



This is a log of the President's updates, starting from the beginning of the Committee year in September 2014.

President's Message 79 – 2 September 2016

This is my last President's Message, and typically it is all about some unfinished business – the display of the scores on the bridgemates. The last week has seen several complaints to the Committee from people who want the bridgemate scores turned off again. Last Monday I learned that the Sippy Downs club turned off their bridgemate scores following a decisive vote in a survey and have suffered complaints ever since from players wanting the decision reversed. This really is an intractable problem, even though we all know the solution, which is for players to observe a simple protocol when viewing the results. The problem, of course is human nature. Every new technology brings unforeseen adverse consequences when it is misused – the motor car brought a new way for humans to kill and injure each other and the Internet has brought new ways for humans to annoy and exploit each other. What usually happens is that after the introduction of measures to prevent misuse with limited results, society eventually tolerates a certain degree of misuse as the price of the new technology. I suspect that that will be the eventual outcome in this issue, as an increasing majority of less experienced players is going to continue to want the scores to be shown and the club is not going to be able to effectively police the use, and misuse of the bridgemate scores. The only practical thing we can do is encourage everybody to show a little more self-discipline when viewing the results and a little more tolerance of occasional infractions of the protocol.

John Gosney
President

President's Message 78 – 25 August 2016

Last week I wrote about the clubhouse renovations and the Interclub trophy. More on both of those topics this week. Regarding the clubhouse plans I have had to apologize to the Committee because I forgot that we had decided to publish these at the AGM and put them up last week. I don't yet know whether I have been forgiven.

I had hoped that this week I would have been able to brag about the return of the Interclub trophy to its rightful home, but alas it is still in Noosa. That was not the only disappointment, the other being the low level of support for this event in the B and C grades. This appears to have been partly due to a lack of publicity for the event – hopefully all the clubs will put more effort into publicizing the event next year. What was pleasing was the support for the A grade competition with most of the best players on the Coast participating. Congratulations to the Caloundra team for winning that. This was the only

team that Caloundra entered and before play commenced I asked Randall Rusk if he was feeling lonely. He replied "It only takes one team". Nice one Randall!

John Gosney
President

President's Message 77 - 19 August 2016

Yesterday I posted a plan of the proposed clubhouse renovations on the notice board at the club and I encourage all members to look at this notice and to ask questions of Committee members. This is the plan that will be implemented, barring the discovery of some unforeseen problem. It has been developed with considerable discussion over many months and with the co-operation of the kitchen staff and the directors. The main improvements are:

- An extra cubicle in the ladies' toilet
- Replacement of the stainless steel urinal with three porcelain bowls in the men's toilet
- A complete re-design of the kitchen to make it easier to work in

It will also include more plumbing work which, together with the new water main should significantly reduce the quantity of plumbing bills that have plagued us for years. The cost will be \$77,000, which we can afford, although we are attempting to recover some of this money from grants from the Sunshine Coast Council and the Gaming Fund. The preferred time for implementation is the first three weeks of October. Obviously the clubhouse will have to be closed while this work is carried out and we shall try to make arrangements with other clubs for our members to play bridge during this period.

By the time I write the next message I hope the Interclub Trophy will have returned to us. Our club and Noosa have entered teams in all three grades – sadly Caloundra and Coolum have not been able to do this, so the contest will be between us and Noosa.

John Gosney
President

President's Message 76 - 11 August 2016

I returned from my Mediterranean holiday yesterday, just in time for today's Committee meeting – my last as President. Significant issues discussed were:

1. Building renovations. The Committee approved the final version of the plans. We have applied for a grant from the Sunshine Coast Council and are in the process of applying for another one from the Gaming Fund. Treasurer (and soon-to-be Vice President) Brian assured us that we can afford the project without a subsidy from these funds. The final plan will be presented to members at the AGM next month.

2. The Tuesday afternoon sessions. The Committee deferred a decision on whether or not to continue these sessions for another meeting. They are very popular with the small group of regulars, and people in other clubs have frequently praised us for this initiative, but still we can't get the numbers up to assure its future, largely because we haven't got the support we were hoping for from the other clubs.
3. The Bridgemate results survey resulted in a 2-1 majority in favour of reinstating the service, so that will happen as soon as possible (could be tomorrow if Brian Cordiner can figure out how to do it in Peter Busch's absence). The reinstatement decision will be for a limited period and may be reversed if player behaviour has not improved since the service was last available. This issue is a really difficult one for your Committee. The results service is undoubtedly a useful tool, especially for less experienced players and also assists in finding the occasional incorrect result, but members' inability to follow a simple protocol for its use causes considerable annoyance to a significant number of members.
4. The AGM. This is all under control. We have sufficient nominations already for the next Committee, but other members are welcome to add their names to the list, which closes on 15 August.
5. The Interclub Trophy on 20 August. It would be really good to recover this trophy from Noosa and have it on display here where it belongs. I hope that our members in all grades will consider entering a team to make this happen. This is one event in which our less-experienced players can make a real difference to the outcome as the B and C grade results carry as much weight as the A grade result. So please get those entries in.

John Gosney
President

President's Message 75 - 7 July 2016

This will be my last Message for a while as I leave on an overseas trip on Saturday - back 10 August. The Committee will have plenty to do in the meantime and I am sure they will manage very well without me. One issue, which I mentioned last week is the bridgemates controversy. Another is the building renovation project. Our consultant Peter Lewis is hurrying to get a complete, costed design together. If he can do this in time we shall probably apply for a Council grant to help pay for the project. If this happens it will be a bit of a rush job and we shall have to weigh up the need for urgency against the need to fully inform members about the plans. One issue which is now fully complete is the constitutional amendment to remove proxy voting. The Office of Fair Trading have registered this amendment, so that is the end of that project.

John Gosney
President

President's Message 74 - 30 June 2016

This week has seen the emergence of a strong reaction against the Committee's decision to remove the results display from the bridgemates. It is clear that our club is divided on this issue, with one group, mostly more experienced players opposed to the display of results and another group which regards the display of results as a valuable tool to help them improve their play. Such divisions have the potential to cause considerable damage to the club if they are not conducted with courtesy and respect for the opposing views.

The Committee considered the removal of the results display for a long time before taking our decision. We also tried to encourage members to use the results facility responsibly before finally deciding to remove it. Maybe we didn't try hard enough. The problems with displaying the results have been well summarized by Paul Mannion:

1. Progressive board results read in the first half of a session have questionable meaning because of the paucity of data available up to that time, particularly when there are commonly two or more movements.
2. Progressive board results provide no more information than is available online after the session.
3. The availability of board results at the table promotes discussions of information often audible at tables yet to play the hand.
4. The availability of board results at the table provides fodder for know-all "experts" to castigate their partners.
5. The availability of board results at the table does use valuable time, often irritating the silent pair and resulting in the last board being played with undue haste.

The solution, which would allow the results to be displayed without resulting in any of the problems described by Paul is for all players to observe a simple etiquette whereby the player operating the bridgemate offers the results display to all four players (bearing in mind that some will not want to see them) and the players make no comment.

The Committee will discuss this issue at its next meeting, at which I will not be present and will, I am sure attempt to arrive at a solution which is fair to all club members.

John Gosney
President

President's Message 73 - 23 June 2016

No message last week because I was busy entertaining visitors from Adelaide. But plenty of action as usual. I have received two positive responses to my request for members to learn about our computer systems. I am hoping that Peter Busch will have a chance to speak with both of them before he disappears for a few weeks.

There has also been plenty of action on the building front, with Peter Lewis finding potential contractors and obtaining costings. He has still found time to listen to suggestions for improvements but is now reaching the stage of the project where he doesn't need any more.

We had another successful congress at the week-end in spite of the awful weather. Couldn't have been much fun driving back to Brisbane on Sunday afternoon. Congratulations to the Perry team for their third place in the A Grade Teams and the Butler team for winning the B Grade Teams. Nice to see some home wins – I would really like to recover the Interclub Trophy from Noosa in August.

John Gosney
President

President's Message 72 – 10 June 2016

Another Committee meeting yesterday. This one didn't have as many major decisions as recent ones, but some interesting developments nonetheless.

Following the decision not to proceed with the defibrillator we still intend to improve our ability to respond to medical emergencies, and on her return from holiday, Jo Drake will be leading a program of CPR training at our club.

We are fortunate to have at our club a leading congress director and also the developer of the computer software used by many bridge clubs in our part of the world. I am referring, of course to Peter Busch. We have been discussing with Peter our reliance on him for so much of what happens at our club, and he is happy to share his expertise to reduce the dangerous level of dependence on him that currently exists. So we will be looking for club members who would like to learn about the various systems that support our bridge playing. I would be interested to hear from anyone who thinks they would like to be part of this initiative.

Nobody likes 4-board sit-outs. We are looking at ways of avoiding these if possible. There will be more on this issue after next month's Committee meeting. Also after the next Committee meeting we hope to have the costings for our proposed club house renovations and will then be in a position to put the plans before the members.

Finally the first of the new split Thursday sessions took place yesterday and seemed to be a success. There were as many players in the "A" section as usual on a Thursday plus five tables in the "B" section. An encouraging start.

