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President: Louis Koolen

Secretary: Anne Grayden

Treasurer: Peter Mackey

President's Report for Annual General Meeting 7th August 2021

The first half of the year was still dominated by COVID-19 and Wendy Mitchell and Eunice de Vries met with the Leagues Club and were able to start a beginners' class on Thursday mornings in late October under stringent conditions. This included four tables pushed together, hand sanitisers on each table, masks and remaining seated at the table. When the beginners' lessons finished, they were replaced with supervised play.

Our Club did not get back to face-to-face Bridge until 30th November. Every time we approached the Leagues Club, they would contact the Licensing Police, who said no. We had to adhere to the same conditions as for the beginners' class, with a set of boards per table, laminated A3 bidding slip (which would be replaced by bidding boxes once they arrived) and unpaid, non-playing directors. The Northern Beaches outbreak forced us to close the week before Christmas. We went back to single tables on 8th January and on 2nd March we dispensed with masks and a set of boards per table.

Eunice started her second beginners' class on Friday mornings from 8th May and Wendy held improvers' lessons at the same time. Table numbers started to slowly increase and eventually we could pay our directors the pre-COVID rate.

In 2019, we applied to host the State Seniors Championships and this was approved in 2020. We signed the contract on 10th March and returned it to the NSWBA. When we started to plan for our 2021 events, Wendy pointed out that it was not in the NSWBA calendar. After much toing and froing, we found that the contract had not been signed by the NSWBA due to COVID-19 lockdown. It was eventually signed on 6th March 2021. The catering took months to negotiate with the Leagues Club, with Anne Grayden and myself patiently going from one person to another.

The State Seniors Championships were held in the Scenic Lounge on 15th to 18th June, directed by Ronny Ng, the only member in our Club that did not qualify to play. There were 18 tables in both the Pairs and the Teams. The Pairs were won by none other than Eunice de Vries and Wendy Mitchell, our Bridge teachers. To prove it was no fluke, they won the Teams with Sally and Garry Clarke.

The Club held its Open Pairs Championship on the 23rd June. The Bondi outbreak caused us to be shut down once again, and to this date we are still in lockdown.

Remember that it is the Committee that manages the Bridge Club and it is their contributions that make things happen. I thank them wholeheartedly for their unstinting efforts during the last year.

In particular, I would like to thank Colin Mitchell, who has decided not to stand again. He is the Club's Patron and a Life Member and has performed roles in and out of the Committee. Many of the roles that Colin has performed were concurrent, often up to three at a time. He was officially our Tournament Organiser for three years, but he has trained and mentored three others in this role. He has written a "Tournament

Bible” – a guide for the Tournament Committee on how all of our tournaments have been run in the past and how they should be run in the future.

Colin has produced the club’s calendar of event, a complicated job which involves liaison with the three other clubs on the Coast and he has advised and assisted others in this task. He has also edited the club’s Newsletter for six years. Colin will be sorely missed.

Louis Koolen
President, CCLC Bridge Club