

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

Te Aroha News June 2025



A Night to Contribute.

Tuesday June 3rd was the night the club committee had set down to help Alan Mace. He had already had one expensive operation to get rid of the annoying shake in both his hands. That operation has been most successful and Alan has decided to have the second in August. Both operations were extremely expensive and involve travel to Melbourne.

So, this club and its members decided to help just a little. Not just our club either as 7 players came from Alan's other club, Waihi, to support Alan. Also, there were several players from Matamata and despite it being their own club night, a couple from Morrinsville as well.

Several players donated money, including some who could not be present. Cam produced 6 lovely roast pork's which were for sale along with potatoes and vegetables while several local businesses provided vouchers and product (yummy fudge), the vouchers being used as raffle prizes.

There were even some containers of weed killer donated and for sale. It appeared gardens have few weeds around town as these took much longer to sell than the pork roasts!



Thanks, Cam. Not ham but pork! A "Lolly jar counter"

As well as there being a \$20 per player recommended table money fee, players contributed huge amounts to the raffles. Pens were for sale and there was a \$2 guess the number of sweets in the jar competition. Ross McIntyre proved to be an excellent guesser with 268. He can count to 13 as well!

The ace raffle seller

and lolly jar counter!



There was heaps of money in the raffle box and a queue of people waiting to buy tickets.



Ross proved he can count far higher than 13.... 268! Oh, he "doubled" as the bar man too.

The special evening soon got under way, 12 tables, with fun directions given for every odd numbered board. The bridge session was directed by Anna who had produced all these instructions. Nancy was not happy (she did not mind really) when her best hand of the night, a 21 count, got reduced to being worthless as that was the board when 2s and 3s were high and aces and kings very lowly! Seeing aces lose tricks to 2s was somewhat unusual.

A novel round where the 4 jacks became automatic penalty cards came very much to Garry's and my advantage when Morrinsville's Karen Semmens was forced to lead SJ at trick 1 against a freely bid 6H contract allowing the slam to be made. (Karen held SA and dummy the SK which was played at trick 1 after SJ lead!).. and there was one other certain loser. Nice directive, Anna!

SK scored in dummy and the slam was made for just the loss of a club! What a wonderful thing to happen whenever one "slightly" overbids!

There was the round when with 5 cards to play, the cards became polka cards. It became evident at several tables, the players did not indulge in that card game! However, everyone had their own "bridge bingo" card from which many spot prizes were won.

A night at the club would not be complete without a lovely supper after which the raffle winners were drawn.

The Raffle Drawers



Now, some of the vouchers went to the right people. Tim “dashed” back from Broome to spend his at “Bottle O” (well, Rochelle offered to spend it for him!) while Richard was rapt to win a voucher to spend at “Aroha Nails and Beauty”. Something for his “behind the scenes” Kath at home, perhaps?

Thanks to everyone who contributed and especially to Anna for the bridge, to Shirley Bailey who as usual is a great help behind the scenes and to Rochelle who obtained the sponsorship and organised the evening.

Time for a port? Right!



Alan is enjoying a port at the end of the evening. Both hands will be “steady as” very soon.

A happy room



Some of those who came along, about 50 in all.

The raffles from Spa Town Teams, the following Saturday were also donated to Alan. In all, the amount raised was about \$7,500, just fabulous.

There was a very big “thank you” to everyone from Alan.

“SPA TOWN” Saturday 7th June

We had 16 teams take part in the 5A Teams and 18 pairs in the 8B Restricted Open Swiss Pairs. What was neat was that there were 18 Te Aroha players taking part in the two events....and some of them did rather well:

Swiss Pairs 1st Laurie and Malcolm

Top all Junior Pair Cam and Debbie

Teams

Top Team without a Grand or Life Master Joy, Peter (Daffurn), Guy, Victor

It was close at the top of the Swiss Pairs with Laurie and Malcolm scoring 75.68 vps over 6 matches (nearly 13 vps per match) only 1 . 24 vps ahead of Beth and Arthur Mann. They hit the lead for the first time at just the right time with 14.2 vps in their final match. They started low as Alan and June beat them in the first round.

Swiss Pairs Champs

and Top Juniors



They hit the front at just the right time. A true partnership..sharing the envelope (well, its contents!)

Well done to Debbie and Cam who performed well in a field containing lots of Open and Intermediate players. A draw against Sharon and Lisa in the last round ensured they stayed over 3vps ahead of their Te Aroha rivals and finished top Juniors.

