

## President's Report

### Annual General Meeting 2020

#### **Opening:**

I would like to mention some of the events that have occurred during the last 12 months. What a year! 2020 has proven to be an exceedingly difficult one for everybody with the onset of the Corona virus worldwide. Queensland has proven to be well managed from that point of view with little impact here, thankfully.

#### **Operations:**

After we (and a lot of other organisations in Australia) had to cease operations in mid-March we started online BBO sessions – a great thanks to our Games Director Peter Busch for arranging and running the sessions to slake our bridge game thirst!

In March we started planning for a re-opening and after much research and consultation decided to adapt our current tables and layout to satisfy all the rules. Many thanks to Steve Murray for his calculations and plans and to John Gilmour who helped Steve and I put it all together.

There are many volunteers who are generous with their time and ensure the smooth running of our club – I do not need to name them individually or their valuable contributions – you know who you are! I thank you all for your efforts throughout the last year. I also would like to thank our kitchen staff who this year agreed to assist us by cleaning and sanitising the rooms after each session.

#### **Committee:**

Your committee manages the operations of the club for you and we all undertake key roles in its running. I thank them all for helping me during the year. Bev Northey the Vice President also manages the club memberships, Gabrielle Elich Secretary makes sure our committee runs smoothly. Mike Phillips Treasurer is stepping down from the committee and he will be sorely missed, during his term he introduced EFTPOS, vouchers, a new accounting system, a new payroll system and a new auditor – well done Mike!!

Lorraine Kaszas looks after members welfare and assists with congresses while Gary Petterson makes sure we are well supplied with all our needs. John Gilmour manages the maintenance and keeps the clubhouse shipshape. Mike Scott who as providor improved the operations of the kitchen resigned earlier this year and Gaye McAuliffe who despite a stated lack of technical knowledge managed our congresses. Sally Weedon was appointed to fill the casual vacancy left by Mike and has agreed to take on the Treasurer's job.

Alison Dawson is obsessed with growing the club numbers and improving the bridge knowledge of all our members. She runs beginners' classes to help recruit new people as well as improvers and advanced lessons – an opportunity for all of us to enhance our skills. We need to encourage friends and family to come and experience our wonderful game so the club can continue to prosper.

#### **Facilities:**

We successfully obtained a council grant to upgrade the stormwater system at the northern end of the clubhouse – this has reduced the flooding outside that door.

Our Grant guru, Bev Northey, successfully applied for a State Government grant (Gambling Community Benefit Fund) to pay for most of the external painting of the building – which has just been completed.

The Federal Government gave us, and most Australian businesses, support funding some of which we used for the enlarged tabletops and the new LED lighting.

We had started planning to expand the clubhouse to allow for more sessions and for more than one event at a time (training, teaching, or meetings as well as bridge sessions). We have a growing membership but under the current circumstances any expansion is on hold until the situation stabilises with restrictions due to Corona virus and we have a more regular program.

**Events:**

We had fewer congresses and club events, particularly after we had to close in March and have been forced to cancel several of our regular congresses from then until next year. We have decided to hold our regular club "honour board" events. The Directors and committee continue to monitor the situation and decide on which events to cancel or which should proceed based on the requirements of our COVID19 Safe plan.

**Closing:**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our three departing committee members Mike Phillips, Mike Scott and Gaye McAuliffe for their contributions and assistance to me during the last year.

I have once again enjoyed serving as your President for the last year despite the recent trials and tribulations. I look forward to a vibrant and growing club in the next 12 months and to working with the new committee members Sally Weedon, Tricia Merefield and Carmel Dwan.