

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT FEBRUARY 2019

After another absorbing year of bridge, we are pleased to acknowledge the time and energy that so many people have contributed to make our club function. It takes far more than just the committee to do this. The scorers, the dealers, our Welfare Officer who is so caring of our members, the tea-makers, the gardeners, the librarian and of course our Monday night helpers, our teachers and Directors, our Spadework editor, as well as the many people who come in to 'fix' things to save us paying for tradesmen. This thank you is to each one of you.

It is with regret that we acknowledge the deaths of five of our members or past members: Kay Robertshaw in May, (in Australia) Jo Small in June in Wellington, Lyn Gilchrist in September, Terence Kerse in October and more recently in January, Pat Tootill.

All were much-loved members, who contributed so much to the club.

In addition, this year we have had several resignations, including Rosemary Collins, Jo-an White, Dora Wickham and Betty Forbes.

They too will be missed.

Once again, we thank Bren Birss, who has given beginners' lessons at our Club and in conjunction with Tauranga and Te Puke Clubs. As a result we now have more novices playing on Monday nights, often in excess of twelve tables and getting tremendous support from Director Helen Heuvel, as well Judy Bartlett and Dixie Horne. Thank you all for your dedication. It is a great time for confidence building, to then move on to Wednesday or Thursday sessions.

Such is the enthusiasm for Monday night play, that Honours Boards are planned for both Juniors and Novices.

Thanks also to Karen Martelletti for her very helpful Improver Lessons offered during the year.

While there have been no major planned building upgrades this year, the air-conditioning has given cause for concern. Bill Farquhar has been monitoring this and after much deliberation and trying to repair the fault and costing more money, the committee has agreed that the only reasonable solution, for the health and safety of the members, would be to replace the unit. This is scheduled for mid February.

The four Tournaments held at the Mount were again all well supported, particularly the combined Intermediate/Junior/Novice one.

Thank you Sarah Stacey for the valuable role you play in managing our Tournaments.

We could not manage without our wonderful kitchen helpers and morning tea providers on such occasions. Thank you.

It is really positive to see so many members entering Tournaments at all levels around the area. This is good for relationships between clubs and for developing our skills.

We were particularly proud of our team who brought home the Waikato/Bays Inter-Club Shield for the first time this year. Well done!

A highly successful Christmas Luncheon/Prize-Giving was held in November, with numbers greater even than the previous year.

Rochelle Stewart and team prepared a lovely lunch which was appreciated by all, plus Liz Gilbert, alias Mother Claus, was our enthusiastic Director. We thank Heartland Bank for their funding support.

Sailability was the focus this year for our Charity Week and we were pleased to be able to donate \$1000 to this great local cause.

We are always grateful for the support of our sponsors, some of whom have supported us for many years. However, this year, for various reasons, a number of them have decided to discontinue sponsorship for their competition/tournaments.

This of course, created considerable concern for Shirley Knight (Programme Book) and Robyn Knight (Sponsorship Co-ordinator).

Subsequently, Ultimate Motors generously offered to pick up a Tournament, along with their existing competitions and five of our wonderful members offered to sponsor club competitions. Thank you for your great club support.

It is with regret we see three of our valued committee members stepping down from the committee this year. They are Vice President Shirley Knight, Building and Maintenance specialist Bill Farquhar and our Treasurer for the past few years, Roy Cooper. Thank you all for the energy, expertise and time each one of you has given to the club. You will all be missed.

With a busy and eventful year behind us, as well as excellent growth in club numbers, we look forward to another great year.

Anne Clarke

February 2019