

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

Over the last 2–3 years we, like almost all clubs, groups, companies, and individuals, have faced the effects of inflation and the impact of Covid. Every cost of our operation has been impacted and apart from a small adjustment in July last year to the table session charges, we have absorbed these increases.

However, the club has recently experienced some major cost increases.

We have received a notice from KCDC for a Ground Rent review (the first for 6 years- so our new rent has been backdated), which has resulted in an increase from \$2055 to \$2503 or a 22% increase of \$448 per annum.

Our insurance cost for Premises and Contents increased this year from \$5924 per annum to a quote of \$9500, but after some diligent work from David Stagg, we were able to find a broker to provide full cover for \$7585, which is still a 28% increase.

Other cost increases have been more minor, but still significant. The cost of clubhouse security has increased by 48% (from \$267 to \$396). And, as all members will know, tradesmen's costs and energy costs have also increased.

Also, from November, NZBridge will be increasing their Tournament levy from \$1 per player per session to \$2.50 per player per session.

The committee has worked continuously to reduce the impact of these events and we have seen increased income from teams events, regular raffles, hiring out our premises, social bridge and fortunately this year holding regular tournaments. The support of members for these events and other fund-raising activities is greatly appreciated.

However, despite these efforts, the club cannot realistically continue to absorb such significant cost increases as those listed above.

The committee has decided that it is time to face reality and cover some of these increases. We will therefore be increasing the table session fees from the current rate of \$4.50 per session to \$5.00 per session from 1 October this year.

Visitor's fees will rise from \$5 to \$6 per session.

We hope you will understand our situation and support this decision, but any comments and or feedback will be appreciated. This increase will bring us in line with the table fees of our neighbouring clubs.

## **E-BIKES**

The Club has written to KCDC requesting the installation of lockable 'Locky Dock' bicycle stands near the clubhouse so e-bikes can be safely and securely stored, similar to the 'Locky Dock' stand situated on Rimu Road by the KCDC building.

These stands lock the bike frame and are controlled using a phone app or card.

Although it is a little walk, the Rimu Road 'Locky Dock' stands can be used now by Bridge Club members to secure their e-bikes.

In the meantime, it is recognized that e-bikes are too valuable to leave chained to a railing, and some owners have been storing the e-bikes inside the clubrooms during a session. Hopefully, this is a temporary measure, but due to the risk to members and the hazard the bikes create in case of the need for an emergency exit, would e-bike owners please observe the following rules:

1. Please enter and exit with your e-bike through the emergency exit doors on the north wall. Do not wheel bikes between tables. Ensure the doors are securely closed afterwards.
2. Please stand your bike in the northwest corner, using the bike's stand or supported against the chairs – do not lean against the wall.
3. Do not attach your bike to the wooden railings outside the office door. It is difficult for members with mobility issues to get past this obstacle as the path is uneven.
4. Do not bring e-bikes to tournaments.
5. Please exercise due care and diligence to both members and premises.

## **SOCIAL BRIDGE**

The Thursday afternoon bridge session has been very successful and will be continued and reviewed again at the end of September.

Many participants have stated that the ability to discuss the hands has proven to be invaluable to improving knowledge and confidence.

Thanks to Eliza Thomson for organizing and running these sessions.

## **LOGO COMPETITION**

The Committee is looking for a logo to represent the club and we are offering a competition for the design of a logo suitable for letterhead, posters, and T-shirts. We have an initiative to get our club more involved in regional competitions and we want the teams we send to be clearly and proudly recognizable as Paraparaumu Bridge Club representatives. We have made enquiries and hope to be able to offer logo-ed T-shirts and Polo shirts for sale at around \$25 but we need an eye-catching logo to represent us.

There are no restrictions or limits, let your creative juices flow.

We offer a prize of \$150 if your design is chosen to be the PBC logo. Email your designs to the Secretary by the end of August.

That's all for now.

Is the end of winter in sight? Hopefully, that's only a few weeks away. From my experience, it's been long and cold and I, for one, am looking forward to spring and a bit more warmth – although not as much as the Northern Hemisphere is currently experiencing.

Stay warm and keep safe.

Trevor Smith

Paraparaumu Bridge Club Committee