

Welcome to a spring newsletter from your bridge club. A mixed hand of a couple of club tournaments over recent weeks, a few organizational matters, a farewell to an old stalwart and a typically aggressive bid from Leon Hunia.

But first, a word from the President, Tony Davies. Well . . . perhaps, a longer “word” than his usual allocation.

**Table money increases.**

By now, most of the membership will know that the table money will be increased from **October 1**. It rises from \$4.00 to \$5.00 per session and the cost of the multi-session tickets (MSTs) rises from \$40.00 to \$50.00 – though still providing two free sessions. It rises from that date (Oct 1) as that is the start of the club’s financial year.

There is one single overriding reason for the increase: our club faces **two major capital costs in the next few months – up to \$18,000 to \$20,000 to replace all our chairs and a new water heater for the kitchen will cost \$3,000**. These costs will seriously deplete the “operating savings” carefully built up over the past few years.

The club committee is also required to maintain and build a “Building Maintenance Contingency Fund”. (This has been discussed at each AGM in recent years.) That fund now stands at \$27,000. The last major club rooms refurbishment cost \$37,000 back in 2010-2011. The increase in the table fee will enable the club to increase this fund by about \$5,000 in each of the next few years.

*Editor’s note: Tony has also gone to the various day and night sessions over the past week to explain in person about the reasons for these regretted increases. It is always difficult when fees are raised, but Tony has certainly “fronted” the issue.*

**Opening bids of 1 Club and 1 No Trump.** These bids **require** the opener’s partner to immediately give an explanation of what the bid means. It is **NOT** enough just to say, following a 1 Club opening bid, “it’s natural”. The partner **must** indicate the minimum number of clubs the opener will hold.

The No Trump bid **requires** the partner to specify the **range of points** held by the opener ie 12-14, 12-15, (possibly 13-15 if vulnerable ?) etc. There are a few Goren users and their range will be 16+

**The Thursday “day” session.** Currently, this session starts at 10.30. It will be moved to an afternoon in 2020. The average tables played is only 4.5 and the committee hopes that moving the session time to an afternoon may increase support. In addition, the current director will not be playing the “day” session next year. This is **a trial** and will be reviewed by the committee mid- year in 2020.

**A new committee for 2020.** Only 5-6 of the current committee are standing for re-election. I hope that all members will consider serving, even if only for a term. The club simply cannot function with only a dedicated few doing the work. For example, there are 32 various jobs that need to be allocated – either to committee members or to those who accept tasks outside the committee. (A list of these jobs would take up Keith’s whole newsletter!)

In particular, I have to stress that we will need **a new Vice President**, and an **“understudy” for Treasurer**, as Colleen will finish at the end of 2020. We need someone to be on the committee and learn the role by working with Colleen through 2020 and then taking over as Treasurer in 2021.

Thanks . . . and a little snippet of good news. **The year’s final week of play, leading up to Christmas (starting Monday 9 December) will be free at all sessions.** A small “thank you” to all members for their support over the year.

**Tony Davies (President)**

### **Hand Sanitizer**

Members will have noticed the sanitizer dispenser in the entrance way. You are all encouraged to use it, especially in the winter months when there are outbreaks of colds and flu, and especially if you might be a tad under the weather yourself. We also need to be aware that some of our members may also be suffering from low immunity to infections from time to time. It takes no time to give a swift rinse before entering the clubs and handling all those cards and Bridgemates.

## **The 70% Club**

The last time I looked (weeks ago?), there were only 7 pairs to make this honour board. Lyn Dash/ Gillian Travers are well ahead with a score of 75.7%, from Stafford Marshall/Jane Bradbury on 72.1% and Doug Galyer/Michael Cunniffe on 71.4 These three front running pairs have now been there for months . . . time for others to climb the ladder?

## **Slam Table**

A familiar list, headed by Jane Bradbury (on 37 slams bid and made) from Irene Galloway and Yvonne Rowe (both on 31). Kevin MacManus had been up there last time but is he fading . . . ?

## **New members**

The committee is going to publish a **“New Members” list** on the notice board. This will include ALL members that join the club after the yearly programme book has been printed. This, of course, is not only for those who come through our learner classes but also those who join from other clubs. **Current members are asked and encouraged to use this list as a “starting point” when looking for a new partner**, or even someone to partner you a session or so. The aim is to integrate new members but it is difficult when many current members have their playing schedules booked in.

Your attention is also drawn to the **“Drawn Pairs”, Tuesday night sessions in mid-late October**. This is another initiative to get newer members playing with more experienced members, and helping them to feel part of the club. Please consider and play then if you can. It is only for two nights.

## **Tournament results**

The last newsletter closed just before the **Kapiti Coast Funeral Home Junior Pairs** was held in late July. And no pics either for that tournament, sorry, but congratulations to our own members who came up “trumps” in this two session tournament.

