

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

Te Aroha News May 2024



A score to savour!

Session: Week 18 Tuesday 18tue.

Ranking

Place	Players	Club	Score %
1	Tim Rigter & Rochelle van Heuven	Te Aroha	75.44%
2	David Taylor & Jane Lennon	Christchurch	73.15%
3	Alex Barshai & John Peppiatt	Thames	66.36%
4	Anne Baird-Horner & Graeme Wylie	Otaki	65.41%
5	Tony Fitzgerald & Les Frater	Christchurch	65.33%
6	Michael Stuckey & Martin Reiss	East Coast Bays	65.00%
7	Judith Howard & Ross Stewart	Te Aroha	64.36%
8	Mark Kooter & Victor Kooter	Te Aroha	64.09%
9	Marian Loader & Madeleine Askew	Hutt	63.61%
10	Robyn Boylan & Georgina Ellis	Invercargill	63.46%

Tuesday 18th April was a high-scoring night at the club. It was the 5th night of the Championship Pairs and Rochelle and Tim and Victor and Mark both scored over 69%, with the former just having bragging rights. Yet, look what happened when the X Club results came out. While Victor and Mark's scores did drop a little, Rochelle and Tim's increased to 75.44%, a mammoth score in any competition. Indeed with 227 pairs playing that night, Te Aroha boasted three pairs in the top 10 with Judith and Ross's score increasing to 64.38%. Notice also the big gap between the top 2 scores and the rest.

(Our club also scored well on X Club on the last Tuesday of May. Led by a great 70.38% from Guy and Victor who finished 2nd, we had three pairs finishing in the top 7.)

Naturally, that score helped our champs increase their lead in the Club Championships. Tim also noted that they added to their points earned in the chase for the Slam Cup, too, another good reason to celebrate with post-match port.



“The Gone” is back again

Yes, the Irish/Kiwi series is back, a second series which means more filming in Te Aroha, over a 5 week period during May...and where better for a cast of many to hang out while not required on camera than the Te Aroha Bridge Club...well, at least on Sunday May 5th. ..and a few days in the following few weeks. A little bit of “pocket money” for the club...and local interest when the show hits our TV screens once again.

Bridge with and after dentist



A special thanks (*Please do not believe everything I say!*) to Ross McIntyre for being on hand with camera ready after I had spent a couple of hours with my mouth wide open on a dentist's chair. You can see the result! It was very apt that I was not only playing bridge later that day but having a bridge inserted in my mouth. The latter is not nearly so pleasant as the former!

Suffice it to say that I was smiling extremely widely when I watched Ross and Adri defend the following 4H hand from the dummy (do I mean the dentist's?) seat. It was very nicely played by my partner, Alan Mace. Although Deep Finesse says 4H can be beaten, after the standard DA lead from West, it cannot be played as follows:

West	North	East	South
	<i>Richard</i>		<i>Alan</i>
			1 NT
2 ♠	3 ♣	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	All pass	

Allan discarded a spade on this. Adri played a spade to the king and Ross's SA. However, Alan was safe. Ross played another club ruffed by Alan who played HA bringing down Adri's HK. Alan's last two cards were DQT, both winners.

Championship Pairs Champions.

Congratulations to Rochelle and Tim who won the scratch Championship Pairs in fine style. After a moderate low 50's score in the first round, which they could drop, they averaged 65.15 % over the next 5 rounds. Alan and I averaged 60.36 % to be in second place with Mark and Victor just behind us in 3rd place.



celebrating their success after play

Mark and Victor were top on Handicap, ahead of Rochelle and Tim and Richard Symes and Holly who were the top Junior Pair on Handicap. Adri and Ross McIntyre were the top Junior Pair off Scratch.

A Common Site after play....but it helps to be tall!



Spot their “better side”! Now, not my words, of course, but you can see what captivates Guy, Damien and Cam after play. The port can wait but not the

results. Actually, maybe Cam has a bit of my problem...a touch of lack of height. I just have to find a chair to stand on or wait a few more minutes. I have never managed yet to read that TV screen clearly.

A Grand (Master) night at Matamata

President's Night at Matamata in early May was a celebration of Sonia Crawford becoming a grand master at the age of 97. A short "Rainbow Movement" bridge was followed by some speeches (including one from Sonia) and the presentation by NZ Bridge Board Member, our own Anna Kalma, of the special plaque to Sonia commemorating this achievement. Then, there was a colossal supper put on by local club members. Several Te Aroha players were present. It was a very special lovely evening in honour of a lovely bridge player who can still play a very strong game. Well done, Sonia.

