

## INVERCARGILL CONTRACT BRIDGE CLUB

### **President's Annual Report 2020**

*It is with pleasure that I present this report to the 61<sup>st</sup> annual general meeting of the Invercargill Contract Bridge Club.*

*2020 has been an interesting year for all of us and my thanks must go to the club members, committee and club management who have shared and shouldered Covid-19 implications, cancellations and continuous upheaval throughout the year.*

*In Covid terms 2020 has been unsettling. All bridge clubs received guidelines from NZ Bridge. We closed our clubs in levels three and four and then, in response to calls from and conversations with members, our club reopened in level two for those who wanted to play bridge. We followed the NZ Bridge and Covid-19 criteria and met the clearly defined guidelines implicitly. These decisions were not made lightly and have created commendations and criticism from members. My personal thanks to those who went the extra mile to monitor and maintain an exemplary standard of hygiene at the club. It's encouraging to know that few of us have had the flu this year; one can only hope that we have all learned a lesson about the need for clean hands and coughing and sneezing into our elbows!*

### **Bereavements**

*We are saddened by the loss of several long standing and previous members, Barbara Fahy, Brian Nicholson, Daisy Skerrett, Doug Harrington, Frances Gaudion, Jessie O'Grady, Noel Bulman and John Tait; our condolences to their families and bridge friends. Our condolences too, to all those who have lost family members and friends over the past year.*

### **Membership**

*Our membership at Oct 30 2020 was 156 full members and 25 second club members. Second club members are those who are full club members at another club. We welcome the five in the learners' class who will join the club in weeks to come.*

*This year we received three resignations, one transfer, three people returned to bridge after some years' absence and five people are no longer financial members of the club. The club is required to pay levies for everyone on our books so if you are no longer wanting or able to play please advise us so that we can remove your name until you can return.*

## **Bridge successes**

*Congratulations to all those who have played winning bridge at local, national and international levels this year. Successes at other venues highlight the depth of bridge knowledge within our own club. We encourage members to enter events outside our club, not only to succeed but to enjoy the friendships and camaraderie that tournament play provides.*

## **Sponsors**

*The committee is delighted to have attracted two new sponsors. Audiology South and Regal Floors have both indicated their willingness to sponsor an event in 2021.*

*We are grateful to the businesses and organisations which have provided sponsorship this year and hope that members will support them in return. The funding we receive from our sponsors allows us to keep our tournament costs lower and without sponsorship our prize lists would be considerably smaller.*

*Our thanks to:*

- *Avenal Park Funeral Home*
- *Community Trust South*
- *Foveaux Communications*
- *Invercargill Licensing Trust*
- *Martin and Lobb Eyecare*
- *Rowena Jackson Retirement Village*
- *Southland Real Estate*
- *Toyworld*
- *Veggie Boys*

## **South Island Pairs**

*We were well prepared to host the South Island Pairs in August and it was disappointing that, at the last minute, the event was cancelled because of Covid-19 restrictions. Last week NZ Bridge offered us the **NZ teams**, to be held August 28 and 29 2021, the committee agreed and the arrangements are underway. Once again we will require club support to convene this prestigious event and know that our club members will rally again.*

## **The Lessees**

*Over the past year we've watched the changes to the infrequently used Harvey Kitto room and in September, after numerous delays, the Invercargill Masonic*

*Heritage Building Charitable Trust moved in. Their presence has ensured our long-term plans will allow us to maintain our table fees and annual subscriptions at the current rates in the meantime. The advantages of having the Masons with us are that while we share the committee room and the kitchen we also share the power bill, the cleaner's bill, the insurance and most of the other outgoings on our monthly financial statement. There may from time to time be a full car park (but that might encourage those who are often late to arrive a bit earlier) and there will be at least two changes to our Monday calendar but those will be clearly stated in the bridge book. We are planning a combined Open Day with the Mason's early next year. Their room will be open for viewing and we will have some bridge tables in action to inspire those who might want to join us at our next lessons.*

### **Heat pumps**

*We were offered and accepted a grant to install heat pumps in the building, courtesy of a trust administered by the Free-Masons and seven heat pumps were installed over August and September. These replace the heating system we have used for many years and the theory is they will minimise our power bill but we haven't yet had a comparable power account. One distinct advantage is that on those hot, hot afternoons and evenings we will be able to cool off the room and play bridge in comfort. The instructions for running heat pumps in such large areas have been queried and we have had a few hiccoughs getting the settings sorted (and may never get it exactly right as we all have different body heat requirements). We have them set on timers and will monitor the weather so that the room will be warm or cool when we arrive and we implore members not to make adjustments as these may override the settings.*

### **Code of Conduct**

*After several reported incidents at the club the committee requested that the Code of Conduct, as recorded in the New Zealand Bridge Manual, was addressed in my most recent newsletter. It's been great to hear comments at the bridge table where people have obviously read the information. Sadly there have been more recent incidents in both divisions where the perpetrators have paid no attention or maybe they think the rules not apply to them? Players are criticising their partners, offering unsolicited advice to their partner or the opposition, talking throughout the auction, not greeting the opposition when they arrive at the table - the list goes on. Bridge should be enjoyable for all and the guidelines are clear - be kind, be considerate, be thoughtful and remember that the decision your partner made was the right choice for them at the time!!*

## **Acknowledgements**

*There are so many people to thank:*

*The committee, the sub-committees, bar staff, computer operators, the cleaner, dealers, directors, the gardener, handymen, librarians, room hire, teachers, web master and all those who see or know that something needs to be done and just do it. The club is indebted to you all and I thank you.*

## **Bridge Laws**

*My personal project over the past two years has been to encourage everyone to play according to all the World Bridge Federation 2017 Laws of Duplicate Bridge.*

*Law 62 says a revoke must be corrected*

*Law 35 identifies inadmissible calls*

*Law 31 outlines the provisions for a bid out of rotation*

*Law 7 states When a board is to be played it is placed in the centre of the table where it shall remain, correctly oriented, until play is completed.*

*The law is short and succinct, there is no provision for moving it two or four inches in any direction, it remains in the centre of the table.*

*Of course there are people for whom this Law must be waived, probably three in each division in our club, but the other thirty seven at the ten tables should be following all the rules of bridge, regardless of the bad habits they have adopted.*

*The idea is not mine, it is a bridge law and I don't understand how one law can be waived so religiously ... next someone will be suggesting it's okay to revoke once a night? What's the difference?*

*As the year ends our thoughts are with members who are unwell or who are caring for family members who are unwell, may they all find the strength and support needed in their difficult days and nights.*

*I wish my successor well and pray for a term without Covid-19 implications, cancellations and the continuous upheaval that this year has provided*

*Judith Lawton*