

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2021**

It would have been nice to welcome you all in person to the 2021 AGM of our Orewa Bridge Club, but alas Covid 19 has put an end to that, so we will have to do what we can though the internet this year!

So, here is my president's report.

I hope this long lockdown hasn't been too arduous for any of you. We must consider ourselves fortunate, if we are in the older age group, as by and large things have probably not been as bad for us as they have been for younger people, especially those in business, young families and those relying on employment to pay their ongoing bills!

We have experienced two lockdowns this year and the club's income has of course been severely impacted, but with prudent management by your committee over this and indeed, previous years the club remains in a comfortable financial position. So, we must be very thankful as other sections of our community may not have been so fortunate.

### **BEREAVEMENTS**

We have unfortunately had three bereavements since the last AGM and these were all just before Christmas last year; a sad time for those families.

They were Martyn Gillam, Denise Williams, and Richard Knight.

We all have fond memories of these people and they are sadly missed.

### **TOURNAMENTS AND SPONSORSHIP**

Sponsorship has continued this year by Ryman Health Care, through Evelyn Page Retirement Village, and even though our two main tournaments were cancelled this year, they have continued with their sponsorship for which we are very appreciative.

Because of the impact of Covid 19 we were unable to run our usual charity tournament this year but due to the generosity of club members during the last week of July, when we asked for donations at all our bridge sessions for that week, we were able to raise a commendable \$1000.00 which was duly donated to St Johns Ambulance Association in Silverdale. They were most appreciative and thanked us all so much. It was a commendable effort by everyone and our thanks to all who supported this cause so generously.

Sunday tournaments have also continued this year and, although several were cancelled, we gratefully received sponsorship from Forrest Funeral Services and The Coffee Club Orewa.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

Our membership has remained pretty constant and currently stands at 248.

We have had some resignations due to personal circumstances but have also welcomed 33 new members to the club of whom 15 were from lessons which were expertly run by Jacque Biggs and Jenny Robinson, along with their team of helpers.

### **CHANGES AT THE CLUB**

This year has slipped by very quickly as they do, but in spite of Covid 19 we have achieved quite a lot this year. The rooms have been totally refurbished, with new carpets and drapes, a total paint job and chairs re-upholstered. This should put us in a good situation for many years to come. This refurbishment was achieved by the hard work of the committee, but the driving forces behind it were Judy Tremain and Cherrie England whose organisation made the whole process run smoothly. A huge thank-you to them as well as the all the many helpers we had shifting furniture numerous times, replacing notice boards etc. and not to

mention computer and technology systems that had to be organised. It was a mammoth task to have everything in place and operating correctly at the end of it all and Sandra was instrumental in that process.

We upgraded our Internet access to WIFI which required a new WIFI modem and a new office computer.

New health and safety processes were introduced by Christine Boyle, to whom we owe our thanks. This also puts the onus on members to ensure that they do not introduce any hazards into the club such as infectious diseases.

## **SOCIAL**

Social events were impacted by Covid 19 but we were fortunate to be able to celebrate the 40th anniversary of OBC. This was a Ruby theme and was a bit of a slap-up affair. We had a real party on the 20th June with caterers and entertainment and all the trimmings. All the committee were involved and did a magnificent job, but the real accolade must go to Ron who did so much work to research the history of the club, put all the arrangements in place and put together a booklet telling the history of the club. The whole event was a superb effort and the function was enjoyed by all who attended. We should all be very proud to be members of Orewa Bridge Club, as we enjoy a great social relationship as well as enjoying the game of bridge.

There are so many people to thank in the running of this club: dealers, directors and scorers who all willingly play their part: your treasurer Alison, who looks after all things financial; Mike who has been an exceptional secretary; Cherrie, our membership secretary; Sandra for all her technical knowledge, assisted by Cherrie; Judy for keeping the bar stocked for Friday drinks!! Most important!!

Also, thanks to Judith Hollyer for all the shopping and newsletters; Eileen is always there for anything that needs doing; Sandy and Bridget and of course Ron, who knows this club inside out, and can answer any question that needs an answer.

It is with great pleasure that I present this report for your acceptance and I wish you all happy bridging when we eventually get back to it.

Gil Jury

President