

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2019-2021

It is with pleasure that I present the 2021 President's Report.

Acting upon advice from the Department of Fair Trading, this report will cover the period from the AGM held on the 18th July 2019, through to June 2021, as the Annual General meeting of 2020 was cancelled due to the Covid 19 Pandemic.

After an uneventful transition at the AGM of 2019, the new executive and committee looked forward to a prosperous and successful year ahead with a membership of fifty three and the prospects of eight new members. Our agreement with the Leagues Club appeared sound and there were no internal issues which gave the executive any concern at that time.

On the 18th August, 2019 the Club successfully held its first Mini Congress and congratulations must go to Keith Fiedler for his tireless efforts in obtaining permission to run the tournament. The Congress was won by the Dubbo team consisting of Carol King, Jane North, Peter Perry and Anne Hazelton.

On the 29th August, 2019 the State Wide Pairs were held with Kevin Robinson and Peter Dearden winning the under 25 points category.

On the 10th October, 2019 a special Committee Meeting was held to discuss a letter from the Leagues Club changing the agreement we had with them in the hire of the bridge room. This letter informed us that we were now responsible for moving tables and chairs and failure to do so would incur a penalty of \$200.00. Along with the Treasurer I had a meeting with the Leagues Club's Management and informed them that their proposition was unacceptable to the club and asked them to reconsider their position. They weren't prepared to alter their decision and in doing so left our club with no other choice but to find new premises. The Bridge Club ceased playing at the Leagues Club on the 31st October 2019.

On the 24th October, 2019 the club was presented with an agreement negotiated by Vice President Bev Laing and myself to use the Parkes Red Cross Room as our permanent venue. This included purchasing 10 tables and 24 chairs and donating them to the society. A motion was put to the club and this was passed without dissent. We did not commence utilizing the room until 13th January 2020.

During that interim period from the 1st Nov, 2019 through to the 13th January, 2020 the club was fortunate enough to find temporary premises at the Little theatre, thanks to the generosity of the Parkes Musical and Dramatic Society.

In November 2019 the 'Gill Ross' Club Championship was held over two Thursdays with the eventual winners being Margaret Hawken and John Quin.

On the 13th January 2020 we commenced playing at the Red Cross Room. Although smaller than what we have been used to, it was satisfactory considering we had no other option at the time. This was to prove problematic for us when the pandemic lockdown was lifted and we were allowed to start playing again.

Due to Covid 19 the club ceased playing bridge on the 18th March 2020.

At the time of the renewal of our annual fees in July, 2020 the committee decided to reduce the fees to \$30.00.

Six months passed before the Government allowed clubs to operate again, and then only under certain conditions. During that period we saw the passing of one of our oldest members Isabel Orange. In July of 2021 we saw the passing of two more of our members Helen Hall and Lizzie Matthews. They will be sadly missed.

The club recommenced playing on Thursday the 17th September 2020.

In November 2020 the 'Gill Ross' Club Championship was conducted. The eventual winners were Helen Hall and Bev Laing.

Upon returning to the Red Cross Room after a long absence and not having the chance to settle in, it became obvious to the members that the room was not satisfactory for our needs and would only be temporary. A search for another venue commenced and after several months an opportunity to play at the Lutheran Church Hall became available which allowed the club to negotiate an acceptable agreement with the Church Council.

After 15 months of disruption the club finally settled into our permanent home and commenced playing bridge on Monday 11th January, 2021.

At the committee meeting on 4th February, 2021 a motion was passed to correct the imbalance of fees paid to the ABF and align ourselves with other clubs in paying fees at the start of the calendar year. In passing this motion the club subsidised all members for six months until January 2022.

The Agnes Hewett Teams Day in March 2021 was cancelled due to Covid.

On Sunday the 18th April, the Bogan Gate Tournament was held. The day proved to be a great success with Parkes winning the tournament for the fourth year in a row.

On the 31st of May 16 members participated in the Australia Wide Novice Pairs. With Gary Somers and Greig Ball being our best placed at 51st position out of 1050 participants.

A defibrillator was purchased by the club, and our gratitude must go to Beth Thomas for applying for a grant which covered half of the \$2500.00 cost.

Sadly on the 25th June, 2021 the club went into recess for a further 3 weeks due to the covid 19 Pandemic.

Although the Covid period presented serious challenges to the club I believe we have weathered the worst, thanks to the resilience and support of you, the members. Financially, the club is in excellent shape to recapture and expand our membership which the treasurer will outline in his report.

To the committee my sincere thanks and appreciation for your support and effort in maintaining a positive attitude during the past two years, difficult as it has been, it couldn't have been done without you.

Finally to the incoming President and committee I wish you all the very best for the ensuing year

Greig Ball.
15th July, 2021.

