

21 April 2024

CENTRAL COAST BRIDGE CLUB – AGM ON 2 MAY 2024

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The 2023-2024 financial year has been a busy year for the CCBC with the newly elected committee working together on several fronts. Major achievements include the following: -

BUILDING UPGRADE PROJECT

Key Milestones include: -

1. **Simultaneous Construction of Stages 1, 2 and 3**: the committee released its plan for the simultaneous construction of Stages 1, 2 & 3 at a total cost of around \$900K.
2. **Member Consultation**: a member consultation process seeking feedback from members has been conducted including the circulation of answers to FAQ's and hosting an information session with the Architect and members of the Committee, regular updates from the CCBC committee and President etc.
3. **Member Donations**: developed a member donation proposal seeking funding for the Building Upgrade – this initiative has been a major success with members pledging around \$500K towards the construction cost including the benevolence of the Benefactor who has committed to matching member donations \$ for \$ up to \$100K. In the fullness of time, the generosity of members in assisting the CCBC with securing its future will be recognized as a significant achievement not only for the CCBC and the bridge industry on the Central Coast but also throughout Australia. The Australian bridge industry continues to face many challenges with most clubs choosing to ignore the realities of the future given the age demographic of current bridge players.
4. **Total Funding**: established funding for the building upgrade of around \$900K including CCBC cash reserves: \$200K; ABF Loan: \$100K; Member Donations: \$500K and Member Mortgage Debentures: \$100K-\$125K. The CCBC has also applied for a NSW Government Grant of \$90K towards the cost of the new kitchen, accessible toilet & accessibility ramps. The success of this application (in full or in part) will be known during May 2024.
5. **Builder Tenders**: completed a tendering process between 3 local builders culminating in the selection of Buderin L'Estrange as the successful builder – a building contract will now need to be completed.
6. **Alternate Accommodation**: arranged accommodation at the Long Jetty Hotel for our bridge playing activities during the construction process.
7. **Promotion**: commenced the process of developing a plan to promote the building upgrade at every opportunity during the construction stage.

The simultaneous completion of Stages 1, 2 and 3 will need to be approved by members at the Special General Meeting on 2 May 2024.

The building upgrade project represents an exciting new chapter in the history of the CCBC and builds on the efforts and foresight of previous committees especially in 1986 when the Clubhouse premises were purchased and again in 2004 when a significant upgrade occurred.

VOLUNTEERS

I would like to pay tribute to the large number of Volunteers who work hard and selflessly to support the efficient operations of the CCBC including: -

Bridge Playing

- **Directors** – John Redfearn, Norm Berger & Matt Raj Mal work tirelessly to oversee 8 duplicate bridge sessions, are unpaid and should always be respected. Without Directors, the CCBC cannot open its doors.
- **Boards** – Graham Williamson
- **General Member Support**: collecting table fees, emptying baskets, cleaning up, packing dishwasher.

Catering (Jill Wildey & team) - wonderful volunteers who help with the catering function including working in the kitchen for normal sessions and special events, bringing in cakes, slices etc.

Purchasing Officers – Dawn Thomas, Jenny O'Donohue & Leonie Grimshaw – a special thankyou to Dawn for several years of service and Jenny and Leonie who have assumed this responsibility after Xmas.

Gardening - Carolyn Dickinson & team who work tirelessly to maintain the gardens.

Training & Development – John Redfearn and his absolute commitment to training and development including developing lessons for Beginner's & Intermediates. John was supported by several experienced players who assisted with transitioning beginners to supervised play.

Maintenance – the CCBC maintenance expenditure is at an all-time low due solely to Rod Shellshear's "can do" attitude and his ability to resolve a myriad of maintenance issues.

Congress Convenor – thankyou to John Redfearn for acting as Congress Convenor at the recent Super Congress – on both days John was well supported by Kerrie and Lawrie Ransom, Rod Shellshear and Peter Greening together with many members who assisted with cleaning up after the Congress concluded.

Librarian – Angela Dougall continues to efficiently manage the bridge book library. Please also note Mary McFadden and Gillian Aldridge who had the tedious job of managing the non-bridge book library.

Executive Team – our secretary, Kerrie Ransom, has been outstanding all year, including assisting with the organization and conduct of special general meetings together with everyday responsibilities focusing on member communications. Our Treasurer, Rod Shellshear, has worked tirelessly to master MYOB and to ensure that all receipts and payments are reconciled and balanced and that the committee has accurate and timely information to support its decision-making process. Our Vice president, Norm Berger, has focused his efforts on the operational aspects of running a bridge club and without his efforts, the CCBC could not operate. Also, a special thankyou to Lawrie Ransom who has provided wise counsel, experience, and expertise to the Executive Team throughout the year.

