

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

Te Aroha News October 2024



Finally, he's off! If it seems a very long time since the club so generously held a fund-raising evening for yours truly prior to his trip to the World Bridge Championships in Argentina, then it certainly has been. However, the hour has come and very soon after you receive this email, I will be winging my way on a Latam jet to Buenos Aires via Santiago. That's why this issue has been published a little earlier than usual in the month.



A long way from downtown Te Aroha!

Play starts on Tuesday October 22nd local time which is almost a day later here in New Zealand. The main event for the New Zealand Seniors' team runs for 6 days, with 4 x 12 board matches per day. The top 16 countries qualify for the knock-out stage with subsidiary events for the rest.

You can follow progress through this link

<http://championships.worldbridge.org/16th-world-bridge-games-2024>

and while some matches will be broadcast on BBO, it is unlikely that the NZ Seniors team will feature.

There will also be some daily updates on the NZ Bridge website.

No doubt, I will have a hand or two to talk about in the November issue of this newsletter, too.

The National Congress that was

I and others are back after a lot of bridge and a fair bit of socialising too. Our club players turned in some good results too.

Anna and I We had a couple of poor days in the NZ Pairs but we finished 4th in the Congress Pairs which enabled us to play in the NZ Pairs Plate the following day.

In the New Zealand Teams, I played with my international partner, Alan Grant. Our team qualified 14th (16 out of 58 qualified for the knock-out stages) but were narrowly beaten by a strong Chinese team in the Round of 16. Anna's team finished midway in the qualifying stage.

In the Open Swiss Pairs, Alan Grant and I finished 5th while with our Wellington teammates, we won the Congress Senior Teams.

Anna's team finished 4th in the Congress Open Teams.

Joy Joy played the whole Congress with Jena Robinson from Thames, in the Restricted Open competitions. They qualified 5th North/South in the Pairs event and then finished 6th out of 22 pairs in the final with a very respectable 52.08% average. In the Restricted Open Teams, their team finished 6th out of 26 teams.

Tim and Rochelle They qualified for NZ Restricted Pairs Plate where they finished midway in 12th position. In the Open Teams, they teamed up with

Charlotte and Tyrel, quite a challenge against the country's best. The team finished 49th out of 58 though Charlotte and Tyrel finished an extremely creditable 22nd out of 124 pairs in the datum. Tim and Rochelle finished in mid-table in the Restricted Open Swiss Pairs...see below for the Team's category win in NZ Open Teams.

Peter and Guy They finished 7th in the Restricted Open Pairs Plate with a 52.92% average. Their team had a hard time in the Open Teams qualifying but they finished 7th out of 48 pairs in the Restricted Open Swiss Pairs.

June had a late call up and played with a partner from Whangarei in the NZ Open Pairs.

Peter and Guy enjoyed this following board from the New Zealand Open Teams:

Board 28		♠	Q J 9 8 5 3	
West Deals		♥	7 6 5	
N-S Vul		♦	J 8 5	
		♣	8	
♠	A 4	<div>♠ N ♠ ♥ W ♥ ♦ E ♦ ♣ S ♣</div>	♠	K 7 6
♥	A K 9 3		♥	10 4 2
♦	A Q 6		♦	K 3 2
♣	Q 7 6 4		♣	A K J 10
		♠	10 2	
		♥	Q J 8	
		♦	10 9 7 4	
		♣	9 5 3 2	
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>	
1 ♣	Pass	3 NT	Pass	
?				

Guy's 3NT showed about 13 to 15 points. Peter had a good hand opposite, 19 hcp. 19+ 15 is not normally enough to bid to grand slam. However, Peter checked that they had all the aces and kings and left him to play 7NT.

Guy had 4 club tricks, 3 diamond tricks and 2 top spade tricks. He needed 4 tricks from the heart suit. There were 2 possibilities. Either HQJ had to be doubleton or else South had to hold both the queen and the jack.

Guy won the opening diamond lead and soon played a heart from the East hand. When South played low, Guy inserted H9 from dummy. When both defenders followed to 3 rounds of hearts, Guy had made all 13 tricks.

Only 4 other pairs (out of 58) were in grand slam and only 1 other pair bid and made grand. Strangely, their opposition failed in 7NT. 21 pairs played in a game contract. Happy memories though for Peter and Guy.



Rochelle and Tim were there to collect their under 500 combined A Point category Teams' prize in the NZ Open Teams which they won with Charlotte and Tyrel..... but look at what follows next!

The Great Te Aroha Success of Congress

That came midway through the week in the dress-up. The theme was the letter “R” and four club members looked quite close to home for their “R” theme.



No, you are not seeing quintuple. One of those people is me and the other four are not...except they rather look like me! So, their theme was “Richard”! It was rather like looking at myself in four mirrors! They did a rather good job and the other players and judges thought so too. They got the loudest applause by far in the lunchtime parade through the playing room and took first prize in the “dress-up” competition.

Now, in case you are struggling to tell who the other four were, all I can say is that Tim, Rochelle, Charlotte and Tyrel were nowhere to be seen at the time of the parade. Draw your own conclusions.



