

Invercargill Contract Bridge Club

President's Annual report 2019

It is with pleasure that I present this report to the 60th annual general meeting of the Invercargill Bridge Club. Let me start with my thanks to the committee and club management who have worked hard to ensure the bridge club continues to run smoothly.

Membership

2019 - 170 (full members for whom we pay levies)

2018 - 208

2017 - 193

2016 - 206

Our membership, sadly, has declined; we currently have 96 members in each division. Jill McMeeking and John Burgess ran a very successful learners class this year and seven of that group are actively playing in silver reserve. Well done and thanks to Jill and all involved for their sterling work.

Bereavements

This year we record the loss of several long standing members: Di Lenihan, Juanita Allen, Margaret Goodall, Margaret Moreton, Mary Perniskie, Murray Oliver, Max Skerrett, Nancy Drain, Ray Harper, Rita Allen, and Sheena Reid, each of whom contributed considerably to the bridge club. Our thoughts are with their families as they spend this first Christmas without their loved one and also with club members who are unwell or have lost someone special this year.

Resignations

Five resignations were received this year, three who moved away from Invercargill and two because of ill health.

Upgrades

The financial year started with the installation of ceiling insulation at a cost of \$4900. Our thanks to Harry Shepherd for his contributions and efforts to keep the building warmer in the winter, cooler in the summer and minimise our power bills.

New tablecloths were the next project and a band of cutters, pinners, sewers, ironers and helpers spent a day creating 70 bespoke cloths for both rooms. Thanks to the New Zealand Racing Board for funding \$7000 for this project. Sincere thanks to those who gave up their time to complete this long overdue task.

Anne Somerville and Harry Shepherd prepared and wallpapered the office and what a great job they did, thank you. This was paid for from accumulated funds.

The kitchen renovation became a priority after a major flood at the end of 2018. We applied for and received funding for this project from The ILT and Community Trust South and further club fundraising was undertaken by Sue Scott, Angus McKay and helpers who arranged sponsors, prizes and raffles for the quiz night in September. Our thanks to Sue and Angus, to all those who helped on the night, to everyone

who donated items for raffle prizes and to Malcolm Brown, the quiz master, for a most enjoyable and successful evening.

I would like to acknowledge Sherry Elton's considerable efforts undertaking the wallpaper project in the kitchen. Sherry spent hours stripping layers of paper, prepping and then wallpapering the kitchen with support from Pauline Sutherland, Colin and Janet Thomas, Bev Flint, Claire Graham and others who assisted in various roles.

Our thanks to everyone who has helped with all these projects and special thanks to those who have gone the extra mile, your efforts are truly appreciated.

Most of you will have noticed the leak above the front door. We recently applied for funding to repair this and were declined. The funding for this repair will now come from accumulated funds and ongoing fundraising like scratchy boards and raffles.

Sponsors

We are indebted to those organisations and businesses which generously sponsor our tournaments and projects

- Avenal Park Funeral Home
- Blue Star Taxis
- Community Trust South
- Foveaux Communications
- Invercargill Licensing Trust
- Martin and Lobb Eyecare
- New Zealand Racing Board
- Real Journeys
- Rowena Jackson Retirement Village
- Southland Real Estate
- ToyWorld
- Veggie Boys

Please support our sponsors. Without them our tournament costs would increase and the prize lists would be considerably smaller so let them know how much we appreciate their support

International, national and local bridge successes

Many of our members have had success in the past year

Congratulations to:

- Moss Wylie who recently attained Gold Grand Master status.
- Harry Shepherd who is now a Grand Master
- Anne Somerville and Geoff Eyles who won the Ivy Daehler Swiss Pairs at the Gold Coast Congress
- Yvonne Hughes who won the Intermediate Pairs at Congress 2019
- Donna Skoropada and Trish Clearwater who competed with an honourable mention as juniors at Congress in Hamilton
- Sandy Buzzard, Jen White, Jo Smith and Jeff Elton will represent Otago Southland as a team in the interprovincial tournament in Christchurch on Nov 21 2019
- The many players whose names appear in tournament and congress results. We are immensely proud of your achievements

Directors

Sincere thanks must go to those who direct at our club:

Anne Somerville, Chrissie Beauchamp, Craig Rodgers, Greg Buzzard, Harry Shepherd, Jan Brown, Judith Lawton, Lindsay Glover, Marilyn Jackson, Moss Wylie, Pam Macleod, Richard McMillan, Tony Winters and Yvonne Hughes. These people give up their days and nights so that we can play bridge according to the laws of the game; they familiarise themselves with new and changing laws and give their time with a smile. We can't play successful bridge without them and we are grateful that they are prepared to serve the club this way.

