

## FROM THE PRESIDENT – Fay

It wouldn't be a month without varying COVID changes. Fortunately, we now can play and/or enter without masks, which makes play much more comfortable. However, during the past week there have been a range of meetings held for clubs with the Queensland Bridge Association and their legal counsel regarding the implementation of the Queensland Health requirement for vaccination policy. I apologise if your "Inbox" has been filled with advice from the Club, however I deem it necessary to inform you immediately of any such changes. As you can see, changes happen very frequently, and is something that I must keep abreast of. The club will commence to collect evidence of vaccination information from members prior to entry. This will require a delegated officer by the Director to sight evidence and record it on a spreadsheet prior to entry. This is only necessary upon the first time you enter, not for all sessions, however a check must be made.

Just to clarify the current status – all who enter our clubrooms must have attained a double COVID vaccination prior to the Queensland border being opened, currently 17 December or when the State has reached 80% double vaxed. **No medical exemptions are allowed.** Contractors who enter the club have been advised accordingly and consultation has occurred with the Snooker Club, who share common areas with us. They have advised that they are implementing the same policy.

The current beginners' lessons concluded on Saturday 27 November. I wish to sincerely thank our bridge teacher Sue Kennard for not only being a great teacher, but her commitment to conduct 2 x 3-month sessions during 2021 is very much appreciated. Sue's preparation and delivery of lessons is outstanding, and I know her learners appreciate her commitment, with many of her graduates now playing in the Club. A thank you to club members Gordon, Ross, Max, Fay, Wayne, Magdeline, Jill and Roxy who have assisted in learner play sessions.

As part of the responsibility of the Committee, the By-Laws state that there is to be a review of playing sessions to meet the needs of players. I wish to thank members who completed the survey and provided valuable feedback to the club on playing needs. This was discussed at the Committee meeting held on 18 November and we thank Ross Shardlow for providing background and statistical information relating to the current Friday session and his recommendations for continuance of the existing session.

Several options were debated at Committee for 1.5 hours, and I will summarise a few considerations. The club has a table limit of 19 tables in the COVID plan, with the current Friday session hosting 14.5 tables. We have loyal long-time members as well as relatively new members, we have members of differing ability levels, and we have members who want different things from playing a game of bridge at the club.

We deemed it our responsibility as a Committee to try to find a way for all members to enjoy this game, that we all love so much and to support and encourage players at all levels of experience.

The Committee fully supported the continuance of a "stand alone" novice session, however it was decided that this be limited to <50 masterpoints to be consistent with our novice trophy masterpoints, and for mentors to provide 4 sessions with a graduate from the previous beginner lesson group. The Director and Bridgemate operator for this session is exempt from these restrictions. This would provide sufficient opportunity for beginner class graduates to participate in this session, within the table limits, as advised by our Covid plan and provide opportunities to nurture and develop future bridge players. Many people who come to our club for the first time are exploring not only how to play the game, but to experience the culture of our club.

An additional session will be held on Friday morning, to provide other options for club members. There will be a requirement for the morning session members to vacate quickly at the conclusion of the session, and for the afternoon session members to wait in the foyer for the morning session to be completed.

The club would like to conduct a separate novice side section in conjunction with the Monday pm session, however there were insufficient responses to the survey. The Education Officer is currently investigating training options that can be held prior to the Monday session to support our graduates and provide further skilling for more experienced novice players.

Mentors are required to support our new graduates. A mentor is asked to provide 4 mentoring sessions with an individual graduate. After this is completed, please advise the Treasurer and reimbursement, by the way of a \$20 gift voucher will be provided. We were advised by our auditor that we should desist from the use of "free game vouchers". If you can assist, please advise Max Kershaw. A mentor can support a graduate at any playing session at our club.

It was of concern to the Committee about "bullying" allegations being made. I wish to sincerely thank our Club Recorder, Sandra Routley who has provided advice and necessary actions for members and is included in this newsletter.

If you haven't nominated to attend our Christmas party on Wednesday 8 December at 12 noon – time is running out. Nominations and money need to be received by 30 November to meet the Moreton Bay Boat Club requirements. If you have special dietary requirements, please advise me accordingly and I will discuss options with MBBC. When determining the \$10 member fee, the Committee decided that this would be donated to charity. Thank you to Carol Bailey for sourcing information on various local charities to support families. I am pleased to advise that your \$10 will support the Salvation Army charity in supplying Christmas hampers to needy families.

There has been negative feedback by some, on the conduct of the Melbourne Cup bridge day and lack of "social" functions organised by the Committee. I wish to thank Ken, Alan, and Thea for organising the sweeps and fun activities and by all reports it was an enjoyable day. It was great to see the fashions on the field – well done to all who participated.



