

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

Te Aroha News July 2025



The Te Aroha Rubber Clash

We do not play much Rubber Bridge in this country, certainly not at our clubs. Once a year, duplicate players get the opportunity to play in the National Rubber Bridge competition. Each region has a heat with the winning pairs playing off at the National Congress in November.

Matches last 30 boards and it's "shuffle and deal" each time with Rubber Bridge scoring. 12 pairs entered the Waikato Bays heat including two from our club, Rochelle and Tim and Anna Kalma and myself. Anna and I drew the short straw in having to play one extra match.

We won both our first two matches and Rochelle and Tim, who had a bye in the first round, won their first match...and that meant a semi-final clash between the two Te Aroha pairs.

This was held at the clubrooms one coldish Wednesday morning in July...and it was quite a battle. First blood to Anna and yours truly but then Rochelle and Tim fought back to virtually all square. Sometimes, it is said hand dealt hands are boring... but look at this one we dealt...no dealing machine, remember.

♠ —
 ♥ KQ973
 ♦ 5
 ♣ AJ87643

♠ —

♥ A J 10 4 2

♦ AKQJ92

♣ 10 2

♥ 86

♣ 9

Rochelle Richard Tim Anna

3♥ 3♠ 4NT Pass

5 ♥

6 ♥

I was on lead and led SQ.. but neither Tim nor Rochelle had any spades. Rochelle discarded a club from Tim's hand and ruffed in her own. She drew trumps and claimed all 13 tricks. Even on a club lead, Rochelle could make 12 tricks.

After that, the tide turned again...and by the time the last board was to be played, Tim and Rochelle needed a grand slam...and more...to win. No such luck! Anna and I thus won by just over 2,000 points and will play the Waikato Bays final in early August, the winner qualifying for the National finals in Palmerston North in November.

A “First” for June in June!

Well, it was not just a “first” in the month of June for the player who travels the furthest to play most Tuesday nights at Te Aroha but it was the “first time ever” for her last month.

What do you think this could be? A small clue. It is not directly bridge related but stems from something almost as important as playing bridge. Cooking and eating, of course! Cooking and eating what? Can you contain your curiosity for a couple of pages?

Strike 1 and Slam Cup Update

I am sure most of you, well a few of you, OK, only Peter TJ, will remember the Strike One competition is in its second year at the club. Points are awarded for slams bid and made **against** players, 1 for a small and 2 for each grand slam. Well, in mid-July, these are the leading contenders, or shall we say are the “unlucky players” or simply those who play lots at the club since it extends over both Tuesday and Friday play. It’s close...

Jan	14	Malcolm	10
Hanna	12	Gaye	9
Laurie	11	Nick Whitten	8
Henk	11	Peter Daffurn	8
Peter TJ	10		

Plenty of time still to go if your name is not on the list.

What then about the Slam Cup? It seems Tim had shot to the lead though spending about 5 Tuesdays in Australia changed that. I sneaked past him! These are the leaders as July comes to an end.

Richard	14	Hanna	8
Tim	13	Victor	7
Rochelle	10	Ross McIntyre	7
Malcolm	9	Joy	5
Alan	9	Peter Daffurn	5

Alas, I shall be absent for nearly 2 months myself. I can see Tim smiling!

To my knowledge, there have only been 2 grand slams bid and made this year. This was the more recent one in late June:

Board 2		♠	6 3 2	
East Deals		♥	K 10 7	
N-S Vul		♦	9 8 5	
		♣	K J 9 3	
♠	A Q J 10	<div>N W E S</div>	♠	K 9 8 5
♥	8 6 4		♥	A Q
♦	3 2		♦	A K Q 10 4
♣	Q 6 4 2		♣	A 10
		♠	7 4	
		♥	J 9 5 3 2	
		♦	J 7 6	
		♣	8 7 5	
West	North	East	South	
<i>Pat</i>	<i>Val</i>	<i>Peter TJ</i>	<i>Ross Stewart</i>	
		2 ♣	Pass	
2 ♠	Pass	4 ♣	Pass	
4 ♥	Pass	5 ♣	Pass	
5 ♦	Pass	7 NT	All pass	

4C was of course for aces with Pat owning up to 1, SA. 5C asked for kings and despite getting a rather negative answer from his partner, Peter went for glory. 7S is a fair contact as you can discard 3 clubs on East's diamonds and then take the heart finesse to make all 13 tricks.

In 7NT, that still only gives a declarer 12 tricks. Ross led H3. Val inserted H10. Then came HA, 4 rounds of spades and 5 rounds of diamonds. With one diamond to be played, these cards remained:

♠	—		♠	—
♥	K		♥	—
♦	—		♦	4
♣	K J		♣	A 10

♠	—		♠	—
♥	8		♥	—
♦	—		♦	4
♣	Q 6		♣	A 10

		N		
		W	E	
		S		

♠	—			
♥	J 9			
♦	—			
♣	8			

Peter played the high D4 and deviously discarded C6 from dummy. Val, North, was not sure what to discard and made the unfortunate choice of CJ. Peter had 13 tricks the very hard way. Val and Ross earned two points in the Slam One competition.

What risks one takes for glory!

June's First Roast



You remember Cam donated some roast pork joints as part of Alan's fundraising evening? Well, June bought one of them. "So what" you may ask? Well, although June has eaten roast meals when she has been out, she has never before cooked a roast meal herself.

So, time to check on the cookbooks. Above we have the finished product, crackling and all. The verdict was "very nice" and the crackling very crispy. We await to see and maybe even taste any more roast meals she decides to cook.