John Gosney
President

President's Message 71 – 3 June 2016

In last week's message I commented on the strong entry for the Graded Teams event. I went to the club on Sunday to award the prizes and was very pleased at the positive vibes in the room. This was another very successful congress and all those involved, Congress Convenor Ursula, Director Peter, caterer Donna and all their helpers are to be congratulated. A particularly pleasing aspect of this competition was the presence of a number of players from our Wednesday supervised play session. Good on them for having a go.

We are about to see the start of our new format Thursday afternoon sessions, with the room split into two groups. It is true that this initiative was forced on us by the likely overcrowding on Wednesdays (in itself a nice problem to have) but it has the potential to open up new possibilities for our less experienced players and I encourage everybody to view this move as an opportunity.

John Gosney
President

President's Message 70 – 26 May 2016

I went to the club today with no idea of what I was going to put in this week's message and while I was there I learned three very good pieces of news.

The first is that we have a very strong entry for this week-end's Graded teams' event. This was a new competition which started slowly last year but has attracted a bigger field this year, which is a very pleasing development for your Committee.

We also have a strong entry for the June Tuesday afternoon competition, which is also very pleasing given the need to cancel the May event. This competition is something very different from the usual club sessions and is really enjoyed by the small group of regular players. It would be such a pity to see it die out for lack of interest. Please give it a try.

Finally some good news regarding next year's Committee. Our Treasurer Brian Cordiner has indicated that he is prepared to take on the Vice President's role if we can find a replacement Treasurer. Today I learned that Bev Northey is prepared to nominate for the Treasurer's job next year, so it looks as though we are going to have those two positions filled.

John Gosney
President

President's Message 69 – 20 May 2016

No new announcements this week but plenty of ongoing activity. Yesterday Andy Hung held a workshop at our club. It was well attended and initial reports suggest it was well received. We hope to have Andy back again later in the year.

The club Pairs Championship wraps up on Monday. Two of our home teams have a good chance of winning and we wish them well.

Our building consultant Peter Lewis is pressing on with the costing of our proposed renovation of the clubhouse.

We are getting some “nibbles” regarding a new Treasurer for next year – nothing firm yet, so if you think you might be able to take on this role, please tell me.

Our new initiative for a split session on Thursday afternoons will start soon. The catalyst for this move is the number of new Wednesday players, which means that, once the current course of lessons finishes we will have too many players at the supervised play session on Wednesday afternoons. Our solution to this problem, which is a good one to have, is to offer a session for less experienced players alongside the regular Thursday afternoon session. Players can choose which group they want to play in, but pairs using complicated or unusual systems will be required to play in the more experienced group.

John Gosney
President

President's Message 68 – 12 May 2016

Sorry no message last week, a quiet week, but plenty to talk about this week. At this morning's Committee meeting we made the following decisions:

1. No defibrillator. During the week Jo Drake and I held two meetings with members who had told us in the recent survey that they were prepared to learn to resuscitate heart attack victims using CPR and defibrillation. None of these volunteers have changed their minds. But the Committee is still divided on the issue of whether or not to buy a defibrillator so the issue is now closed unless and until a future Committee re-opens it.
2. No more proxies. At the Special General Meeting on Monday 9 May, a vote to amend the original motion, proposed by Mike Phillips was tied. Under our constitution, that means that it did not pass. Then we voted on the original motion, to ban proxies altogether and this vote was passed by 32 votes to six, comfortably over the 75% required for a constitutional amendment.
3. 2016 President. John Stacey has agreed to take on the Presidency next year provided that we can find a Vice President. Our Treasurer Brian Cordiner is

prepared to become Vice President, but then we will need a new Treasurer. Would any member interested in either the Vice Presidency or the Treasury please contact me.

4. RAMP. The Committee has agreed to hold a small celebration for the success of this scheme at its conclusion.
5. GST. This year our club's turnover will exceed \$150,000 meaning that we shall have to register for GST. This will involve us in some expense and the Treasurer in more work. It is unavoidable.
6. Building renovation. Our building consultant Peter Lewis (husband of Jackie) has visited Noosa to learn from their renovation project. As a result of this visit and feedback from Committee members, Peter has slightly modified his original plans, which are now ready to be costed. We shall soon have something to put before the membership.

John Gosney
President

President's Message 67 – 29 April 2016

This week I want to concentrate on the upcoming Special General Meeting to consider a constitutional change to the way we vote at General Meetings. Your Committee has proposed that we remove the right to use proxy votes. There are two reasons for this:

1. Proxy voting encourages the creation of voting "blocs"
2. Proxy voting complicates the running of General Meetings

One of our members, Mike Phillips has proposed an amendment to the Committee motion, which retains proxy voting but limits proxies to two per member. This amendment goes half way towards meeting the Committee's objectives by making it much more difficult to create a bloc of votes but preserves members' existing right to be represented at a meeting they cannot attend, together with the inconvenience of having to manage the proxies.

I hope very much that members will come to the Special General Meeting and exercise your right to an influence in this important decision (or exercise what may be your last chance to use a proxy). The Committee hopes that you will support our desire for a constitutional change by passing either the original or the amended motion, but we also encourage you to come and vote against them if you feel strongly about this issue.

John Gosney
President

President's Message 66 – 21 April 2016

Another week – another committee meeting. This one was the “normal” committee meeting, last week’s meeting having been devoted to the proposed building renovations. Among today’s decisions were:

- To continue to fund Pianola and Pianola Plus.
- To defer the decision on the defibrillator purchase until we have held a meeting of all those people who said that they were prepared to train to operate the machine in an emergency. This meeting will also have to find a project manager to run the project as after a great deal of research into the issues, committee member Jo Drake, who has had carriage of the project has decided that she will not support this move.
- To allow consideration of an amendment to the proposal to remove proxy voting from our constitution. This amendment will allow a maximum of two proxies per person. All members should make themselves familiar with both the motion and the amendment in order to make an informed contribution to the Special General Meeting on 9 May. The process will be to vote on the amendment first. If that vote is successful, that will become the motion and be voted on. Otherwise we will vote on the original motion.
- To continue to use Compscore 2 as our primary database of member information, rather than switch to Pianola. This will require some system changes to ensure that both databases are synchronized. This debate was triggered by the need to ensure that we can reach all of our members electronically to distribute “Bridge Matters”.
- To run a trial two-section session on Thursday afternoons. The open session will continue as at present but there will be a separate movement, intended for less experienced players, at which unusual systems, such as Precision and Power will not be allowed. This move is intended to encourage more people to play on Thursday, rather than Tuesday, Wednesday or Friday.

In addition to these decisions, the Committee discussed other issues of interest:

- Our turnover will exceed \$150,000 this year which means that we are obliged to register for GST, giving our hard-working Treasurer Brian even more to do.
- Our bid to host the 2017 QBA Novice Pairs congress has been successful. This prestigious event will replace our “own” Novice Pairs in 2017 – hopefully this will result in more players’ attending this event.

John Gosney
President

President’s Message 65 – 15 April 2016

This week the Committee held a special meeting to consider the proposal to renovate the clubhouse, working from detailed plans prepared by Jackie Lewis’ husband Peter. The

original plans called for the removal of 1 metre from the front of the playing area to accommodate extensions to the ladies' toilets and kitchen. The committee did not believe that this was a workable plan. Armed with the comments generated by a lively email debate during the previous week, Peter had prepared an alternative proposal which saw about half a metre taken from the area outside the office and none from the area outside the kitchen, while still allowing an extra cubicle in the ladies' toilets plus a re-design of the kitchen to enable better use of the existing space. The committee felt that this was a workable solution. There was a lengthy discussion about design details and Peter Lewis will now develop a final design which can be shown to members for their approval. This design can also be fully costed and if necessary trimmed to fit within our budget. Of course, once we have a detailed and fully costed plan we can consider applying for available grants to fund the project, which would free our own funds for the next project. At the conclusion of the meeting the Committee was very comfortable with the project and believes that it is the best possible use of the club's funds at this time and that the benefits that it offers could not be achieved in a better way.

Following the discussion of the building project, there was time to consider a few other matters.

The QBA has offered the 2017 QBA Novice Pairs event to clubs outside Brisbane and we have agreed that this club will express an interest in hosting this event. If we are successful, the QBA event would replace our own Novice Pairs event.

Cherie Butler will step down from the job of managing the kitchen staff roster at the end of May and Ross Maher will take on this job.

Our biscuit buyer Sonia Holmes will be medically unfit to perform her role for a while and Fay Stanton will buy the biscuits during this period – she will be deaf to all requests for an increase in the number of Tim-Tams!

Next week we shall hold our normal monthly committee meeting to consider other weighty issues such as the defibrillator and the continuation of the Pianola software subscription.

John Gosney
President

President's Message 64 – 8 April 2016

Secretary Wendy has put up the notice of the Special General Meeting to vote on amending the constitution to remove proxy voting and this has provoked some responses from members. There is no doubt that proxy voting is a good idea for those members who want to participate in club decisions but really can't attend an AGM, and that removing the right to exercise a proxy does take something away from those members.

