

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

**NOVEMBER 2023**



**A new Life Member and a new President**

That is the big news from the club's AGM held on 21<sup>st</sup> November at the club. Congratulations to Peter Daffurn on being elected as the new President. It is really a healthy sign for the club that so many people stood either as club officers or committee members. Thank you, Ross McIntyre, for putting your name forward for the top job.



*the new "boss"*

Before we look at the new committee, a big thank you to Rochelle who has guided the club for the last two very significant years which included both difficult Covid issues and the club's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. It is wonderful that Rochelle will still be on the committee and will still perform the Partnership Steward role, such an important position for any club.

**The Committee** Also, thanks to Tineke who has been a Committee Member and to Peter "TJ" for putting their names forward. Inevitably with any vote, some will not make it on to the Committee. Here, though, is the new Committee:

<b>President</b>	Peter Daffurn	
<b>Secretary</b>	Shirley Bailey	
<b>Treasurer</b>	Victor Kooter	
<b>Committee</b>	Jan Baker	Tim Rigter
	Charlotte Glass	Richard Solomon
	Tyrel Glass	Rochelle van Heuven
	Ross McIntyre	

**And to our new Life Member, Laurie.** Congratulations, Laurie, on becoming the club's latest Life Member.

It is great to see Laurie back at the club after a period with health issues. Recently, I interviewed Laurie and now is a very appropriate time to print that interview in recognition of her becoming a Life Member:



“Every club needs a Laurie: well two or three would be even better. Someone who will roll up her sleeves and do whatever is needed for the benefit of the club. Although she was on the Te Aroha Committee for several years, she says you do not need to be on a committee to know what needs doing or to do it. ....and she has “done” wherever she has been.

Recently, I caught up with Laurie before an evening at the club, which means a piece of fish at “The Grand”, a happy session of bridge and sometimes a glass of port afterwards. She likes them all.

We touched on her early life (I think that there were more than a few stories I did not hear!), an Auckland “Westie” who has spent most of her life in the Te Aroha area. She has been married twice to farmers. The first time must be some time ago as she has been “organising” (her word not mine!) Gary and the farm for 40+ years. Although a “Westie”, she reckons she was a farmer at heart and “first time round” did the milking.

Laurie and Gary are well retired now but still live on the farm. Between them, they have 6 children, 19 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren.

It was about 1999 that Laurie got a call from her good friend, Hermanna, that she should come to Matamata and learn bridge. She had a couple of lessons but then had a major operation and so stopped. Yet, not for long. Edie Schwartz got her back learning and after one year, she was Club Secretary. In 2006 and 2009, she was Club President. She remembers Nola Barron being the Partner Steward at Matamata, the person who kept Laurie playing.

Then came another call from Hermanna. Te Aroha was down to a couple of tables and Laurie was rounded up to come along and help start the club revival. Although she is still a member of Matamata, Te Aroha has become her home club.

There’s more untold stories about her time on the Building Committee at the club, at the time when the new toilets were installed. Let’s just say there were strong-minded people on that committee with differing views on aspects of this great new club facility...and the end justifies the means!

Laurie says she likes playing with and helping the new players. She put that into practice for three years having sessions for the new players at her

house on Friday afternoons. George Sherrell hand-dealt practice hands for her.

She considers herself a good organiser and was certainly involved in organising the annual Christmas Dinners for the club. That's all part of the enjoyment and fun which are so much part of playing bridge. So too is dressing up as we see below.



*Laurie, a bikie at this year's Cambridge 6's*

She has been on many many Committees in her time including being National Secretary of the Camelia Society. She loves camelias. These happened to be at the club when we talked:



It's all about giving, about having fun and helping where-ever she can. That's Laurie, so often with a lovely smile on her face. Both Matamata and Te Aroha have been lucky that she has been in the area and taken up the game."

#### **The Port Drinkers**



*Reasons to celebrate after the AGM and a night's bridge. Laurie can celebrate being the club's latest Life Member and Rochelle the end of her term as club President. Actually, they would be holding a glass (or more) of this drink even if they had nothing to celebrate.*

## Spotted down Shaftesbury Road, Te Aroha early in late October!



The photos above are of flags at full mast spotted over the weekend of 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> October down Shaftesbury Road just south of Te Aroha. We have the flags of New Zealand and South Africa flying outside houses next to each other. Victory in the Rugby World Cup final by one point (after similar 1 pointer wins in the previous 2 rounds) is equivalent of winning a session of bridge by one match-point, or close to! So, congratulations to all those with similar South African flags and Cam and others (are there?) are even, just, able to share a glass or three of port with those who flew New Zealand flags, if they dare!

### **Thanks, Craig**

I was not aware of what Craig has been doing for the club for the past 30 years and more. Were you? He has looked after the club lawn and ensured it

was always very tidy. He has now called it a day...and I am sure we are all very grateful. Rumour has it that Tyrel may soon be seen performing this role maybe on a ride-on. Is that true?

Let's hope it will not need cutting in the next couple of weeks as Tyrel and Charlotte are hopefully enjoying themselves in India... and talking of holidays:

### **Chicago, Chicago!**



Where is Michael Jordan's Steak House and what are Tim and his son, Reese, doing there?

Well, a year or three or five ago, Reese enjoyed what he thought was just the most fabulous pizza in the world, double cheese, wonderful base and so on at this restaurant in Chicago, USA. How he would love to return there.