Volunteers

Our thanks to those who volunteer in any capacity for our club:

Colin Thomas works as our Room Hire convenor and has arranged hires and worked with hirees throughout the year to keep everything running smoothly, thank you Colin

Deidre Glover who keeps our website updated and interesting, thank you Deidre, keep up the good work

Geoff Eyles for his hours and hours of computer work for the club. Geoff's work allows us (amongst other things) to have instant scores, programmes for various table combinations at our fingertips, tournament set up and scoring programmes, thank you Geoff, your help and support are invaluable

Georgina Ellis, who, Tuesday after Tuesday, collects the numbers, stacks the boards, pulls back the drapes and cleans up in the kitchen if the convenors have forgotten their tasks. What a wonderful example of a dedicated club member, thank you Georgina

Grant Milne our bar manager and fix it person. Thank you Grant for being available to help when you are asked. You fix things, repair things and make things and your help and support are truly appreciated

Harry Shepherd who has worked away at club maintenance, filling pot holes, getting names engraved on cups and trophies, having names placed on honours boards, fixing the heating and much more. Thank you Harry for all that you do

Helen Chesterfield our librarian, who has recently catalogued and sorted a newly acquired batch of books. The library is looking orderly and is being well used. Thanks Helen and also to Karen Du Mez who has relieved Helen when needed

Jill McMeeking for drafting, editing and producing our bridge programme, the Bridge Book. Jill works tirelessly every year, liaising with NZ Bridge, other clubs and members to provide accuracy and a timely publication. Thank you Jill, we all appreciate your hard work

Yvonne Hughes Where to start? Yvonne is truly an asset. She does so much work behind the scenes and has been of great support to me in my first year as president. Yvonne's monthly newsletters are a wonderful insight into the ongoing activities of the club and beyond and are so appreciated by club members. In her role as club administrator Yvonne has kept us in line and in touch with NZ Bridge, her frequent updates and thoughts are appreciated as we move forward with technology and new ideas. As Tournament Secretary Yvonne has kept us well informed of upcoming events and the results of those events as well. Thank you Yvonne for all that you do for Bridge

The anonymous members who do things around the club without acknowledgement

And then there are

The bar staff, the computer operators and the dealers

We can't function as a club without the ongoing and reliable support of our members. More helpers are needed in all of these roles, especially computer operators on Tuesdays. If you can see yourself in any of these roles please contact a committee member who will be more than happy to contact the appropriate person and get you "trained". The more helpers - the less work!

South Island Pairs

We have secured the opportunity to host the South Island pairs on 29 August 2020. This is an open 20 A point event and we hope it will draw players from throughout the country. If you have bridge family or friends who live out of the province please invite them to stay and encourage them to consider entering. We'd like to put on a good show, have a room full of players and make it a tournament to remember. If you'd like to be part of the organising committee please let me know

Club management

My thanks again to all those who have contributed to club management in 2019

Colin Thomas: Vice president & room hire

Sherry Elton: Secretary

Anne Somerville: Treasurer

Committee and sub committees: Jan Brown, Lee Davies, Claire Graham, Lindsay Glover, Julie McDonald, Angus McKay, Harry Shepherd and Sue Scott

Bar: Grant Milne

Club administration & Tournament Secretary: Yvonne Hughes

Club Recorder: Ken Smith

Match committee: Jan Brown, Geoff Eyles, Jill McMeeking and Colin Thomas

It is with regret we accepted the resignation of four of our committee members this year. Jan Brown, Julie McDonald, Harry Shepherd and Colin Thomas have all contributed much in their respective roles and we will miss their input and their knowledge. My personal thanks to them all for their hard work and their support and special thanks to Jan Brown, you will be missed. It's comforting to know that they have indicated their willingness to be available if and when needed in 2020.

Our thanks to Merrill our cleaner and Liz, our gardener. We really appreciate their efforts on our behalf.

And to you, the members, I thank you each of you for your continued support and enthusiasm for the game of bridge at our club.

Judith Lawton

President