

**WELCOME BACK**

First, a very warm welcome back to club bridge. It might have taken a session or so to regain that bridge perfection, the accurate bidding and highly skilled play, you'd managed to achieve towards the end of last year . . . no (?). However, the various club competitions are now full on and **the first tournament of the year, the Koastal Locksmiths In-House Pairs, will be held on Sunday 23 February**. Entries close on Wednesday, Feb 19. This one session tournament caters for all grades and is a particularly popular start to the tournament year.

Also worth noting right now is our own Kapiti Retirement Trust Open Grade tournament which is scheduled for Sunday, March 29.

There are plenty of other tournaments coming up and your programme book lists those in the general region (from Wellington to Masterton and Levin). What about the Kapi Mana Multigrade Pairs on 8 March? And it's not too far to travel to Tawa.

**OUT WITH THE OLD AND IN WITH THE NEW**

The conversion from old to new chairs went very smoothly over the Christmas/New Year break.

And all of the old chairs found new homes - how often can 40+ year old chairs start new lives at their age! A third were taken by The Hub - a charity for homeless and needy families based in Levin; a second block went to The Tramway Museum based at QEII Park at Paekakariki; and the final lot were taken by House of Travel, for use when the firm holds their regular Open Invite sessions.

President Tony Davies reports that the feedback from members has been positive, regarding both chair style and colour. It is a delight to come into our club rooms which have been given a real lift by these new arrivals.

A big "Thank You" to the Sub-Committee of Brian Pender, Francie Vagg and Rachel Bruce who did masses of research on chair types, possible suppliers and costing. A final selection (from four possible chair styles) was made by them and the full committee in November. "Thank you" also to members of the committee who then helped unpack the new chairs and reorganise the club rooms while the carpets were being steam cleaned during the break.

**FUND RAISING**

You maybe not aware or have forgotten that we have **a sponsorship deal with M & M Master Butchers, Kapiti Road**, almost opposite Mitre 10. It is due to this and other sponsorships that we receive from the business community that we are able to keep our costs of running the club as low as we do. So we ask you to please support our sponsors.

To date the M&M sponsorship has contributed \$620.19 to our club funds.

It's simple. You pick up a card from the rear of our club rooms, show the card at the M and M shop, they stamp the back of your receipt. Then you drop the receipt into the large cardboard box (red) in the club rooms.

They give our club 5% of the total money sum for all the receipts that we collect. We know that this can be a **"nice little earner"** and it works without any great commitment of time and effort. This simple process could be very effective in balancing our budget (and yes, keeping subs at the present reasonable level!).

Please try M and M – the staff are friendly and efficient and they stock a large range of cuts and products including meals that you only have to pop in the oven. Just remember, you'll need the M and M card to get the receipt stamped.

Any questions or comments, please contact **our organiser, Ian Nicholls**.

## **SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Did I just mention "subscriptions"? **The 2020 subs are well and truly due. \$75.00 if you pay before 1 March and after that it will be \$80.00.** You now only have a few more days to get the reduced rate. Instructions about paying (especially by Internet banking) are in your bridge programme books.

## **ON A SAD NOTE**

Two of our members, Alec Dowie and May Monk, passed on during the Christmas and summer break. Our sympathy is extended to their families of course, but that note of sympathy also goes out to all those who knew them at and through this bridge club, and especially their partners at the bridge table.

Also, some members will be aware that Stafford Marshall has been facing some difficult health challenges in Australia and is undergoing major surgery. There is some information provided by "Staff" for members and also some e-mails sent by President Tony Davies on behalf of the Club, on the notice boards.

## **AND ON A LIGHTER NOTE**

Your club Directors sometimes have to manage an array of (thankfully minor) indiscretions, miscommunications, errors in leads and card play, insufficient bids etc and one such example occurred recently (on a Wednesday night!) when the opening lead was made and it was immediately followed by not just one dummy but two dummies being laid on the table. Both players thought it was the other who should be the Declarer! The Director was duly called over to oversee a table where an opening lead and two dummy hands were neatly

displayed. (The dummies were the cards on the table, by the way, not the two very capable and highly experienced players . . .)

## A COUPLE OF WORTHY RESULTS

It's early days but one pair have already hit the 70% gold standard ie Doug Galyer and Jane Bradbury (71.3%) on Jan 22. Others to be close were Linzee Inkster and Trish Schroder (68%) on Jan 23, Lottie Anderson and Edna Garriock (69.7%) on Jan 30 (afternoon) and to be very, very close were Suzy Hill and Lyn Boswell with 69.83 % on Jan 30 (evening session).

## AN AMUSING HAND

Adapted from Susanna Gross's bridge column in "The Spectator".

Dealer = East and E/W Vulnerable

	North : ♠ A K 10 9 x x x
	♥ A
	♦ A 10 x x x
	♣ --
West : ♠ --	East : ♠ x x x
♥ K Q 9 x x x	♥ x x
♦ 9 x x	♦ J
♣ QJ x x	♣ A K 10 9 x x x
	South : ♠ Q J x
	♥ J 10 x x
	♦ K Q x x
	♣ x x

The aggressive bidding sequence went like this:

West	North	East	South
		3♣	Pass
3♥	Pass (!)	4♥	Pass
Pass	5♣ (!)	Pass	6♦
Pass	7♦	All pass	

After East's pre-emptive opening bid and West's 3♥ response (*showing support for the Clubs, but maybe game in Hearts might work?*) what would you bid on the North cards? The event is the prestigious European Open Trials . . . and North was the only North in the room to pass. North happened to be Alex Hydes, one of England's top players.

North figured he didn't want to bid 4♣ because a cue bid like that should indicate both majors. True, West had bid hearts but his partner might still think he held the majors. So

North decided to wait. Was there a risk East might pass 3♥? Not really, as usually that bid and response is forcing for one round. East duly raised his partner to 4♥.

Now North decided it was time to enter the fray. He cue bid 5♣ (!), his opening bid. As he later explained, to go right past 4♠ “must show the earth”. His partner got the point and responded with his best suit, but having some values, bid not just 5♦, but 6♦ (!!).

So then North bid 7♦ (!!!). They were the only pair in the European Open Trials to bid the grand slam **and they bid and made a grand slam, despite both players passing on the first round of the auction . . . !!!!!!!**

In 2020, if any pair at the Paraparaumu Club can make any kind of a slam, small or grand, with both players having passed on the first round of bidding . . . then let me know. We'll have to organise a suitable prize/award/medal/tribute/decoration to mark your skill (and courage).

**EDITOR : KEITH LEES**