



NORTH SHORE BRIDGE CLUB (INC)

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT AGM 2021

Welcome to the 2021 Annual General Meeting of the North Shore Bridge Club.

On Friday we came out of a 107 day lockdown in Auckland and celebrated with our first face-to-face session of Bridge. We had ten full tables and forty smiling faces! How good was that!

Now it is time for me to give a report on the year that has been.

Firstly I would like to acknowledge and thank my fellow Committee members. They have been a pleasure to work with. Many talents and much hard work from a wonderful group. Thank you all. Special thanks must go to Mandy – without whom my job would have been so much harder. Thank you Mandy for always being there for me and for the immense amount of work that you do for the club.

Heather continues to do an excellent job as our Treasurer and we are very fortunate to have Christine's wealth of knowledge and experience in all things relating to Bridge.

Robert took over as Assistant Treasurer this year and does a great job doing the banking, spreadsheets etc. Ash does a fantastic job as our resident "Bob the Builder" and Liz continues to work hard on the Committee – always with a smile.

Thank you all.

We also must acknowledge and thank the many people who make the North Shore Bridge Club the success that it is. What a team. The Directors, the Dealers, Liz New our awesome Membership Secretary who never stops working, Harry our technical wizard, Stuart who looks after the downstairs rental and all of the others who give their time and energy to the running of the club – and there are many.

The club remains in excellent health financially, for which I am very grateful. A lot of entities have struggled to stay afloat in the Covid 19 era so we are indeed fortunate.

Sadly we lost two of our wonderful long standing members over the past year – John Pinder and Judy Patton. John was one of the earliest members of NSBC and served as President for many years. He was a driving force behind the building of the clubrooms and worked tirelessly for the club. Judy served as a committee member and was President from 2009 to 2011. Two amazing people who are both sorely missed at the club.

Our membership continues to grow and our numbers now stand at 324. Of course we lose some members due to ill health etc but we continue to gain new members. Credit must be given here to Douglas Russell for the professional manner in which he runs our lessons. Both the Improver Lessons and the Beginners Lessons attract a good number of people, and the retention rate of those people are a testament to the quality of the lessons. That, and also the spirit of this club and the members. I have had many

comments about what a friendly, welcoming atmosphere we have at our club.

We are fortunate to have a great bunch of sponsors – all of whom are coming back on board again for the next year. They too have had their struggles during the lockdowns – please support them whenever you can. It is their generosity that allows us to keep the subscriptions and table money at the same amount for another year.

We try to give back to the community as well. All table money from our Sunday Social on 1 August was donated to the Westport Bridge Club after the dreadful flood that damaged so much of the town. Our Erebus Memorial Charity Day was postponed to Sunday 12 December – all funds raised will go to the Women's Refuge, along with the Christmas presents for the children kindly placed under our Christmas tree by our members. There are a lot of people out there for whom everyday life is a struggle.

For me personally, the best thing has been the people that make up our club – the friendships and the laughter and of course the pleasure of the game of Bridge itself. I am very proud to be a part of it all.

Thank you very much for your support.

Ilona West, President