

## 17 September 2023 AGM President's report

Successes and challenges in the past year.

Soon after last year's AGM the computer needed replacing; just as Graham our wonderful IT guru left for New York, the computer then would not talk to our very old printer. Jenny Elgar came to the rescue and donated a printer which connected instantly-hallelujah! Thereafter problems mining the data from the Bridgemate server and finding the dealing for the Spring Fling tournament were resolved by Bobbi-thank goodness! Another instance of the teamwork which makes this club function smoothly.

Our Spring Fling tournament was up next and we fielded 7 tables. It was really pleasing to have 6 novices take part in the Spring Fling; the profits from this tournament formed the start of our earthquake fund. Currently we have 5 tables for next week's tournament; it'd be great to beat last year's turnout so please consider signing up!

Janet Milbank and Jenny Elgar went to the 2022 NZ Congress pairs at Mt Manganui and performed creditably. The teams' event at Congress was attended by Jennys Elgar and Jones, Bronwyn and Christine.

36 people came to the Melbourne Cup and raised \$643 for the SPCA. They are always hugely appreciative of the boost to their coffers. This event is a firm favourite in our social calendar especially with the dressers up.

We took part in the national Loveblock Pairs tournament on 11 November- a Friday evening with 7 ½ tables. This event was hugely successful with Gerda Corporaal and Sue Gordon winning the top juniors' prize and coming third overall out of 846 pairs. They were each awarded two bottles of Loveblock wines. Our novice team of Linda Browne and Karen Warren got 5 out of 21 novices. We will be holding the Loveblock Pairs tournament again this year on November 10 and encourage you to join the fun.

2022 finished with a delightful Christmas tournament, prizegiving and dinner attended by 50 players. There were 8 raffle draws resulting in a \$300 boost to our fundraising efforts. The group singing of the Bridge Days of Christmas was a fabulous finale to the year!

2023 began with a wonderful tribute to our treasure Sally Shaw who was recognised with the NZ Order of Merit in the New Years' Honours' Awards.

2023's wet summer meant we began bridge early January on Tuesdays with a strong following. We had to cancel a couple of sessions as a cyclone bore down on us but we dodged the cyclone Gabrielle bullet-our neighbours on the East Coast were far less fortunate.

All sessions were underway by the end of January. 24 of us thoroughly enjoyed the trip to Opotiki mid-March where we are made to feel very welcome and rewarded for our travel with a wonderful supper. It's been suggested that we bring back the interclub challenge between Kawerau, Opotiki and our club which is something the committee will work on for next year's timetable.

Bay Pairs eventuated here on Sunday 26 March and we had a fantastic turnout with 72 attending. Chris Groothof and Carina Schelpers won the prize for the best juniors. We raised \$960 for the club -a brilliant result.

On the very good news front, Jenny Elgar and Janet Milbank played in the Intermediate Inter Provincial trials tournament on RealBridge and came second. This means they have qualified to play in the Intermediate Inter Provincial teams' tournament in November representing Waikato Bay of Plenty. Congratulations girls on this outstanding achievement.

Our teams' tournament ran over 4 Wednesday nights for the first time this year thanks to an initiative by Rex and Joyce. 4 teams were involved and it was an entertaining new learning experience. Feedback on the teams' competition was very positive; we will look to include more people playing over 3 Wednesday nights in 2024.

Rex trained up 11 new learners in the class of 23 and they have now begun attending regularly on Monday nights, it is wonderful to have up to 10 full tables; the directors have to work hard to keep the exciting post hand discussion to a manageable level. Outstanding effort Rex-thanks so much and well-done novices!

A team of 12 entered the Bay teams' tournament in Rotorua in July- a very long day made longer by virtue of the fact that we played 10 boards more than intended. We emerged 4<sup>th</sup> overall. Thanks to Bobbi for organising our team.

The restricted 8B tournament drew 10 tables; our prizes were generously sponsored by Earth Art landscapers -huge thanks to them. This tournament raised about \$1400 for our earthquake fund.

A team entered the Cambridge sixes in August for the first time ever; our team consisted of 2 open players Tom and Bobbi, 2 intermediates Janet and Jenny, 2 juniors Sue and Christine. We were challenged to come up with a sporting theme-I thought we could just be bad sports and rock up in mufti but instead we were the Sink or Swim team approximating NZ's Swim Ferns synchronised swimming team-is there even such a thing?

10 of us travelled to Kawerau two weeks ago and devoured their fabulous supper-oh and played cards too of course. So bounteous was the supper that Derek brought leftovers to share with the Wednesday night players. Playing in Opotiki and Kawerau is a neat community thing to do and we look forward to returning their hospitality by hosting both clubs next month.

The constitution reworking undertaken was required by all registered societies in Aotearoa NZ; thanks to Sally, Sue McKenzie and Bronwyn for undertaking this mahi. We have circulated this revised constitution electronically and in written form so it is time to adopt this constitution. and now we will propose a motion to adopt this constitution.

I move that the Whakatane Bridge Club adopt the new constitution.

An exciting development awaits us: Graham is working hard to develop a new website as the old pink and grey one is no longer fit for purpose. Our website will have a photo gallery,

drop down menus linking to results, reports, events, committee, sponsors, and a find a partner function

It is due to go live very soon -we'll send you a link when this comes on stream. Thanks once again Graeme for your expertise and commitment to servicing our technological needs.

This year we have two long serving committee members standing down. I would like to acknowledge and thank Bronwyn and Sue McKenzie for their committed and passionate service to our club. We are delighted to welcome Ali Barr, Kathryn Coyle and Sue Gordon to the committee. Acknowledgment is due also to Robin Blair for her work in keeping our kitchen stocked; Karen Campbell is taking this role over from Robin.

I move that the President's Report be accepted.