

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

**Te Aroha News November 2024**



### **Not quite World Champions.**

Alas, I have to report that New Zealand did not win the Seniors event in Buenos Aires. Mind you, we did win all 4 of our matches on day 1. The competition was tough. Our aim was to make the top 16 out of 24 competing countries and we finished the 23 x 12 board matches in 18<sup>th</sup> place, just 4 vps behind the 16<sup>th</sup> placed country.

We felt a bit hard-done-by. Two countries, Chile and Switzerland, were expelled from the event near the end for breaking the draconian cell-phone regulations. We were awarded scores against these 2 weak countries based on our final position, just over 16 vps against Chile (most countries who played them scored 20vps) and 12 vps against Switzerland. Maybe we would have achieved a higher total had we actually played them.

Many of you have neither seen nor played behind screens. This is what a table at the event looked like, also proving I was there!:



North and East sat one side of the screen and South-West on the other. The tray in the middle is pushed through from one side to the other with the cards we use to make our bids on them. You can see the red boxes on the table, holding the cards from which we make our bids.

When the bidding is complete, we take our cards off the tray. The opening lead is made and the wooden divider is opened so that all players can see the dummy. You can never see your partner's face (that can be a good thing!) though you can exchange a few quick words between each deal.

It is quite a social way of playing in that when the bidding tray is on the other side of the screen, you can talk to your opponent. I really enjoy playing behind screens....and then there are the cell phone issues. You have to place your phone in the off mode (not airplane mode) in the pocket on the screen. 3 teams were expelled from different events here for repeatedly failing to do this. Indeed, our first opponent, an Israeli, was fined 2 victory points for having his phone in his pocket one minute into the match. He was furious and that may have contributed to our winning that match.

There were many exciting high-level hands and this one helped New Zealand beat England:

**Board 15**

South Deals  
N-S Vul

♠ 3 2  
♥ K 8 5 4 3  
♦ K Q J 7 6 4  
♣ —

♠ K 10 9 6 5  
♥ 9  
♦ A 10  
♣ K Q 9 8 5

N  
W E  
S

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

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Richard</i>		<i>Alan</i>	

1 ♥

2 ♥	4 ♥	5C	5 ♥
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6 ♣	6 ♥	Pass	Pass
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7 ♣	Pass	Pass	Dbl
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All pass

My 2H promised at least 5 spades and 5+ cards in a minor suit. After North jumped to game, Alan, my partner, at favourable vulnerability, decided to compete at the 5-level. 5C said he was happy with whichever minor suit I held.

When South bid 5H, I decided we would not go many down in 6C and then North joined in the fun by bidding 6H. I became unsure of the fate of 6H. Our opponents were bidding aggressively and I was not sure we had a club trick in defence to 6H. So, I believed my opponents and was fairly sure we would not lose many tricks in 7C.

I was correct. In 6H, North's second spade could be discarded on CA leaving only the DA as a trick for the defence, + 1430. Meanwhile, against 7C, the defence could win one trick in each suit, -800. At the other table, our teammates were allowed to play 6H, meaning we gained 12 imps for the 7-level sacrifice.

It is not often one gets to sacrifice at the 7-level while holding an ace, 2 kings and a queen...and partner having a QJ holding as well. At the end of this deal, my screen-mate said to me: "did you really trust our bidding that much?" The price of bidding well was that I did believe my opponents' bidding!

We had 2 wonderful weeks of bridge, some good results, some "je regret rien" but overall a wonderful experience. Oh and the Argentinian beef was just wonderful too. It was a great experience and I am forever appreciative of the fund-raising done by my local club.

I returned to New Zealand only 24 hours before Anna Kalma and I played in the National Pairs in Auckland, two days of strong bridge....and we had a wonderful time, leading the field for the first 4 out of 5 sessions. Alas, then jet-lag and a few bad decisions struck and we dropped to finish 6<sup>th</sup> at the end. It was a great way to be welcomed back to New Zealand.

