

President's Report

While it has only been 6 months since my last report to you, there have been much 'going's on', some good and some disappointing. However, I can categorically state that The Community Bridge Club is thriving and will continue to grow and develop in the future.

Membership is generally stable with a large number of new members over the past 6-7 months, which compensated for the loss of members who have died, moved away or have become infirm.

Table numbers on Friday have returned to pre-COVID levels. Table numbers on Thursday have suffered from the temporary suspension and it is hoped they will grow over time.

As you all know by now, 3 members Margaret Regan, Roy Cotton and Janice Crane resigned from the committee in February. Suffice to say that after discussion with each member their resignation was accepted. This crisis was overcome by inviting Toni Gorman to be secretary and Pam Townsend to be treasurer and fill the vacancies.

Thankfully Toni Gorman and Pam Townsend agreed to come on to committee and have contributed greatly to the efficient functioning of the Club. Toni Gorman is a seasoned secretary who took time to understand the culture of The Club and is ensuring the club continues to balance both 'community' and 'bridge'. Pam Townsend is skilled in all components of managing a modern bridge club and has taken on most of the roles Margaret previously did-dealing boards, treasurer, membership secretary, master point secretary and more. Pleasingly for members, it was an almost seamless transition, with Thursday session the only casualty.

It remains essential that The Club have other people available who can take on these tasks should Pam or Toni be unable or choose not to do them in the future. That is why having Gary Barwick is an important 'cog in the wheel' at our Club and I hope he remains involved for many years to come. Also I know that Margaret will always 'step up' if required and I would welcome her involvement in the Club's administration in the future.

The two critical considerations for the Club are building participation at our Thursday sessions and providing Beginner and Intermediate Bridge lessons. Through education we can grow and maintain our membership long-term.

I also want to thank the committee members who will not be returning -Sue Kenny, Elsie Yardley, Janice Crane and Margaret Regan. All of their positive contributions have been appreciated and critical to the functioning of our Club week to week. Many thanks for your support.

I would also extend a very special thank you to Margaret Regan who has contributed her time and expertise extensively over the last 3 years. She has also generously donated to the Club and everything she has done is with the good of the club in mind.

I would also like to express my appreciation to Gary Barwick and Rhonda Innes for their significant contributions. Both have been invaluable. I encourage members to tell the director on the day or Rhonda, if you have any concerns about member's behaviour while playing bridge. It is the only way issues can be addressed and we can maintain the Club's reputation for being friendly and sociable.

As your President, I have been overwhelmed by the support and encouragement of old and new members to re-nominate to be your president again. I am very proud to serve you and I am pleased that I have successfully navigated the Club through this COVID dominated period. I remain committed to ensuring that friendliness and community are not minimised at the expense of better and more competitive bridge.

Sharon Versteege
President