



## **PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT**

I am pleased to report that overall, 2023 was a relatively successful year for the Waikanae Bridge Club. After three years of COVID disruptions, closures and lower table numbers, it has been pleasing to see table numbers grow as the year progressed.

### **Membership**

Membership numbers are generally healthy and stable. We have been fortunate to have gained a number of established players which has offset the inevitable resignations. Regrettably, we have not been immune from losing members or past members of our club. As such, we remember Earle Andrews, Rene Henke and Joan Key.

### **Committee**

While it is always difficult to highlight individuals within a team, our Secretary, Rae Lutman, and our Treasurer, Margaret Gordon have been a tower of strength.

I have been extremely fortunate to have been supported by such an experienced and supportive Committee. Other than Pat Stuart, all of your committee members have offered themselves for re-election.

We are extremely sorry to be losing Pat's experience, but she has advised that because of her work levels, she feels she needs to stand down from the Committee this year. However, we are absolutely delighted to accept Pat's offer to continue the development of the new Constitution and associated policies necessary to comply with the new Incorporated Societies Act 2022.

### **Major Issues Faced**

**KCDC Lease Negotiations.** The year started with us looking at the real possibility of a one-year lease. Protracted negotiations over many months

between KCDC and our team of Ady Dale, Graham Cheater, Vicky Young, Rae Lutman and Hugh Wolfensohn finally acquired an acceptable solution which gave us a 10 plus 10-year lease which was signed by both parties in April. An excellent outcome for the Club.

**COVID closure.** We opted for a short close-down in early April in an endeavour to break the cycle and avoid an extended close-down.

**Temperature and Ventilation.** This issue has certainly caused angst to both camps. Hopefully, our current policy will continue to provide an acceptable solution for the majority. Blair Campbell recounted the comment that Ron Klinger apparently made when he visited the Club some 15-years ago; 'the biggest issue that is faced by Bridge clubs around the world is playing room heating and ventilation.'

**Outstanding Issues.** To date, we have yet to undertake the Communications Review and while the application for a grant for a Defibrillator is underway, this important medical equipment is not yet in place.

## **New Constitution and Reregistration as an Incorporated Society**

The Club was made aware of changes that will be required to retain the status of an Incorporated Society. This comes about because of the new Incorporated Societies Act 2022 which came into force in October. We have until 5 April 2026 to reregister with the Registrar of Incorporated Societies which is a new position in the Companies Office.

Reregistration must be accompanied by a constitution that complies with the new Act.

We have been fortunate to have Pat Stuart leading the work on drafting a new constitution with the objective of presenting it to members for detailed consideration in 2024. The formal adoption of the constitution and vote to reregister as an Incorporated Society will be the topic of a Special General Meeting. Our intention is to provide regular updates on progress which will provide an opportunity to explain the changes required under the new Act.

The important issue to note is that the new constitution and registration process does not alter our purpose to provide a Club and facilities for the playing and enjoyment of Contract Bridge.

## **Tournaments**

In the **Loveblock NZ Wide Pairs**, the Club gained National recognition through the success of Graham Cheater and Jeanne Wardill who finished 2<sup>nd</sup> across the country. We were also delighted to hear from Richard Solomon that the Waikanae club, with 15 tables, had the second highest number of tables of all the clubs participating in the nationwide competition. Two wonderful statistics for the club.

Regionally, the Waikanae Open Tournament in February returned to face-to-face competition with 14 tables. The Multigrade Pairs attracted 18 tables, the Intermediate Pairs 15 tables and a trial separate half-day Junior Pairs tournament, attracted 7 tables – although it should be noted that this Junior tournament turnout was affected by being held within hours of the final of the Rugby World Cup. Thanks and appreciation to Margaret Gordon, the organiser of our tournament fixtures.

Regional accolades were won by Rachel Patrick who finished as the top competition Junior in the Wellington Region. Roger Palmer finished in third place.

Both of the local annual club tournaments were held for the first time for a number of years. Waikanae retained the shield for the annual interclub fixture with the Paraparaumu Bridge Club. Later in the year, the selected Waikanae team comprising of four Open representatives, four Intermediate representatives and four Junior representatives retained the Kapiti/Horowhenua Quadrangular Tournament played between the Levin, Otaki, Waikanae and Paraparaumu clubs.

The Kapiti Horowhenua Area Pairs were played at Otaki from March to November. Nicky Bradley and Pryor Rowland were the 2023 winners.

## **Lessons**

Another bumper year of Beginners. These lessons attracted thirty-three learners of which approx. 20 went on to play in the club. Our grateful thanks to Judith Jackson, Blair Campbell and Ady Dale for their input and guidance.

Three Improvers' lessons each were presented by both Graeme Norman and Graham Cheater. These lessons raised the overall skill level throughout the

wider playing membership. The club is indebted to both presenters for their contributions.

## **Social Events**

In addition to the Monthly Monday Afternoon Teas held throughout the year, Members enjoyed events to celebrate St Patrick's Day, a Matariki Soup Night, Melbourne Cup, a Pizza Night and the Christmas Party. While all were enjoyable, there was little doubt the Christmas Party was a pinnacle event. A special thanks to Dennis Jenkins and Roz King for their preparation and presentation of the magnificent meal.

And I am delighted to record our grateful thanks to Vicky Young for her leadership and organisation of many of these social functions.

## **Maintenance**

The carpark lighting was replaced mid-year and MenzShed repaired a number of side tables.

## **General**

The Club premises continue to be utilised by a number of Community groups. This provides both a community service and an important income for the Club.

The club is indebted to our numerous volunteers for their contributions behind the scenes and within the Club. On behalf of the Committee and all Members of the Club, our sincere thanks to you all.

2023 has been a good lead-in year to the Club's 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee year in 2024.

**Chris Farrow**

President