

2024 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

To all our club members

Your hard working and dedicated committee have stayed focussed on rebuilding our membership and on meeting your needs. Our biggest emphasis continues to be on fostering a friendly and inclusive culture.

We were again successful in recruiting beginners, as 16 registered for lessons and nearly all have been happily absorbed by the bronze group. We do acknowledge and appreciate that our club members are our best referrers. Our tutors were encouraging and tried to make the lessons interesting and fun, and the Bronze group have been welcoming as always. Our formula for nurturing and progressing beginners seems to work well.

With regard to meeting your needs, we have kept the lines of communication open and trust that you have felt well informed. There has perhaps been a bigger emphasis on weekly notices and emails to members this year.

We have organised several improvers' lessons and these have been very successful and well attended by members from all levels. We will recommit to this next year.

Our biggest excitement and social time was Jim Burford's Bridge Bash. This was a tremendous success in terms of everyone's generosity in raising over \$4,000 and the fun quirky bridge we played.

We are always looking to make improvements and hope you appreciate our new Club logo and name badges. And the little side tables to rest your playing boards on.

Your committee is constantly conscious of the Club's annual struggle for income to fund increasing operating costs. And we have been working on sponsorship and advertising opportunities which we will soon be able to offer to the community.

It is pleasing that room hire seems to be picking up again.

We were thrilled and very appreciative to have received a second grant of \$19,716 from Pub Charity Ltd which has enabled us to complete the replacement of our window joinery and windows with double glazing.

The Promotions Committee have started their work towards equity of playing skills and numbers within the playing divisions by setting and actioning a silver division promotions policy for 2024. This is a challenging task as it seems that our members have differing perspectives. We are all in different places on the social/ competitive spectrum as to which aspects of the game are more important to us.

Talking of competitive bridge, I feel that our top 10 results at the NZ Congress deserve special recognition. These were achieved by Ron Griffiths and Jim Burford in the restricted open grade and AnneMarie Pavletich and Cath Preen as intermediates.

Paula Gregory has joined Michael Johnstone as a Gold Grand Master this year and we are all proud of her promotion. Our congratulations to her.

Thank you to our many volunteers working in different areas of the club ensuring its smooth-running through the year. I would like to thank the following members for their constant commitment and special contributions...

Our secretary Wendy Taggart,

treasurer Sue McConway,

division chairs Cath Preen, Sue Milmine and Jo Tinkler and their committees,

committee members AnneMarie Pavletich, Grant Patterson, Claire Neilsen, Joe Harris, Bill Mecchia,

AnneMarie and her tournament committee,

promotions committee of Kay Nicholas, Michael Johnstone and Bill Mecchia,

Steve Geddes and his works committee,

Grant and Joe, our beginner tutors,

Michael Johnstone and AnneMarie improver tutors,

Dianne Esler and her directors' group,

Bill and Joe computer managers,

Keith Nicholas and his card dealers,

Claire our housekeeper,

Jo Tinkler health and safety officer,

Lucy Blackie website and Facebook co-ordinator,

Kay our room hire contact,

Ashley Milliken our bar manager

and Kay and Keith who prepare our programme booklet.

I do apologise if I have missed anyone. We have many helpers and please know that all of your efforts are appreciated.

Please remember that we are all volunteers endeavouring to make decisions in the best interests of the club. We all need to work together to ensure that we are known as the welcoming and friendly club.

My best wishes to you all for a joyful Christmas and a happy new bridging year.

Carole Brand

November 2024