

SUNNYBANK BRIDGE CLUB INC.



NEWSLETTER

January 2021

Issue 2021-1



President's Column

Happy New Year and welcome to 2021. And we all thought that this year was going to be better than the last. Seven days into the year and we are in lockdown. I'm hoping that this isn't extended and that the virus will be contained quickly. Our club has only just reopened fully, members were increasingly returning to face-to-face bridge and we were all looking forward to a brighter future. This year promises to be an exciting one. With as many red point events as possible, with more eclectic events and with increased prize money, it would be great to see all members playing at least twice each week.

Then there is the real reason for playing bridge, the camaraderie which you will only find by playing face-to-face bridge.

Happy New Year and welcome to 2021

Kenneth Clem
President SBC

Club Christmas Party

This year the committee decided to hold the annual Christmas party at the Runcorn Tavern rather than at the club house. The trophies were presented, thank you gifts went to the many hardworking members of the club as well as acknowledging the contribution from many others. We were all entertained by the very talented Robyn Webcke with his bush poetry. Members were able to bring their partners along as there was no bridge session and there was so much positive feedback about the lunch and the different format. It was also a fantastic opportunity for those that normally organise the function to sit back and enjoy the festivities. More photos can be seen on the club website in the photo section.



Annual General Meeting

This year's AGM will be held on Saturday February 13th at 9:30am. Please consider taking a position on the committee. Nomination forms are available from the club house or online.

Table Vouchers

These can be purchased two ways, either cash or online.

Bank account details are **BSB 484 799 Account No. 000860772** Please remember to include your name and the word "voucher" in the reference section.

At the Table - ALERTING TIP

When alerting a bid please remember that **both** the bid must be circled and the word "alert" announced.

Covid-19 and SBC

The Covid-19 pandemic has had a huge impact on our club both financially and on the way we function. The club closed its doors for 18 weeks and reopened on the 21st of July.

Our table numbers are slowly climbing but are still quite low compared with previous years. The sanitation procedures continue and probably will for quite some time. Members continue to bring their own hot drinks.

The Club's revenue for 2020 dropped \$61,000 from 2019 and whilst the club also had a reduction in expenses it was to a much lesser extent. The club was very fortunate to receive funding from Brisbane City Council "Lord Mayors Covid-19 Assistance Program" to help offset expenses incurred in the first half of 2020. Alcohol wipes continue to be a large operating cost to the club.

Please encourage your friends/old partners to return to the bridge table to help boost our table numbers.

Promotions

Well done to the following members for their recent promotion.

November

Club - Lilly Jia

Regional - Donna L'estrange

December 2020

Graduate - Lyn Rodgers

Silver Local - June McNamara

Changes to names of ranks

From 1 January 2021, the titles of ranks that used stars in the rank name (eg. ** Local) have their stars replaced by either "bronze" for one-star ranks or "silver" for two-star ranks. This applies to Local, Regional, State and National, and is consistent with terminology used in the upper ranks.

Membership Renewals

Renewals were sent out last month and most members have already paid their 2021 subscription. For those that have not yet paid, the cut-off date is 31/1/21 before you become a "visitor".

Three members paid online but forgot to include their name in the reference section so we don't know who you are. Reminders will be issued so please confirm if you are one of these three.

Toilets Upgrade Complete.

Work is now finished on this project. Thanks go to Janet Price and Di Robinson for organising the new rails and higher toilet seats. These will be a great help for the less able members of the bridge club.

Beginners' Lessons

There has been a change to the lessons. They will now commence Feb 20th at 1-3PM and run for 8 weeks Sue Holburt will be the teacher.

Help Needed

Newsletter Editor – the club is looking for someone to take on the role of newsletter editor. In the past John Moore produced an amazing 8 page quarterly edition. Please don't be daunted by this – a smaller more frequent version would be fantastic too. It is a nice way to communicate with members to tell them a bit more about the happenings of the club. (And Sue Holburt would like a rest.)

Gardener – The club's gardener is no longer available. If you know of a reliable, reasonably priced gardener you can recommend please contact the committee. All members are welcome to help out in the garden. Even a few hours a month would be great.

Directors – We can't have bridge without these wonderful people and we also cannot rely on the same few forever so why not have a go. You would be appointed a buddy director for training.