CCBC Committee – in addition to normal committee meeting responsibilities, the 11 members perform a myriad of functions including Website & Digital Sign Manager (Lawrie Ransom), Club Administrator & IT (Mike Hilton), Tournament Secretary/Organizer (Matt Raj Mal), Recorder (Lawrie Ransom), Newsletter (Jan Buchanan-Medina), Social Welfare Representative (Jill Wildey), Masterpoint Secretary (Colin Kleinig & Peter Cloughessy), Trophies, Prizes and Honor Board (Grahame Williamson).

Sub Committees – active sub committees include the Building Upgrade Project (for 6 months), Marketing, and the Constitution Review.

Hardest Working Volunteer – again a massive thank you to John Redfearn for his tireless and selfless work in ensuring that the CCBC operations continue to function effectively and for the benefit of members.

FINANCIAL

Please refer to the Treasurer's Report for 2023-2024 including the following key points: -

- A net operating profit: \$35,615,

- Net cash flow surplus: \$42,726,
- Cash reserves: \$321,486 including the ABF loan of \$100,000,
- Table fees to be increased from \$8 to \$10 effective 5 May 2024 with the cost of 10 prepaid coupons at \$90,
- Capital expenditure on Building Upgrade Project: \$33,010,
- Budget net profit for 2024-2025 of around \$50,000,
- Member donations of around \$500K towards the building Upgrade construction costs,
- Requirement for GST registration effective 1 April 2024,
- Intermediate lessons to increase from \$8 to \$10 effective 5 May 2024,
- Member numbers: 152 home & 8 social members at 31 March 2024.

SUPER CONGRESS – 23 & 24 MARCH 2024

Please refer to the Congress Convenor's Report. With the key objective of reducing the number of volunteer hours, the Super Congress was conducted at the Diggers Club who provided the Pavilion Room and a full catering service. Attendees included 120 at the Saturday Pairs event and 96 at the Sunday Teams event notwithstanding the increase in table fees to \$60 which resulted in total table fee income of \$12,960. The CCBC also secured financial support for the room hire and towards catering costs.

Major costs included prizes: \$4,350, catering: \$3,575, director: \$1,058 and masterpoints: \$555. The Super Congress generated a net profit of \$5,815 excluding incidental costs. This net profit represented an excellent outcome particularly given the decrease in member volunteer time from around 250 to 100 hours. At next year's Super Congress, the CCBC will be seeking financial support from at least 2 major sponsors.

CCBC – A CLUB WITH A FOCUS ON BOTH THE SOCIAL & COMPETITIVE ASPECTS OF BRIDGE

Although the CCBC has progressively developed into a social club with most members seeking social interaction and a fun time, it is important to recognize the considerable efforts of competitively minded members who represent the CCBC in special events including Congresses. These players included Berenice Air, Colin Kleinig, Jane Stephens, Matt Raj Mal, Brian Richardson, Steve Calcroft, Vic Pietraszkiewicz, Tony Sappideen, Sandy Whalley, Graham Williamson, and others. At the end of the day, it is important to strike a balance between the social and competitive aspects of the CCBC.

CODE OF CONDUCT RE: MEMBER BEHAVIOUR

Post the 2023 AGM, this committee agreed that unacceptable behaviour by members would not be tolerated and took appropriate action where the Club's Code of Conduct was not complied with. The Club's Code of Conduct provides guidelines for acceptable behaviour in and around the Clubhouse and between members. At the end of the day, members are entitled to the quiet enjoyment of a game of bridge.

OPERATIONAL MATTERS

After considerable committee discussion and analysis of member feedback, the following changes were made to session times: -

- Monday Afternoon Sessions – a single movement with a Master Point limit of 400MP's.
- Thursday Afternoon Sessions – 2 separate movements of under 30MP's and over 30MP's.
- Friday Morning Session – moved to Friday afternoon commencing at 1.00pm
- Friday Afternoon Lessons for Intermediates – moved to Friday morning at 10.30am

The transfer of the Friday morning session to the afternoon has proved very popular with a regular 5-6 tables.

FINAL COMMENT

I would also like to thank all members who have shown support and compassion to each other during the year including to those members who have been unwell or suffered a significant personal loss - this camaraderie and goodwill between members represents a real strength for the CCBC going forward.