Spa Town Winners



Jan Cormack, Kathy and Ken Yule and Grant Jarvis

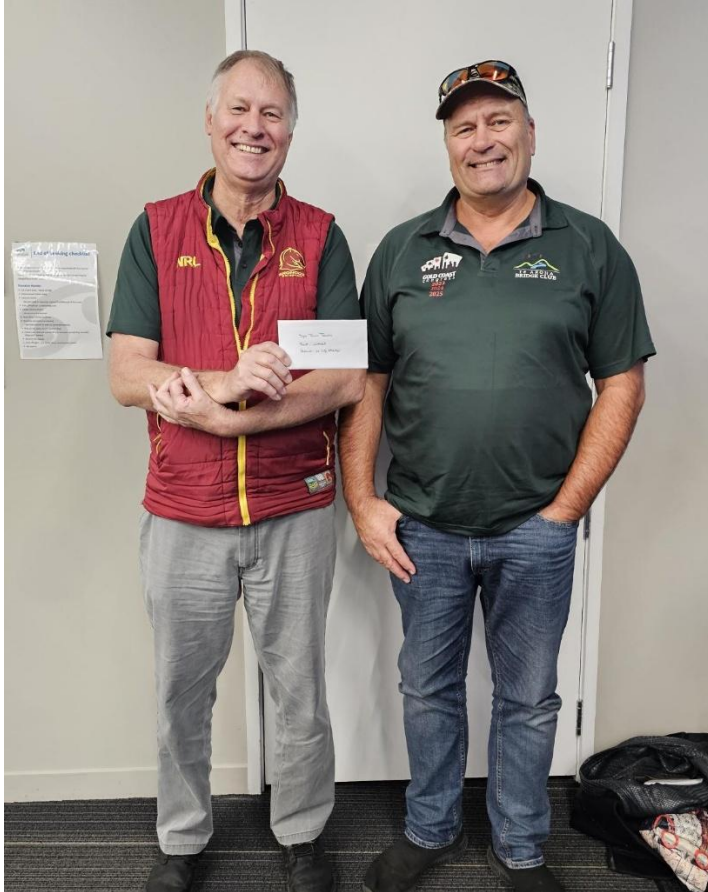
Regular supporters of this event and very complementary and gracious winners

The eventual winners started the day in unspectacular fashion when the Matamata team of Michele Liddle, Judith Howard, Luda Watts and Heather Sharp beat them by 20 imps over 10 boards, a great result for this team. After that, the Yule team had 4 big wins to take them from 16th (bottom place) to 1st place and then one narrow win to stay there.

What about Joy and the lads? After 4 of the 6 rounds, they led the way, a great achievement against a field filled with grand-masters. Unfortunately, the last two rounds were a tad disappointing and they finished in 8th place with 4

decent wins and then alas two “less decent” losses. Nevertheless, a pretty good day’s work.

A Good Day for the locals



Joy and Victor had to make very quick exits leaving their teammates to accept the winnings.

The day was a great team effort with lots of help from club members before, during and after the bridge. A special thanks to Judith for the fish and to all club members who donated raffles. It was great to be able to give the proceeds to Alan who proved quite adept when he drew out the lucky winners, including one “Alan Mace”. It was “under Club Captain supervision” who ensured that such a lucky draw was not repeated. 15 lovely mixed prizes nicely prepared by Shirley B, who was also a great help in the kitchen. Thanks to Anna and Joy for dealing and to the Matamata Club for the loan of various equipment. Thanks also to Lion Foundation for their sponsorship of the event.

Meanwhile, Fletcher Van Heuven got plenty of exercise (which he needs..he does more than a bit of running most days!) in caddying for the day. He may

not yet have caught the bridge bug yet from his mother. There's plenty of time for that to happen.

Our tournament seems to have a great reputation among the players, a very friendly (and competitive) atmosphere. That is in no small way thanks to Allan Joseph and Nick Saunders, the directors, and Jan Spaans, the scorer. Hopefully, all our players will be back for it again next year.

Te Aroha at the Waikato Teams Championships

Sunday 22nd June saw the Waikato Area Teams Championships take place at Cambridge Bridge Club. There were 6 clubs competing in each of the Open, Intermediate and Junior events, Cambridge, Hamilton, Matamata, Te Aroha, Thames and Waikato. The top two teams in each section qualified for the final against two teams from Bay of Plenty Clubs.

Unfortunately, no joy for Te Aroha who finished 4th in the Open, 5th in the Intermediate (but only 6 vps behind 2nd) and 4th in the Junior competitions. There was some "joy" though for one Te Aroha player as in the Open event, Joy Williams' Matamata team finished 2nd. Well played, Joy.



Our Junior Team of Ross, Damien, Shirley Townsend and Lisa were given a pep talk by yours truly (well, Ross was!). They lost their first three matches and Ross

was told “no drinks at the end if they finished with no wins”. The team responded wonderfully by winning their last two 10 board matches by 15 and 10 imps. That’s why we got smiling faces along with some full glasses in the picture at the end of play.

A good and not so good result for our Intermediates



Well, three out of four of our Intermediates were caught smiling at the end of play. Sorry, Jan, but you and Hanna had plenty to smile about on this day. Now, it was not such a good day for Adri and June but they still could find a nice smile to finish with.

