

Hi All

Welcome to my first Presidents newsletter and the last for the 2022 year.

#### Xmas Invite and Prizegiving

Attached is the flyer for the Xmas invite for the prizegiving for this Sunday at 1.30pm. It is a fun day with secret Santa, food, a free drink from the Club and a random partner pairing for some bridge of no more than two hours if you wish to stay for this. Bring a plate and dress up to be in for prizes and a chance to win the excellent hampers in the raffle. I look forward to seeing a good turn out from prize winners and those who want a good day out. Family are welcome to see you collect your hard earned prizes.

#### Committee Changes

Firstly, a welcome to new committee members Grant Milne and Pauline Sutherland. We still have one vacancy for the committee and it would be good to have more representation from a Silver Reserve player on the Committee with Megan Dowd not standing this year. Judith Lawton is also finishing up this year. Judith is however continuing to Chair the Otago Southland regional committee. Thankyou Megan and Judith for your efforts over the years, especially Judith with her term including President.

The incoming Committee can be found or contacted via the Club website link or on page 1 of the 2023 Programme book. The book will be available prior to Xmas. A thank you to Jill McMeeking for your hard work in getting this published again.

#### Annual Meeting

It was great to see such a good turn out from members at the annual meeting and hear the comments, concerns and suggestions provided. The Committee has considered these and made changes ranging from:

- a new range of pencils through to the key matters such as
- programme format changes for Doris Hannan and Whitcombe and Tombs end of year series (a handicapped series with Monday being open to all grades) and
- players being offered promotion to Silver to keep the Club player numbers in all grades sustainable.

I especially want to acknowledge again the huge efforts of Sue Scott the past President in leading the Club through what must be two of the most challenging years for some time with the outbreak of COVID.

#### Promotion

After inviting several players for promotion and after receiving applications for promotion I am pleased to advise Five players will be coming up to Silver while others have indicated a preparedness to consider this next year. The promoted players are: Pat Dennis, Dwyllis McStay, Pauline Sutherland, Michael Checketts and Tash Lundin. Welcome folks I'm sure you will find a warm welcome on Monday nights. For 2023 we have set the criteria for Silver Reserve players receiving a promotion to 54%.

#### Holiday Bridge and 10A Swiss Pairs

A reminder that holiday bridge is on Monday and Thursday nights through to 12 January 2023 (except for Boxing day). We also have the 10A Swiss Pairs on 14 January 2023 at our Club, so get your entries in (all levels are welcome). Holiday bridge is an opportunity to practice with your partner or your new team or pairs combination.

Friday bridge has also being extended through to Christmas.

National Interprovincial Representatives and Tournament Successes The Club had three pairs representing Otago Southland at the on-line national interprovincial teams championship in November after qualifying in the trials earlier in the year. Jan Brown and Yvonne Hughes in the Intermediates, Kay Shand and Anne Somerville in the Women's, and Moss Wylie and Kevin Skoropada in the Open. While the region did not win any of the grades we competed well with mid-field finishes in all these grades. Well done, all of you competed well and did the Club and the region proud.

Anne and Kay also paired up to take out the Nina Hewitt Christmas Pairs in Dunedin on the weekend with an outstanding second set score of 68 to go with their 57 in the morning.

Evans Trophy Success

And thank you to the team that "turned up" to bring the Evans Trophy back from Winton to Invercargill in November for only the second time in eight years.

Let's make 2023 a BACK TO BRIDGE YEAR.

Greg Buzzard  
President