



Central Coast Bridge Club

2020/21

President's Report

by Louise Lewis

Without a doubt the 2020/21 year will go down as one of the most extraordinary years in the history of Central Coast Bridge Club. However, I would like to say that this committee has taken on every challenge that it has been faced with and given its best shot without precedent to call on.

From the outset, this committee has sought to be open and inclusive. The knowledge and skills of some of our long-serving members together with fresh ideas of newer committee members has proven to be a positive. Thank you for working your magic in new roles and the ones that you knew well. As your President, this term has been very satisfying for me simply for that reason.

With Covid19 impacting our operations, you will see from the Treasurer's Report that a net operating loss for the trading year was \$11,002. While this figure is disappointing given the efforts of the committee to put us back in the black, I have absolutely no doubt that the expertise in the current committee has set us in the right direction to do so as soon as normal operations recommence.

During the 2020/21 year, we focused on managing COVID19, providing a forward-planning approach for the club, modernising club operations, improving communication and commencing consultation on building improvements and changes to our constitution.

It has been an honour to have served as your President this year and I would like to thank the membership for the faith and friendliness that was shown to me.

President's Report by Louise Lewis



01 [Managing Covid19 – without a doubt our biggest challenge](#)

02 [Forward Planning – to focus our efforts and meet goals](#)

03 [Club Operations – all those things and people that help](#)

04 [Communication – the key to success is to inform and ask](#)

05 [Consultation – we like to know what you think about things](#)

Managing Covid19

To say that managing the role of COVID Safe Co-Ordinator was a difficult and frustrating one would most definitely be an understatement. From the enormous amounts of research, liaising with authorities, updating us and drafting plans to navigating compliance, I can just say thank goodness for the expertise and administrative skills of Kerrie Ransom. Without her diligence in this role, we would not have been playing bridge at the club for as long as we did this year, let alone with as much precaution as possible. Thank you Kerrie and also to the COVID safe subcommittee for supporting her as required.

Forward Planning

A forward-planning approach allows the committee to focus on key areas in alignment with CCBC's constitutional goals. This means that areas can be prioritised and focus applied to tasks that will help us to achieve the goals. The forward plan identifies areas as Relationship Building, Leadership in Bridge and Operational Excellence for CCBC. Thank you to those who participated in the first workshop. Work that has commenced by this committee and the sub-committees can be mapped to these areas. Attached is a report from the Marketing and Building sub-committees which has been prepared by David Purkiss. David contributes many hours of time and expertise in his various roles on committee and I thank him for his support and efforts. We will pass the new forward plan 2021-2026 to the new committee so that the work can continue.

Club Operations

Improvements in operations include implementation of EFTPOS facilities and transition to a cashless environment. Both of these initiatives assist in streamlining operations, thereby improving effectiveness. Included in these changes was reintroduction of the voucher system which has proven to be a popular choice amongst members.

Additionally, mention of club operations cannot be made without mention of our volunteers. What is any club without huge amounts of effort from volunteers? As well as the many roles that the committee has taken on, eg Colin Kleinig as masterpoint's secretary and Norm Berger as tournament secretary, we have had substantial input and support from the building and maintenance subcommittee, the marketing subcommittee, the COVID safe committee, our purchasing officer - Dawn Thomas, librarian - Eris Brown, all things IT - Shan Lawson, newsletter compilation and editing - Shan Lawson and AGM IT - Colin Speller. We are also grateful to those quiet volunteers who clean up, stack the dishwasher and put things away. Thank you so much.

Also, a big thank you to our Directors Stephanie Mathews, Shan Lawson, Norm Berger, John Redfearn, Graham Williamson, Roy Cotton and Matt Raj Mal.

Further, I need to make special mention and a big thank you to one of our Life Members, John Redfearn who works away day in day out making up boards as well as contributing as chief director, bridge teacher and congress organiser. On the congress front, our mini congress was a huge success given the circumstances and now John is currently mentoring a new addition to our congress co-ordination role, Marilyn Scott who has kindly volunteered to learn the role.