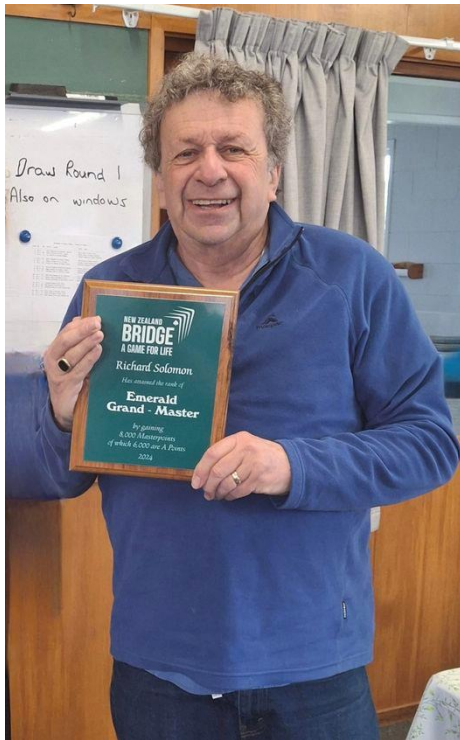
Now, these Rastafarians took second place. If you are name-spotting, from the left we have Jena Robinson, Clare Coles, Joy and Kevin Whyte. Clare and Kevin are from Cambridge. Meanwhile:



Yes, that is Anna and her team-mates, Anne-Marie, Kinga and Candice, very aptly dressed as “Roman Key-Card Blackwood”. Nice togas!

And while we are on Te Aroha success stories, 2nd in the Congress Quiz by just one point away from the winners were a team which included Rochelle, Tim, Guy and yours truly. We did have more than a little help from down country and across the Tasman too.

6,000 As and still counting!



On behalf of the Board of New Zealand Bridge, Anna Kalma presented this plaque to me at the recent Matamata 3A Swiss Pairs. It's been a long time between drinks, sorry, from my first A Point, which I won way back some time in mid -year 1977 at the Auckland Bridge Club. I got up to the 6,000 mark which along with over 2,000 B Points, got me up to be the country's 5th Emerald Grand Master (the leader, Michael Ware, is actually a Platinum Grand Master) at the recent National Congress.

Thames comes to Te Aroha

That was on Tuesday 15th October when for the second time this year, we hosted Thames Bridge Club for a fun night of bridge. Our visitors acquainted themselves well too, finishing in 2nd, 3rd and 5th places in the 11 and a half table event. Joy and I did our bit for the home club in winning and Shirley Townsend and Hanna recorded an excellent 61.88% to come in in 4th place.

In announcing the overall results for the night, Tim said that Te Aroha had just come out on top though the website results seem to throw that in doubt. However, what was certain was that it was a most enjoyable and friendly evening with plentiful food (very plentiful) supplied by members at

the supper break. I for one regretted eating too much at the Grand beforehand!

The rivalry ... and good food...will resume next Tuesday when we (well not me this time) jump in our cars and head off to Thames.



This is a Thames v Te Aroha picture but all the players seem to be from the host club! We had to loan out a few to our visitors...only temporarily, though!

Those Improver Sessions

There was one good reason (well, maybe others, too) why Shirley T and Hanna had such a good night last Tuesday at the club. They had been spotted attending the Improvers Lessons I had run for four Wednesday nights at the club. I would like to believe that something I said was good advice!

We had good numbers for these lessons, 13 for each of the first three and 10 on the last night. I hope all those who came enjoyed the sessions.

The Wisdom of Solomon



Safety First.

Here's hoping I take some of that wisdom with me to Argentina next week. In the meantime, this month's tip is about playing key suits carefully, or using what are called safety plays. Let's look at the following deal:

North Deals		♠	A 10 5 4 2	
Both Vul		♥	6 4 2	
		♦	J 10 9	
		♣	A Q	
♠	Q J 9 6	<div>N W E S</div>	♠	7
♥	8 7		♥	Q J 10 9 3
♦	K 8 6		♦	Q 7 4 2
♣	K J 7 4		♣	9 3 2
		♠	K 8 3	
		♥	A K 5	
		♦	A 5 3	
		♣	10 8 6 5	
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>	
	Pass	Pass	1 NT	
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	2 ♠	
Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 NT	
All pass				

West led C4 and declarer took a successful finesse at trick 1. They had two certain heart tricks, DA and 2 club tricks. They needed 4 spade tricks to come to 9 tricks. That means one could be lost and most of the time one will have to be lost.

Are you about to perform a safety play or else go down in your contract.

North Deals	♠	A 10 5 4 2		
Both Vul	♥	6 4 2		
	♦	J 10 9		
	♣	A Q		
♠	Q J 9 6		♠	7
♥	8 7	N	♥	Q J 10 9 3
♦	K 8 6	W	♦	Q 7 4 2
♣	K J 7 4	S	♣	9 3 2
	♠	K 8 3		
	♥	A K 5		
	♦	A 5 3		
	♣	10 8 6 5		

😞 If you had played SA and not S10 on the second round, you will lose 2 spades, 2 club tricks and later a diamond trick before you can come to 9 tricks. The contract will fail.

Thus, remember your safety plays, like playing to and inserting S10 above. I hope I remember to do so in Argentina!

Well played, Matamata

On Thursday 16th October, this club had its annual fund-raising evening. It had everything, raffles, auctions, crazy bridge, lucky draws, even some good bridge but most importantly raised over \$3,000 for the South Waikato Branch of IHC. It was lovely to see some Te Aroha players there taking part. A great effort from the host club.

Another Night in Matamata

That's still to come. Friday November 15th for the 2024 session of the New Zealand Wide Pairs, sponsored by Loveblock Wines. Last year, Te Aroha hosted a heat. This year, it is Matamata's turn. I can tell you there are some great hands to play. I know. I wrote the booklet that all players get after the session which tells you about the hands. The event is in support of Youth Bridge in New Zealand.

Oh...and if you are wondering...I cannot play as I would score rather well! I will be directing.

The Constitution...and all that!

Now Constitutions are not my forte though I do appreciate the need to have one. All clubs have had to review theirs and thanks to the Peters, Ross and others, ours will have a new look. Hopefully, that will be ratified at the AGM next month.

So, see you all in November...the month of the Hemmes-Kalma events, The Loveblock NZ Wide Pairs, our AGM and our Christmas Party.

Richard