On March 21st, our club's annual pizza tournament was held in Waidhofen. The location was a club room in **FIT**, a local fitness studio with an excellent restaurant and seminar rooms upstairs. Sixteen pairs of eager bridge players participated, and they were, indeed, FIT, with the highest score of the tournament being 66,83%!

The tournament was kicked off by our lovely Chairwoman Margit. She began by greeting our guests from Linz and Vienna, followed by a description of our new bridgemates and how to use them. She was assisted by Werner, who illustrated her instructions with pantomime, like in a game of charades. We, unlike the former Queen of England, were **very** amused!

Then the tournament began. We played 28 rounds. The new bridgemates are a technical modernization, are very easy to use and are a real improvement for our club! However, they beep when we take too much time, so there was a lot of beeping from around the room! For the more inexperienced players and for the older players, whose thought processes are slowing down, the new emphasis on playing quickly is a challenge. Several members mentioned this, and also that a short break halfway through would have been helpful.

The distribution of cards in the boards was sometimes extreme, but there were many interesting contracts and it was an intense and exciting afternoon! Results, ranging from the high 60s to the high 30s, were read and the winners rewarded with little gifts. And then came the nicest reward of all; the room was rearranged with 2 long tables, and soon one pizza after another was brought to the hungry players. Pizza Margarita, pepperoni, salami, vegetarian, tuna, Hawaii – the supply seemed endless! And the pizzas were so delicious! When every slice had been eaten, those who could stay enjoyed the chance to sip a glass of wine and chat with fellow members, a pleasant ending to a long and rewarding day!

This tournament is now a fixture on our club calendar, so I hope my partner and I stay **FIT** enough to play again next year!

Anne Preier *(Auf Wunsch ausnahmsweise auf Englisch!)*