The plaque and its owner



Flowers presented by Lesley Quilty.

Second is really not so bad.

Well if you cannot win, that's not a bad place to be. It was a bit hard to match Yuzhong Chen and Gary Foidl's 73.7% average at the recent Putaruru 8B so that coming second a few per cent behind was no disgrace for Anna and I.

Meanwhile, at the Te Awamutu Restricted Pairs Joy and Victor scored a neat 63.07% in the first session and in a low scoring second session, they scored just

over 50% to hang on to second place. Malcolm and Jan Spaans finished in 9th place.

On the same day, I travelled a lot further South and with Wellington and Christchurch teammates finished 2nd in the 10A Teams in Christchurch.

A long time between drinks!

A week later, I managed to climb even higher than second when my partner of the day, Brian Mace (Brian claims **not** to be related to Alan) and I averaged just over 71% at the Whangarei 5A Open. One interesting fact is that Brian and I won the New Zealand Pairs in 1994 but have not played even one session since! After a somewhat successful day's bridge last weekend, we have committed to playing again in another 30 years' time. Now, Brian is about my age...and I hope no-one suggests that we might not keep that promise!

"The Wisdom of Solomon".

The "unusual 4NT"!

You may have heard of the "unusual 2NT" where you bid 2NT in a competitive auction. There are a few varieties but traditionally it shows at least 5 cards in the 2 lowest unbid suits, often the minors. Again one's high card point count can vary though I like have to have at least 10 hcp for this bid. Oh, yes, if your partner makes that bid, you should alert it.

It has a "cousin" which came up recently. Watch:

East Deals		<div><div><div>N</div><div>W</div><div>E</div><div>S</div></div></div>	
None Vul			
		♠ Q 10 2	
		♥ K Q J 5	
		♦ Q J 10 4	
		♣ 5 3	
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		2 ♠	Pass
Pass	4 NT	Pass	?

Well, as South, you wisely passed after your right-hand opponent opened a weak 2 in spades, 6-10 hcp and a 6 card suit. However, what do you make of your partner's bid? One option could be they were ace-asking but they would have a pretty rare hand for that action. It is much more likely that they have the 2 lowest unbid suits and want you to choose which one you prefer. (It is

possible that your partner has one minor and hearts but for now, we will leave out that option.)

So, you bid 5D and await partner's hand with some interest. However, before you were to see it, they had raised you to slam! They really liked their hand and even though you held lots of high card points in the majors, they were largely unnecessary. DQ and indeed SQ were indeed useful cards!

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

It was impossible for South to know that their partner was that strong. The onus to bid slam was on North. West led a spade but SA was the only trick the defence could take...6D making.

So, why did North not bid 2NT to show both minor suits? After an opposition weak bid at the 2 level, there is not much room for the opposition to explore and 2NT overcall is reserved for a strong no-trump type hand, not one with both minor suits. However, there is no better use of 4NT than to show length in both minor suits, at least 5 cards in each though not necessarily as strong as the North hand above.

It's a bid worth remembering. It gets your hand shape across in one bid. It is often a good sacrifice bid where one's opponents can make 4 of a major. However, here, it was North-South who could make game, and slam.

(for anyone who noticed, East did have 4-cards in the other major for their 2S opening. Having 4 small cards is not a major crime even though many textbooks recommend you do not open with that shape. Worse sins have been committed at the bridge table!)

Spa Town Teams and Multi Grade Pairs SFF Stadium Saturday 8TH June

One Year Later



remember this?

Numbers are now looking very promising for our major tournament of the year. We have at the time of writing 21 teams in the Spa Town Teams and 17 pairs in the Multi Grade Swiss Pairs.

You can still enter either event and indeed we want to finish up with even numbers for both events.

To see you, nice.

It is lovely to welcome back Laurie to playing....and as well seeing our new players adapting to playing on Tuesday nights.

Stop Press announcement. Congratulations to Cam and Emma who have just got engaged. A picture, next time, is a must!

Waikato Inter-Club Teams at Cambridge 23rd June

We have an Open, Intermediate and Junior team for this event. Our team members will be:

Open	Rochelle and Tim	Peter (Daffurn) and Joy
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Intermediate	Victor and Malcolm	Guy and Alan
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Junior	Ross (McIntyre) and Adri	Cam and Mark
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Good luck to them all.

So, next month, we will be reporting on both our own events and the Inter-Club Teams. and on plenty more goings on as well!

Richard