### **Passion for Produce and Preserves**

We are a talented lot, us Te Aroha bridge players. (Shh..it's OK for us to say so.) I am sure others think it so! It's not just at the bridge table either. Let's share a few memories of the recent A and P Show thanks to Charlotte:

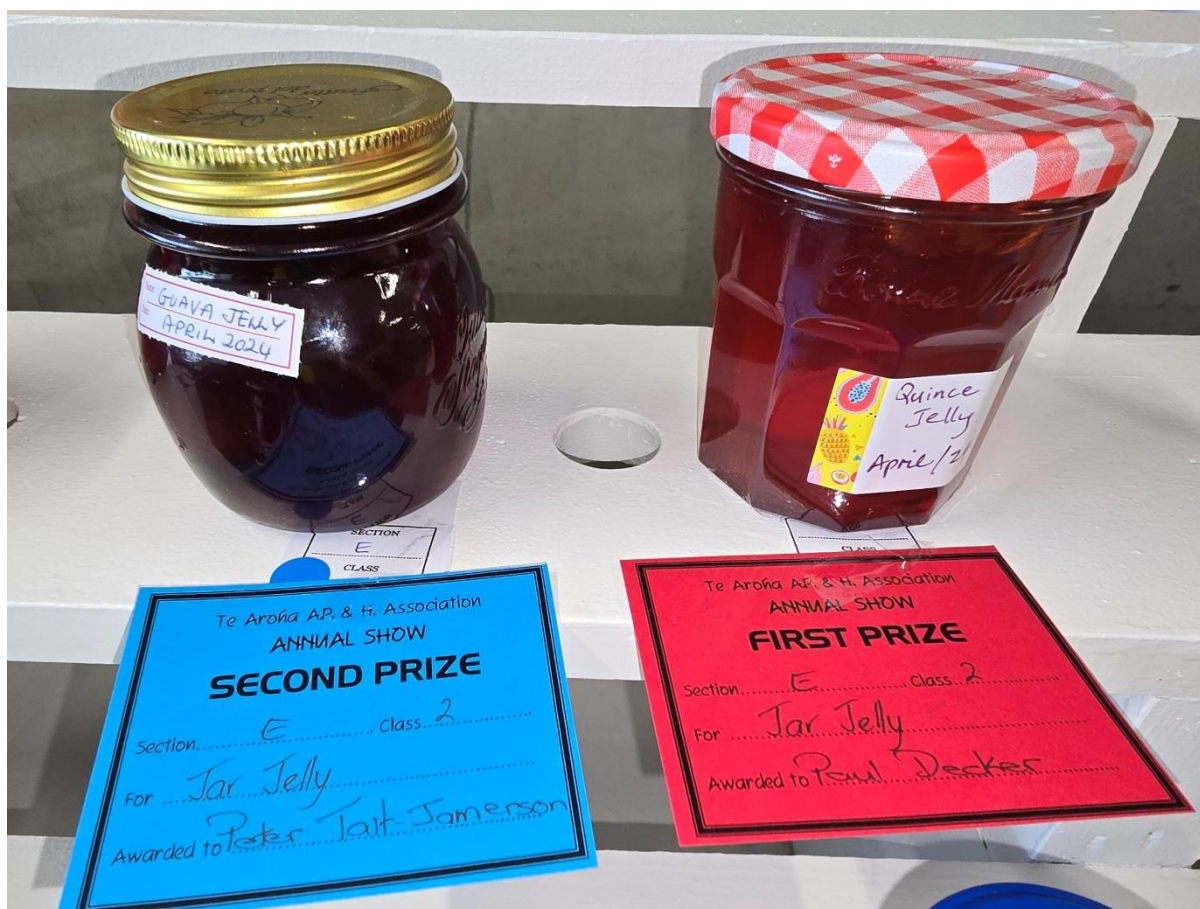
The A and P Show is the local show that was held on Saturday. Cows, horses and also a home industries section. Home industries is heaps of classes including arts and crafts, flowers, roses, produce and preserves. You enter as much as you want and then people get prizes.

There has been a lot of talk about it for the past few months as people prepare their produce and preserves. As far as I know, Peter TJ Paul (Decker) and Tyrel were all involved.

Tyrel did really well and took out the overall prize for the preserves (most places over the 12 classes). He also won some other prizes with first place in the Lego (*not in the vege section!*), broccoli, and cabbage. In the rhubarb competition Paul was 1st Paul and Peter TJ 2nd.



Peter TJ has been talking up a big game. In the jelly I think he gave Paul his guava jelly recipe. The results for the jelly were 1st Paul, 2nd Peter TJ and 3rd Tyrel with his passionfruit jelly.



*Nice looking jams and neat photo....thanks, Paul*

The other hugely talked up class was the marmalade. Peter TJ “talked up” his marmalade and gave Tyrel some grapefruit. In this class a non- bridge player got 1st and Tyrel got 2nd and 3rd (grapefruit and orange). Unfortunately Peter TJ was unplaced in this class. Everyone has already started talking up a big game for next year.”

### **“Tot Ziens” Dorine and Jan**

Jan and Dorine Meertens have been members of the Te Aroha club for many years. We have seen a little less of Dorine in recent years. However, now, the time has come when they have decided to move to Hamilton to be closer to their family. On behalf of all members, we wish you both well in your new home.

