

## President's report

### Welcome Back

I hope that you have all had a most enjoyable break and are now refreshed and keen to get back into bridge.

### Thank you

Those of you who have read my blog on the web site will already be aware of all the work done by members, over the break, to get the Club ready for the new season. However, it is worth repeating.

Computer programmes have been updated, the playing programme for the new year has been loaded in, handicaps have been amended, duty rosters have been revised, work has been done on the accounts, maintenance work done on the buildings, provisions ordered, tablecloths cleaned, travelling boards cleaned, cupboards tidied, and even the rubbers have been washed. All this work, and much more besides, has been done by members without anyone having been asked. People just saw what needed to be done and did it. It makes me very proud to be a member of this Club and I hope it makes you feel that way too.

Thank you to everyone involved.

### New Year Resolutions

Have you made your New Year resolutions yet, or made them and broken them already?

Here are some I am going to try. Perhaps you might like to as well?

– **I will not criticise my partner.** A bridge partnership is a team and teams do not thrive on criticism especially in front of others.

– **I will not try to demonstrate my expertise by giving a detailed analysis of the hand and continue this discussion on to the next table.** This is impolite and just slows up play.

– **I will greet people at the table before I do anything else**

– I will play as briskly as I can. Slow play is annoying for everyone and gives the offender an unfair advantage.

And if (when?) you see me breaking these resolutions, please remind me!

## **Handicaps**

Handicaps have been revised for the new season and the list is on the notice board in the clubrooms. Handicaps help to make the game more enjoyable by enabling players of differing abilities to play against one another, in some competitions, on a more equal basis.

The handicaps are not just guesses. They are based on computer reports showing: the average score each member attained during 2016, the number of times the member has played, the highest score achieved, the lowest score recorded, the average score for the year and a computer calculated suggested handicap. The system aims to bring everyone's average score to 50%. So if you averaged 47% last year the computer will indicate a handicap of +3 ( $47 + 3 = 50$ ) and if you averaged 56% it will indicate -6 ( $56 - 6 = 50$ ).

The printouts are reviewed by a Handicap Committee comprising; Dale Wills (Convenor), Jane Bradbury, Helen Edwards, Marion Sillick and myself. Each player is then allocated a handicap ranging between -12 for the most experienced players to +12 for new players. It is not just a mathematical calculation. The Handicap Committee tries to take all factors into consideration and to adjust any obvious anomalies. The handicaps will apply for the full year but those for members new to the club are reviewed more frequently as they are more likely to need changing.

We have been pleasantly surprised at how accurate the system has proved but if you consider your handicap is not appropriate please send a note to Dale Wills.

## **The Almoner**

If you become aware of any member who is taken unwell or is in need of support please let our Almoner, Elizabeth Steinbauer, know. If you are at low ebb it is always reassuring to know that your friends at the Club are thinking of you.

**Brian Pender (President)**

## **Subscriptions.**

Subscriptions are now due: a year's membership costs \$80.00 (reduced to \$75.00 if paid before March 1 2017).

Check the various payment methods outlined in your 2017 programme book.

It is perhaps worth noting that with table money at \$4.00 (reduced further if you opt to purchase 12 session MST tickets at \$40.00) and subs at \$80.00, Paraparaumu remains one of the most reasonably priced bridge clubs in New Zealand.

## **Upcoming tournaments**

Please note Sunday 19 February – the first of our very popular in-house tournaments during 2017.

The Kapiti Bearings and Locksmithing Sponsored Pairs is a one session tournament (starting at 1.00 pm). This will be no fees or charges for playing in this non-charity tournament – a decision affirmed by the committee following the discussion and points raised at last year's AGM.

Then, Sunday 19 March is our first official Paraparaumu Club tournament for 2017, the Kapiti Retirement Trust Open Pairs. The next one scheduled is the Hearing Company Intermediate, on Sunday 21 May.

Other regional events that may interest members early in 2017 include the Waikanae Open Pairs (12 February), the Masterton Junior and Intermediate Pairs (26 February) and the Marton Picnic Pairs (19 March – but note the clash with our own tournament).

Check the NZ Bridge website for information about these and other NZ tournaments.

## **Three very gentle reminders . . .**

In order to try to keep the Director from being called for “leads out of turn”, when you think you have to make the opening lead, please select your card and place it on the table face down, then pause and wait until your lead is acknowledged . . . by the Declarer. And then, of course, turn it over and the battle commences.

Opening 1 Club or 1 No Trump? Your partner should briefly explain the number of clubs (ie 2 or fewer . . . or “natural” = 4 or more). For a 1 No Trump opening bid, your partner should describe the point count.

And please try to remember to use your name badges. New members in particular do find this very helpful.

### **Any concerns?**

There is a new club committee and there has been, in part, a reallocation of duties, including some of the voluntary roles. If you do have any concerns about club matters, you are welcome to contact or approach any of the committee or the appropriate person listed in the front of your programme book. All the officers want to make the club run efficiently, positively and pleasantly, and we need feed-back from you. And I would be happy to receive copy from you for this newsletter. (I hope Dale's Tips will return later in 2017 and once again be a regular feature.)

### **Finally, the joys of age?**

Many of us play transfer bids. When Oswald Jacoby (the inventor of Jacoby transfers) reached the age of 80, he tended to make a bid each time it was his turn, whether he had the values or not. Tolerant as his partners were, they eventually asked him why he was bidding so much. "At my age the bidding may not get round to me again," he replied.

("Bridge" by David Bird)

**Keith Lees (Editor)**