

TASMANIAN BRIDGE ASSOCIATION INC

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Tasmanian Bridge Association is well on the way to recovering from the impacts of the COVID-19 epidemic, with session attendance numbers starting to compare favourably with pre Covid figures. Both Club and State activities are proceeding reasonably well, although more member participation in state events is being actively encouraged. Preliminary entries in the upcoming Tasmanian Festival of Bridge in Hobart are very reassuring with strong participation from both local and national players.

Membership and Player Development

Club membership is still slightly below our 2021 numbers, but our recovery rate is much better than the ABF average throughout Australia. This is mainly due to the successful beginners training programme managed by Sue Falkingham. Intermediate and advanced training sessions have also been conducted by David Robinson, Hugh Grosvenor and Will Jenner-O'Shea.

Other initiatives which have enabled members to participate more fully in club activities include:

- Wednesday night On-Line Red point sessions

- "No Partner Required" entry to most sessions

- Eastcoaster Swiss Pairs Weekend

- Increased number of Novice and Restricted events

- Periodic Events such as Sunday Swiss pairs.

We are also encouraging members to use the MyABF entry system as we believe that developments being undertaken by the ABF will eventually replace the current cash and voucher system.

Several sessions of youth bridge were held during the year with six children completing a beginners course. These sessions are planned to be repeated during the winter school term.

Thanks to our hard working directors and the dedicated team of dealing machine operators we have been able to continue our great record of providing a high level of play in a friendly and enjoyable environment.

State Bridge

Tasmania was represented in the Open, Womens and Seniors teams events in the Australian National Championships (ANC) in Adelaide. Their performance resulted in the best Tasmanian ANC participation for many years and all team members are to be congratulated on their results.

As mentioned earlier, discussions have been held with all state affiliated clubs to seek ways to increase participation in State events, particularly in events held in different regions. Further promotion of these events is under way.

Facility Development

Discussions are continuing regarding the extension of the TBA Clubhouse but no specific decisions have been made at this time. We will continue to assess the feasibility of progressing this issue. We have recently signed a renewal of the Not- for- Profit Lease Agreement with the Hobart City Council for a further 10 years.

Committee and Volunteers

As most of you are aware the TBA oversees the operation of bridge at the State level as well as managing the running of this club. The seven affiliated Tasmanian Clubs rely on the TBA Committee to provide them with information and assistance, including financial assistance, in running state events held throughout Tasmania.

The successful undertaking of this dual role is totally reliant on a hard working committee and a large number of very enthusiastic volunteers ably supported by our Club Administrator John Grosvenor. The ability of members to be able to come to the club and participate in our various sessions does not happen by magic, it is the result of a large amount of effort and enthusiasm by these people. I thank them personally for the great support and assistance provided to me, and also take the opportunity to thank them on behalf of you, the members, for providing the great bridge experience which you all enjoy.

Sincerely

Graeme Poulton

President

Tasmanian Bridge Association

