

## President's Report to the AGM 2023-2024

(Thank you again for your attendance tonight, it is wonderful to see you all here.)

The Committee has overseen some great outcomes this year. These have been achieved thanks to the amazing efforts of the staff and volunteers of the Club. Without their contribution we would not be so well placed.

I have a lot of people to thank tonight, and I would like to start with our Managers Elizabeth and Amik who have been real assets for the Club, and we are very grateful for their contributions. We recently farewelled Amik and we wish him all the best in his future ventures. Fortunately, Steve Geddes has stepped into Amik's position until the end of the year.

Thanks to Jodi Tutty and her team of Directors for ensuring we all get to play our beloved game and making it enjoyable for everyone.

The House Committee - Nick, Steve and David have been working hard on a number of activities including various suggestions members raised in the survey conducted seeking views on improvements to the Clubs building. The number one request most members *begged* for was improved heating/cooling. After careful consideration of options and quotes sought by the House Committee, I can happily say this has now been completed with a new system installed in the Barry Turner room, the foyer and managers office. The blocked sewerage pipes were replaced and new side tables, zip tap, bridgemate pads etc have been purchased. The House Committee will now consider other *suggestions* which came from the members survey.

Further suggestions from members to the Committee were requests for more Intermediate sessions. We are now *trailing* graded sections in any sessions where there is more than one section - i.e. Tuesday afternoons, Wednesday and Thursday mornings. These sessions will be graded by the Director to A and B. Friday mornings will remain as a *protected B grade section*.

The beginners program continues to be very successful and is the primary pathway of bringing new members into the Club. I would like to thank our head teacher Barb Toohey, and the contributions of all the Supervised teachers. Morag Lokan contributed immensely with the Beginners/Supervised players programs. Sadly, she stepped down from the position this year and we thank her for her tireless work over the past two years. We welcome Josh Schwartz who is currently working in this position.

The Club offered a comprehensive and popular range of educational activities over the past year and our beginner's classes in February and August were an outstanding success with record numbers. Our challenge now is how we retain those beginners after the lessons are completed. We are looking to enhance the education program with some new and exciting initiatives that will hopefully commence in the new year.

I would like to thank Will Jenner O'Shea for his commitment to the ACT Youth program this past year. The success of this program was apparent when we saw two of our young women members, Zara Chowdhury and Diya Shah chosen to represent Australia in the Under 26 Women's Team in Poland in July. We also had Alexis Wilsmore, Jade Wilkinson, Maxwell Ashurst & Dev Shah represent the ACT in the Youth Team at the ANC in Orange. The number of

young people turning up on Wednesday evenings also make me very *excited* for the longevity of bridge in the ACT!

We have had a wonderful social program over the year thanks to the efforts of Barbara Bialowas and a host of volunteers; the Melbourne Cup, the Christmas Party, the Cancer Council morning tea and numerous drinks and food offerings around various activities and events. The social elements add a very special feeling and are an important part of the Club's activities.

I would like to acknowledge all our volunteers who give up their time for our working bees, washing our tea towels and tablecloths, watering our gardens and indoor plants, helping with supervised sessions, Christmas decorations etc. All of these are important jobs in the running of our Club, so thank you!

The Club's website is an essential resource for members and is an important mechanism for how the Club presents itself to the wider community. Chris Lokan and Sebastian Yuen (along with others) did a fabulous job redesigning the website this year.

Members will be aware the Committee identified some concerns about governance processes within the Club, in particular lack of adherence to proper processes with respect to financial and employment matters and a proposal to redevelop the CBC premises. Following attempts to institute more robust decision making with respect to the CBC redevelopment process, Tim Mather formally stepped down as President on 2 March 2024. The Committee recognises that Tim is an enthusiastic supporter of Club projects and activities, and we thank him for his enthusiasm and hard work as President.

Review of the CBC Constitution was required with the new model rules issued by the ACT Government for not-for-profit associations and has been a major undertaking given that our current Constitution is 20 years old. I would like to thank Jenny Bergin for leading this very demanding task, along with Deb Milner, Jennifer Yeats, Alison Russell-French, John Brockwell and Ian Robinson for their substantial input to the review process. You will be asked to adopt the new Constitution later in the meeting.

Finally, I want to thank the Committee who have contributed greatly to the successful year we have had, and who helped me immensely in providing excellent service to the running and management of the Club. Particular thanks to the outgoing Committee members - Jennifer Yeats for her sterling contribution as Treasurer. David Wawn for ensuring our sessions and events ran smoothly. Bruce Chapman for his expert advice on numerous issues and Nicole Finn for her assistance with the club's contracts etc. Thanks also to Alison Russell-French, Liam Minogue, Jenny Bergin, Barbara Bialowas, John Brockwell & Ian Robinson who are continuing for another 12 months.

In conclusion, I consider the Club to be in a great position. I look forward to the Club continuing to grow and improve the experience for all our members.

Mary Tough  
CBC President