



From the President - *Ken Griggs*

Hello everyone,

The past couple of months has seen us riding the wave of the Coronavirus pandemic and it has to be said that Australia has come out of the first wave in pretty good shape. The virus is a real and dangerous threat to all our members, there is no existing immunity in the human community, there is no specific effective treatment for the COVID-19 infection or any vaccine, it spreads readily from person to person and infected people can spread the virus for up to 48 hours **before** showing any symptoms themselves. Those most at risk of serious illness and death include:

- all people 70 years and older
- all people over 65 with a chronic medical condition especially diabetes and hypertension
- all people with compromised immune systems

It is unlikely that Club and Congress bridge will resume in the near future.

A second wave of infection is considered by experts to be inevitable, as restrictions are slowly relaxed. This will cause spot outbreaks. The outbreaks will see restrictions again tightened - maybe in a limited area but maybe across a State/Territory or even throughout Australia.

On a personal matter, I have been heartened to hear from some members that they keep in touch with other members and their partners on a regular basis by simply by making a phone call to see how they are going. Some members are getting together socially in small groups at home, until restrictions are lifted sufficiently to enable closer contact. We treasure all our members and keeping in contact has helped many players feel connected, and not isolated.

The Federal government has set up a 3 step plan to get the country back to normal once again and these steps are a pre-condition for a COVID-Safe Australia, States and Territories are beginning to lift some restrictions and sometime in the future we will be able to return to the bridge table at the Club.

The Australian Bridge Federation (ABF) has advised Clubs that they have appointed Dr Andrew Slutzkin, a member of the Moonee Valley Bridge Club, to develop the minimum hygiene standards for all future Club sessions and tournaments. The ABF aims to issue model guidelines for Clubs to adopt and modify our specific needs to set up a COVID-19 prevention structure with protocols and rules which follow the best medical advice.

Mrs Kim Ellaway, the Manager of the Queensland Bridge Association (QBA) has advised that STEP 3 is a commitment by the Federal Government to reopening business and the community with minimal restrictions, but this step is underpinned by COVIDSafe ways of living. This includes non-work gatherings of up to 100 people, it may be STEP 5 or 6 before we will be back at the table playing bridge again.

Clubs have been strongly advised not to 'water down' the guidelines and to comply with the government rules as and when they are issued, our insurance broker has advised that in his opinion - Clubs will not be covered for Public Liability Insurance and Personal Injury if they act contrary to any advice given by the ABF, the Federal Government, State or Local Laws.

Mr Peter Commiskey, the Chief Executive Officer of Queensland Sport to which the QBA is a member, advises that Bridge's main problems are firstly the cards and then if we could sort out this problem, the second problem would be the social distancing and until this is lifted, Bridge cannot be played in a clubroom.

GOLD COAST CONGRESS



The girls in full flight or is it fresh out of the jungle !

Congratulations and well done to all our members who took part in the 2020 Gold Coast Congress. Desley Strik, Janet Franklin, Thea Hobson and Deanna Cruickshank showed that they were ready to take on all contenders at this year's theme night, titled "Feathers to Fauna".

I don't know if you have noticed that all the birds have been walking around the Peninsula lately because they have no feathers to fly with, a lot of time and effort went into gathering the feathers and producing of these garments. Unfortunately, the girls were runner-up this year after taking out the event in 2019. Click on the link below to see a slide show of the 2020 Gold Coast Congress: https://youtu.be/9cJ6Ope_m-U

Other results from Redcliffe players at the Gold Coast Congress:

Restricted Pairs, Final B - 2nd ... Gary and Debbie Gibbards

Restricted Pairs, Final C - 2nd ... Gary Wardrop and Ross Shardlow

Restricted Pairs, Final F - 1st ... Bob and Christine Thomas

0-50 Masterpoint Pairs - 2nd ... Deanna Cruickshank and Janet Franklin

Friday Novice Pairs - 3rd ... Vesna and Voyko Markovic

Friday No Frills Walk In - 13th ... Annelle Hyland and Carolyn Adcock

Monday PM Walk In Pairs - 10th ... Maree Filippini and Meryl Perry

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP TEAMS

What an occasion, this was by far our best Teams competition EVER with 18 teams contesting the Club Championship. Teams are a wonderful form of bridge and there is not too much work involved for the player, we have a wide range of movements to choose from - Swiss Teams, Round Robin Teams, New England Teams and Whist Teams and the more teams that enter the better.