Unfortunately that right also creates the unintended consequence of encouraging some members to gather proxy votes from other less interested members who would otherwise not have bothered to participate, resulting in the creation of voting blocs which do not necessarily reflect the views of the majority of members. Having to manage proxy votes also complicates the running of General Meetings. Your committee believes that the removal of these unintended consequences of the proxy voting system is worth the loss of a right for a few members. We understand that not all members will agree with this view. The Special General Meeting will establish whether or not enough of our members do agree.

John Gosney
President

President's Message 63 – 2 April 2016

This week's message is all about "Bridge Matters". New Editor Peter Bishop has produced a great first edition and I encourage all members to read it. Sadly its re-introduction has not been trouble-free. To reduce printing costs in the digital age, the clubs agreed not to print it but to distribute it online. For our club this is not as difficult as it would otherwise have been because at the moment we have the Pianola software which includes a message distribution function. I was able to use this function to distribute Bridge Matters to all members on the Pianola database. Unfortunately we have yet to set up a system to include all new members on that database, so some of our members haven't received this edition of Bridge Matters. If you are one of those members please go to the web site and read it or download it from there. If you haven't got a computer at home ask Wendy O'Brien or I to print you a copy. Whether we continue to use Pianola or not we will have a system in place to distribute the next edition of Bridge Matters to all our members.

John Gosney
President

President's Message 62 – 25 March 2016

Yesterday I had my first look at the two important surveys we are running at the moment. Both are encouraging, but not conclusive. At first glance it looks as though around 66% of respondents to the Pianola survey use the software to some extent, so that is encouraging. On the other hand, is 64 respondents a large enough proportion of total club members from which to draw a conclusion? Regarding the defibrillator we appear to have enough willing respondents to cover all sessions apart from Saturdays and Mondays – is that enough? Two big questions for your committee to ponder. Thanks to all those members who have already responded. If you haven't done so yet, please add your opinion to the debate.

I see that we have enough Tuesday afternoon players to run a competition in April. We seem to have a core group of players now, and hopefully that will grow. Maybe some of the regular Tuesday morning players should consider moving to the afternoon session to even out the numbers a bit?

John Gosney
President

President's Message 61 – 18 March 2016

The message is a bit later this week because I have been away for a couple of days. I came back to find some encouraging responses to the survey on the members' preparedness to learn to use CPR and a defibrillator and a less encouraging response to the survey on Pianola use. These are important decisions for the club and the Committee really wants to know how the members feel about these issues. So if you haven't responded to these two surveys yet, please do so soon.

While playing today I was pleased to see some RAMP mentors and their partners at the Friday session. Fourteen other senior players gave up their time last Friday to captain Teams-of-three teams and the Committee is grateful to all these players for their efforts to assist our less experienced members.

John Gosney
President

President's Message 60 – 10 March 2016

Today we held another busy Committee meeting. Among the decisions reached were:

- To proceed with a member survey regarding use of a defibrillator – more information on this shortly
- To hold the EGM to vote on the removal of proxy voting from the club constitution on a Monday immediately preceding a round of the Pairs Championship in May – actual date to be announced shortly
- The price for the workshops by Joan Butts and Andy Hung to be \$10 for members, \$15 for visitors
- The new banking arrangements to continue unchanged
- To have two new sets of table cloths made
- To exempt Teams of Three captains from table fees
- To survey members on their use of Pianola Plus
- To ensure that in future, the President is made aware of all deaths of members or members' close relatives
- To agree to the proposal to distribute "Bridge Matters" online

The Committee also discussed the matter of next year's President and wishes to remind all members that Presidents do not necessarily have to come from the ranks of the current Committee members.

John Gosney
President

President's Message 59 – 3 March 2016

On Wednesday I welcomed nearly 70 aspiring players to this year's education program. This is one of the biggest intakes we have ever had, and hopefully we will see a good proportion of these people staying the course and applying for membership to our club.

Peter Bishop is moving ahead with plans to revive "Bridge Matters". One of his proposals is to reduce costs by relying on email to distribute it rather than paying to have 400 copies printed. The Committee will consider this proposal at next week's meeting and welcomes input from members on this question.

John Gosney
President

President's Message 58 – 25 February 2016

A relatively quiet time for the Committee at the moment. April will be a busy month because we shall be looking at a proposed plan for the clubhouse renovations and also preparing for an Extraordinary General Meeting to vote on the vexed question of proxies. The Committee is proposing the move to remove proxy voting from our meetings, but we understand that there will be an opposing view and I welcome input from those who want to retain proxy votes. Members will also be very interested in the proposed building renovations. The basic plan is to take a metre from the front of the main room and use the space to improve the toilet and kitchen areas, including the provision of an extra ladies' toilet. Our principal concern with the proposal is the impact of the reduced space when the clubhouse is busy, particularly during congresses, when the "director's corner" is a very important place. As soon as we have something concrete to put before the members we shall involve the membership in our deliberations.

I have been watching our members' progress at the Gold Coast congress. Normally I would be watching my son's progress but the poor fellow had to go home on Sunday to get back to work – a novel constraint for him after 11 years of playing bridge.

John Gosney
President

President's Message 57 – 17 February 2016

I have returned safely from New Zealand, having survived an earthquake in Christchurch. While I was away the Vice President chaired a Committee meeting and got through the usual mountain of work. Among the decisions reached were:

- Changes to the Chart of Accounts to provide more meaningful financial information
- A presentation to be given by Peter Busch on defence against Precision and Two-over-one systems
- 200 copies of a new booklet for new members to be printed
- Inclusion of handicap results in the printed results
- A workshop with Joan Butts to be arranged – tentative date Friday 15 April
- A workshop with Andy Hung on the topic of “Opening leads” to be arranged in May
- A donation of \$100 to be made to the Fred Hollows Foundation in memory of Dot Borchardt
- Tea ladies will be employed on public holidays falling on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays
- Noosa members will be invited to play at our club for \$5 while their clubhouse is closed for renovations

Apparently the Committee decided not to follow my suggestion to use the occasion of my absence to discuss the next president!

There is an even bigger mountain to move next month as we will be considering firm proposals to renovate the clubhouse.

I came back to the sad news that Cheryl Byrne had died. For me bridge is a social occasion at which I can enjoy the company of a wide range of very different characters. Cheryl was a real character and I for one will miss her.

John Gosney
President

President's Message 56 - 27 January 2015

No update last week as I was away for most of the week. Now I am preparing to spend a couple of weeks in New Zealand so this will be the last update until after the next Committee meeting. There has been plenty of activity though and among the issues the Committee will be considering while I am away are:

- Planned training workshops during 2016
- A plan to hold an Extraordinary General Meeting in May 2016 to eliminate the use of proxies at club meetings
- The future of Pianola at our club
- A review of the Chart of Accounts
- The proposed Defibrillator survey
- The next club President

One issue that has been decided already is to trial the removal of the payment slips and envelopes for table fees. Evidence so far indicates a significant reduction in the banker's workload with no noticeable increase in discrepancies.

John Gosney
President

President's Message 55 - 14 January 2015

Another busy Committee meeting today. Among the decisions made were:

- Wendy O'Brien has been officially appointed Secretary - many thanks to retiring Secretary Pauline Clayton
- The Committee will make another attempt during 2016 to amend our constitution to remove the use of proxies
- The proposed rule book for members will now have two sections, one for new players and the other for all members
- Peter Busch will give a talk on defence against Precision and Two-over-one on a Tuesday morning in February (actual date to be advised)
- In June we shall have to make a decision on whether or not to continue to pay for Pianola and/or Pianola Plus. To assist us in making this decision we shall investigate the level of usage of these products
- Donna Berridge is confirmed as the new Congress Caterer
- Vice President John Stacey and Treasurer Brian Cordiner have been discussing improvements to the financial reporting to the Committee - the first step will be a review of the Chart of Accounts
- Educational workshops by Andy Slater, Joan Butts and Andy Hung are planned for the first half of 2016

- We will implement the RAMP mentoring scheme subject to there being sufficient mentors prepared to participate in the scheme
- After the Senior Teams congress in February, we will increase the fee for congress entries to \$35 per day. It is a long time since this fee has been increased, and catering and other costs continue to rise, making it increasingly difficult to avoid losing money on our congresses. However, our main aim is to encourage attendance at our congresses and if the fee increase has an adverse impact on attendances we will review this decision.
- Peter Lewis, (Jackie's husband) is preparing to start work on a design for the proposed improvements to the clubhouse
- Wendy O'Brien will liaise with Peter Busch to improve the existing membership application process
- The club will donate \$100 to the Fred Hollows foundation in memory of Dot Borchardt
- The practice of posting the minutes of Committee minutes on the notice board will cease. Whenever an organization decides to publish their minutes, there inevitably comes a time when a sensitive issue arises which causes that organization to reconsider the decision. That time has arrived at our club as we are currently dealing with a sensitive staff issue, which needs to be handled discreetly, not played out on the noticeboard. Any member who particularly wants to see the minutes can do so by making a request to the Secretary. We shall continue to keep members informed of our activities through these weekly updates
- Following a submission by banker Frank Coard, a subcommittee comprising Brian Cordiner, Jo Drake and Frank Coard will examine possible improvements in the way we collect our table fees

In addition to these matters we discussed our financial situation. We are still profitable but our expenses are increasing faster than our revenue, partly owing to our decisions to subsidize member services such as education and Pianola and partly owing to increasing external costs such as water, electricity and catering. We are comfortable with our financial management at this stage, but we are mindful that reducing profits will eventually cause a future committee to have to weigh the provision of member services against fee increases.

