

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2024

It is my privilege to present my first annual report. I have really enjoyed the challenges of the year and have learned a great deal about what is required to make a successful Bridge Club. The support and knowledge provided by our Club Captain - Teri Logie, our Secretary – Gilda Rowland, our Administration Officer – Julie Sheridan and the whole committee has made my job easy.

Sadly, we have farewelled several of our members this year and our thoughts are with their families. They all made contributions in a myriad of ways, and they will be missed.

Club membership numbers have increased and we currently have 277 members. The Club's finances are sound, and our Club treasurer Jane Dekker does an excellent job ensuring that the club manages its funds accurately and wisely. We now have a much clearer understanding of the costs related to the new building and our financial contributions to the running of the Rescue Centre. Increased attendance at all sessions has resulted in a healthy income from table money. A supplement to our club finances has been generated by providing a venue and morning tea for National Party information meetings. It is the unpaid work done by Gilda Rowland, Teri Logie, Isobel McIntyre, and their team of helpers that makes this activity profitable for the club.

In the current financial climate sponsorship is becoming more difficult to find. If you can help in any way to provide contact information or to provide sponsorship, please contact me or Teri. The amounts that would be helpful are not large, \$50-100 would be a significant contribution.

Another challenge our club faces is having Directors at each session. To help ameliorate this problem a tutorial took place in January to provide a team with the skills to supervise standard club sessions. A thanks to our Directors: Helen, Gloria, Marcus, Julie & Teri - we appreciate your time and skills.

Our annual tournaments have been successful due to the work of our Club Captain ably supported by an active committee. The increased fees from NZ Bridge for master points from .50c per player to \$2.50 per player will make it more challenging to run future tournaments at a profit.

We have a robust teaching programme for learners and the addition of a day session of lessons proved to be very successful. Our lessons have been expertly delivered by Graham Stern, Gilda Rowland and Diane Roger. I recently attended a Bridge Teachers' Conference in Christchurch. One of the main concerns of all clubs was transitioning to club sessions and retaining the learners as club members. Judy

Bartlett has been instrumental in providing a support programme for new players and in 2024 we will be looking at ways to supplement and extend our support for newbies. If you would like to be involved in our programme for new players, please contact me. You don't have to be a senior player; you do need patience and empathy for adults learning a new skill.

We will be part of a new Facebook campaign to attract new players. This has been set up by NZ Bridge's Marketing and Communications Manager Mel Auld who we hope to see as a participant in our lessons this year.

On Monday evenings we ran a series of Skills sessions for our Junior players, and this practice will continue in 2024. A series of improvers' sessions is also planned for the year. We were privileged to have Rachelle Pelkman run a comprehensive programme of hints and tips for improvers on Wednesday nights prior to the session of play. She has agreed to run more sessions later in 2024.

We farewell 3 committee members – Bruce Inglis, Gilda Rowland, and Diane Rodger. They might not be attending committee meetings, but they will continue to make a significant contribution to the club. Diane was President of the Club from 2020 - 2022 and ably led the Club through the negotiations with the Omanu Trust for the new clubrooms. Bruce will continue completing our fund applications and liaising with the Omanu trust. A special thank you must go to Gilda Rowland who has been our secretary since 2018. She has taken her role far beyond keeping meeting minutes and communication and has been an integral part of the smooth running of many aspects of the club. She will continue to make a significant contribution to the club in a myriad of ways.

The vision for the Club is to provide members with Bridge sessions that are efficiently run in a pleasant and unobtrusive manner and to ensure all members have a positive experience. We aim to embrace technological developments that enhance administrative tasks without impinging on the game of Bridge itself.

To all the members thank you for your warmth, good humour and making the club a fun place to be. Thank you to the large team of people who make it all work by scoring, dealing, preparing and cleaning up after tea breaks. A special mention to Julie Downs for all her work with SpadeWork, Bernie Robinson our carpenter extraordinaire and Wednesday tutor, Emma Barber for Wednesday afternoons and Carolyn Toy for our wonderful xmas tree. To the committee, I cannot thank you enough for your work and commitment to this club.

