



Central Coast Bridge Club

2021/22

President's Report

by Louise Lewis

Once again we found ourselves with some on again off again bridge, mask wearing and restrictions due to COVID. The difference being this year that we are more used to disruption and challenges caused by this disease. Here's hoping that 2023 will bring more and more relief as it goes by. I would like to convey my sympathy to those who have been adversely affected.

This year has seen at least some normality to club operations and movement towards goals for the future benefit of the club. This committee remained unchanged from the previous and once again set to work on a number of projects. Additionally, we were able to commence congresses and ran one in this term.

With Covid19 impacting last year's operations, there was a budget shortfall of \$11,002. However, this year you will see from the Treasurer's Report that a net current year surplus of \$37,756 was achieved. Taking into consideration grants of \$30,000, the outcome is still good.

During the 2021/22 year, we focused on: the building upgrade, lesson expansion and refinement, a number of marketing initiatives, review and changes to the constitution.

Once again it has been an honour to have served as your President this year and I would like to thank the members for their continued support and encouragement. We truly are a very lucky club.

President's Report by Louise Lewis



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Building Upgrade

We have always said that our members are our biggest asset and following this is our building. We are of course very lucky that early committees had the forethought to purchase a clubhouse for CCBC and now it's time to give it a zhuzh up.

A large amount of background work was done and a local architect employed who provided us with a vision to improve the building and then arrive at the proposal which was put to the members at a Special General Meeting.

A big thank you to David Purkiss and the building subcommittee of Rod Shellshear and Peter Fitzgerald for their time and efforts and also to members of the committee who organised the information session and the Special General Meeting. A professional job, well done 🙌.

We now look forward to the results of our development application as the next step. Next term will prove to be a very exciting one if the project goes ahead as planned.

Bridge Lessons

Looking for improvement in one's bridge game should be a life-long pursuit and it is a key focus of the CCBC. This term we have expanded lesson offering for beginners and existing members. The beginner lessons have taken on a new look with Essentials I and Essentials II courses now on offer. Bridging (pardon the pun) these two courses is a practice period where learners engage in realistic duplicate bridge sessions. Once the first course is completed learners are presented with their 'Bachelors of Bridge' and

they earn the letters BB after their names (😊). The focus is on enjoying the game with the ultimate aim of joining in with main bridge-playing members. Many thanks to John Redfearn for his continued tireless efforts and also to Stephanie Mathews for taking on part of the teaching responsibilities both aided superbly by Peter Johnman, Colin Kleinig and Gary Heyting.

Members can join in on two sessions offered on Wednesday mornings and Friday afternoons. The Wednesday sessions are aimed at novice players while the Friday sessions tackle some more challenging bridge concepts. The lessons are a great way to build bridge skill and have some fun at the same time.

Marketing

The marketing subcommittee planned and conducted a number of initiatives to raise our profile in the community and secure more members through lessons. We now have a large digital sign out the front of the clubhouse to provide more information and ensure that we are seen as motorists and pedestrians pass. Flyers, a Facebook presence, advertising in the local newspapers are amongst other initiatives being completed. We still have some more work to do following the disruptions caused by COVID, which will be passed on to the new committee. Thank you to the members of the marketing subcommittee, David Purkiss, Kerrie Ransom and Kevin Dougall for your efforts this term.

Congress

I'd like to say, just WOW! Along came Marilyn Scott and blew us all away with her excellent organisational skills. After kicking off those training wheels as she called them, we were treated to a very well organised and run Novice and Restricted Congress which was enjoyed by both CCBC and visitor bridge players. A special mention to Kevin and Maureen Carson, winning the Novice Pairs, Mark Mathews, Jan Lawson, David Purkiss and Peter Cloughessy, winning the Novice Teams as well as Jodie Gudaitis and Colin Speller with their team for first place in the restricted teams. Feedback from the event was extremely positive. Please ensure that you read Marilyn's report. Thank you also to John Redfearn for his usual support and guidance for Marilyn as well as the team of helpers, Jan Lawson, Lee Mitchell, Margaret Brett, Steph Mathews and Robyn Price. I can't wait for the next congress.

Our Volunteers

Once again we have had wonderful volunteers assisting us with operations. Many of them go about their work quietly and 'stuff' just gets done. As well as the many roles that committee members have taken on (eg Colin Kleinig as masterpoints secretary and Norm Berger as tournament secretary, John Redfearn as Chief Director, Kerrie Ransom/Colin Kleinig as COVID safe coordinator), we have had substantial input and support from our purchasing officer - Dawn Thomas, librarian - Eris Brown, all things IT - Shan Lawson, newsletter compilation and editing - Shan Lawson, gardening guru - Carolyn Dickinson anything going - Jan Lawson, our congress helpers mentioned above and bridge librarians Kevin and Angela Dougall. We are also grateful once again to the volunteers who realise that cups don't find their way to the dishwasher on their own or put themselves away. Thank you so much for helping the cups!

And what about our directors without whom there would be no bridge. They are Stephanie Mathews, Shan Lawson, Norm Berger, Graham Williamson, Matt Raj Mal and John Redfearn.

In relation to one of our life members John Redfearn, he has once again out done himself by his constant presence at the club dealing boards, making fantastic lesson resources and organising learners amongst many other tasks. Not to mention the time that he puts in to teach and mentor bridge players.

Changes to the Constitution

We almost made it to a point where we were able to get legal advice on our final draft before commencing a feedback period with members and finally taking the new constitution to a Special General Meeting, but as luck would have it NSW Fair Trading issued a revised template constitution which means that we now need to revisit our constitution with their suggestions in mind and perhaps make additional changes. The good news is that at least the NSW Fair Trading document came before we took the new constitution to the SGM. Our plans are to move ahead with the constitution once more following the AGM with a view to finalising it as soon as possible.

In closing, I would like to pass my condolences on to those members who have lost love ones or friends, been affected by the floods or COVID19. Each of us has our own griefs and struggles; know that your friends at CCBC are thinking of you.

Louise Lewis, President

