

New Plymouth Contract Bridge Club Presidents Report 2022

With pleasure I would like to present the 73rd annual report of the New Plymouth Contract Bridge club for 2022. I would like to thank the committee for all their contributions but unfortunately had two committee members resign. Maggie Garnham, our treasurer for nearly 17 years and Coby Slager who returned to the Netherlands. I would like to thank them both for their tremendous contribution they made to the club. Also Brooke Dollimore isn't standing again due to impending motherhood.

The first four months of the year were challenging as were 2019, 2020 and 2021 with the Omicron variant causing severe disruption to our playing sessions. One of the most disconcerting factors to emerge was the number of members who left the club for a variety of reasons but mainly due to their concerns with COVID and mask wearing. The most alarming drop off in attendance has been Thursday where the number of players has decreased by more than 50%. It is hoped that more players will return next year.

Financial:

The bottom line is that our income is barely covering our running costs. This has been shown by details in the financial reports which have been emailed to all members. Unfortunately, our income was affected by a reduction in our numbers which was exacerbated by the club paying affiliation fees for members who resigned and hadn't paid their subscriptions which resulted in a loss of nearly \$1,000.

Issues which will incur large costs soon are:

1. The ongoing problem with the internal guttering leaking which is of serious concern. Millwards Plumbing have estimated the repair could cost more than \$25,000.
2. The Butynol on the roof is degrading and needs a new coating. The entire roof needs painting. We received two quotes but there was large disparity between them, but it appears that the cost will be \$15,000 plus.

These issues need immediate attention because leakages are affecting the internal integrity of the building. It is unfortunate that in the past there has been no provision for a contingency fund towards building maintenance.

We have been fortunate to receive grants totaling \$15,000 from different charitable entities. I would like to thank Cecelia and Frances who put in a lot of effort into applying for grants. We the committee are reluctantly proposing that the subscription be raised to \$120 and table money from \$4 to \$5. This will cover our day to day running costs which as everyone knows have risen during in the past 2 and half years.

Many thanks to Coby Slager, Judy Herdsen and Annette Weaver who worked hard seeking sponsorship and ensuring all our tournaments remained with a sponsor. We were fortunate to find replacement sponsors for the tournaments that Anne Wilson sponsored. Many thanks to Anne Wilson for her sponsorship over the past few years. Thanks to all external and internal

sponsors for your valued support.

The bar made some small changes with all the wine glasses being a standard size and unfortunately a small increase in prices of some drinks.

This year the club made the transition to an electronic accounting package (Xero) to facilitate payments to the IRD and other debtors.

Membership:

The club membership has dropped from 305 including 3 students to 262 plus 2 students. Due to a very successful learners programme 23 graduates have joined the club.

Sadly the following members passed away – Dot McCoomb, Trevor Hewitt, Gaelene Riddle, John Glass and Harry Blackwood .

The Game:

This year we hosted a 20A tournament - the NI teams. It was deemed a success and many thanks to all those involved especially Frances, her husband Phillip, June Metcalfe and the other helpers in the kitchen.

Hawera visited our club and we were successful in retaining the Rosebowl. Well done to all those who participated and ensured that the Bowl stayed with us.

Congratulations to Pam Livingston, Russell Wilson, Christine Burton, Gillian Gonthier, Margaret Crawford and Lynette O'Shaughnessy who represented CD. Russell Wilson for being part of the winning team in the NI Teams tournament and Sandra Calvert and Colin Carryer being in the winning team in the SI Teams.

Many thanks to all the directors and welcome to our two new directors. Also thank you to the convenors, dealers and all the volunteers who contribute to the successful operation of the club.

Valerie Clarke has resigned as our librarian and I thank her for her work.

The clubs Web site has been greatly improved and comments from external players have been favourable with the Ashburton club requesting the use of our policies for their club. Many thanks to Paula Martin for her work.

Unfortunately, the Wednesday afternoon session wasn't well patronized therefore this will not be continued next year.

Health, Safety and Environment:

An incident book has been placed in the office and a WORKSAFE manual for risk assessments, incident and accident reporting has been put in the office.

Walt Crawshaw held a Fire Drill exercise during the year which was well observed by all club

members present.

Training and Development:

Christine Burton and her team of helpers ensured we had a good number of graduates as well as holding a very successful new concept – 3 + 1 teams. Many thanks those club members who held improver lessons.

Christine and other club members are participating in a CD initiative by taking bridge to the schools. For the club to continue for the foreseeable future we need to retain all newcomers and encourage players to stay on and we can do this as members by making everyone feel welcome and being courteous at the table.

Facilities:

We are grateful to Tony Murcott and Fay Murcott who contributed to the improvement of the toilets.

The rooms continue to be leased to several organisations providing extra income. We are fortunate that Toastmasters have agreed to rent our small room. I would suggest we look at raising the amount we charge for our facilities in line with our increasing costs.

Parking is still an issue for our club especially during a tournament. Taranaki Hockey have been very helpful in informing all their members by Facebook when we have a tournament which has helped.

We had to get the curtains professionally cleaned due to them being contaminated with mould. Small machines to eliminate mildew have been placed by each big window. We also had the external part of the building professionally cleaned.

During the recent years we have experienced problems with our security system which resulted in false alarms and costing the club an unnecessary expense for every call out. We have had the system upgraded and there have been no more call outs. Many thanks to Graham Mora who answered the call outs which were usually in the early hours of the morning.

Communication:

As you might have noticed we have resurrected the club's newsletter. I hope everyone is enjoying it and getting something worthwhile out of it. Many thanks to Murray Carter for being a very able editor and those people who made contributions.

By 2025 the club will have to have its constitution amended to comply with new Government regulations regarding incorporated societies.

I am pleased to continue in 2023 but it is essential that a vice president is nominated as it is imperative that the incoming president in 2024 has a grasp of what is required.

Many thanks to all the people who make this such a great club and I hope to see everyone (and

hopefully some returnees) in 2023.

Deane Skelton
President

I would like to move that my report be accepted.