

SCCBC Presidents Report 2017

This has been another very fine year of progress in almost all areas for our Club.

Finance

Where it came from

This is the first year that we have had to pay GST on our income and that has had an adverse effect on our profit but it means that we are receiving more income and our financial position is still very healthy. We received two grants during the year, one from the Sunshine Coast Council and the other from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund. These grants were put to good use in making the improvements that we see around us. Our Treasurers, Brian Cordiner at the start and then Bev Northey have done an excellent job in attending to all the matters that are the responsibility of the Treasurer. They are to be thanked for their wonderful efforts.

This year has seen many changes giving the financial statements a very different look. We have had to pay GST for the first time this year and the Club was closed for three weeks whilst the renovations were being completed. Income was adversely affected as a result but on the other hand we received Grants from the Council and the Gambling Community Benefit Fund and that restored our profit to the level we would hope to achieve in an ordinary year.

Where it went

Capital works undertaken during the year included –

- changes to the ladies' and men's toilets including an extra cubicle for the ladies, a better arrangement for the men and both areas look and feel so much better,
- redesigning of the kitchen and the office improving the usable space in both areas and creating a new storeroom with the result that both areas have more usable space without taking up more room,
- the library and book exchange on the North wall have also been reconstructed and are much easier to maintain,

- the exterior appearance of the premises has also been updated with a new screen and new plants along the north facing side of the building. On this project we had assistance from Fay Stanton's daughter, Nerida Higgins who gave advice on design and plantings. We thank her for her invaluable help.

Each of these works have made substantial improvements to these areas and we have received many favourable comments from members.

We owe a massive debt of gratitude to Peter Lewis who project managed all these works and ensured that we were not overcharged and that the work done was of a very high standard. Peter, of course is not a member of the club but is married to Jackie so his efforts are even more appreciated. Paul Mannion provided much assistance when and wherever it was required. Paul also makes sure that all maintenance issues are attended to and his attention to all building matters has been exceptional.

An approach was made to the Council to see if they would expand the car park, but it was made clear that there are no plans to do anything within the next several years and there is still the possibility of resumption of land adjacent to the Club for road development purposes.

Membership

We have maintained our level of membership with a total of 424 members including 367 home club members at the end of the year. These figures are very close to the figures for 2016.

We gain new members in large part from graduating beginners and good numbers sign up to learn to play. Unfortunately, the drop off rate is quite large and probably reflects the range of reasons why people come to learn.

Bridge playing activities

Congresses

Each of our congresses this year were well attended with increases in all bar one event. Congresses require a considerable amount of work. We are fortunate to have a great team and volunteers who make all our congresses run smoothly. Chief among these is Ursula Sheldon who has been doing a great job as Convenor for many years.

Club Sessions

Attendance at all our sessions has been maintained although income was down due to the closure for three weeks and payment of GST for the first time. The Tuesday afternoon swiss pairs continues to struggle but it is a very pleasant day's bridge with 3 nine-board matches in each session. It would be great if we could increase the attendance at this session as those who come enjoy the format.

The Committee has decided to try to start beginner's lessons in the evening. To make this viable we felt that it would be necessary to have a club session in the evening to which the beginners could graduate and continue to develop. The response to these initiatives has been encouraging, so hopefully next year it will be possible to say that both initiatives have been successful.

Member education and advancement and new initiatives

Workshops have been provided by Andy Hung and Andy Slater. Both were successful but Andy Hung's attendance was reduced by severe adverse weather conditions. There are plans to schedule further workshops conducted by these two.

RAMP, the mentoring program has been conducted for the second year and it has been appreciated by all the rookies who been involved. We thank our senior players who have been prepared to assist the rookies to improve.

Teaching continues under the guidance of Wendy O'Brien and graduates from her classes go on to supervised play where Joan McPheat provides further assistance. Both ladies are doing a wonderful job and we thank them for their efforts.

Adrienne Kelly has continued to bring new ideas to the Committee. We hope that she will still let us know when she has a flash of inspiration.

Behaviour Policy

Unfortunately, we had reason to form a disciplinary committee to assess a complaint. The committee met and made recommendations. This was a difficult task that was carried out in a professional manner by the panel. They reached a conclusion that I believe was fair. It is to be hoped that such a circumstance will not arise again.

Directing and New Laws

The New Laws took effect from 1st August and we have been blessed to have as one of our members, Peter Busch. He has ensured that all our directors know and understand the new laws. Peter conducts a monthly directors meeting so we have a very knowledgeable panel of directors. One of the directors, Steve Murray also passed all the tests and is now a qualified congress director. Congratulations, Steve.

Catering

The arrangements put in place last year have served us well. Ross Maher has been the supervisor of the kitchen staff and the kitchen has been running very smoothly. Fay Stanton has arranged the supply of food and our many volunteers who bring contributions to all our events must be thanked as well.

Thanks

This has been a wonderful year to be President.

The Committee has been agreeable in all its dealings and the voluntary efforts of everyone in all aspects of the club's administration is truly amazing.

There is a tremendous willingness to help in every aspect of the Club's activities. We have volunteers for the kitchen, bar, organising of events and providing contributions for congresses.

It is not possible for me to thank everyone who has contributed to our success but please be sure that you are appreciated.