

I have pleasure in presenting the President's Report for the 2013/2014 year of the Central Coast Leagues Club Bridge Club. I do apologise, in advance, for its length.

The Bridge Club Managing Committee has responsibility for administering all aspects of the club and meeting the many and sometimes conflicting needs of the members. So, I will start with

### **WHAT WE HAVE DONE FOR YOU**

- Produced a varied Program for the year with events to suit the range of player abilities and experience
- Spread the different types of events across all seven sessions so that all members have a chance to participate, whatever their regular day of play
- Introduced events to give you the opportunity to earn additional red masterpoints
- Continued the eclectic events and Switching Singles introduced last year, providing the chance for additional green points from outright awards
- Introduced Pot Luck Teams as a way of giving players teams experience in a social atmosphere
- Rewarded and encouraged players with our 'feel friendly factors' until the end of last year
- Provided standbys for regular sessions and reinstated a standby on Monday evenings
- Established a 'Members' area on the noticeboard
- Promoted external representation by paying entry fees to Regional and State finals
- Conducted lessons for Beginners, Improvers and Advanced players
- Provided continuous display of results on the monitor in the play area – a mixed blessing perhaps!

As an ABF-registered club, we operate under many regulations as well as the world-wide Laws of Duplicate Bridge. So secondly, a little about

### **RULES AND REGULATIONS**

- Our own constitution, known as 'Rules' was formally amended and approved by the Leagues Club to remove the reference to 'ex-officio' in relation to the Patron
- Our By-Laws were amended to
  - give the opportunity for the Directors and Tournament sub-committees to hold joint meetings
  - Allow for the appointment of a Recorder with defined duties
  - Change the number of free games issued to members in certain positions of responsibility
- Club tournaments are conducted under NSWBA Tournament Regulations, but we are also permitted to approve our own Club Tournament Regulations. This year we added to those already existing:
  - Protection against Brown Sticker conventions for specific grades of pairs
  - Restriction on Directors to be 'non-playing' in Club Championship and red point events
  - Provision of a Club Recorder for all tournaments
- The application of tournament regulations to the Club Swiss Pairs event and to the GNOT qualifying events caused considerable pain this year, but these exist and were used in order to be fair to all players
- The ABF changed the Alerting Regulations, introducing the concept of 'Announcements'. Members adopted this significant change very smoothly

The responsibility for the conduct of play falls on our Tournament Directors. In relation to

### **RUNNING SESSIONS**

- The Duty Statements for directors were updated
- A new Chief Director, Peter Berzins, was appointed to replace Colin Mitchell
- The appointment of our directors was formalised with a contract signed by each
- A policy was developed for the appointment of Beginning directors and we were pleased to welcome Matt Raj Mal in August and Leon Babinski in October to the team
- In January Directors attended a Sunday workshop run by Colin with respect to teams events
- We congratulated Ronnie Ng on achieving his C1 grade Director rating

At this point would you please join with me in expressing our thanks to our directors by acclamation?

As I said earlier, the club exists for you, so

## WHAT HAVE MEMBERS DONE?

- Participated with considerable success in many congresses and Regional and State events. Notably:
  - Ronnie Ng and Kaylee Lemon won their divisions of NSWBA Congress Player of the Year
  - Kaylee was ranked 10th in the Silver Life section of the McCutcheon Trophy
  - Dorothy Berzins and Gary Heyting won the Country Mixed Pairs Championship and
  - they, together with Adele Mills and Peter Berzins and Nancye Joss and Diana Coats won the Country Teams Outer Metropolitan Final and so will progress to the State Teams Finals in December
- A number of our members have had to give up playing due to ill-health and sadly we acknowledged the passing of John Boddington, Irma Heyting and Neville Sadler during the year as well as Teresa Jensen a few days ago. All are a great loss to the club.
- Our membership has decreased and some are not playing here due to concerns about this new room. On the other hand we have welcomed many new members, including beginners graduating from our lessons
- Supported in record numbers our Special Event Days – Melbourne Cup, Presentation and Charity Day
- Donated items both large and small for our new bridge room and given generously of your time and energy in countless ways
- Given outstanding support for charitable organisations to a total of \$6,600! In round figures:
  - \$500 for the Bushfire Appeal
  - \$750 for Vicky Morris's Christmas Hampers for the Philippines
  - \$500 for Bridge for Brains Research
  - A stunning \$4900 for sharing between Pandora and Wildlife ARC

Most of you have read the details before, but this report must record the major event of the past year:

## THE MOVE

After official advice at 4pm on August 29th, all our sessions were abruptly transferred on August 30th from the Drake room and Old Darts area to the Donnison St building. The committee sincerely appreciates the cooperation and tolerance shown by members during our time in the temporary location at the front of the building. Our Directors worked especially hard for the first two months in having to deal the boards in the Drake Room Office, transport them to Donnison St, run the event on the laptop, and then return to the main building to score on the desktop computer and upload results to the internet.

