	2 ♦	Pass
2 NT	Pass	4 NT	Pass
5 ♦	Pass	6 ♦	All pass

Remember my tip from a couple of months back? Never endanger your contract to make an overtrick. That does not mean you should not try for an overtrick if you can get it.

Waikato Bays Inter-Club Teams

We fielded teams in Open, Intermediate and Junior divisions in the event which took place at Cambridge Bridge Club on Sunday 23rd June. Our teams were:

Open: Rochelle, Tim, Joy and Peter (Daffurn)

Intermediate: Alan, Victor, Jan (Baker) and Malcolm

Junior: Ross (McIntyre), Adri, Camdon and Mark

The good news is that all three teams won at least one match and none of them finished bottom in their sections. Alas, that is where the good news finishes!



Our Open Team won one of their 4 matches to finish 4th out of 5 teams. Our Intermediates won one and drew one match out of 7 matches, finishing 7th out of 8. Our Juniors were our star performers with 2 wins out of 6 to finish 6th out of 7. One of those wins was over Hamilton which denied that team the coveted second spot.

The top 2 in each section qualified for the regional finals with Waikato Club finishing second each time, to Hamilton in the Open, Thames in the Intermediates and Matamata in the Juniors.

I did hear a rumour that for the next 12 months bridge coaching will replace port drinking after Tuesday night play....but it is only a rumour! The feedback from the players was that this was a most successful day, except perhaps the room was too small for the number of teams. Vicki Jacobsen and Jan Spaans did an excellent job directing and scoring. Congratulations to Cambridge for a well-run event.

And coming up

Tuesday 2nd July at the club:

A special Benefit Fund-Raising Night *including bridge, of course. No partner needed.*

It starts at 6.30pm and will help send this guy to play bridge later in the year to Buenos Aires in the World Senior Bridge Championships....



If you are not sure who he is, try reading the name-badge!

National Rubber Bridge competition. Rochelle and Tim had a great win over “the Brians” from the Waikato Club, by around 2,000 points and are into the Regional semi-final, where they play Jenna and Christine Gibbons who had far too many good hands when Anna and I played them in the previous round. Time for Te Aroha revenge, please, Rochelle and Tim.

Meanwhile, Charlotte and Diana also had bad cards in their match. Rub shoulders with Tim and Rochelle if you want to get big hands and plenty of slams! Just to emphasize that point, take a look at the leading contenders for this year’s Tuesday night Slam Cup. Points-wise, Rochelle and Tim are in or close to double figures for successful slams. I am lagging behind with just 1 point. Any sympathetic comments you would like to give me will be accepted with pleasure!

This month's tip: The Wisdom of Solomon



Cover an honour with an honour...

.....If you think it **will** benefit your side...or **might**!

Watch what happened recently when a defender did not follow this advice. The contract was 3NT by South. Let's look at the spade suit:

		10 9		
		N		
7 5 4 2	W		E	K J 6
		S		
		A Q 8 3		

At trick 2, declarer called for S10 and East played SJ correctly. SQ won this trick.

Declarer was able to return to the North hand to play S9. When East played low, South was able to score 4 spade tricks. Had East played SK, forcing South to play the ace, on the fourth round of the suit, West's S7 would have beaten South's S3.

East had to sacrifice both their honours to stop South taking 4 spade tricks.

Of course, there are times you should **not** cover. If, for instance, you see SQJ876 of trumps in dummy and you **know** from the bidding South has at least 5 trumps. You hold SK4 and are next to play after SQ is played, **play low** in perfect tempo. Your hope is that declarer plays SA and you will make SK on the second round. Of course, to do that, you have to anticipate what declarer will

play. Whoever said bridge was easy! It's fun, though!



That's all for June. *Richard*