Not a bad day's work, eh?

John Gosney
President

President's Message 54 – 8 January 2015

Great news this week. We have a new Congress Caterer. Donna Berridge, who used to do the job a few years ago has agreed to take it on again. Congratulations to Fay Stanton for solving this intractable problem.

John Gosney
President

President's Message 53 - 31 December 2015

I have returned from Singapore from where I have been reading with interest the email traffic between Committee members. A major topic was of course the congress catering issue. We have no permanent solution to the problem yet, but I am confident that, with a lot of hard work from members of the Committee and others, the QBA Senior Teams event on 6 February will be adequately catered. Another topic was education. Andy Hung proposed a workshop prior to the Gold Coast Conference, but we felt that it would be too much of a rush to fit that in, especially as we have some more workshops from Andy Slater planned soon. We have asked Andy Hung to suggest a list of workshop topics for later in the year.

While I was away, I had a game of bridge with my son Paul. We played at the Tanglin Club, the nearest bridge venue to where we were staying. Tanglin is a wealthy district of Singapore at the western end of the Orchard Road shopping area. The Tanglin Club costs \$50,000 to join and has a long waiting list. One of the Committee members told me that their strategy was to maximize the joining fee to improve the profits of members when they sold their memberships. They made us very welcome. Nobody knew Paul, which was just as well because we (I) made a few too many errors and we finished fourth.

Happy New Year

John Gosney
President

President's Message 52 - 11 December 2015

This is my last message for a couple of weeks, as I am off to Singapore on Monday to spend Christmas with my family there. Today we had our usual busy Committee meeting. The main items of news are:

- We now have a group of experienced players who are prepared to mentor less experienced players – see the list on the notice board
- We are about to publish a new booklet containing information for newer players (although anyone can have one)
- Peter Busch will deliver a talk on the basics of Precision and Two-over-one to help Standard American players defend against these systems
- In 2016 we will survey members about their willingness to learn to resuscitate heart attack patients, including the use of a defibrillator, should we choose to buy one

- We have had no volunteers to be our next Congress Caterer, so several members of the Committee will be working hard in the next couple of weeks to find a solution to the problem in time for the next congress, in February 2016
- We have a new acting Secretary – Wendy O’Brien
- We have no volunteers to take over the editing of the “Bridge Matters” newsletter, so it looks as though that will cease
- We have agreed to bring back Andy Slater for more lessons early in 2016; we shall also ask members’ views on suitable topics for another talk by Joan Butts

For the next two weeks the acting President will be John Stacey – please be nice to John

Merry Christmas

John Gosney
President

President’s Message 51 – 3 December 2015

No message last week as I had just returned from Victoria – single digit temperatures in November! I came back to more bad news – our Secretary, Pauline has decided to retire after more than two years in the job. Pauline has made it clear that she will continue until we can find a suitable replacement, and will therefore be available to assist the new Secretary to settle in to the role. All the present Committee members are active in their current roles, so I would like to see our next Secretary come from outside the Committee. I will be away from 14 – 27 December so if you are at all interested in helping your club by taking on this essential job, please talk to me soon.

Congratulations to Richard Perry and Bev Stacey, this year’s winners of the President’s Trophy. You will see your names on the trophy quicker than some other winners, as we are once again experiencing difficulties with the company that updates our Honour Boards. This is now supposed to happen on Monday afternoon. If not we shall have to seriously consider starting all over again with a new supplier.

I look forward to seeing lots of you at the Christmas party on Saturday.

John Gosney
President

President’s Message 50 – 20 November 2015

Just one topic today, and a very unhappy one. Our Congress Caterer, Heather Walford has tendered her resignation with effect from the end of this year’s Christmas party. We have been fortunate to enjoy the services of many excellent providers in recent times, and Heather is undoubtedly one of the best. But it is a hugely demanding role and we cannot

really be surprised at the news that Heather has had enough. Your Committee now has to face the regrettably familiar task of finding a replacement. We shall of course be looking at ways to make the job less onerous and welcome ideas from club members on how to do this.

John Gosney
President

President's Message 49 – 13 November 2015

Yesterday saw another, typically busy Committee meeting. Noteworthy issues included:

- Some useful suggestions from Beth Spork, prompting the following actions:
 - A call for expressions of interest in a workshop on the Two-over-one bidding system
 - Establishment of a panel of experienced members prepared to answer members' questions on bidding issues
- Confirmation that preparations for the Christmas party on 5 December are on track
- Confirmation that all the tasks arising from the annual Council inspection have been completed
- The introduction of a handicap event in 2016
- A decision to proceed with caution in our proposed purchase of a defibrillator – we intend to be confident that we have sufficient members able and willing to attempt to resuscitate people using CPR and defibrillation before we purchase one of these machines – we will survey members on this issue early in 2016
- Confirmation of a policy on the sale of products for profit at our club – we will only permit this if members do not display their products in the clubhouse and make their own arrangements to collect payment

Another issue discussed was courtesy towards visiting players. All Committee members and Directors are aware of the need to make visiting players welcome and we ask all members to make a special effort to welcome visitors to our club

John Gosney
President

President's Message 48 – 5 November 2015

A by-product of the CPR session last Thursday was the need to be specific regarding our location when calling emergency services to the club. When we put up the evacuation notices a couple of years ago, I checked with the Fire and Ambulance dispatchers to see where they thought we are. Since then new road signs have appeared in our vicinity so I checked again and they say that we are still at "the end of Elizabeth Daniels Way".

Last week I received a report of unacceptable behaviour by a member of this club who was being unnecessarily critical of their partner. The report came not from the partner but from other players who were embarrassed by this behaviour. The Committee has taken action to reassure the partner and to persuade the offender to be more circumspect in future. We do not need this sort of thing at our club.

John Gosney
President

President's Message 47 - 30 October 2015

Between 15 and 20 members attended the CPR training session on the morning of Thursday 29 October. As well as refreshing our understanding of this vital aspect of first aid, the session improved our understanding of defibrillation. Some of your committee are keen to press on with the acquisition of a defibrillation machine as soon as possible. The majority view is that we should move more slowly so that we are confident that by the time we receive the machine we can use it effectively and safely.

Another issue we have been considering this week is the sale of products at the club. Our current thinking is that we should permit sale of items which benefit our members, provided that the activity does not interfere with members' enjoyment of their bridge. We would be pleased to hear members' views on this issue.

Congratulations to Barbara Parkinson and Margaret Clark and Drew Campi and Joan Coughlan for their win in the Spring Pro-am competition, and thanks to our "pro's" for making this popular competition possible.

The November Tuesday afternoon competition has attracted the best-ever field which is very encouraging to your Committee who would really like to see this initiative succeed.

John Gosney
President

President's Message 46 - 23 October 2015

Jo Drake is pressing on with the selection of a defibrillator for the club. This machine will be the subject of a Council grant application. Defibrillators are marketed as being foolproof, but Jo's research is uncovering the need for operators to be trained to use them effectively and safely, so we are embarking on a training program, starting with a CPR course next Thursday at 9.30. There are plenty of places available on this course.

Congratulations to Trish Merefield and Joan Coughlan for their win in the Restricted Pairs Championship. This was the last event for the year which features on our honour boards,

so now we can update them. We are going to use Signarama who struggled with the job last year, but eventually came good and deserve another chance.

The Tuesday afternoon competition will run in November – we have the minimum number of entries required and there is still time for more to come in.

John Gosney
President

President's Message 45 – 15 October 2015

We now know that the new copper pipes in the men's toilets are necessary, but we don't have to like them. Many thanks to Tony and Heather Walford for making a special trip to the club to paint the pipes in the men's toilet and around the outside of the building.

A few weeks ago, Marion Bucens suggested that the club should buy a defibrillator. After some excellent research by Jo Drake, the Committee has made an in-principle decision to acquire one and to train members in its use. The Sunshine Coast Council has just announced its next round of Community Grants, so, hot on the heels of her success with the new dealing machine, Secretary Pauline is preparing to mount an irresistible case for the Council to buy our defibrillator for us.

In a bid to breathe new life into our struggling Tuesday afternoon competition, we have decided to make the November competition an inter-club event, enabling us to offer red points as an inducement to players to enter this competition. Please support it if you can.

John Gosney
President

President's Message 44 – 9 October 2015

The Committee meeting today was very busy. Among the decisions reached were:

- To continue to research the possible purchase of a defibrillator
- To conduct a CPR course for club members, starting with the Directors and Committee members
- To refurbish the notice boards
- To persevere with the Tuesday afternoon competition
- To accept Tony Walford's offer to paint the new copper pipes in the men's toilet
- To provide a Pianola training session on Thursday 22 October at 12 noon

And now, just in case members have noticed that Games Director Peter Busch hasn't been around recently, here he is scoring seven events simultaneously at the recent New Zealand National Congress:

Peter Busch – scores 7 simultaneous events!



