

Invercargill Contract Bridge Club Presidents Annual Report 2022

It is with pleasure I present this report to the 63rd AGM of the Invercargill Contract Bridge Club.

Firstly, I wish to sincerely thank all our members who have contributed in any way to ensure our club continues to run efficiently & effectively through these turbulent times. The objects of our club, as outlined in the constitution, continue to be met thanks to the contribution of our members. Whether it be dealing the boards, directing a session, series convenor, teaching new and not so new members, club administrator, helping with bar duties, operating the computer, assisting with tournaments, updating the club website, room hire convenor, helping with the library, stocking the kitchen with milk biscuits coffee & teabags, without you all the club would not function successfully and your contribution is truly appreciated.

MEMBERSHIP

Unfortunately, due to the sign of the times, our numbers have fluctuated over the last few years.

2018 – 208

2019 – 170

2020 – 181

2021 – 180

2022 - 167

We gained 8 new members through learner's classes so we all need to foster these players by asking them to play on a Tuesday Thursday or Friday to ensure their membership is retained and assist with their enjoyment of the game. A huge thanks to Geoff Eyles, Bev Flint, Barbara Daley and Kate Ramsay who assisted Jill with the classes.

2023 we plan to start our Learners classes in March after some promotion with the assistance of our Regional coordinator. As always the best way to promote our club is through word of mouth so if you want your friends or family to come and learn this game in 2023 now is the time to get their commitment.

This year Joan Martin sadly passed. Joan will be remembered for her sense of humour and her insistence of ensuring the cards are always placed by dummy in the order of spades hearts clubs & diamonds as no other order was acceptable to her. Also noted was the passing in Christchurch of former member Kath Scott. Kath & her husband Bert were longtime members of our club. Our thoughts are with all members who may have lost any family or friends over the year and also we happily welcome new additions to our extended family. This is the circle of life.

COVID

While covid did its best to turn our bridge club upside down and inside out we managed to cope with hand sanitizer and face masks. However many of us did catch this outside of the club and stayed away to prevent passing it on. Of course this Virus hasn't left us as it remains circulating in the community but we carry on. This has caused a change to our bridge community throughout NZ as many players turned to online bridge. Slowly members are making their way back to the preferred option of face to face bridge at the club but covid has caused the biggest disruption ever to

bridge and our way of lives. NZ Bridge are reviewing how Online play impacts our structure and how this fits in the future of the game as there does seem to be a place for this format but not at the expense of club tournaments.

SUCCESSSES.

Thanks to Neil Rumble who donated two paintings which were successfully sold via silent auction. Our fundraiser tournament supporting the SPCA was a success with funds and goods able to be delivered to assist in their great work. We also raised funds, combined with the Freemasons, as we held a quiz night and subsequently \$274 was passed to Women's Refuge. The library continues to raise funds as members donate books, buy books & return books. This is overseen by Fred to ensure stock is turned over and \$\$ are banked. A success for all.

After three years trying we finally got to host the South Island Teams over a weekend in August. This was a huge success as commented on by all who attended from throughout the country. A special thanks to Janice Hodson for her tireless effort producing amazing food throughout the weekend and also to her assistant Jane Carroll and all who helped in any way to make the weekend the success that it was.

Congratulations to all members that played in any tournaments throughout the country throughout the year. Successes were noted from winners and place getters at Congress, and various clubs. A special mention to our juniors who gave it a go and who are now regulars at tournaments. Special thanks to those who supported our local club tournaments. There is so much work that goes into holding a tournament and to get the support of members helping or playing makes it all worthwhile.

SPONSORSHIP

I wish to acknowledge the support from our sponsors. It is thanks to them we are able to hold many tournaments throughout the year. Reviewing tournament schedules from other clubs shows how fortunate we really are, as we are able to hold sponsored tournaments on a monthly basis. So a big shout out and huge thanks to the following sponsors for their support.

- ILT
- Foveaux Communications
- Avenal Park Funeral Home
- Toyworld
- Martin & Lobb Eye Care
- Audiology South
- Southland Real Estate
- Rowena Jackson.

Without them our tournament costs would be higher and our prize pool smaller so let them know how we appreciate their support.

COMMITTEE

A special thanks to our committee, Greg Buzzard, Judith Lawton, Karen Palmer-Hall, Anne Somerville, Cheryl Foley, Chris McDonald, Jan Brown, Jane Carroll, Janice Hodson, Lindsay Glover, Megan Dowd & Also sub committees including Geoff Eyles, Jill McMeeking, Lee Davies on Match & Grant Milne Fred Warnaar on Bar. Over the last 12 months we have had monthly meetings organizing tournaments, weekly programmes, daily operations, payment authorisations and dealing with covid uncertainties. We are sorry to say goodbye to Megan Dowd & Judith Lawton but thankfully they are still happy to assist as required outside of committee.

Our only employee - Merrill our cleaner – has resigned after 4 years of cleaning up after us. This job is now contracted out so we can ensure the high standards will remain. This was not a fun task to undertake while we negotiated the replacement so we are very pleased to welcome our new cleaners on board

LEASE/SUB LEASE

We are thankful for the sub lease arrangement with the Freemasons. Judith, Lindsay and I have met with them regularly to discuss any concerns on either side. With this arrangement we are able to split the running costs of the building which has meant we are no longer relying on hiring out the rooms for fundraising to outside parties. We continue negotiations with the ICC in regard to the Lease as these have currently stalled with the issue of the carpark drainage.

CONSTITUTION

A subcommittee was formed to assist with the review of our constitution. This was put on hold with the overhaul of the Incorporated Societies Act. It is a relief to have our governing body NZ Bridge advise they will be putting a package together to assist all clubs to ensure we meet the requirements of the new Act with our constitutions.

END OF YEAR

With Christmas fast approaching the committee have been discussing Prize giving combined with a Xmas party. Note your calendar: Sunday afternoon Dec 11th. This is a chance to celebrate our Prize winners and the fact we got through the year, with an afternoon tea and complimentary drink. A chance to wear some bling, eat some xmas food and relax. We may even play some cards while we listen to some festive tunes.

This brings me to the end of 2022 and the end of my time as President. Thank you for the support I have received in particular from Judith and I look forward to assisting Greg, when required, as he steps into the Presidents Role. A huge thanks to Fred for his support over the last two years. He is more excited than I am that this term has come to an end.

Thank you and Happy Holidays

Sue Scott
President