However, those results hide one exceptional performance, that of Jan and Hanna in the Intermediate event. They not only were the top performing pair in their own competition but their positive datum over the 6 matches, 100.6 was the highest over the three competitions. Alas, that was not quite enough to carry our Intermediate team into second place but nevertheless a splendid effort from this pair.

Our Open team could not be caught on camera (nor could catch the top 2 teams) but I am sure you all know who Anna, Guy, Victor and yours truly are.

Helping our new players

Charlotte and Tyrel have completed another set of lessons for our prospective new members as well as a few who have had a refresher. It is hard for the new players to take the next step, into our club sessions, whether Tuesday or Friday. Charlotte and Tyrel are thus keeping Thursday nights going for a few weeks for these players.

There will be a session of bridge but only about 12 to 15 boards and will finish at 9.15 pm, with the “supper” at the end. Players can ask questions as they go or at the end to reinforce and or relearn the basics of the game. Club members are welcome to come along to play and help these new players. Standard \$4 table money will be charged.

Thanks, Charlotte and Tyrel, for running those lessons and for continuing on with the practice sessions. on Thursday evenings for the new players, a few who want to improve and help out along with Tyrel and Peter Daffurn who made up 3 tables on the first night.

Welcome to the club, Alma, Pam, Peter and Sheryl and welcome back Chad.

So, if you are free over the next few Thursdays, do come along. Thanks to Charlotte and Tyrel and to Anna Kalma who is filling in for them while they are away.

He's not that tall after all!

I thought Tim Rigter was pretty tall. Well, like Victor and Guy and Peter (Daffurn, that is!), Richard Symes etc, he towers over me. However, take a look at this:



As you may know, Tim, his wife Kristen and friends have spent half of May and all of June driving around a big part of “Oz”, a circle from Adelaide to Darwin, to Perth and back to where they started. That’s no small trip and along the way, they found this “croc”. Well, you could not miss one that size! At least, this one does not bite and Tim and Kristen will soon be back in one piece after what sounds like a great trip.

Tim's a real club man. He has kept an eye, well more than one, on Tuesday night results. It would be very unkind but true to say that his main interest is to see how many slams have been bid and made in his absence. He is delighted to report that the answer is "not many"!

The Wisdom of Solomon



What Went Wrong On Board 22!

This month, we look at a board from the first night of the Junior Restricted Pairs. Now, top players would bid the North-South cards to 6C, where 12 tricks can be made quite comfortably.

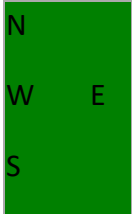
I am not expecting the mixed Junior/ non Junior pairs to reach that great contract but something went badly wrong that night at all bar one table. Let's examine the contracts at the 8 tables:

5C	by North	making 12 tricks	+ 420	1table
2C or 3C	by North	making 12 tricks	+ 190	5 tables
1C	by North	making 11 tricks	+ 170	1 table
3NT	by North	making 8 tricks	- 50	1 table

Oops! 6 tables did not reach game while 1 reached a good game played by the wrong declarer.

Well bid, Ross (McIntyre) and Victor who bid to a making game.

Board 22 ♠ A 6
 North Deals ♥ A 9 2
 None Vul ♦ 9
 ♣ A K Q J 10 6 5

♠ Q 7 3 2		♠ J 5
♥ Q 10 5 4		♥ J 8 7 3
♦ A 5 3 2		♦ Q J 10 7 6
♣ 8		♣ 9 3

♠ K 10 9 8 4
 ♥ K 6
 ♦ K 8 4
 ♣ 7 4 2

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1 ♣	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	3 ♣	Pass	3 NT

All pass

Above you see a sequence that should have occurred. North has a very strong hand and with their second bid, must express that to their partner. If they only bid 2C , South will pass since they only have 9 hcp and 2C only promises 11-15 hcp. It is important that North bids 3C which shows at least 16 hcp. In a way, with a solid 7 card suit and 18 hcp, North is too strong even to bid 3C. The “crime” is to understate the high card point count of that North hand.

After 3C, with 9 hcp and honour cards in each of the other three suits, South will call 3NT and game will be reached. As long as South is declarer, 3NT cannot be beaten. The danger when North is declarer is that East leads DQ and the defence can take the first five diamond tricks. That was what happened where North was declarer in that contract.

The key to the bidding is that North must tell their partner that they have more than 15hcp. South will then place the contract in game. When players are more experienced, they will learn how to reach a small slam, 6C. For now, we want to ensure that pairs reach game, 3NT or even 5C, rather than play in part-score.

Remember, bridge bidding is an exchange of information and if the wrong information is passed, the conversation can end too quickly!

Longer than Te Aroha!



Back to “travelling Tim”. I thought the straight road leaving Te Aroha past Tim and Kristen’s home towards Paeroa was long and straight but nothing like what they found here! Indeed, four left turns and lots of straight roads took them from Adelaide and back again!

We will welcome Tim back next month and hopefully plenty more news..and slams!
Richard

