



2025 President's Report

To all our Club members,

Your Committee has endeavoured to stay focussed on rebuilding and retaining our membership and on fostering a friendly and inclusive culture. This year we have also been required to meet the challenges of rewriting our Club Constitution and of setting up a working group to find a way forward for the Club following last year's Annual General Meeting. And throughout, we have tried to meet all your other expectations.

It has therefore been a busy and demanding year for the Committee. I am so appreciative that we are a committed and hard - working team and, in my view, we have achieved much for the Club.

Our recruitment drive was even more successful this year and 36 initially came along to our beginners' lessons. We again acknowledge that our Club members are our best referrers. However, despite the best encouragement from our tutors and the Bronze group, the rate of attrition has been high and perhaps just 50% are continuing. I understand that this is the average outcome across NZ clubs and perhaps we have to accept that Bridge is simply not a game at this time for everyone. But I believe that we should always be reviewing the ways in which we nurture our beginners in the interests of doing better.

With regard to meeting your needs, I hope that you have felt well informed through the year. Your interest in the improvers lessons has ensured that we will recommit to running these next year. A short mixed grade teams' competition on Thursday evenings is also planned and has been included in the 2026 Club programme.

We are very pleased to report for our last financial year that our net surplus before depreciation was nearly \$17,000, an increase of more than \$8,000 on last year. The main reasons for this being increases of \$6,400 in room hire income, and of \$3,700 in table fees. I would like to specially acknowledge Kay Nicholas's efforts with our room hire and you may recall that table fees were increased by \$1 this year. Our net surplus nearly covered depreciation and we therefore almost achieved the objective of setting enough funds aside to be able to replace our assets.

Our fundraising was successful as we raised \$3,000. We are grateful to Jackie and Owen Jones for offering "The Rule of Jenny Pen" premiere to us and to Penny Dewar for ensuring that we are able to continue as volunteers for Illuminate.

We were again thrilled and very appreciative to receive a third grant of \$4,928 from Pub Charity Ltd which funded our sunscreen blinds and we are pleased that our windows project is now complete.

The Challenges

The Club has been required to rewrite our Constitution to ensure that we comply with the new Incorporated Societies Act and this will be presented for your adoption at our AGM on 4 December. While requirements are aligned more closely to those of companies and there are many changes, most will not have much effect on our normal operations. The draft Constitution has been circulated to you and a Question and Answer session held but we have received very little feedback. Thank you to Grant Patterson and Richard Walton for helping me with this rewrite.

The Working Group were tasked by the 2024 AGM to find a solution which would be an alternative to the status quo and would benefit everyone. This solution would create level playing fields within the grades, more flexibility in play and greater participation. The Group worked through a thorough and consultative process and developed two proposals. Club members voted for the proposal for a grading committee, for players to be able to play in higher grades and one grade lower, for players to be handicapped and for sessions to be scored both on scratch (unadjusted scores) and on handicap. This proposal will be trialled for one year only. Thank you to the Group led by Michael Johnstone for accomplishing this difficult work.

Our Stars

Paula Gregory and Michael Johnstone are deserving of special recognition this year. We would like to congratulate them for their 3rd place in the South Island teams 20A tournament, for qualifying for the Canterbury Senior team which played in the NZ Regional Championships and for their 15th place (out of 70) in the NZ Open Teams at Congress.

Thank Yous

Thank you to our many volunteers in all the many areas of the Club who helped ensure its smooth running through the year.

I would like to specially thank the following members for their contributions ...

Our Secretary Stephanie Thompson,

Treasurer Sue McConway,

Vice President Chris Darvell,

Division Chairs Cath Preen, Sharon Mackay and Monique Van Vught,

Committee members AnneMarie Pavletich, Grant Patterson, Claire Neilson, Joe Harris,

Club Captain Michael Johnstone,

Computer manager Joe Harris,

Club Recorder Kay,

AnneMarie and her tournament committee,

Steve Geddes and his works committee,

Grant and Joe, our beginner tutors and their helpers,

Michael Johnstone and Grant improver tutors,

Dianne Esler and her Directors Group,

Keith Nicholas and his card dealers,

Claire our housekeeper,

Kay our room hire contact,

Ashley Milliken bar manager,

Kay and Keith bronze mentoring tutors and programme booklet editors,

Monique health and safety officer,

Sarah McLeod Facebook co-ordinator,

And the Working Group which included Michael, Kay, AnneMarie, Cath, Penny, David Batchelor, Jo Tinkler and Bill Begg.

Please know that all of the efforts of our volunteers are appreciated.

I would like to express my personal thanks to you all for your support through my three years as your President. It has been an interesting journey, sometimes challenging, but ultimately rewarding and a privilege.

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

Carole Brand

November 2025