A big thank you to Ken Griggs and his merry band of helpers in decorating the clubrooms for Christmas. If you have any ideas for social functions, please contact Ken, our Events Co-Ordinator, to discuss.



Club delegates Fay and Carol attended, by Zoom, the recent QBA Delegates Meeting where the vaccination policy was discussed, and reports were tabled on the current status of affairs managed by QBA. A zoom conference was attended by Fay with the Brisbane Zone to outline the GNOT program for 2022, and the Interclub events. Information is detailed in the 2022 Club Program Book.

On behalf of the Committee, I wish all members and their families a very safe and happy holiday period and a very merry Christmas.

## QBA News

During the past month there have been numerous emails advising of the ever-changing Covid requirements under which we operate.

- The QBA have recently upgraded their website and the calendar for 2022 congresses can be viewed at: <https://qldbridge.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/2022-Calendar-Novmber-2021.pdf>
- The August-October Bulletin can be read on: <https://qldbridge.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/QBAOct21.pdf>

There is a nice photo and article featuring our new life members Sandra and Helen.

## ABF News

Information has been provided on national events for 2022, which have been incorporated into the 2022 Program booklet.

Players wishing to play in congress events are reminded that they must join on the MyABF website to establish a login and then use this site to nominate and pay for events.


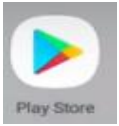
Players who have nominated for the Gold Coast Congress should ensure they allow for adequate time prior to events for entry, noting that QR check in and double vaccination status (by current Government issued vaccination certificate - electronically or in paper form) must be produced to the Tournament Organiser, or other nominated person, prior to entry to the Convention Centre.

## INSTALLING THE COVID-19 DIGITAL CERTIFICATE ONTO YOUR MOBILE PHONE

A lot of people have been having trouble in uploading the Covid-19 Digital Certificate to their mobile phone. To assist members with this process, follow the steps outlined below:

1. The first thing you should do is to **Create a MyGov account** if you do not already have one. Download the app from the app store or search for it on your internet browser on a computer. Do not forget to write down your user-name and password and keep it in a safe place. *(I recommend doing this on your computer as mobile phone screens are very small)*




2. While in your MyGov account, select "Services" and **LINK** your MyGov account to **Medicare**.
3. The QLD Govt has now uploaded a **new QR Check in QLD app** to incorporate your vaccination status. To update your Check in App to the new version you must:
  - Delete your current QR Check in QLD app on your mobile phone by pressing on the app and holding it down until Uninstall appears – press Uninstall or remove, then
  - Go to the "App Store"  Apple iPhone Store  Android Google Play
  - Search for Check in QLD app and **INSTALL** (Open when done). You will have to setup the app again by putting in your name and contact details.

4. Now search for the **Express Plus Medicare mobile app** in the "App Store" and **INSTALL** and follow the prompts to setup this application.



5. You are just about there, log into the Express Medicare app:

- Select **Proof of Vaccinations**
- Select **View History**
- Select your **name**, then **Share with Check in App**
- Consent or **Agree to share the certificate**

6. A green tick will now appear next to your name on the Check in QLD app, you can view the certificate by going into the settings  and pressing Covid-19 Digital Certificate.

## TREASURERS REPORT – Wayne

The club has recently upgraded our financial program which records all our income and expenditure, the Square Terminal is working well although it does take a little time to collect the table fees – many thanks to my assistants in performing this role.

I have decided to stand down at the next AGM as the Treasurer and on the Committee. If you are interested in being the Treasurer next year, please let me know and I will show you what is involved.

## BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE REPORT – Ron

Ron has completed the replacement of the chair caps and is currently organising a deep clean of the chairs in the near future. It is hoped to have a Working Bee in the clubrooms during January - if you would like to assist, please see the President.

## EDUCATION REPORT - Max

Max reported on the outstanding work undertaken by Sue Kennard and members who helped during the completion of the last 3 months for the beginner lessons. There is currently 12-14 learners who will finish the course on 27 November after 3 weeks of supervised play.

Liaison with Andy Hung is still occurring, however, he is uncertain on his availability at present being located in Western Australia. It is the intention to provide further lessons for advancing players during the first half of 2022. Revision lessons will continue Friday morning prior to play. More experienced members are invited to contact Max regarding their availability to present on various topics to allow a program to be developed and advertised for players. We thank Ross, Gordon, Richard, Max, and Fay who have presented prior to the Friday session for their commitment to our learners.