John Gosney
President

President's Message 43 – 1 October 2015

The banking system is gradually getting into shape. Treasurer Brian now has the access he needs to operate the accounts. Once Vice President John gets back from overseas and gains access to our accounts we shall be fully functional.

No real news on the plumbing. Council have responded to my inquiries with a vague statement about needing to lay new pipes to "get everything working again". This doesn't make a lot of sense as everything was working before the new water main was installed. Something for the Committee to consider at our meeting next week.

The sound system appears to be working all right now. I hope to have an update from Trish Merefield for you next week.

The Tuesday afternoon competition continues to struggle. We don't know yet whether it will run in October.

Congratulations to Blanche Slaughter on her 90th birthday.

John Gosney
President

President's Message 42 – 24 September 2015

I finally finished my baby-sitting duties last week-end and am now free to worry about club matters full time. And a few worries there are just now.

Firstly the changeover of committee members has caused the usual hassles with our banking arrangements, compounded by my being out of Internet access at a crucial time last week. Treasurer Brian is wrestling manfully with the Westpac computer system and we hope to have everything running smoothly again very soon.

Secondly the installation of our new water main has happened, but it has brought with it an unexpected maze of copper pipes in the toilets. I am seeking an explanation from Council, so far without success.

Thirdly our new sound system has started playing up. Trish Merefield is putting a lot of (unpaid) effort into resolving this problem.

On a more positive note, there was another successful congress last week-end. And we had two pairs in the top 100 of the Australia Wide Pairs this year. Congratulations to the four people concerned.

John Gosney
President

President's Message 41 – 13 September 2015

I got back from my visits to Singapore and Hobart on 5 September, just in time for the AGM. That was a painless affair and I am delighted with the Committee nominations. The new Committee got down to business on Thursday 10 September and here are some of the more notable outcomes of our first meeting:

- Jobs were allocated as follows:
 - **Catering – Fay Stanton** – Fay's job is to represent the various people working on catering tasks
 - **Building improvements – Jackie Lewis** – Jackie's job is to chair a subcommittee investigating possible improvements to our building
 - **Maintenance – Paul Mannion**
 - **Purchasing – Paul Mannion**
 - **Council liaison, badges, welfare – Pauline Clayton**
 - **Strategic Directions – Adrienne Kelly**
 - **Congress Secretary – Ursula Sheldon**
 - **Cleaning – Jackie Lewis**
- **Peter Busch** will continue as **Games Director**
- The Queensland Wide Pairs event will be moved to a Tuesday next year
- The Teams of Three event will move to July or August next year
- **Anne Young's** offer to improve the existing notice-boards was accepted
- The Committee is actively considering the acquisition of a defibrillator for the club – **Jo Drake** has carriage of this project

While I was away Andy Hung held a workshop at the club on the topic of **doubles**. This event was well-attended (58 people) and anecdotal evidence suggests that it was very well received.

John Gosney

President

President's Message 40 - 14 August 2015

This is my last update before going to Singapore on grandparenting duties and the last before the AGM on 7 September. Secretary Pauline has all the arrangements for that in hand and there are indications that we will have some good nominations to fill vacant Committee positions next year.

28 August is shaping up to be a special day at our club. In the morning we will have the Australia Wide Pairs, an interesting event which proved very popular last year, with several pairs who don't normally play on Fridays turning up to participate. After lunch there will be a presentation on "doubles" by Andy Hung. While this presentation is aimed at improving players, there may well be some points made which are useful to more experienced players too.

This week I was among the club members who attended the memorial service for Paul Penlington. This event was a reminder that bridge is not just about playing a card game but also about meeting interesting people. I have met none more interesting than Paul.

See you at the AGM.

John Gosney
President

President's Message 39 - 6 August 2015

Another good congress at the week-end. Congratulations to the Young team for winning the B Grade and to the Perry team for almost winning the A grade.

We are in the final stages of negotiations with Andy Hung to present a workshop on "doubles" at our club on Friday afternoon, 28 August. The exact financial arrangements have be to be agreed, but the club will subsidize the event, so members can be assured that the cost will be \$10.

Further to my comments on the steps from the lower car park, I have now re-examined the Council plans and noticed that the improvements to the steps are regarded as a long-term project, so it is unlikely that that will happen any time soon.

John Gosney
President

President's Message 38 - 31 July 2015

I was very pleased to learn yesterday that members had read and responded to last week's message and that at least one new committee nomination is going to come out of that. Our club is in good shape.

I was not so pleased to learn that one of our members had slipped and fallen on the steps from the lower car park. I know that somewhere in Council's plans for the Elizabeth Daniels complex, there is a project to improve our area by expanding our upper car park and replacing the slippery steps with a wheelchair and walker-friendly ramp. I will ask our Secretary Pauline to make inquiries regarding the progress of this project.

Finally, good news on the Tuesday afternoon competition – there are enough entries to run it in August – even without my modest self, meaning that somebody else will have to carry the wooden spoon next month.

John Gosney
President

President's Message 37 – 23 July 2015

Because I will be away for the three weeks immediately preceding the AGM I have been preparing for it by writing my annual report. In doing this I have been agreeably surprised by how much we have managed to do in the last year and also by the fact that it has been a team effort, with significant contributions from so many people. If we are to continue in this vein we will need some more contributors to replace those who are retiring at the AGM. I am convinced that somewhere in our midst there is a numerically literate person who could manage our finances, and an experienced player with the ability to assume the presidency in 2016. So I am hopeful that I will return to the club in early September to find the appropriate nominations in place.

John Gosney
President

President's Message 36 – 16 July 2015

The Secretary has begun her preparations for the AGM in September. I would like to remind members that we do have vacancies on the Committee, including Vice President and Treasurer. Please give some thought to joining your committee and having a say in the running of your club.

Also, we need more ideas on improvements to the clubhouse. We have had one beauty, colourfully written and superbly illustrated, from Harry Walsh. Let us have some more.

It is pleasing to see the growing interest in Pianola. Steve Murray has given the first of his talks on its use, and Peter has produced some “cheat sheets”, which are available at the club.

John Gosney
President

President's Message 35 - 9 July 2015

At yesterday's Committee meeting there were a couple of discussions concerning the next year or so at our club. The first of these was about next year's committee. We have a number of vacancies, including Vice President and Treasurer as both Steve and Robyn intend to retire at the forthcoming AGM. So we really need nominations for these and other committee positions. Members also need to start thinking about a President for 2016 as I will not continue beyond the 2016 AGM.

The second discussion was about improvements to the clubhouse. At present we are in a sound financial position following the fairly recent increase in table fees. As costs increase, that position will gradually deteriorate – until the next fee increase. So now is the time to make improvements. Our committee will be thinking about the best way to spend any surplus funds over the next year or so and we welcome suggestions from members.

Another hot topic for discussion was member education. We have been in communication all year with a young bridge educator based in Brisbane, Andy Hung. Andy has a good reputation for entertaining, interactive training sessions, and it is clear from the recent workshop presented by Joan Butts that learning by doing is much more effective than just listening and looking. So we are talking with the Noosa club about running back-to-back workshops with Andy later in the year.

Yesterday we had another visit from Climatech, our air conditioning supplier. They have adjusted the system to circulate air at all times, not just when it is adjusting the temperature. So that should remove the stuffiness which was apparent when the ambient temperature was the same as the air conditioning setting and nothing was happening at all.

John Gosney
President

President's Message 34 - 2 July 2015

At the time of writing we are still one pair short of the number required to run a Tuesday afternoon competition in July. Surely there is one pair out there who would like a game on a Tuesday afternoon?

Hopefully we will have some better news on the replacement water main soon. Tony Walford asked the plumber who repaired our last water leak (not our usual plumber) to quote for the replacement pipe. I received the new quote on Tuesday and immediately sent it to the appropriate Council officer. This quote is almost half the amount of the original one. My Council contact's reply was cautiously optimistic so hopefully this will improve our chances of getting our new water pipe sooner rather than later.

John Gosney
President

President's Message 33 – 26 June 2015

This week saw a large number of members and guests from other clubs attend a workshop given by Joan Butts on the topic of the Responder's Role. I was pleased to receive a lot of positive feedback from attendees. Your Committee is keen to provide more educational opportunities to members wishing to improve their games.

On a less positive note, we have suffered a setback to our plans to improve the club's water supply. We finally received the amended quote from our plumber to replace the water main and repair the car park. The inclusion of the car park repair means that the new quote is nearly three times the size of the original one and Council has now said that they can't afford to do it this financial year and will need to consider it in next year's plans. So the new water main has clearly receded several months into the future.

The Tuesday afternoon competition is still alive – just. At the time of writing we need one more pair to make July's competition viable. I haven't received any member feedback to the suggestion that we might move this competition to Monday afternoons.

We now have a new computer. The previous one suffered a hard disk failure last week and on Tuesday Peter Busch bought a new one and got it up and running. We shall attempt to recover the data from the previous machine.

Members may have noticed the new blue cup holders. Tony Walford tracked these down to a supplier in China. I understand from some members that there are some issues with these cup holders and we will be considering how best to use them in future.

