



New Plymouth Contract Bridge Club Presidents Report 2023

With pleasure I would like to present the 74th annual report of the New Plymouth Contract Bridge club for 2023. I would like to thank the committee for all their contributions and Cecilia Stringer who has been an excellent secretary but who is unfortunately resigning.

This year has seen a sense of normality return after the tumultuous COVID years. The club has been able to achieve a healthy bank balance mainly due to the Monday and Friday afternoons being well attended. While Thursday night attendance numbers are still lower than prior to Covid they are slowly improving. It would be nice to improve Thursday night attendance numbers over the next year.

Financial:

We are now in a much more secure financial position and this was partially achieved by the director's accepting a 50% reduction in their remuneration and the dealers not being paid. The increase in table money also contributed to a stronger bottom line. I would like to propose that the director's return to their agreed payment and that the dealers also be compensated.

One of the more frustrating aspects has been trying to get tradesman to come to the club to ascertain the problems with the internal guttering. Several firms were invited to visit our club rooms but the majority showed no interest. Finally, we have managed to obtain a proposal and quote. John Marshall Maintenance has provided a solution which will give us 7 to 10 years more life with the internal guttering. His quote is for \$15,237.50. John said that the internal guttering is compromising the integrity of the building and will eventually have to be replaced. With a building fund being implemented (\$15 from everyone's subscription is now deposited into the fund) which will provide some of the money as well as external grants we should be able to cover the cost.

Another frustrating concern has been with painters to do the roof. Several invitations were sent out and we had only 3 responses and from these we received two quotes which differed by \$20,000. Jim Sutherland has been actively trying to seek commitment from a painting contractor and he may have obtained one from a firm in Stratford. Most of the tradesman tended to shy away once we mention the need to apply for a grant.

The manufacturers of the Bridgemates are working on a new unit which is apparently a cross between the present one and a tablet but with much improved performance and graphics. A proposed cost of \$260 per unit was given. As you are aware a few of our Bridgemates are starting

to give us problems (we have 3 down with malfunctioning screens and some with sticky keypads). Hopefully we will receive a grant to replace all the Bridgemates once the details are finalized.

Many thanks to Judy Herdsen who has been magnificent in increasing the number of sponsors for the club as well as ensuring all our tournaments remain with a sponsor. Thanks to all external and internal sponsors for your valued support.

The bar continued to operate efficiently and a small profit was made which enabled us to provide snacks to the people who stayed behind for drinks after play was complete.

Membership:

The club membership is 274 plus one student. Due to a successful promotional campaign and teaching programme we were able to attract 22 new members.

I would like to thank the following people

- Campbell Priest who mowed the lawns for several years. Fortunately we have found a “younger” person in Craig Barrett to carry on with the mowing.
- Raewyn McLean and Kristen Holm for washing the green playing table cloths. We are looking for someone to replace them in 2024.
- Lindy Macdiarmid and her partner Ian for maintaining our beautiful grounds.
- Frances and her husband Phil and all the people who assisted in the kitchen with providing an excellent quantity and quality of food during our tournaments.

Sadly the following members have died – June Grant, Susan Walsh, John Sole, Caryl Godkin, Mary Standish, Ian Cull, Anne Smith, Ravi Modgill, Graham Hill and Karen Carter

The Game:

The club introduced the Compa\$\$ system which the majority of members took on board. Many thanks to David O’Shaughnessy for being the administrator and facilitator. We have also introduced the Compass XG handicap system which will provide more equitable results for the handicapped sessions.

The rules and policies regarding the club’s playing sessions were rewritten by Pam Livingston and critiqued by Russell Wilson. This will give us a more robust system.

This year we hosted the Fullarton Teams competition which was held on line and went very smoothly thanks mainly to David O’Shaughnessy’s IT expertise. It also provided the club with a good source of income.

We visited Hawera and unfortunately lost the Rosebowl. Better luck in 2024.

Congratulations to Colin Carryer and Sarah Green on achieving Silver Grand Master status. Pam Livingston who represented New Zealand online and overseas and to Russell Wilson, Pam Livingston & Sarah Green who represented CD.

Many thanks to all the directors, convenors, dealers and volunteers who contribute to the successful operation of the club.

The club's Web site is being managed by Paula Martin and our gratitude goes to her.

Unfortunately, the Wednesday afternoon session which was kindly sponsored by John Holdom wasn't well patronized but will be continued next year with the dates included in the programme book which we hope will attract more players.

Health, Safety and Environment:

Walt Crawshaw held two fire drill exercises during the year which were well observed by all the club members present.

Kareen McLeod carried out an ARD/CPR refresher training course for the directors.

Training and Development:

Christine Burton and Walt Crawshaw and their team of helpers ensured we had a good number of graduates as well as holding very successful 3 + 1 teams events with players coming from Hawera. Many thanks those club members who assisted in the improver lessons and many thanks to Gabrielle Masters and her team who provided a successful Sunday afternoon bridge buddy session.

Christine and Walt attended the NZB teachers training course in Christchurch and there will hopefully be new initiatives arising from the seminar.

Facilities:

We are grateful to Tony Murcott for maintenance work performed to the building. Due to uninvited outsiders entering our building during playing times we are installing a door sensor to warn us of any intruders.

The rooms continue to be leased to several organisations providing extra income.

Parking is still an issue for our club especially during a tournament. Continued support from Taranaki Hockey has helped reduce the incidents of hockey people using our car parks.

During our break in playing we plan to have the chairs and carpet deep cleaned and also to have the liners of the curtains cleaned as they continuously suffer from mould.

The upgraded security system has been a lot more reliable with only one call out.

Communication:

Murray Carter has continued to produce a high quality newsletter and we thank him as well as the people who made contributions. It will continue next year.

By 2025 the club will have to have a completely revised constitution in place to comply with new Government regulations regarding incorporated societies. There is a sub-committee of Phil

Barron, Russell Wilson and Reeve Pring working on this revision. A template, which will cover the vast majority of the wording, will be supplied by NZB but certain aspects relating to our club will have to be inserted.

Welcome to the new incoming committee.

Our club wouldn't be where it is without the wonderful members and the strong camaraderie within the club. This augurs well for the future and that the club will continue to prosper.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Deane Skelton', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Deane Skelton
President

I would like to move that my report be accepted.