Here are some photographs to remember them by. In Jan's case, it is highly significant that there is a glass of red wine in his hand. That is a very familiar aid for Jan when he is playing bridge.



Dorine is a great photographer and has posted many lovely nature photos taken around the Te Aroha area on Facebook. Here are a couple of examples:



Bon voyage and we hope sometime in the future, they will visit Te Aroha on a Tuesday night.



**AGM Time** That happened at the club on Tuesday November 19<sup>th</sup> and a reasonable number of members turned up. It was great that we already had nominations for President, Secretary and Treasurer and that we had more than the required number for the Committee. No “arm twisting” was thus necessary.

Peter (Daffurn), Shirley (Bailey) and Victor were all re-elected unopposed. We had Charlotte and Tyrel retiring from the Committee (They will have a new member of the family to welcome quite soon. Hopefully, one or both of them will carry on with lessons for new players.) The election saw (in alphabetical order) the following elected to the committee: Jan, Lisa, Paul (Decker), Richard, Rochelle, Ross and Tim, a good balance of established experienced members with two new committee members. A special thanks to those who stood and missed out. It shows the club is in good heart when such a vote is needed.

The main talking point was whether we should have the clock working on a Tuesday night and the general view was that we should. It should help both newer players and Ross and others who might direct.

Table money remains the same while there will be a small increase in the subscription rate for full members, but only because the NZ Bridge portion is increasing.

The new Constitution was voted into place. Thanks to both Peters and all others who have contributed to making this a working document for the Club.

### **The Wisdom of Solomon**



### **The Unusual 4 No Trump Bid**

Many of you will be familiar with a bid of 2NT after opponents have only bid a major suit as showing both minor suits:

e.g. West	North	East	South
1H	Pass	1S	2NT

South should have a hand like this with at least 5 cards in each minor suit:

S 4 H J6 D KQ874 C AJ754

Most of their high card points should be in the minor suits. The strength of the hand can be agreed between partners though I think 9 or 10 high card points should be the minimum.

However, after bidding 4NT in the following sequence recently, it would seem that many would be unaware that 4NT means exactly the same:

West	North	East	South
1S	2H	Pass	3H
Pass	4H	4NT	

As East, I held S - H 2 D AT98763 C JT543

and I wanted my partner to choose their longer minor suit at the 5-level. Note that had I spade support, I would have bid a round earlier rather than passing. 4NT had to show the minors, at least 5 of each. These were the 4 hands:

South Deals None Vul		♠ A Q 7 5 3		
		♥ K 8 7 4 3		
		♦ —		
		♣ A 9 2		
♠ K J 9 8 2			♠ —	
♥ Q 10 6			♥ 2	
♦ K J 4 2			♦ A 10 9 8 7 6 3	
♣ K			♣ J 10 5 4 3	
		♠ 10 6 4		
		♥ A J 9 5		
		♦ Q 5		
		♣ Q 8 7 6		
West	North	East	South	
			Pass	
1 ♠	2 ♥	Pass	3 ♥	
Pass	4 ♥	4 NT	Pass	
5 ♦	?			



East's point count can be less than 9 where their partner has opened the bidding and where they have extra length in one or both suits as East has here.

Often, 4NT is made as a sacrifice bid though in this case, East-West can make 11 tricks in 5D. With North declarer, 4H can be made and so it was imperative for East to bid over 4H.

North might choose to bid 5H over 5D and West could double that with East-West at least recording a plus score.

So, remember, a bid of 4NT in such an auction is not an ace ask but is looking for a fit in a minor suit. The 4NT bidder **must** have at least 5 cards in each minor suit to make that bid.

### **Members' News**

It was lovely to see Peter Daffurn walking without his stick at the AGM. Sure he was struggling a bit but his knee operation is now behind him and hopefully, he will be getting around much more comfortably in the future.

Our thoughts have gone out to Laurie on Gary's passing. Such an occasion is always filled with sadness. We hope to see you back at "The Grand" with your plateful of fish in the very near future.

We will be back in December with news of the Party/Prize-giving Night and other news around the club.

Remember, Rochelle is on holiday...well, when it comes to organising partners for Tuesday nights. She will be back on the job in the New Year. In the meantime, do come along to play on both Tuesdays and Fridays. There will be bridge right up to the week before Christmas and apart from November 27<sup>th</sup> when we will be eating at the Club (hopefully, you will be there), you can turn up for a chat and a feed at The Grand at 5.30 pm on a Tuesday. *See you all then...Richard*