John Gosney
President

President's Message 32 – 18 June 2015

The big news in the past week was the successful two-day congress at the week-end. This year, while other clubs have been cutting back on their number of congresses, we have

introduced two new ones – our Graded Teams event and the Inter-club Competition and we are maintaining good numbers of congress entries. Credit for this success is due to Games Director Peter (and his “super caddy” Trish), Congress Convenor Ursula, Caterer Heather and her helpers and Committee Member Adrienne, who keeps coming up with new initiatives to improve the bridge playing experience at our club.

I am really hoping that enough members will support the Tuesday afternoon competition to make it viable. The Committee understands that many members who might be interested in this competition have other commitments on Tuesday afternoons. If we continue to attract insufficient support on Tuesdays, one option would be to move this competition to a Monday or Thursday afternoon. I would like to hear members’ reactions to this idea.

Yesterday I figured out how to send a broadcast email to members about the Committee’s decision to subscribe to Pianola Plus for all members for a one-year trial. The feedback has been very positive. This is a significant investment for the club, and its continuation depends on members’ usage of the software. We are preparing to offer more assistance to members in how to use it. Please give it a try.

John Gosney
President

President’s Message 31 - 11 June 2015

I have returned from my trip to Azerbaijan and Georgia and here is my first President’s Message for a while.

While I was away, the Committee got on with business as usual. The highlight of the period was our club’s winning a Sunshine Coast Council grant to buy a new dealing machine. We will now be able to have one machine serviced while we keep going on the other one, and we can also lend one of our machines to other clubs needing to get their machines serviced. Much credit is due to Secretary Pauline for this successful outcome.

Another success while I was away was the Friday Teams of Three event, which was very well attended – the feedback has been very positive. Credit is due to the Team Captains for supporting this event so well.

On the downside, the Tuesday afternoon sessions for June had to be cancelled because of too few entries. We hope we get a better response in July. If we can’t get at least 5 tables in July, we shall be obliged, regretfully to abandon the Tuesday afternoon initiative.

The June Committee meeting decided to subscribe to Pianola Plus for all members for a one-year trial, to be reviewed at the end of the period, based on usage. We believe that this software is a very valuable tool for improving players to analyse their games. More

experienced players might also find that it is a more convenient tool to use than paper personal score sheets and hand records. Please give it a try.

I was hoping to come back to news of good progress on the proposed new water main, but the project appears to have stalled – responsibility seems to lie with our regular plumbing contractor. We shall be chasing them up to get this project moving again. Your committee believes that water supply is the most pressing problem with our existing premises and is very keen to solve the problem especially as Council appears to be prepared to fund the project.

One other point. We recently created the club's first by-laws. By-law 1 describes our policy on unacceptable behaviour and By-law 2 describes the function of Club Recorder. This role is currently filled by Judith Slade. Judith has been dismayed at members' lack of knowledge of her role. Please have a look at By-law 2 on the club's web site and don't hesitate to speak to Judith if you believe that you have an issue which you believe she could help with.

John Gosney
President

President's Message 30 – 7 May 2015

The usual busy Committee meeting today. Thanks to the Directors for agreeing to swap meeting dates so as not to interfere with my travel plans.

No further progress on the new water main, but it is still on track.

The QBA have suggested a minor amendment to our new Behaviour Policy. It is not strictly necessary, but we have decided to make the necessary amendment, which limits Committee representation on a disciplinary subcommittee to one member.

We don't have a firm agreement on a joint member education event with the Noosa club, but we are close. The proposal is for Joan Butts to present a workshop at Noosa on the morning of Thursday 25th June and another workshop on a different topic here on the afternoon of Friday 26th June. Details of costs and topics are still to be agreed.

The Committee has agreed to subscribe to the Pianola software for one year and to review the continuation of our subscription after one year's experience, the review to be based on usage by members. We have still to decide on whether the club should subscribe to Pianola Plus, or leave that to individual members.

Somebody broke the re-chargeable vacuum cleaner so we have bought a new mains-powered one for the kitchen which will be more effective and hopefully quieter than the previous one.

Former Providore Annie and I have reviewed the kitchen arrangements and we are developing some organizational changes which include formal job descriptions and which will hopefully make it easier for the four club members running the kitchen to work effectively together. We will make an announcement on this when the new arrangements are finalized.

On a couple of occasions recently, people have turned on the fans because they were feeling too hot. On both occasions this action was quickly followed by complaints from people who were too cold. The problem arises when the inside temperature matches the air conditioning system's temperature setting and the system stops working until the temperature changes. The solution is not to turn on the fans but to adjust the temperature settings on the air conditioning system. Steve Murray will explain this to all Directors at their meeting next week.

This is my last message for a few weeks. I will be back from overseas just in time for the next Committee meeting.

John Gosney
President

President's Message 29 - 30 April 2015

Well, the inaugural Inter Club competition on Sunday was a great success, thanks to a lot of hard work by many club members and really good support, especially from the lower graded players. The only slight downside is that we didn't win it, but I suppose that that would have been a little bit impolite. The winners were Noosa, owing to strong performances in the B and C grades. Entries are coming in for the new Graded Pairs Congress on 24 May so hopefully that will be another successful event. Not such good news about the Tuesday afternoon sessions, which are not taking off as well as we had hoped.

Negotiations with the Noosa club about future training sessions are developing well and we should be in a position to make an announcement after next week's Committee meeting.

We are negotiating with the Sunshine Coast Council on a couple of matters. Firstly, we are concerned about a large gum tree close to our clubhouse, which we are hoping Council will prune for safety reasons. We also now have a proposal from North Coast Plumbing to replace the water supply to the clubhouse, and we are hoping that Council will foot the bill for that. Increasing the water supply is the key to solving our long-standing toilet problems, as at present there is just not enough water to fill the cisterns between flushes.

Banker Frank reports on a great improvement in the ease of accounting for table fees, following our requests for less small change. Thank you everyone for responding to those requests and making Frank's job easier.

John Gosney
President

President's Message 28 - 23 April 2015

Good news regarding the Inter Club competition. We now have enough entries to run a good event, and Peter is saying that he doesn't need any more. I have also noticed a steady stream of entries for the new Graded Teams event in May.

After I wrote last week's message we were let down once again in the matter of the Honour Boards. Yesterday I went to see the owner of the company concerned and I am really hopeful that when I go to the club this afternoon the Honour Boards will finally be up to date and correct.

John Gosney
President

President's Message 27 - 16 April 2015

On Thursday Adrienne and I visited Noosa bridge club to discuss member education. It was a very productive meeting and we came away with several ideas to progress member education at our own club, and in co-operation with other clubs on the Sunshine Coast. I will provide more news when we have some concrete proposals to announce to you.

Some of you may have noticed that our Honour Boards have still not been updated correctly. We are pursuing the signwriting company to finish the job - it will be a great relief to see the end of this saga.

At last we are seeing something approaching a healthy field for the inaugural inter-club trophy competition on 26 April. Much credit due to Peter Busch for his promotion of this event.

Plenty of people attended Peter's first Pianola presentation today. I encourage all members to go to one of these presentations and to give the product a try.

I have had a written complaint about the ladies toilets. Please be assured that the Committee is well aware of the problem, is working on it with our plumbing contractor and the Sunshine Coast Council and hopes to be able to announce a permanent solution to it soon.

John Gosney
President

President's Message 26 - 9 Apr 2015

The Behaviour Policy is now By-law Number 1 and the definition of the Recorder role is By-law Number 2. You will be able to see them both on the web site soon.

Further news on Pianola is that Peter Busch will be giving short presentations on the software and how to use it at the following times

- Thursday 16 April at 12pm
- Friday 17 April at 8.30am
- Tuesday 21 April at 8.30am

Adrienne and I are visiting the Noosa club next week to talk to them about member education. They seem to be able to attract more members to educational sessions than we have managed so far, so we hope to learn from them. We also want to discuss the possibility of a joint educational program to attract members from both clubs.

The Inter-club trophy is now being inscribed in readiness for the inaugural event on 26 April. Please try to be a part of this event - there is only ever one inauguration.

John Gosney
President

President's Message 25 - 2 April 2015

This week's news is Pianola. Several club members have written to me to say how much they like it. I have signed up for the Pianola Plus trial and it looks to me as though it would be a very useful tool for anyone who is sufficiently serious about their bridge to want to analyse their game over a long period. The main thing I have learned from it so far is that I play my best bridge from dummy! Must have some really good partners.

Entries for the inter-club event are trickling in. Ten now. There is a definite need for more entries. Let's hope there will be a flurry of activity closer to the day, and that all the clubs will be represented in all three grades.

John Gosney
President

President's Message 24 - 26 March 2015

We now have our new sound system and it seems to be every bit as good as we had hoped. Many thanks to the team of club members who organized and installed the new system. This was a great example of how a good club should operate.

The inaugural Sunshine Coast Inter-club competition is getting closer. I am noticing entries coming in for the open category, and would like to remind intermediate and novice players that we also need a strong showing in these categories.

Finally a plug for the Tuesday afternoon sessions. This event is working very well for the limited numbers of players participating in it. But we need more players. If you are wondering whether or not to give it a try, please do so. You may feel that you aren't a strong enough player for this session - if you don't give it a go, you never will be.

John Gosney
President

President's Message 23 - 19 March 2015

Lots to report this week.