Morrinsville's in Town



Shirley B and Ross M are all concentration as they take on Val Waite and Beryl Gatenby.

The annual visit of players from our closest friends who play in Morrinsville on Tuesday nights. Lovely to have them, 10 pairs coming for an evening's bridge. Naturally, there was plenty of food for supper, so much so that the photo above was taken **after** the supper break, i.e. the left-overs! Many thanks to all those who brought a plate.

Tim and Malcolm were on fire this evening top-scoring with 69.17%. After this evening Te Aroha led 595.91 to 553.78, with a couple of local pairs making up the numbers to play for our guests.



and here's Peter TJ in action when the battle switched to Morrinsville a week later. Tim and Malcolm, along with Alan and yours truly, posted 60% scores at the return heat in Morrinsville and that along with some consistent scoring from other pairs proved just enough for a Te Aroha victory with a 50.15% average as compared with Morrinsville's 49.88% over the two nights. However, the main point of the two nights is socialising with our neighbours ...and in that respect, everyone was a winner.

(A question for the mathematicians amongst you. Why did the 2 scores not equal 100%? The answer is **not** to be found in this newsletter!)

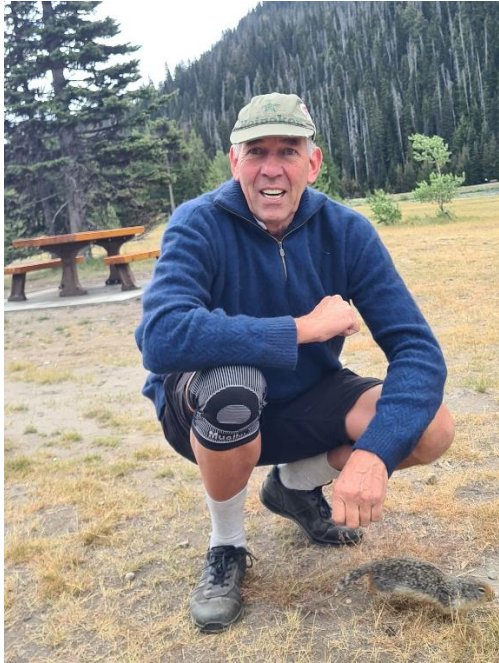
and well done, Damien, for helping yours truly to success in the Senior/Junior Pairs.

Jo Mayall... advanced notice

The annual Jo Mayall challenge involving 2 teams of 4 from Te Aroha, Morrinsville, Waihi and Katikati takes place this year at the Te Aroha Club rooms on Sunday September 28th. Each member of each team plays twice with the other three members of their team. If you would like to play, please put your name on the list on the club notice-board...as soon as possible. The event is always a very pleasant day.

Victor in Victoria ...or nearby

Last month, we featured Tim discovering Australia (Others had “discovered” it before him, rumour has it!). This time, we see Victor who with his wife, Angelique, has been in Canada en route to the Netherlands. He may not have visited the city of Victoria but he has posted some lovely pictures of their Canadian trip.



Some lovely scenery....and a picture to remind Victor of home. Yes, they have cattle there too.



And from cattle to “bull”

It's All Bull!

Purchaser Tax Invoice

PGG Wrightson

Due Date - 05/06/2025 AT PRIVATE SALES Y
Sale Date - 05/06/2025
Invoice Date - 06/06/2025
Invoice No - 329501051
Client No - 77330

100 Hapel Street, Dunedin 9013
Private Bag 9001, Dunedin 9001
Telephone 0800 121215
Facsimile 0343 676014
Email enquiries@pggwrightson.co.nz

To Aroha Contract Bridge
Club Incorporated
105 Whitaker Street
Te Aroha
3328

Client GST No
PGG WRIGHTSON
PRIVATE BAG 1941
DUNEDIN
GST Regd No 16-183-849

TSS Allan Jones
Phone 027 2240768

Mail Number

Lot No	Tally	Pen/Int	Description	WT	Price	Amount
97513	1	A2	HFD BEEF BULL Kairuru Farming Ltd - L/S		13000.00	13000.00
			Gross			13,000.00
			Plus GST			1,950.00
						14,950.00
			GST Input	1,950.00	Invoice Total	14,950.00

1 STUD BEEF
1 STUD BEEF

Av 13000.00ph
Av 13000.00ph

This sale is covered by any terms notified by PGG as applying to it and by our Customer Terms of Trade, which we update from time to time. The current version of our Customer Terms of Trade is available online at www.pggwrightson.co.nz > Our Company > Terms and Conditions or is hard copy on request.

Reference 77330 Due Date 05/06/2025 Please pay by Direct Credit to
A/C 62-0900-0240090-00 with reference
Invoice No 329501051 Invoice Total 14,950.00 No 77330

To Aroha Contract Bridge

Please subscribe to our invoice email service and have your invoices emailed to you
To subscribe phone 0800 102276 or go to
<https://www.pggwrightson.co.nz/Account-Services/Account-Email-Preferences>

The above Wrightson's invoice was addressed to the Te Aroha Bridge Club and sent to our Treasurer, Victor, last month. It is for the purchase of a “beef bull” and the total cost including GST is \$14,950. Now, don't panic, you will not see a bull racing around in Paul's club garden eating chokos between charging at the many Woolworths customers. Victor tells us the invoice was raised in error and has since been credited.

No tip this month other than bid 7S not 7NT in future!

That's all for July. We will back in August with news of Cambridge 6s and other stories around the club and its members.

Happy Bridging. Richard