Again, with minimal warning, we had to vacate the Drake Room office. This meant that phone calls were diverted to my personal mobile, display of results on our website was delayed until either Ronnie or Colin could do this by other means, and emails could only be accessed by Lynette Lynch logging in at home.

After negotiations regarding the size of our new room and its refurbishment, we started play in this venue in late October. Despite the support and best efforts of Leagues Club officer Paul Hughes, it was not until February that phone line and website access was available from our new office.

About \$2000 of club funds has been spent on the playing area and office. A request to CCLC to assist with these relocation costs was considered but in the end rejected. On the other hand, CCLC painted and carpeted the room, supplied the new air-conditioner and zip heater and the Leagues Club pays for daily cleaning and our internet access.

There are many advantages of having our own venue, including the fact that we no longer have to fold up cloths, pack away stool or move trolley and water cooler back and forward from office to playing area. I believe we have made the best of the area we have been given - as I quoted in the September newsletter: *the pessimist complains about the wind; the optimist expects it to change; the realist adjusts the sails.*

It is important to understand that the Hope UC leases the whole of the Donnison St building and that the bridge club is a sub-tenant. We have been told that there will be an arrangement to charge us rental and then have it reimbursed by the Leagues Club. The CCLC has provided their usual sponsorship of \$14 per head

attending Presentation Day, up to a maximum of 72 people, and \$5,190 for various categories of expenses. Ongoing support of the same amount has also been allocated for the coming year.

We have had an incredibly busy but productive year but I do want to highlight what I believe to be one of the most important actions we have taken - the creation of the position and the appointment of Gwen White as:

## **RECORDER**

In any club, in any session, the degree to which a player enjoys the game should not be affected by the behaviour of another player. The role of a Recorder helps to achieve this, by providing a mechanism to deal with those incidents which carry no immediate penalty or for which the Director is not even called.

Based on the ABF and NSWBA guidelines we have written a role statement and outlined duties for the Recorder. Gwen's role is to

- ✓ Record the facts of an issue without giving an opinion or making a judgement
- ✓ Monitor any patterns of inappropriate behaviour
- ✓ Report serious incidents to the Managing Committee
- ✓ Forward a summary of records to the Regional Recorder

Our action was ground-breaking for the Central Coast, and the other clubs have since followed our example. I hope that we can look forward to the appointment of a Regional Recorder. I especially hope that members will make proper use of this service – you all come to a session with different abilities and for different reasons, and you are all entitled to enjoy your experience.

Now finally, some acknowledgements and

## **THANK YOUS**

Each member of the committee has had specific tasks and roles:

- Robyn Ivers, who is not standing for re-election, catered to our afternoon tea requirements and been our Welfare Officer
- Diana Coats capably managed our stand-by personnel
- Lynette Lynch ably carried out the duties of Assistant to the Treasurer as well as being responsible for computer backups
- Rosanne Ransley led the Social sub-committees in their creative and successful organisation of special days, as well as being my understudy as Masterpoint Secretary
- Leon Babinski has been the most exceptionally energetic Equipment Officer of all time
- Dorothy Berzins has efficiently carried out the myriad of tasks that are allocated to a Secretary
- Dianne March as Vice President was responsible for Tournaments and was also the Partnership Arranger
- Ronnie Ng, who is not standing for re-election after 3 years of service, has reliably looked after our financial records and developed the system for record-keeping

In addition to attending meetings once a month and contributing to sometimes difficult decisions, several committee members have had their own health problems to deal with. However, all have willingly stepped in to assist whenever this was necessary. Thank you each and every one for your efforts and contribution to this club.

For me, these past two years have been hard work but rewarding. Your new committee will have three new members, but six who will bring continuity and understanding of past decisions. I wish them all the best for the coming year.

Lastly I am very grateful for the personal as well as practical support that club members have given me over my time as President. Thank you.

Wendy Mitchell  
PRESIDENT  
August 2, 2014