You may or may not be aware (you are now) that Tim, his wife Kristin, Reese, Reese's sister Taylor and their partners are on a wonder trip to Florida and then a Caribbean cruise (*sounds rather nice but would you really want to do that and miss several Tuesday nights at the bridge club in Te Aroha? I think the answer is "yes!"*). Now, Reese was told that they were flying from Auckland to Dallas and then on to Florida. Little did he know but they were flying to Chicago first with one main reason...so that could he taste once again his most fabulous pizza.

He only discovered the “change of itinerary” when they boarded the plane at Auckland Airport. Now, if Reese is not looking at the camera in the above picture, you will understand why. He does, though, look rather happy.

My favourite restaurant? Well, surprise me and book me a trip to Rome and we can go there. OK, I suppose I will have to settle for a steak at “The Grand” instead. I am sure the Chicago, Florida, West Indies trip is going very well. It got off to a really good start.

### **Well played, Moira and Martin**

Yes, congratulations as they came out on top at the end of the three night Kalma- Hemmes competition which included a fabulous 71% on the second night. Norma and Nancy kept them honest being only 3.8% behind. Also a great result for 2 new players, Grace and Oscar, who finished 3<sup>rd</sup> and scored 66.6% on the second night. It was lovely seeing 5 or 6 tables in play in this Junior event and several of the brand new players taking part.

**A Slippery Slam** Now, I have been told that the most sought- after coveted trophy at the club (OK..any trophy really is nice to win) is the Tuesday night Slam Cup, one point for a small slam and two for a grand. Oh, there is a small proviso that you do have to make your contract. Tim has been chasing this trophy all year but made one really bad mistake. That’s right....heading off to the Caribbean at the critical time. No chance now.

I cannot yet reveal the 2023 winner but Rochelle has not been too upset to see Tim disappear. Recently you may remember seeing these North-South

hands.	<b>North</b>	<b>South</b>
	S AJT82	S K9
	H AK7	H Q5432
	D AQJ52	D K
	C -	C AKQ62

That’s 17hcp in the opener’s hand (South) and 19 in the responder, North’s hand. Indeed when the bidding starts:

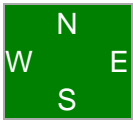
<b>North</b>	<b>South</b>
	1H
1S	3C
?	



North must be thinking of slam, even grand slam. Even if you do not use Roman Key Card Blackwood, you should **not** use 4C Gerber where clubs has been bid as a natural suit. Use 4NT for aces. However, good bidding would see North bid 3H, stronger than 4H, assuming that 3C is forcing to game, which it should be. Having shown a strong hand, and perhaps nervous about their heart suit, South may just bid 4H.

North would use Roman Key Card 4NT and the bidding would proceed as below.

**Board 6**      ♠ A J 10 8 2  
 East Deals      ♥ A K 7  
 E-W Vul        ♦ A Q J 5 2  
                  ♣ —

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

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		Pass	1 ♥
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	3 ♣
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	4 NT	Pass	5 ♣
Pass	5 ♦	Pass	5 ♠
Pass	5 NT	Pass	6 ♠
Pass	7 NT	All pass	

*Sorry...that's a lot of bids... but then both hands have a lot of points!  
 Perhaps, like me, you held the East-West cards which were a little easier to bid!*

5C showed 1 key card (CA). 5D asked for the HQ and by bidding 5S, South said they held that card. 5NT asked for kings except for the trump king, which had already been covered by the 4NT ask. 6S showed 3. North could count 2 spade tricks, 5 heart tricks, 5 diamond tricks and 2 club tricks (they did not know about CQ). That is 14 tricks if suits broke normally.

(There are many ways to ask for the trump queen and outside kings. The above is just one.)

Bidding 7NT is better than 7H not only because it scores a little more but also because if the heart suit did not break well, you might still have a chance in 7NT. As you can see, 7H had a certain trump loser and had to fail.

Declarer in 7NT can try both red suits but when neither break will fall back on a spade finesse...and probably will take it the wrong way.

Being in grand slam is really worthwhile and 7NT was very unlucky to fail (it can make if early in the play, declarer plays SJ and lets it run if East does not cover, an unlikely line). Only one pair bid to grand... and that was Rochelle and Shirley Bailey who bid to 7H.

Yet, there is good news for Rochelle.

The closing date for the Slam Cup had ended a week earlier and thus she would not lose out to the two pairs who bid and made 6H...well done, Peter Daffurn and Malcolm and Peter TJ and Tineke). Rochelle's lead in the competition was intact even if this grand slam failed.

It seems some days even 36 hcp is not enough to make 13 tricks.

**A final plea.** Hopefully, the new committee will introduce a new cup for the player who had the most successful slam bid **against** them. Then, I for one would have enjoyed the above slam a little more.



### **Christmas at the Club.**

That's next Tuesday (28<sup>th</sup> November) for all members with drinks, dinner, prize giving and of course bridge. Just 20.00 a head (pop that sum in the club bank account and make Victor happy) and the club will pay the rest. Corolyn's cooking and we all know that will be a lovely meal.

So, see you all there...and congratulate those who won not just the Slam Cup but other trophies too. Next time we will feature all the prize winners, maybe even the Slam Cup winner!

*Richard*