Firstly the sound system. Steve Murray with the help of Trish Merefield and her husband Stuart have selected a new sound system for the club, which the Merefields can obtain at far below normal commercial cost. Steve and Tony Walford will do the initial installation and Stuart will do the final tuning of the system. Hopefully the new system will be installed by this time next week and we shall have the best sound system in the bridge world, to go with the best air conditioning system.

For some time now I have been talking about a Behaviour policy for the club. I announced the new policy at the afternoon session on 19 March and the Committee will vote on its adoption as a club by-law (our first by-law) at its next meeting. Copies of the behaviour policy and the ABF document, "Be a good sport" are on the club notice boards and on the web site.

Any organisation, particularly one with a demographic like ours, has to constantly attract new members to replace those who leave. A strength of our club in recent years has been the beginners' program run by Joan McPheat. This is not Joan's only significant contribution to bridge in Queensland. For over twenty-five years prior to her retirement this year, Joan has acted as the QBA's Masterpoints Secretary. To recognize Joan's contribution to bridge at our club and in Queensland, your committee has decided to recommend to the next AGM that Joan McPheat become an honorary Life Member of our club.

John Gosney
President

President's Message 22 - 12 March 2015

A lot happened at today's Committee meeting but much of it isn't quite ready to be announced yet, so I will have to restrict myself to those items that are.

Firstly we have our new Assistant Treasurer – Pepe Schwegler. Pepe will help Robyn with some of the Treasurer's tasks and will be ready to stand in for her when she is absent.

Secondly we are about to launch the new inter-club competition. A letter accompanied by entry forms is about to go out to the other three bridge clubs on the coast. As the instigators of this competition we need to ensure a high turn-out of players from our club.

Finally we forgot to talk about a new sound system today, although we have already started the process of replacing the existing one. Today the system was awful and both Director Tony and I got into difficulties. We definitely have to move quickly on this one.

John Gosney
President

President's Message 21 - 5 March 2015

On Wednesday I went to the first of the new program of beginners' classes to welcome the students. There was a pleasing number of new players there. Noosa aren't running any beginners' classes this year because they have enough novices already, so Alan Sinclair who is teaching at Coolum is swamped by new students. So all appears to be well at the beginners' end of the game on the Coast.

At the higher and intermediate levels there is more to be done. The committee is really keen to introduce more educational opportunities for intermediate level players, but we are facing problems relating to cost and the number of members who are sufficiently interested in improving their skill levels. I am talking to the Noosa President about the possibility of some sort of joint exercise to attract sufficient numbers of interested players.

We are also hoping to see more high level players at the Tuesday afternoon sessions. The mood in the room is very good on Tuesday afternoons, but we need more players to come along to make these sessions viable in the long term. It is important for those players who do enjoy Tuesday afternoons to tell their friends about it.

John Gosney

President

President's Message 18 - 13 February 2015

A very busy committee meeting this week. Some of the main issues discussed were:

Behaviour policy

We now have an agreed policy on unacceptable behaviour and how to deal with it. But we want to run it past the Directors before releasing it to the club. This will happen during the next month.

Assistant Treasurer

The committee has decided to seek a volunteer from the club to assist Treasurer Robyn so that financial administration can continue when the Treasurer is away on leave, etc. Secretary Pauline will be sending an email to all members detailing this position.

Providore

We still don't have a providore to manage the catering for congresses and other events. The committee has convinced me that we cannot fill this role on a roster basis as there is too much to learn and we can't afford to lower the current high standard of catering at our congresses. So we really must have someone to fill this role. Secretary Pauline will be emailing all members seeking a volunteer and detailing the duties and payments associated with this position.

Council grants

We have received notification of the availability of grants from the Sunshine Coast Council. Secretary Pauline who has contacts within Council will seek advice on the likelihood of obtaining funding for various projects. Your committee believes that the biggest issue facing us at present is the lack of sufficient water pressure to enable our toilet facilities to cope with peak loads.

John Gosney
President

President's Message 17 - 6 February 2015

Not much actual news this week, but there has been a lot of activity behind the scenes, particularly in the areas of the congress providore role and in developing a behaviour policy. I hope very much that we shall have some solid announcements to make following next week's Committee meeting.

Let me make a few observations about the importance of these issues. Firstly, congresses are important to all club members regardless of whether they participate in them or not. A big club like this contains a variety of members from those who enjoy a game of cards to those who want to play the best bridge of which they are capable. Most

of us fall somewhere in between these categories. But we all prefer winning to losing. The best way to learn how to win more often is to play with and against better players. So our best players are important to all of us and the way they keep playing to the best of their ability is by participating in congresses which attract the best players from other clubs. And people who attend congresses like good catering – so the position of congress providore is important to all of us.

I can think of four types of player behaviour which could be considered unacceptable. The most important of these is illegal activity, such as embezzling the members' funds. If this were to happen it would become a matter for the police although it would be comforting to have a written procedure in place for dealing with it. The second most important is cheating. Again, this sort of behaviour is well catered for in the Laws of Bridge, but again a written procedure for our club would be useful. The third category is verbal intimidation. This goes on in the higher levels of all sports and is considered by most players to be an acceptable part of the game. But it has no place in regular club sessions. Finally we have discourtesy. We have all encountered rude people, and most of the time we can cope with them, but occasionally discourteous behaviour leads to people leaving the club and that is a very undesirable outcome. The ABF has launched an initiative entitled "Be a good sport" aimed at reducing the occurrence of the latter two categories of unacceptable behaviour and our behaviour policy is intended to support this initiative.

John Gosney
President

President's Message 16 – 29 January 2015

The main issue facing the Committee at the moment is the Providore role. We have to recognize that the job is much bigger than it used to be because of the greater number of congresses we are running. We are working on ideas to spread the task around rather than leave it all to one person. I am confident we will find a workable solution before Annie retires. We have the Senior Teams event coming up on 7 and 8 February. This will be Annie's last congress as Providore so please help to make it a good one by providing plenty of plates of food. The number of entries for this event is looking good now.

The Committee has decided not to proceed with another talk by Paul Gosney at this time. We are still considering a proposal for bridge talks by Andy Hung.

The Tuesday afternoon competition for February kicked off this week. Director Extraordinaire Peter Busch managed to find a way of accommodating seven teams and all went smoothly. The field includes some very strong teams and also a team of former Wednesday players led by Joan McPheat and Reg Busch – a great way to introduce less experienced players to team competitions.

John Gosney
President

President's Message 15 - 22 January 2015

What a sad thought that we won't be seeing Dot Borchardt at the club any more. For those who don't know, Dot has gone to live near her daughter in Brisbane. Treasurer Robyn arranged for some flowers to be waiting for her in her new home – let's hope they arrived in time.

The Committee is still actively considering proposals from Paul Gosney and Andy Hung for training programs.

We are still looking for someone to act as Providore for congresses and other functions. This role attracts payment for the time actually spent at the club on the day. Bridge players like their food and the catering is an important part of a successful congress, so we must fill the role.

We are still looking for entries for the Senior Teams event in February and also the Tuesday afternoon session.

John Gosney
President

President's Message 14 - 16 January 2015

We have our new Banker. Frank Coard has volunteered to take over this role from Cherie Butler. We still need volunteers to take over various aspects of the Providore role when Annie Kibble retires at the beginning of March (which will come around very quickly).

The Committee is still actively considering proposals from Paul Gosney and Andy Hung for training programs.

We had an interesting interruption on Monday when, in the middle of our efforts to attract new bankers, providores, etc some people came in off the street wanting to hire our clubhouse for a wake following a cremation on Thursday. We have never done anything like this before so we said "no". On reflection, it would have to be a very special event for us to break with this tradition.

We are still looking for entries for the Senior Teams event in February and also the Tuesday afternoon session.

John Gosney
President

President's Message 13 - 11 January 2015

Hello members. Our first Committee meeting of 2015 was very full – and not all the news coming out of it is good. Our Providore Annie has decided that she cannot combine her duties as Providore with family commitments later this year and will resign at the beginning of March. We therefore have a couple of months to fill this large gap. The Committee feels that the duties of the Providore role have now increased to the point at which it is too big a job to expect one volunteer to fill. So we will be publishing a list of duties and asking for volunteers to undertake specific items from that list. Our banker, Cherie has also decided that she has been performing this role long enough so we are looking for a new banker to deposit the cash each week.

On a more positive note we have a date for the new Inter-club competition. The first event will take place on 26 April. Contrary to what I said in a previous report it will be a Teams event.

We are also keen to follow up on the educational talk from Paul Gosney. We have received proposals from Paul and also from Andy Hung, a young bridge professional based in Brisbane and are presently negotiating with both of these people to construct an affordable presentation that we believe our members will like.

The second Tuesday afternoon competition finished last week, with Stephen Brookes and Adrienne Kelly finishing well in front of the rest of the field. Steve and Adrienne have already entered a strong team for the February competition so we need some more good entries to give them a run for their money next month.

On a more mundane note, we have our new hot water system installed in the kitchen but have decided not to proceed with new cisterns in the ladies' toilet at this time as they are not likely to make much difference without an (expensive) new water main to increase the flow of water.

John Gosney
President

President's Message 12 - 23 December 2014

Merry Christmas to all our members.

