



CROCKFORDS BRIDGE CLUB INC.

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Weekly News Monday 1 March 2021

Dear Members

I am sorry to have to advise, the senior grade in particular, that one week after Judy's death, life member John Ambrose, has also passed away. During the 2020 lockdown I "interviewed" them with the intention of publishing the following at a later date, perhaps at the time of their 71st wedding anniversary this year. Unfortunately, that wasn't to be.

...It is always great to celebrate happy occasions and so we were delighted that members Judy and John Ambrose were able to celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary prior to Covid 19 turning our lives upside down. Judy and John played in the senior grade and joined Crockfords in 1982. John's contribution to the club as committee member, director and president was recognised by the granting of life membership of Crockfords.

John and Judy were born in Hungary. Judy clearly remembers the arrival of the German forces in Budapest on a Sunday in 1944 and the Danube full of bodies, bank to bank. Her family was moved to the ghetto and had to wear the yellow Star of David. Judy's grandfather died in Auschwitz and her father survived internment in a labour camp. After the terrors and privation of the Nazi occupation came the rigours of the communist regime. In 1948 John left Hungary on a legitimate passport and thanks to his fluent Italian travelled first class as an assistant to the Italian ambassador. Once safely in Australia, he wrote to Judy's father asking for Judy's hand in marriage. These were not ordinary times and as heartbreaking as the "loss" of their only child would be, Judy's parents saw that this was an opportunity for her to make a life in safety and security. (I'm sure John was seen as quite a catch!)

In 1949, Judy at 17 years of age and having just finished school, began the difficult and perilous escape from Hungary. Although a large sum of money was paid to "facilitate" safe travel, this was far from guaranteed. After some time in a refugee camp in Vienna, Judy eventually arrived in Amsterdam where she boarded a former troop carrier for her new life in Australia. First class travel it wasn't, with 100 people to a 'dormitory' for the six plus week voyage to Freemantle.

John and Judy were eventually reunited in January 1950 and were married on the 12 March that year. They moved to Christchurch where John had a successful photography business. Seventy years, three sons, six grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren later, they have much to celebrate.

John spoke eloquently of their happy marriage as we celebrated with a surprise supper on a Seniors' night in March. When I spoke with Judy during the lockdown, her final comment was "My biggest blessing is John".

We will miss them both.

Membership

A big thank you to everyone who has paid their subscription for the 2021 year. Next week, Carol our club secretary, will start phoning people who do not appear to be financial. Please don't be offended if

you receive such a call, but we would like to ensure we have an accurate membership total before our AGM on March 25th. We also have one or two on-line payments with no identifying name, or at least a name for which we cannot find a match. Carol is a very good sleuth but even she has had to admit defeat with these.

Club Barbeque

I am grateful to Sue Moates for organising this annual event. It was a low turnout in 2021 but those of us there enjoyed the delicious salads and desserts. Tony and Matt proved to be excellent chefs, and almost certainly have a job for life! With everyone pitching in to clean up, there was time for some hands of bridge to follow. Scores were not kept so at the end of the evening every pair was able to declare themselves the winning combination and we all went home having enjoyed a really pleasant time mixing with our fellow members. I hope that next year you will be able to support this event.

Property

The work on the drains is complete and we are delighted with the new tidy seal at the side and rear of the clubrooms. The lawn has been re-sown so a little bit of rain each day will be a great help. Our hairdressing tenants, Kamilla and Jason are proving to be a great asset. They have been extremely patient and good-humoured during the drainage upheaval at their doorstep. They were married a couple of weekends ago, and last night we enjoyed some beautiful premium ice cream left over from their big day. Please remember that if you are visiting the Club, the first three car parks beside the salon are for their sole use. I have also indicated that if they are swamped with clients and need to use a few more parks from time to time, that is fine. Obviously, we are keen for their business to thrive and for them to continue as tenants for many years!

AGM- Repeat Notice

Please note that this is to be held on Thursday 25 March, commencing at 7.00pm. If you wish to put forward a remit or notice of motion this will need to be lodged with the club secretary by 11 March. If we attend to business in our usual efficient fashion there will be bridge to follow for those who can stay.

Top honours this week go to Junior players Seonaid Church and Kaye Curgenvan scoring 73.61%. A great result.

We are all watching keenly the Covid developments and should we need to close the Club again, this will be notified as soon as possible by email. In the meantime, remember to use your tracer app or sign-in, and if at all unwell please recover at home.

Enjoy your week, and happy bridging.

Kind regards
Jan Barrow
President