A committee initiative this year has been to invite members in who wish to volunteer their many skills to the betterment of the Club. We can say with pride that many of you have offered your services and we have taken some of those up, but as with everything else this year, COVID had something to say and we had to halt progress on this front. Rest assured however, the next committee will know who you are and they will probably take you up on your offers. Thank you for offering to participate in your club.

Finally, while the environment continually evolves under COVID, we have attempted to remain ahead and now with restrictions looking to thwart our attempts to return to the club for a while, we are putting our efforts into offering some online bridge via RealBridge. So far, we have had positive feedback from members regarding RealBridge.

Communication

Amongst our relationship building tasks has been to improve communication with members. You will most likely have seen frequent notices on the noticeboard (when the club is open), the newsletter, messaging on the website and emails to members. A number of these initiatives provided information but they also invited opinion and input from members which was a key focus of this committee's term. Another communication channel is our new Facebook page which is now live, so we hope that you will like our page to join in.

Consultation Processes

Consultation has commenced on building improvements and to finalise a new constitution for CCBC. Models and plans for upgrading of the CCBC will be shared and input invited from the membership in the next phase of the upgrade process. In relation to the new constitution, the committee was slowed by continued interference by COVID and progress so far will be handed to the new committee.

Our Lost Friends

On a too many occasions this year we sadly said goodbye to a number of our bridge family in Glen Campbell, Toni Dixon, Len Perkins, Anne Steel and Ruth Stephens. We are also aware that a number of our members lost close family. We offer our deepest sympathy to all those members affected by losses. We also hope that those who are currently suffering ill-health have a speedy recovery.

I would like to sum up this year by quoting Jose Hernandez- "*No one knows what is on the other side of a playing card.*"

Louise Lewis

President

1st September 2021

CENTRAL COAST BRIDGE CLUB

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: 25TH SEPTEMBER 2021

MARKETING & BUILDING SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT ON KEY INITIATIVES

Given last years and the current Covid-19 lockdowns, progress with implementing key marketing and building sub-committee initiatives has been delayed and will resume as soon as the Club re-opens for business. Notwithstanding these challenging times, progress has been made as follows: -

1. **Upgrade the CCBC Clubhouse** – the Committee approved Stages 1 & 2 Concept Design & Design Development including a “Physical Model” and “High Resolution 3D Visual Presentation” that will be displayed at the Clubhouse for member feedback and comment when the CCBC re-opens. The Upgrade will include substantially more bridge playing space (30+ tables), an extension to the front to align with existing shopfronts, an enhanced façade and entry statement, easier disabled access via the front and back entries, training room, office, modern kitchen, enlarged female and male amenities, centralised storage area, new carpet and interior furnishings etc
2. **Electronic Sign** – a single sided 2*1 meter “interactive” electronic sign has been purchased in April 2021 to raise the awareness of our location and place of business to 1,000’s of potential bridge players that drive passed every day – this sign will foster community engagement, allow messaging and fresh content on demand and promote bridge learning opportunities
3. **Social Media Strategy** – with the assistance of Pursuit Communications, a new Facebook Page has been developed
4. **Partner Arranging Function** – a member survey has been developed and circulated requesting member feedback re issues associated with partner availability including preferred options going forward: Pianola, nominated person, member emails or text messages or a combination of all 3.
5. **Reconnecting with Former Members** – around 300 former members will be contacted offering refresher and beginner lessons to entice them back to the CCBC. This initiative has been delayed due to the Covid-19 lockdowns.
6. **Advertising & Promotion in the Media** – to raise the profile of Bridge as a fun and healthy social activity, progress has been made with developing editorials and weekly advertisements for the Coast Community Chronicle together with posters and flyers for distribution to organisations targeting the retiree and baby boomer markets (retirement villages, community centres, active adult communities, sporting clubs, senior citizens clubs etc).
7. **Member Skills Survey** - a member skills survey has been developed and circulated requesting assistance with the above marketing initiatives including social media, writing advertisements, partner arranging, member communications etc