Peter Hancock has recorded these revision lessons and they are available for your viewing on the club website under the Lessons tab. A thank you to Wayne for the development of a Bridgemate Training Manual and for his ongoing training for new Bridgemates.

## TOURNAMENT ORGANISER REPORT – Steve

Steve, Annette, and Wayne have now finalised the Program Book for 2022. This has been an epic process to ensure ABF and QBA requirements are met, together with the programming of club events in determining the various sessions. The book will be available to members early December. A thank you to members for their survey feedback in determining sessions for 2022. The contribution of Wayne in preparing the booklet was appreciated by the Committee.

## MASTERPOINT AND MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY – Annette

A welcome to new members Jenny Dearden, Michael and Christine Stewart who have recently joined our club. We hope you enjoy your bridge experience at our club, also welcome back Bob Pratt.

The ABF masterpoint centre is now functioning, with the total system requiring to be re-built.

Because of the Bridgemate scoring issues on 19 November – there was no result for the day's play. This has also affected the awarding of eclectic masterpoints for the Friday session during the month of November. A thank you to Midge Spice for her assistance to Annette in learning the masterpoint process and assisting in the preparation of club award winners, which has been endorsed by Committee.

## OCCUPATION HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT – Carol

The new policy document is available in the clubroom folder and on the club website under the Documents tab. The revised Fire and Evacuation Procedure document is displayed in the clubroom and on the website. The first-aid kit has been reviewed. An accident report form is available and required to be completed, should a member have an accident.

## WELFARE REPORT – Elly

Elly has commenced telephoning some of our members who have not attended sessions this year and they have provided various reasons for non-attending.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO

Greg Gosney in his promotion to Grand Master.

Ross Shardlow, Gary Gibbards, Jennifer Bavage in their promotion to Silver National

Midge Spice to State; Terry Davies to Bronze Regional; Jan Kinross to Local; Linda Almond to Club and Debbie Pearce to Graduate.

The ABF are only posting promotional certificates every 3 months, and when received these will be presented to members.

The following members are in the top 3 of their ranking in the James O'Sullivan McCutcheon State Awards:

Annette Hyland, Abby Wanigaratne, Melva Leal\*, John Henderson\*, Lynda Bennion\*, Midge Spice, Jan Kinross, and Noreen Weyling. Members with an asterisk are listed in the National Top 50 Most Improved players in 2021.

Northern Suburbs Imp Pairs - 3rd B Grade - Melissa Weber and Herold Rienstra

Toowoomba Restricted Teams - 1st Vesna and Voyko Markovic

Queensland Senior Pairs - 1st B Grade - Ross Shardlow and Peter Gruythuysen

Caloundra Graded Pairs - 1st B Grade - Ross Shardlow and Fay Jeppesen

Noosa Imp Pairs - 1st B Grade - Debbie and Gary Gibbards



## CLUB RECORDER - Sandra Routley

### BULLYING

- What is bullying?
- Are you being bullied?
- How do you know for sure that you're being bullied?
- Bullying is **not** how you feel when you disagree with someone.
- Bullying is **not** being in a situation of hearing someone voice an opinion that is different from yours.

From time to time, a breach of conduct and etiquette may occur and if you feel uncomfortable, you should exercise your right to call the Director. This is not necessarily bullying but it is unacceptable behaviour that shouldn't be tolerated.

However, if you feel very uncomfortable because inappropriate and unacceptable behaviour is continuing, **this is bullying**. The bullying might be directed at you or at someone else at your table and might take the form of:

- Disrespectful language
- Excessive criticism
- Verbal abuse
- Derision
- Intimidating body language
- Profanity or
- Any behaviour that causes discomfort or embarrassment

**What should you do if you feel uncomfortable?**

If you're at the bridge table, the Director should be called immediately, and he or she will address the situation. Law 74 specifically deals with this behaviour.

**What should you do if this bullying continues?**

Any further report of similar behaviour could be reported to the Director who may choose to deal with the matter straight away or he or she may choose to make a referral to the Recorder.

Another option is to make direct contact with the Recorder. If this choice is made, the matter will be dealt with in a strictly confidential manner and every effort will be made to seek an acceptable resolution. If an acceptable outcome cannot be reached, the Recorder will prepare a report for the Management Committee who will deal with the matter according to the relevant Club Rules and By Laws, that can be viewed under Documents on the Club website.

**This process is in place to ensure we maintain a harmonious atmosphere for all.**

The Recorder is Sandra Routley, and her contact details are as follows:

Phone 32844035 Mobile 0414 373 885 Email [sroutley@optusnet.com.au](mailto:sroutley@optusnet.com.au)

Fay Jeppesen

Editor / President