

# News from the Timaru Bridge Club – April 2023

## CAROLE'S COMMUNIQUE

**The big news** this time is that our campaign to attract learners to our lessons has been successful. 20 have registered with a week still to go!

Thank you to those who have helped with our sign, Courier articles, the library demo and to everyone who has shoulder tapped friends and family!

The campaign is continuing as we have a stall in the Positive Aging Expo on May 4. Grant has agreed to run a catch-up lesson for any late starters.

### **Members survey**

Thank you to the 78 members who responded to our survey.

We must be on the right track as only 1 person disagreed with our vision

“To rejuvenate our club through strengthened membership and increased player participation”

A quick summary of your feedback is as follows...

- The best thing about our club is our friendliness- which is great because we always want to be seen as a place that is welcoming and friendly.
- Opportunities to improve your bridge received the least votes and your committee are looking into offering improver lessons. Watch this space.
- 25% of respondents said that they were not happy with session playing times and suggested an earlier start time, even if this is only through the winter time. This is for the gold and silver divisions to discuss.
- 35% prioritised window replacement with double glazing under club facility improvements. Around 15% voted for curtain replacement and for interior painting. The works committee will look at recommending an improvements project to the main committee. However, an approved project would only proceed if applications for grant funding were successful.
- **The best news** is that 45 members are prepared to volunteer!! Thank you! Card dealing and mentoring beginners being the most popular

areas, followed by gardening and directing. We will print a list for the noticeboard and would be appreciative if you could add your names if you did not identify yourself on your survey form.

- There were some helpful suggestions around attracting more members. We will consider these next year as our campaign has almost run its course.
- Thank you for your suggestions for improvements. Many related to more social functions, more social play and more social time. Your committee will give these our best consideration. There is concern around member retention and the members' survey is the first step in planning to address this.

### **The bad news**

Your committee has made the decision that our current deal of 11 table fee vouchers for the price of 10 (\$50) will be off from Monday 5 June. To be clear, from this date you will receive 10 only vouchers for \$50. We hope that you will be understanding as this should result in \$2,000 extra table fees through a year. We would still like to encourage you to continue to pay for these through online banking if possible, please.

Please remember to use the bank current account number for the Timaru Bridge Club (02-0888-0033701-000) and not our tournament bank account.

### **Fundraiser – more volunteering!**

We would be appreciative for your help at the Light Show on May 25-28. For more info see our separate email sent last week. Please contact Penny Dewar on 027 202 6065.

### **Situation vacant – well almost!**

Mary McSherry has taken over the role of housekeeper from Dianne Esler until the end of the year. If anyone is interested in this role, which includes liaison with our cleaning contractors, and would like to assist Mary this year please contact her.

## **Thursday All Grades**

If you are keen to play Social Pairs on 4 and 11 May please phone Dorothy Bain to register your interest.

## **South Canterbury Congress reviewed (by our Tournament Secretary)**

The tournament at the weekend of the 15/16<sup>th</sup> April was a testament to all the hard work done by everyone on the committee.

The budget still needs some finalising but it looks as though we will make approximately \$1000. To increase the profitability of such a tournament we may have to look at attracting some more cash sponsors and look at asking some of our 45 volunteers – taken from the survey – to complete some of the many tasks.

We thank our present sponsors, Preen and Cobbler's Inn, for their continued and valued support.

Many thanks are due and I would like to thank the following in particular

Kay Nicholas for all her bridge expertise, the cajoling of players to participate and her contribution to the catering on the Sunday and her liaison with the director David Stephen

Keith Nicholas must be mentioned for his behind the scenes technical assistance, the setting up of the rooms, computers and clocks

Bill Mecchia for all the technical expertise, including organising and helping with the dealing of boards

Pauline Prendergast for the organising of the director's accommodation, her help with setting up the room, the dealing of the boards and the Sunday catering organisation

Dianne Esler for being the director in the back room, her communication with the director regarding his contract, her communication with the cleaning company and her contribution to the setting up of the rooms on both days.

Mary McSherry who with Carole Brand catered on the Saturday with many of those in the Bronze division providing plates for the tournament. A special thank you to those members. Daphne Fitzgerald who held the fort in the kitchen for a couple of hours.

Thanks also to Ashley Milliken who manned the bar on both Saturday and Sunday evening, Bruce Ashton and Jill Welford, who tidied during the Saturday lunch break and to many others who performed thankless tasks.

We apologise to the Silver group for the fact that a few tables had not been cleaned before play on Monday. The cleaning group came on Monday evening. It was however our responsibility to ensure the tables were clean.

AnneMarie Pavletich

18 April

Nga mihi to Ann Marie also for her oversight and planning through several weeks if not months. I am not sure how she managed to play so well with the weight of responsibility on her shoulders!

### **Other tournaments**

6 May Inter Provincial Trials Open/ Women/ Senior/ Intermediate

13/14 May Canterbury Congress

27 May Temuka All Grades

### **Congratulations to ...**

AnneMarie Pavletich, Cath Preen, Wendy Taggart and Grant Patterson who were first in the intermediate teams in the SC Congress

Uneta Denley, Pauline Prendergast, Jeanette Meijer, and Vivian Hill- 2<sup>nd</sup> in the intermediate teams

AnnMarie and Cath Preen – first in the intermediate pairs

Wendy Taggart and Grant Patterson– 2<sup>nd</sup> in the intermediate pairs

Mary McSherry and Carole Brand – 1<sup>st</sup> in the junior pairs

Michael Johnstone and Paula Gregory who were 1<sup>st</sup> overall and 1<sup>st</sup> in grade one of the Ashburton All Grades on 11 March

Michael Johnstone and Paula Gregory – 2<sup>nd</sup> overall at Queenstown 5A  
Tournament on 18 March

### **Membership**

We have received with regret resignations from Hugh and Medith Jeboult-Jones, Selwyn Crawford and Roger Johnson.