

COMMUNITY BRIDGE CLUB PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2020

It has been a challenging year and a half. In 2019, Van Jarvis, Neil McLean, Kevin Hughes and Molly O'Neill died., and number of our members entered nursing homes or moved away. Our Club is poorer for the loss of all these members.

On top of all our losses and COVID-19 pandemic struck, stopping us from playing bridge and changing our lives completely.

It has been a very busy time for your Committee. In our financial year 1/3/19 to 29/2/20 we had an average of 15.66 tables per session. We also purchased and introduced Bridgmates and Compscore which has been positively received by the vast majority of members. The introduction was facilitated by Gary Barwick whose assistance was and still is invaluable to the Club. We also purchased a new dealing machine which is performing well, though, not always giving us the hands that we want!.

The Committee has changed over the past 18 months with casual vacancies needing to be filled. At the beginning of our term, we welcomed Janice Crane onto the Committee. She expressed enthusiasm to take on any role, something that the Committee needed and has benefited from. When Molly O'Neill passed away, we invited Margaret Regan to assume the role of Secretary and to train Janice Crane in the role of Treasurer. Sue Kenny was invited to fill Molly's vacancy. Janice has thrown herself into learning the role and undertook all practical duties, but due to the sometimes more complex computer software and skills, Margaret needed to resume being Treasurer with plenty of help from Janice and her position of Secretary needed to be filled. An opportunity arose to recruit Roy Cotton, an experienced Secretary. Sue Kenny was invited to fill Bev Sivewright's role, as Bev volunteered to step down from the Committee as she was not intending to stand again at the next AGM.. However, we welcome Bev as an ex-officio member to any of our meetings she wishes to attend.

Our present committee is:

President	Sharon Versteeg
Vice President	Sue Kenny
Secretary	Roy Cotton
Treasurer	Margaret Regan
Members	Janice Crane Peter Leonard Thea Martinot

Since we stopped playing on 13th March this year, I have been regularly liaising with staff at Tigers. Mark Chaffey (Managing Director) re-affirmed our importance to their Club and their eagerness to have us return as soon as the renovations are finished to the Arthur Lake Room, and when it is deemed safe for card games to be played at Clubs, in general.

The Club now has 4 accredited Directors, Gary Barwick, Margaret Regan, Roy Cotton and myself. Thanks to Margaret for supporting Roy and myself in gaining accreditation over the past year.

Many members are wanting more sessions and we will continue to negotiate with Tigers, but if in the end, it is not possible, we will look to other venues to expand our sessions.

Retrieving Club property from Molly O'Neil's home was a bit complicated and the Committee decided initially to obtain storage at \$150 per month. However, with the lack of income, it was decided to store most property at either mine or Margaret's home. The Club's stock register indicates where everything is now stored.

It was also decided that the Club should have its own email address and 'One Drive Storage' on the internet, so that all important documents and email lists and addresses are available to the Committee's executive at all times.

We have also introduced internet banking which has enabled easier payment of accounts and allows members to pay fees by EFT. It still requires two authorised people to approve payment of accounts.

We have also taken this time to review our all-important constitution. As you by now would be aware, it was very necessary and consumed a lot of time, but hopefully we have arrived at a document that can be embraced by the majority of our membership.

We are also implementing an upgrade to the Club's website that enables more information to be stored, allows for registration for sessions, and for news to members to be better delivered. Gary Barwick is again helping us with this endeavour. Suggestions of improvement to content are welcome and should be directed to whoever is responsible for our website – currently Margaret Regan.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Committee members and our recorder, Rhonda Innes, for their tireless efforts in managing Club matters and always working in the best interests of the Club. Particular appreciation

goes to Bev Sivewright, Life Member of our Club, for both her efforts and guidance over the past year and for the many years that came before that.

I believe the Club is well placed to continue to provide bridge sessions in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. I have enjoyed serving you as your President and acknowledge that I have learnt much and recognise there is more to learn. I look forward to seeing our Club grow over the next few years.

Sharon Versteegen
President