



# CROCKFORDS BRIDGE CLUB INC.

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Tuesday 12 April 2022

Dear Members,

It has been a busy start to my role as President, getting familiar with all that needs to happen to keep the club running for all members to enjoy. My sincere thanks to all the people who work in the back ground, often unseen, that enable us to enjoy playing the game we love.

### Update from Committee Meeting.

On Friday evening we had the first meeting with the new committee. It was long, having quite a large agenda and bringing the new members up to date and also a reason for this long newsletter.

We spent some time establishing roles and responsibilities and dividing them between the committee members to share the load. Once we have these finalised we will distribute a summary of these to members so you will be able to contact the correct person to assist with your enquiry.

There will also be small sub-committees set up to help so if there are any areas you feel you would like to contribute to, please contact the committee person responsible once we send out the information.

One of the new committees we are setting up will be a Match Committee. One of their responsibilities will be to reinforce the etiquette that is required of us when playing bridge. This was one area of concern that was mentioned last year in our membership survey and has been raised by a number of members.

### Sunday afternoon Sessions.

Following requests in a recent member survey for more sessions of bridge, especially during the day and in the weekend, a decision has been made to trial a Sunday afternoon session on the third Sunday of each month from 1.00-4.00pm, with a happy hour to follow. **The first session will be Sunday 15 May.**

### Easter Tournament Postponement

The Russley Village Maples Trophy has been postponed from Easter Sunday until Sunday 1 May 2022 when the peak of the current COVID outbreak may have passed and more people are comfortable about returning to the bridge club to play. The entry form will be posted on the noticeboards, or you can email Crockfords office.

### Our Post Office Box

With very little postal mail now, we have closed our Post Office Box. If you wish to send any mail via the post, the address is 218A Riccarton Road, or drop it in the mailbox at the gate.

### Heating Upgrade

We are trying to get our heating upgraded before winter, but are having difficulty obtaining funding. Our first request has been declined as the funder did not have any funds available (consequence of COVID). We hope to submit another application this week. Thanks go to Rob Freeman who has worked with the suppliers to get quotes and to Allison Carding for the hours spent submitting the applications.

### COVID Update

As per the notice last week, we are continuing as previously. Thank you everyone for your patience and understanding as we navigate our way through the pandemic. With the number of infections currently circulating in Christchurch we are pleased that most of our members have escaped infection.

Our largest impact from COVID has been through our weekly table numbers, which were down by an average of two tables per session each week during March.. We look forward to having all our members back when you feel it is safe to return.

There have been some people who have expressed concern coming back to the game, feeling they are “out of form”, after a break. Our Thursday evening sessions are a very good place where there is a mix of grades playing in a relaxed atmosphere, enabling you to regain your confidence. For some of our junior and intermediate players especially, we are also looking at the possibility of running some refresher sessions, in the annex, on a Monday night for three or four weeks beginning in May when we believe the worst of the present COVID wave will be over. More details on this will follow.

### Learners Sessions

Our next lot of learner classes begin on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June. We have had our greatest success in getting new players through our existing members – so if you know someone who you think would enjoy learning bridge, now is a good time to start working on them ☺  
Bronwyn and Robert Bijl have set a high bar, getting four people to attend the current set of lessons.

### Tidbits

Thanks to Graham Wheal who has crafted some new card boards and donated them to the club. I know those who use the boards will be grateful for your work and generosity.

A recent tournament in Ashburton showed how fickle the game can be with one pair of grand masters coming first in the morning and last in the afternoon. Congratulations to Peter Van Leeuwen and his partner who finished 4<sup>th</sup> – a great result.

Congratulations for top weekly percentage points to Mark Francis and Graham Moore who scored 65.87% last week and Diana Andrews and Judy Van Leeuwen who scored 67.19% the previous week.

### **FROM THE OFFICE**

This is a new heading that Petra, our new administrator, will use to communicate to members.

As an introduction this is her bio.

Petra Shepard

I am mother to a very energetic and busy daughter. I have been involved in administration for most of my working career.

After becoming a parent, I ‘converted’ into an Early Childhood Educator, for over 10 years.

It is an honour to be part of the Crockfords Bridge Club. I aim to be as helpful and efficient as possible and to keep the office ‘ball’ rolling.

I enjoy catching up with friends over a good coffee, photography, watching sport, reading and walking, and possibly taking up bridge.

Happy bridging and kind regards to you all

David Hawes  
President.