In first place were the pairing of **Anne Brunt and Collen Mankelow** and in second place were **Linzee Inkster and Lorraine Tidey**. Also worthy of note were **Margaret Cachemaille and Rona Huggins** who won the first session. Congratulations to all of you.

**The Novella Sponsored Charity Pairs (this year for the Paekakariki Surf Lifeguards).**

This popular “in house” session was held Sunday 8 September. Below, Dale Wills seems absolutely delighted with the day, surrounded by lovely ladies, food and wine, and this was even before he learned that his Paekakariki Surf Lifesaving Club would benefit by about \$1,100.



A friendly day's bridge, played in a competitive but cheerful atmosphere, well-organised by Trevor Smith, calmly directed by Marie Groves and nourished by the staff in the kitchen, Noella Squire and Jill Browne.

Heaps and heaps of prizes were there for the easy picking, in 5 sections. Section A winners were Fay Manley and Leon Huia, while Gillian Travers and James Winskill won Section B. In Section C, Ian Nicholls and Laurel Nalder delighted in their result (see image below), and Marg and Keith Lees won Section D, with Ken Thomas and Rae Lutman placing first in Section E.

However, the best results across the whole field came from Section D. From this group emerged **Marg and Keith Lees** to be tournament winners and second in that section were **Barbara Compton and Margaret Cachemaille** who also gained second place overall.

A sumptuously laden table and a couple of wines ended a very pleasant day. Thanks to our sponsors, the **Novella Café** for their generous approach. A relationship with a sponsor should be mutually beneficial = please support them too.



Your Editor and his partner were pleased enough with their win and their bottles of booze . . .

But Ian Nicholls and Laural Nalder seemed totally delirious with their result !!!



### **Farewell to Stafford Marshall**

It was with real sadness (on both sides) that we farewelled Stafford Marshall. Briefly, “Staff” is moving to Australia to live with his family, a big move for him to move away after being such a staunch part of this community. “Staff” was one of the top players in the club, he had been a member for many years and had directed Tuesday night bridge for so long that he had become an institution. He was also a real character with a unique sense of humour. On his last Tuesday evening, with an informal supper, we thanked him for his contribution to bridge at Paraparaumu.

Stafford Marshall reflects on his years at the Club and on directing Tuesday night bridge.



### **Upcoming events and tournaments**

By the time you read this, you might (just) have the time to make an entry in the Kena Kena Rest Home Multigrade to be held here at our club, Sunday September 29.

Also consider the Kapi Mana Intermediate Pairs (13 October), the Babich NZ Wide Pairs on Friday 1 November and the Waikanae Intermediate/Junior Pairs on 10 November.

Finally, get it into your programme/diary/social calendar . . . the last play of 2019 . . .

**Yes, the Forsyth Barr Sponsored Christmas Pairs! Last tournament of the year and another “in house” day.**

Finally, one hand from the Novella Tournament on September 8.

You pick out your cards and start sorting them. And then you sort them again, just to make sure, because not only do you hold ten diamonds, but more, they are headed by Ace, King, Queen, Jack, ten and on and on. And you are sitting East and you see that you are the Dealer. What are you going to bid? And East-West are vulnerable but not North South.

Here is your hand.

♠

♥ 6

♦ A K Q J 10 9 8 7 5 3

♣ Q 9 7

Only 12 points but 9 tricks off the top. If partner has points, then you want to be in slam and you want to call it right now ie DIAMONDS. On the other hand, if North-South have points, they will have a game their way, maybe even a slam? Might a massive pre-empt be a good sacrifice? Even at unfavourable vulnerability? One player sitting East was not going to die wondering.

I was sitting South and watched Leon casually inscribe “6 D” as his opening bid on the pad. I don’t think I’ve seen anyone write down a slam as their opening bid. I passed meekly – around to my partner who promptly doubled.

Here are the full hands.

North : ♠ A K 10 7 3

♥ A K 9 8 5

♦ 6

♣ A 3

West : ♠ J 9 5 2

East : ♠

♥ 4 3

♥ 6

♦ 7 2

♦ A K Q J 10 9 8 5 3

♣ 10 8 6 4 2

♣ Q 9 7

South : ♠ Q 8 6 4

♥ Q J 10 7 2

♦ 4

♣ K J 5

According to Pianola (double dummy), we should have taken Leon three light but he must have played better than we defended and only went down by two. Still, a plus score of 500. Had to be useful? And yet, a slam in Spades is cold and a slam in Hearts might make. Three East-West pairs went 2 light (in 5Dx, 5Dx or 6Dx), a couple of North-South pairs went one light when they tried the slam in Hearts, several played in 4/ 5 Hearts or Spades making 11 or 12 tricks (and in one case 13 tricks!) but no one achieved the optimum bid of 6 Spades.

Only one North-South pair bid and made a slam (in Hearts) on this hand – so congratulations to **Lou MacDonald and Lance Johnson.**

**EDITOR : Keith LEES**