

TE AWAMUTU BRIDGE CLUB INC

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2020

It is my privilege and pleasure to present the annual President's Report on the Club's activities for 2020.

Membership: It is with sadness that I record the deaths of three recent playing members, Edna Way, John Barry and Mary Haggas. Also former members, Jean Seddon and Richard Knight have passed away recently. Jean was the seamstress behind our table covers and bidding slip pockets. Our sympathy goes to all their family and friends. Our full membership now stands at 82 plus 8 members from Waitomo and Cambridge. For comparison I should mention that full membership last year was 87 and in 2015 it was 103.

Committee: My sincere thanks to the Committee for their support and hard work this year. In particular I would like to thank Lyn Brennan for the great work she has done as Treasurer and also Nick Cantlon, especially for his enthusiasm for computer duties, Tournament Secretary, directing and his role in helping members navigate and participate in BBO.

I would like to thank Dennis Howell, who resigned as Secretary in May. He undertook the role for just over three years and was a valuable contributor to proceedings.

Finances: The Treasurer's report will provide further analysis of this challenging year. We have seen a permanent reduction in revenue from room hire with both the Korokanui Club and the Men's club ceasing their use of our club rooms. In late March we received a \$4,200 Wage Subsidy and we have maintained the salary of our employee (in line with MSD rules), approximately 25% of the subsidy received was needed to maintain the employee's pay while the club was not operating. We have decided to retain the remaining subsidy at this point in case we enter further lockdowns. We believe it is unlikely that we will meet the criteria for any further subsidy as the last MSD criteria included exhausting our own funds first.

On 2nd August, our club changed the way table money was collected, the aim being to eliminate cash handling at the club. This is managed through a new component to Compass – our scoring programme. Special thanks to Kate, Nick Cantlon and Anne for their enthusiasm behind this Compa\$\$ programme and to Lyn our Treasurer for assistance in implementing a process that had not had rigorous testing and bedding it in very quickly.

Club Sessions: As you all know the year, 2020, was unique with reduced playing weeks due to Covid-19. Notification from NZB to adhere to Public Health guidelines and remain closed until Alert Level 1, meant our Club was closed for play from Monday, March 23rd to Wednesday 10th June. Again, another temporary suspension was issued on Wednesday 12th August to Monday 31st. This meant that cancellation of our Restricted Tournament on 16 May and our Intermediate tournament on 15th August was necessary.

At the beginning of the year we started a “friendly” Monday evening session, which enabled those who wished for more Bridge but unable to attend normal play to gather and discuss hands etc. Again, this was interrupted by Covid-19 and after a healthy group of 3 or 4 tables has reduced to 4 – 6 players. This has evolved into a House Bridge environment that could possibly extend into a Summer Bridge programme as well. Nick Saunders has been the co-ordinator of this session.

We ran a team’s event on Wednesday this year and going by the response from all the players this could be repeated. We also started the year with a scramble – drawn partners for the first session only of all three sessions. This was also popular and certainly assisted the partnership stewards.

NZ Bridge: We recently received notification that there is to be a change to Tournament Grade criteria for 2021. In short, players with at least 50 A points only are eligible for Open status. With only one (2nd club) member qualifying, this greatly affects our internal Championships and nationwide Intermediate and Restricted tournaments with the addition of 700 very accomplished bridge players re-entering the Intermediate scene. Our top graded players will always have respect in our Club for to achieve and maintain Open status was a special accomplishment.

Club Championships: Covid-19 disrupted our competition with the Open and Intermediate programme reduced from 6 sessions to 4 and the Junior event broken up but eventually completing the full quota of 4 weeks on Wednesday night. The Club needs to consider how the dramatic change to the grading policy will affect future Open / Intermediate Championships

Bridge Tutor: Lessons for 5 participants with Sally Whitaker commenced in February. The early start was to enable newbies to assimilate into club life earlier in the year. These sessions were affected by lock down, however, not abandoned but reconnected with Nick Cantlon and Sally via Zoom and practice sessions on BBO. I extend a big welcome to the club to Alison Muggerridge and John Storey. Many thanks to Sally and her coaching team for this service. Sally, along with Debz Morris were also involved with after school bridge lessons for juniors.

Many Thanks: We are all gifted with different attributes and it makes things run far more smoothly when these are shared around.

My thanks go to the following: **Our directors** - Bruce Owen, Sheila Lister, Nick Cantlon and Anne Williamson. To all of those involved with scoring and the **dealers**, Sally, Lyn, Anne and Anthea. To our **3 partnership stewards**, Noeline Dunwoody, Barbara Benton and Sue Gower. Also, our **building maintenance** man, Bruce Mandeno. His major visible effort this year has been the erection of a new letter box. Our address is now 888 Te Rahu Road after the cancellation of our P.O. Box.

To those that take care of general housekeeping purchases, laundering of table cloths etc., To Gael Sanders who still keeps us supplied with shortbread on Friday afternoon and of course all involved with catering and refreshments for all our tournaments and events during the year.

Catering for our tournaments (esp Christmas) is a huge task and I must especially thank Karen Mace and everyone involved with this year's event. This is a big commitment for such a small club. Our **Almoner**, Cherrie Rounthwaite has also been brilliant.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our sponsors and especially those of our Tournaments and On Fire Consulting for financial assistance with our booklets and Herbert Morton for the Zero Accounting package.

Thank you to the crew in the "Dad's Army" team who were responsible for keeping members in touch with one another during the Lock Down period. It has certainly been the most unusual year for all of us. Thank you for your support for me as your President this year and I wish you all a very happy and safe festive season.

Alison Snell - President