



## **End of year report from the President**

### **Membership**

Our membership numbers are healthy with a steady inflow of new arrivals. Despite some losses we are showing an increase this year to over 170. Early in 2021 we were beginning to burst at the seams with over fifteen tables on Monday afternoons in winter, however lockdown prevented this continuing. Now in early 2022 as we approach the peak of the Omicron wave, a number of members are restricted by health reasons from coming to the club to play. We hope that conditions later in the year will allow all players to be back at the tables.

Almoner Miriam Lewin has been busy this year quietly acknowledging a number of deaths and other life crises. We were sorry to lose Agnes Richards, Graeme Pentecost, Sir Roderick Weir, Stuart Goodman and Adriane Hart in 2021 and Ken Mills early in 2022.

### **Building Renovations**

Shelley Ross has tirelessly overseen the building renovations over the last two years, beginning with the repainting of the interior and culminating in the new bathrooms. This has been a massive task. Neil Jury ensured we have state-of-the-art air conditioning in the playing room and efficient extractor fans for the new bathrooms. None of this would have been possible without the sizeable grants accessed by Anne Erwin from community funding agencies. We are grateful to have our members lending us their considerable skills and commitment.

### **Moving on**

Thanks are due to the many people who have put their time and effort into helping run the club. In particular I mention those moving on from long-held roles that have been fundamental to our operation.

Our appreciation goes to Anne Ricketts for capably running our national tournaments, to Keith Naisbitt, our efficient dealing coordinator for many years, to Doris Marino, who kindly poured our tea on Mondays for many years and to Ann Edwards for coordinating partners on Mondays.

## **Tournaments**

### National

The club ran an Open Tournament in February and a Multi Grade Tournament in August. The Intermediate/Junior Tournament did not take place due to the Covid restrictions and we held an enjoyable in-house tournament in its place. Ongoing sponsorship from Susie Mills Lawyers, Parkwood Trust and Waikanae Funeral Home was much appreciated. The Babich NZ-wide pairs was held at the club as usual.

### Local

Waikanae played twice against Paraparaumu Bridge Club, winning their Charity Tournament and retaining the shield for the regular Interclub Tournament. It has been agreed that the only fixture to be scheduled in the future between Waikanae and Paraparaumu will be the Interclub. The Quadrangular Tournament did not take place due to lockdown.

### Kapiti Horowhenua Area Pairs

Representatives from the clubs on the Kapiti Coast gained permission from NZ Bridge to hold a new tournament named the Kapiti Horowhenua Area Pairs in 2022. This B-point tournament will be played once a month from March to November in 2022 and will be hosted this year by Waikanae club. Thanks are due to Graham Cheater and Jane Windle for leading this new endeavour.

## **Committee**

The Committee has had its hands full this year dealing with the uncertainties of Covid on top of the regular business. The committee members have worked many hours to support the running of club both formally and in a myriad less noticeable ways. I thank the three departing members for their many contributions. Nicky Bradley successfully moved our accounting system into Xero and vigilantly ensured our database is an accurate reflection of those who have paid their subscriptions. Neil Jury focussed on the installation of ground layer insulation, new air conditioning units and extractor fans in the toilets. Ann Hancock put many hours into preparing the programme booklet and developing a quick reference guide that brings together the contact details of the many businesses and organisations we deal with. We appreciate their help over recent years.

## **Social Events**

Social events have been severely curtailed this year due to Covid restrictions. For a short while our Mondays were enhanced by an extensive afternoon tea arranged by Vicky Young and prepared by some very competent chefs. Unfortunately this activity had to stop and the role of tea person had to be discontinued. We held a Christmas

Party that was enjoyed by a large number of attendees but were unable to hold our Italian night or any other pre-play functions on Fridays.

Providing opportunities to chat and meet people is a fundamental and important aspect of our club. Although these occasions might change in nature and are now more difficult to programme, we will continue to schedule what we can while bearing in mind the safety of our membership.

### **Other Users**

We own our building and lease the land from the Kapiti Coast District Council. One reason we can access grants from community funders is that we make our facilities available at a nominal charge for the benefit of the Waikanae community. 2021 has shown continued regular use by the Kapiti Coast Quilters Guild, the Kapiti Embroiderers Guild and the Friendship Force. We expect a group of Girl Guides to begin meeting in the clubroom in 2022.

### **Lessons**

Beginners' lessons were held later in the year than usual due to an early lockdown. A keen group of new players were taught the basics of Acol by Judith Jackson, introduced to club play by committee members, supported by buddies and allowed "Monday Rules" to ease their entry to regular club expectations. Links and partnerships and friendships rapidly strengthened their sense of belonging. The club puts as much support as possible into supporting new players, for that is our life blood. The kindness and understanding of so many of our established club members helped provide a welcoming environment for new members so they can enjoy their play and return for more.

Three improvers' lessons were taught by Graeme Norman later in the year to enhance the skills of established players, and beginners were offered refresher lessons in the basics. These lessons attracted over fifty players and it is clear that there is an ongoing wish from the membership to soak up more skills.

### **Agnes Richards Trophy**

Following the death of Life Member Agnes Richards at age 95 her family donated a silver salver in her memory. It was decided that this new trophy would honour the player who bid and made the most grand slams. The inaugural winner was Elva Brown.

Adrienne Dale

President

February 2022