

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

Te Aroha News October 2026



Happy Birthday, Nick



It was more than just nice to wish Nick a Happy Birthday at a recent Friday bridge session. It was lovely to see Nick playing at the Friday sessions again after his recent stroke. Here, he was celebrating playing bridge and his

birthday along with Austin who brought Nick from Matamata, where Nick is currently living. Not one to seek the limelight, it was just neat seeing Nick, a Friday regular, back amongst the Friday players again. The road to recovery needs to be gradual and patient. So, just so nice to see you there, Nick.

And lovely to see Corolyn back playing at the club again.

Jo Mayall at Katikati

Sunday September 27th saw two teams of Te Aroha players head off for this year's event which involves these days Morrinsville, Waihi, Katikati and Te Aroha. There are 6 x 8 board matches against, in our case, the non Te Aroha teams with each player playing two matches with each of the other three players in their team.

It proved to be a good day for the team of Rochelle, Tim, Victor and Alan who won 4 of their 6 matches including a big win in their last match which saw them finish 2nd, on 69.18, 4.4vps behind the winning Katikati team.

The news was not so good for our other team, Jan, Peter TJ, Malcolm and myself. We got the taste of success a little too late, winning the last two matches and that saw us scramble off bottom place.

When the teams' scores per club were added together, Katikati finished on 136.68 well ahead of Waihi (119.11), Te Aroha (118.47) and Morrinsville (105.84). So, the trophy went to the hosts though it was, I am sure, a very pleasant day for all involved. Next year in Morrinsville.

Victor and Mark in the USA

Yes, father and son headed off from West to East Coast USA by car via some pretty well-known, and other less well-known spots, during much of August and September. It sounds they had a great trip and they were very keen to share their experiences posting heaps of wonderful photographs on Facebook. Below is a small sample.



All very self-explanatory



Oh, he did visit a bridge club en route too!

"Our last week has been fantastic and after a quick family visit in Ontario we went to Niagara falls and our way to the " Big Apple " where we finished our Journey. "



Niagra, a little wetter than walking down Whitaker Street, normally!

At the “Big Apple”



Made It!



"Coast to Coast" from Santa Monica to Long Island, they travelled just over 8000 miles. After that they went to visit family in Netherlands. Mark continued his travels in Africa where he still is, while Victor returned home, with more mundane travelling as from Morrinsville to bridge in Te Aroha each Tuesday night.

Two “wrongs” do make a “right”.

Ross, the director one, was absent on a recent Tuesday night. Thus, director calls were handled by others, yours truly included. While otherwise engaged in trying to make a slam, I was called to a table when it appeared, correctly, that the declarer had revoked. Since they (no clue as to the culprit even by naming “he” or “she”) had won the revoke trick (and immediately played a high spade, the revoke suit!) and then won subsequent tricks, the penalty was two tricks.

Back to my slam, or so I thought, naively. Just for a few seconds as I was summonsed back to the same table. They had just finished playing that same deal, or tried to, because at trick 13, one of the defenders not only could not follow suit but they could not follow to any suit as they only seemed to have 12 cards!

Confusion reigned! It seems they had played two cards at the time of the first revoke, the second, a spade being played at the same time as the legitimate one! “Sort that one out, Richard.” It seemed that the defender

had revoked as well..and won a subsequent trick. The inquest lasted a few more seconds. The director ruled, maybe incorrectly, a two trick penalty to each side. That meant the table result stood, no penalties!

I could then return to my slam, which made. Welcome back, Ross.

A snap of “Presidential Parking”



Can't you “curb” your enthusiasm in getting to bridge, Paul?

Well, if you thought *the above* was parking close enough to the bridge club, what about the following?



Parking even closer than the President..right by his table! It's lucky Peter TJ was not playing at table 1

Success for Thomas and Jan

It was a tight finish at the end of the recent Three Week Pairs with Thomas and Jan doing just enough to keep their noses in front at the end, less than 2 % clear of Tim and Rochelle and Norma and Richard.

October also saw two further nights play with the Thames Club, plenty of enjoyment and plenty of good food to go with the bridge.

After the four nights of competition, Thames came out on top in the club competition 466.70 to 442.77. Joy and I (with on the last night more than a little help from “super sub” Wendy Morris) just came out on top with a 4-night total of 245.72% just 1.47% ahead of Thames’ John Peppiatt and Mary-Ellen Newton. Tim and Rochelle finished 6th and Cam and Ross McIntyre 8th.

Alan and June (64.35%) and Tim and Rochelle (61.54%) were the top scorers in the 10 table field on the night of the New Zealand Wide Pairs at Morrinsville. They were not that high to trouble the overall top scorers countrywide (they needed very high 60’s or higher to do that) but their scores were very reasonable.



A nice Friday night... NZ Wide Pairs at Morrinsville

Currently, the Hemmes-Kalma competition is taking place after which there are two Tuesday night dates for your diaries, the AGM on 24th November and the Prize Giving and Christmas Party on 1st December. That night, dinner and drinks included, will cost everyone \$35.00. I've seen Corolyn's menu....and it's well worth being there.

Before all that, in early November, several club members will be heading down to Palmerston North for a week of bridge (a "little" socialising, too) at the National Bridge Congress.

Wisdom of Solomon



(The sub-title will come at the end of the article!)

This is not so much about wisdom but a little tale how one can never be sure one is right at the bridge table. Let's look at a hand which amongst others Guy held on a recent Tuesday night at the club.

North Deals
E-W Vul



♠ K Q J 9
♥ 6
♦ 9 7 6 5
♣ 10 9 8 7

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1 ♠	2 ♠	3 ♠	Pass
4 ♠			

Guy sat South and the above was the first couple of rounds of bidding that Guy saw. His partner, Victor, had bid 2S showing at least 5 cards in hearts and at least 5 cards in a minor suit. He was already a passed hand.

After East supported spades, West bid to 4S and Guy was ready, poised to double this contract, very likely holding three trump tricks. Surely his partner could produce at least one!

Yet, he did not get the chance! Victor bid 5D over 4S. How sad was that.... and even sadder when East doubled 5D. From extracting a penalty to suffering one. East led a low diamond, D3, and Guy put down his dummy.

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

Both East and West would have glad not to be playing 4S (or so they thought) while Guy wondered what might have been.

Yet, they were all wrong! Against 4S, the defence certainly had three trump tricks.. but no more! Victor was correct. Instead of giving away -620 for the spade game making, or more likely -790 for it making doubled, the cost was either -100 or even only -300 in 5Dx (it is possible for the defence to score 4 tricks after a trump lead).

And the moral? You may not think so at the time but your partner may have been right. That's worth remembering.



and that sub-title:

"No matter at the time with my bid you're upset

It might still produce the best score we can get!"

Have a great bridge month in November.

Richard