Congratulations to Robert Wilkinson, Gordon Gemmell, Melissa Weber and Herold Rienstra for winning the 2020 Championship Teams event, the runner-up team was Greg Gosney, Margaret Plunkett, Gary Gibbards and Debbie Gibbards.

It was good to see so many novice players take part and it was a good opportunity for those players to see how an **all-day competition** is run, this is what you can expect when you go to other Clubs to take part in their Congresses. Many thanks to Alan Gibson for directing the competition and to Elizabeth Gibson our Tournament Organiser, having an outside director allows all our Club directors to play unencumbered in the competition.

The Club supplied a sandwich lunch and drinks after the event, many thanks to Magdeline Wong for organising this part of the day.

WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO !



If you have been up to something interesting to share, email Wayne at wayne.parker@optusnet.com.au with your story and photo attached and I will get it into the next newsletter.



Ross decided to have at a Saturday afternoon at the races - lounge room style and we can see who will be catering at our next big competition !

NEW DRAFT RULES AND BY-LAWS



Back in January the 7 members of the MC met with the 7 members of the Sub-Committee who were responsible for drafting a new set of Rules (previously called the Constitution) and BY-LAWS. After much discussion it was pleasing that all agreed to a new set of RULES & BY-LAWS.

The RULES have also been given the tick of approval by our State governing body the QBA. It is proposed to have Club members approve the documents at a special general meeting as soon as possible after the Club resumes prior to lodging the Rules to the Office of Fair Trading.

A copy of the draft Rules and By-Laws was emailed to all members and posted out to members without an email address on the 7th of March 2020, there is also a copy of these proposals on our website under *Regulations* in the '[Documents](#)' tab.

The MC acknowledge and applaud the enormous amount of work carried out by members of the SUB COMMITTEE over a period of 5 Months.

(absent from photo John Scrivens, Maree Filippini and photographer Ross Shardlow)

CLUB EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS

President's Day ... Our main charity fundraising day for 2020 has been cancelled because of the Coronavirus. The Management Committee thought about rescheduling the event, however, with the uncertainty about the recommencement of bridge and with business houses closing down and doing it tough during this time, the Committee decided to donate \$2,000 towards the Peninsula Animal Aid.

The Peninsula Animal Aid takes in dogs and cats to our shelter and foster care homes from in and around the Redcliffe peninsula. Animals come in as strays or some are surrendered by families who can no longer care for them. PAA's aim is to reunite stray animals with their families but if no home can be found, re-home unclaimed animals into permanent loving and caring families.

Peninsula Animal Aid is a not for profit charity established in 1971. PAA is operated and run by unpaid volunteers of which 120 workers attend the shelter on a weekly basis. PAA has many dedicated sponsors and donors who continue to support this great cause.

Each year PAA assists many hundreds of animals to either be returned to their owners or to find their forever homes and all of our 120 volunteers are proud to offer this service to our community.

Bridge for Brain fundraising day (first week of May) ... This day has also been cancelled in bridge Clubs all around Australia. The Committee will make a decision about a donation at our next Committee meeting.

The ABF has indicated that the Coffs Harbour congress has been cancelled on the 19th of August which also falls on the same day as our **Redcliffe Congress**. This would be a good indication that we will not be back at bridge before then!

Annual General Meeting ... The AGM usually has to be held within 6 months of the end of our Financial Year (31/03/2020), the Office of Fair Trading has extended this period due to COVID-19 by another 6 months which means that we must hold our AGM before 31/03/2021. If we still have not been released from isolation by that time we will have to apply in writing for an extension, our books have been audited with no problems and we are only waiting to recommence our Club activities.

Pianola ... The Management Committee has decided to wind back our connection with Pianola going forward, in the past the Club has paid for your subscription to Pianola and also to Pianola Plus. While we believe that there are still members using the full services of Pianola, there are also a lot of members no longer using these tools. There is also a lot of extra work required in the background to support Pianola.

From 1 September 2020, you will only be able to access: your results history and track your performance over time

1. access your average score with different partners
2. share your contact details with other partners, and
3. use the Partner Finder to find a partner for coming bridge sessions.

You will no longer have access to **Pianola Plus** where you can receive an analysis of your daily results, replay the hands or view graphs about your bidding accuracy and card play. You can however subscribe on your own accord to get this information, it will cost \$10 per month or \$7 per month if you join for a full year.

