

Tweed Heads Bridge Club Newsletter issue 1, 2021

Hi all T.B.C. members,

Thank goodness we have survived 2020 without too much damage to our club however table numbers are down and we still need to keep vigilant about our safety procedures. Any sign of community transmissions of COVID and we will likely have to shut. On a brighter note the committee wishes all members a HAPPY NEW YEAR. May the coming bridge year offer you a healthy environment, friendships, challenges, stimulation in a warm convivial atmosphere. We can all be responsible for contributing to the warm convivial atmosphere. Lets give 2021 our best effort for the benefit of all club members.

The AGM

Our new committee as elected at the AMG includes 2 new people; Pauline Raftery and Keith Blinco- a very warm welcome to you both. Keith has already shown himself to be a willing and active committee member and joined the tournament committee contributing some very positive ideas. Unfortunately Pauline has had a mini stroke and has been unable to drive until her doctor gives her the ok. We welcome you back as soon as possible. Anne Downes is our new secretary, a position Anne is trained for and most efficient. She has replaced Ros Hand as secretary while Ros recovers from her illness. Anne and Ros are working together to complete our 2021 program booklet to be ready for the printers by the end of January. Ernie Scott has become vice president. He is a great backstop, always willing and ready to give a hand and do anything to help. This I really appreciate. Di McWhirter continues to fulfil her role as treasurer. This job has a big responsibility of making sure all bills are paid, money collected daily are tallied with table numbers and all money is regularly deposited at the bank. Di spends many hours making sure this is done accurately. Julie Firmstone is assistant treasurer. Julie is a great numbers person with impeccable recording skills to back Di up whenever needed. Robert Noble has so much knowledge about the running of the club and continues as our beloved provider (provider and organiser of food). Robert has had major health concerns over the recent months with his partner Pat which have caused him many anxious moments and some health concerns of his own as well as having his cataracts removed. Joy Moorcraft is also currently not well and is staying away while recovering. Joy is a tireless

worker always busying herself with little jobs that consistently need doing.. Mary Rawson is our congress convenor and did a great job deciding on events and dates for the 2021 program. This was presented to the tournament committee of Andy Braithwaite, Julie Firmstone and Keith Blinco to verify and discuss before being accepted by the committee and given to Anne to collate into our program. Andy Braithwaite gave some very knowledgable guidance.

Maintenance

A new air conditioner is being purchased to replace the broken one at the southern door. We are getting several quotes before a final selection is made. So far it seems to be about \$2500, a little more than we expected. A new water cooler has been purchased as Anne discovered one that came up on sale to replace our very noisy one. Ean Quested has offered to install this machine, thank you. Ean has also been very helpful in stapling all the plastic tablecloths down which is working much better than the flimsy clips. This required considerable effort as the table tops proved too hard for even his strong stapler and together with Trevor Cameron they worked out a way to do it. Well done men, its great to have members pitching in to help our club. Also thank you to Bernie Neal for fixing the air conditioner condensation problem. Joy Moorcraft has bought new toilet roll holders and brushes for the ladies toilets. Julie Firmstone is purchasing a new pencil sharpener

Welfare

Ray Payne telephoned Neville Gaha, (who is a life member) the other day to see how he is going. Ray reported Neville is going ok, not too sad about missing his bridge but hopes to come back occasionally. I phoned Jackie Jaques recently to see how she was going and she told me she wont be returning to bridge. We will miss seeing your happy bright face. Trevor Engwicht has a broken his wrist which has stopped him driving to bridge. Trevor loves his bridge and we do miss "put the big ace on" resonating around the club. Susanne Cornfield has heart problems which is preventing her from coming. We wish you all the best Suzanne- your gentle ways are missed. Ros Hand is starting to feel better after chemo and stem cell therapy. Keep getting better Ros! We are looking forward to when you can return for a great big cheer. There are still quite a few players who haven't returned since COVID started and we truely miss them and hope as things return to normal so to they will return to bridge.

Housekeeping

Cups still need to be carefully cleaned by the special sponge provided. For every rack of dishes that goes through the dishwasher between 2-5 cups need to be returned for rewashing. Please keep in mind that all work at the club is voluntary (except for the professional cleaners). When you leave something behind someone else has to pick it up, clean and put away. For all new players unaware of the protocol it is North-Souths' responsibility to set up the table and work the bridgemate and East-Wests' job to put away. This includes returning pencils, bidding pads, coasters to the station. Also bins, lunch scraps, cups, glasses and rubbish needs to be disposed of. The kitchen needs help every day so please volunteer your help if possible. It will be greatly appreciated. Although we don't provide our previously extensive range of biscuits because of COVID concerns we are trying to source other varieties of pre-packed biscuits. All this pre-packed food creates a lot of rubbish.

New Members

Cynthia Chapman and Eric Oxley have recently rejoined. Welcome back. Helen Medson has also joined and we wish you many happy days at bridge.

VAM Club

We would like to welcome Doug Spray and Eric Oxley to our VAM (venerable aged members) club. These members deserve special respect and consideration.

Email Addresses

I sent an email to all members who have provided us with an email addresses on New Years Eve. I would have liked to include everyone but can only include those who have given us their email address. Please let us know if you have an email that we don't know about. Sometimes our data about members is incorrect, as recently noted when compiling our birthday lists. If anyone notices mistakes/omissions could they please let us know. These incidents are not deliberate or meant to cause offence to anyone and we would like to correct them asap.

Lessons

Paul Rose has gain offered to hold beginner lessons starting on **Saturday 6th February**. These lessons last for 8 weeks from 9am to 11am at a cost of \$50. If you know of anyone who would enjoy bridge please encourage them to come along. New players are the future of our club. After the lessons are completed supervised bridge will resume for 6 months. It is

hoped by then the new players will be ready to move into the competitions.

Bidding Boxes

The committee decided to purchase a set of bidding boxes to supply 10 tables at a cost of approximately \$500. This seems to be the way bridge is going in the future and are used at other clubs and congresses. These will be first introduced on a Wednesdays to section A, the higher graded section who may find it easier to adapt to. Andy Braithwaite has offered to give a brief introductory lesson before using them. From this we will gauge their success. Some members have expressed a desire to own their own bidding box. These cost \$15 each and you can organise it with the club.

For Sale

Robert Noble is donating lots of jigsaw puzzles. He has suggested we sell these for \$2 and the proceeds will go to the club so if your a keen jigsaw doer look forward to a great variety of puzzles offering.

The Fiction Library

I was pleased to see a few more books return. Since the 50 cent cost has been wavered we are hoping members don't consider they own these books because they paid for them but rather return the good reads for others to enjoy.

Our sponsors

Goodyear tyres is located very close to the club and is our only sponsor. For all purchases made by members from Goodyear we receive 10%. Please make an effort to use this offer for the clubs benefit as last year we received approximately \$800 in a donation for this. Goodyear provides other car services as well as tyres.

Events

A full program has been organised for this year despite COVID still hanging around. The Pairs Championships was scheduled for 2nd and 9th February. This has been postponed until August because of COVID concerns. We may need to cancel any event if things change for the worse. Presently our first event is The Australia Day Teams on 26th January. This has always been a fun event with many people putting in the extra effort and dressing in some type of typically Australian attire. To quote Ruth Hordern "life is what you make it". Lets make it fun.

Cheers from Marilyn and the committee