

## SUNSHINE COAST CONTRACT BRIDGE CLUB

### President's Annual Report for AGM 4 September 2023

The past twelve (12) months have been “full on”. Your Committee has been engaged on a number of tasks.

At our first meeting your Committee was briefed, on the current position with the expansion of the clubhouse, being a separate building to be located behind the existing office running south towards the cricket oval and Clippers’ basketball building. After deliberation the decision was made to postpone the project.

Then it was confirmed that an additional storage area was required and it was agreed that we would proceed in endeavours to obtain permission and a grant from council. It wasn’t until August 21 that we were advised that we were 80% across the line and it was in order to apply for a SCC grant for the project. It is understood that the previous requirement for a Development Application, engagement of a Project Manager and undertaking a Geo-Tech Report has been rescinded.

At the September Committee meeting, it also became apparent that our IT hardware and software required review and probable upgrading. Steve Murray volunteered to be our IT Manager. After Steve had completed his initial review it was suggested that we needed outside professional advice. As a result, Bob Davies who is a computer consultant and bridge player was engaged. Bob reviewed our existing systems and quoted on bringing it up to an acceptable standard. The task was completed on time and on budget despite Bob putting in more hours than he originally anticipated. Steve Murray devoted much of his spare time working with Bob Davies and we thank Anne Murray for her understanding and support.

At the November Committee meeting the resignation of Alison Dawson as club teacher was reluctantly accepted. The time and effort that Alison put to the teaching responsibilities was acknowledged.

Fortunately, Lisa Phillips offered her services. Lisa’s style of teaching resonates well with those wanting to learn the games basics. 48 people attended the first lesson series and the subsequent supervised play attracted 80 players. A series of Improver’s classes recorded 130 registrations. We are in safe hands with Lisa as our club teacher.

Joan McPheat continues to run the Wednesday morning sessions which is our biggest playing session. Joan encourages the players and advances their play with pre-session lessons.

Next was the Christmas Party brilliantly organised by Christine Gilmour who received support from Lorraine Kaszas and a team of volunteers. The decision was made to cater and fully fund the event as it was felt members had incurred much deprivation during COVID and something special was warranted. Positive feedback justified your Committee’s decision.

On April 11 SCCBC celebrated 50 years. We were pleased that Mayor Mark Jamieson was able to attend addressing those present and taking questions. Unfortunately, Cr Dickson had to

withdraw on the morning due to family circumstances. Channel 7 Sunshine Coast were there recording key moments, including an interview with myself then Mayor Mark Jamieson, which appeared on the evening news.

Then on June 6 myself, Anne Young and Peter Busch were interviewed by Amy Sheehan of 90.3 FM ABC Sunshine Coast which aired June 12 at 6:43AM.

I am pleased to say that John Gilmour enjoys carrying out his responsibilities as Property Manager and nominated to stand again on the Committee, provided he could continue with the responsibility for maintenance of the buildings and grounds. Thanks John, we all benefit from seeing your smiling face as you keep everything ship shape.

There is much work behind the scenes in organising internal club events and congresses. I know, because I see firsthand the effort that Barbara Holmes puts into each congress and event. If these events are to continue there needs to be greater participation by our membership by playing in these events.

Without our Secretary Carmel Dwan I don't know where we would be. Carmel keeps us all on our toes with her action sheets. Carmel, you are an efficient organised secretary for which I and ultimately all of us are grateful.

After four (4) years as President, Brian Cordiner agreed to stay on Committee as Treasurer, making it, if my numbers are correct, seven (7) years on committee. Brian's assistance and the knowledge gained from his years on Committee has been most appreciated. Thank you, Brian.

Unfortunately, the twelve (12) months to 30 June 2023 recorded a loss of \$18,394 as against a profit for the preceding year of \$8,906. Whilst this is a concern there were a number of one-off expenses coupled with a downturn in table numbers following COVID.

Robert Bandiera, as incoming Treasurer, has prepared a budget for the 2023/24 financial year which shows a loss of \$3,078. A key to reducing the loss to \$3,000 or better is an increase in table numbers. There will be a review in January 2024 to see how we are performing against budget.

We must not forget the service of Kim Rouse for Kim has been responsible for the club's supplies including stocking and tendering the bar, but not the kitchen supplies. Kim has also been valuable for his input in the numerous matters which come before your Committee.

Lorraine Kazsas who has been our Providore has stepped down so she can devote more to her other interests. Lorraine has been a rock in carrying out her duties. We all knew we could rely on Lorraine and thank her for the years of service.

What has made this Committee so successful is that everyone has been willing to pull together and work as a team striving for the betterment of the club and members, otherwise we would have not been able to successfully complete so much.

The introduction of MyABF has been the subject of discussion and concern of some members. A separate report on MyABF is attached.

Whilst falling under the 2023/24 period I could not close without speaking about our lease with SCC which expired July 31. We were advised in advance that renewal would not be offered being replaced by a 'Permit' of twelve (12) month duration backed up by two (2) further 'Permits' of twelve (12) months, but none of the 'Permits' are linked.

John Gilmour and I made some observations on the contents of the 'Permit' then met with the council's representative. An exchange of emails followed culminating in our receiving a 'Permit' for signature.

I read each line of the 'Permit' logging two and half (2 1/2) pages of concerns. The section covering insurance has been sent to our insurance broker TBIB who initially advised that a number of the 'Permit' requirements would not be acceptable to insurers. Confirmation in writing of those comments plus written advice from our insurers was requested.

Cr Dickson was contacted resulting in a meeting in August with myself and John Gilmour. Cr Dickson found our concerns credible and has offered his full support.

The QBA have been advised of our predicament but are not able to offer any assistance at this time as their Counsel is presently fully committed to another matter.

During discussion with the Croquet Club, I was given the name of a lawyer who might assist us. I contacted Kate Manttan of Hopkins Manttan Solicitors Buderim who offered her services 'pro bono' which was accepted. All documentation has been sent to Kate and we are waiting her advice.

At present we are functioning under a three (3) month extension to the expiring lease.