And have a great year's bridge in 2015.

John Gosney
President



President's Message 11 - 17 December 2014

Here is the new idea that I hinted at last week. Our resident Strategic Thinker, Adrienne Kelly has suggested an inter-club competition. The idea is that pairs from all the clubs on the Sunshine Coast will take part in a graded competition at our club. The club with the best results (either top scores or average scores in each grade) will be the winner. There is still lots of work to do on this proposal but we think it will probably happen sometime in 2015.

Now to more mundane matters. We are going to replace the ageing hot water system in the kitchen. We are also looking at replacing two of the cisterns in the ladies toilets. These toilets have required a lot of maintenance in recent years and we are wondering whether there is a solution that can better cope with the heavy usage that they experience.

John Gosney
President

President's Message 10 - 10 December 2014

Well, what a great Christmas Party! Congratulations to everybody who contributed to it. I have received lots of really positive feedback from members, including support for the silly bridge hands in the afternoon.

Back to serious business this week. I was ordered by Adrienne Kelly to play in the December Tuesday afternoon competition and duly did so. I received a lot of positive feedback from the members there and am quietly confident that this session will gradually become very popular. This is a difficult time of the year to commit to three or four consecutive weeks of bridge, so I am not dismayed by the smaller field for the December competition, and expect to see bigger numbers by the middle of next year, hopefully including more players from other clubs.

Having introduced a new Graded Teams congress for next year, the new Tuesday afternoon sessions and organized the Paul Gosney lecture on defensive strategies, your

committee will now turn its attention to what other new initiatives to introduce in the first half of 2015. We welcome member input to our deliberations.

John Gosney
President

President's Message 9 – 9 December 2014

I am back. I don't feel that I missed too much while I was away, as the Internet access overseas was surprisingly good. It looks as though your committee functions very well without me.

I got back just in time to attend Paul Gosney's talk on defensive strategies. I thought it was very good, but of course I am biased! I would be interested in other people's views as the strong attendance indicates that there is an interest within the club in this type of event and we need to ensure that our members continue to get good value for money if we decide to do it again.

I am pleased to learn that the new Tuesday afternoon sessions have been well received – hopefully they will attract more players over time, including members of other clubs.

Next up is the Christmas Party and I understand that the committee has put together an excellent program for us to enjoy.

John Gosney
President

President's Message 8 – 3 November 2014

I am about to take off overseas again, leaving the club in the capable hands of Vice President Steve. By the time I get back, we will have held our first Tuesday afternoon event. I have heard mostly positive comments about this idea and I am cautiously optimistic that over time it will become a very popular session.

The field for the recent Pro-am event was very pleasing at 18 tables. This event is a great opportunity for less experienced players to learn from more experienced ones – the best way to learn. Congratulations to our "Pro's" for supporting this event so well.

Now I am about to go to the clubhouse to learn more about the air conditioning controls. We are currently in an experimental stage regarding the new system. I am confident that by the time we have experienced all the seasonal variations in weather conditions we shall be in full control of the air in our clubhouse and able to provide the best

possible climate, although there will be always some people who feel the cold or the heat more than others or who suffer more than most from pollen in the atmosphere, etc.

See you again in December

John Gosney
President

President's Message 7 – 30 October 2014

Still on the air conditioning system I'm afraid. The Committee's policy, reached after a long period of debate, plus a survey of all the members, is to use the air conditioning in the winter when the room needs warming and in the summer when the room needs cooling. At other times, at the discretion of the Director of the day, the air conditioning system will be turned off and the windows opened to provide ventilation. To suit this policy our system is programmed to come on about an hour before a session starts so that the room is at a comfortable temperature when players arrive. Once the Director arrives, the temperature can be adjusted or the system turned off and the windows opened. Our current problem appears to be that the default temperature range has too low an upper limit, causing the room to be too cold when players first arrive. This may change as the outside temperature increases. The solution appears to be to adjust the default settings. Accordingly, Peter Busch and I are meeting the air conditioning suppliers, Climatech on Monday morning to learn more about the operation of the system, including the ability to adjust the default temperature settings.

John Gosney
President

President's Message 6 – 23 October 2014

I am still hearing complaints about our new air conditioning system –mostly because the room is too cold, particularly the north end. On two occasions when people have complained and I have felt cold, the Director of the day has adjusted the temperature settings and the room has very quickly become comfortable.

Our new system has three separate systems in the ceiling all with individual controls and individual air ducts. It is definitely capable of providing a comfortable environment when used correctly. I encourage all members to speak to the Director if they feel uncomfortably hot or cold and again when an adjustment has been made and they are comfortable. The new system's controls are intuitive and simple to use. While we don't want everybody fiddling with the controls, Directors and Committee Members should be confident in their use, and be prepared to experiment to achieve a comfortable environment in the club. Steve Murray, Peter Busch and I have been instructed in the

system's use and would be happy to share our understanding of it with other Committee Members and Directors

John Gosney
President

President's Message 5 - 16 October 2014

While I was away in Noumea, your committee, under the leadership of Vice President Steve was busy firming up some of the ideas discussed at the first meeting. Some of the important decisions reached were:

1. Paul Gosney will give a presentation on "Defensive Strategies" at 1.30 pm on 2 December. Cost will be \$10, optional sandwich lunch \$5.
2. The club will run an extra congress in 2015. It will be a Graded Teams event to run in May.
3. There will be a new session on Tuesday afternoons at 1.30 pm for experienced players, commencing in November. This event will be normally held all Tuesdays in each month but for November and December will be limited to the 2nd 3rd and 4th Tuesdays. It will be open to members of all clubs. Pre-entry for the month's event will be required.
4. Results will continue to be shown on the Bridgemates but members are asked to refrain from commenting on these results.
5. Directors will continue to experiment with the air conditioning controls to find the most suitable settings for members' comfort.

These are all good decisions aimed at improving the bridge-playing experience for all of our members. There are plenty of other ideas under consideration by your committee but there is a limit to how much we can undertake at one time. For example, the committee ran out of time to consider the player behaviour issue.

This week I have been talking to Congress Convenor Ursula about attendance at our congresses. These were a little lower last year – nothing to be alarmed about but we would prefer to see numbers rising rather than falling. Ideas for improving congress attendances are welcome and should be directed to Ursula.

John Gosney
President

President's Message 4 - 3 October 2014

I wasn't going to write a message this week, having been away for most of it, but when I went to the club today I was flattered to hear how much people like these messages, so here is another one.

Peter's notice about the bridgemate results sparked a lively email debate. There are at least three views on the issue:

1. People like the results and we should keep them
2. People don't like the results and we should remove them
3. Some people like the results, so we should keep them and educate everybody to use them responsibly

The committee will consider this issue at the next meeting, on 9 October and I will support whatever they decide to do.

There has also been quite a bit of debate about various ideas put forward to improve the playing experience for all our members and I am hopeful that there will be some exciting announcements soon after the committee meeting. I am also hoping to be able to say more about our plans to tackle the very delicate issue of improving player behaviour at our club.

While I was away last week I was following a debate on the internet, concerning a problem of staffing the kitchen on Saturdays. After some good input from other committee members, Providore Anne Kibble has found a good solution to the problem. I am very pleased at how well this committee is working together and I believe that we are seeing the value of continuity in our committee membership.

John Gosney
President

President's Message 3 - 25 September 2014

Because I have a non-bridge-playing wife, I don't play much bridge on week-ends, preferring to leave those times for activities I can share with my wife. So I don't play at congresses. It was therefore a rare pleasure for me to attend the Graded Pairs event at the week-end to distribute the prizes. It was evident to me that our team of Congress Convenor Ursula, Director Peter and Providore Annie, plus all their willing helpers really know how to put on a good event. I was impressed by the comprehensive win by Rosemary Crowley and Richard Perry in the A Grade event. While we like to have plenty

of players from other clubs at our congresses a home win is always pleasing. And it's good for all our members to have the opportunity (if they want it) to regularly compete against players of this quality. Meanwhile in the B grade event, Louise Kwok and Andrew Chan showed that you don't need to own a fistful of masterpoints to play winning bridge (improving players take heart).

If you look along the wall to your left you will see a shiny new first-aid box and a green folder. Both of these items are there as a result of the recent visit of a Sunshine Coast Council Inspector to our club. Rather than simply whinge about Council bureaucracy (naturally we did some of that as well), we have used this visit and subsequent report to make some genuine improvements to members' safety at the club. The new first-aid box was obtained by Providore Anne Kibble and sits on a shelf erected by Vice President Steve Murray, so that it is in plain view and easily accessible in the event of an emergency. The green folder contains Material Safety Data Sheets for all potentially hazardous materials used at the clubhouse, and was compiled by Anne Kibble. Thanks Anne and Steve.

John Gosney
President

Another week – 22 September 2014

Our second week has seen good progress on some of the issues we discussed at our first committee meeting. One of the ideas we had was to convince international bridge player Paul Gosney (over whom I still have some influence) to run a half-day course at our club. Details are still to be finalized but it looks at this stage as though Paul will present a course on Defensive Strategies on the afternoon of Tuesday 2 December – the content will be designed to include matters of interest to all levels of player from novices to the most experienced – pencil the date in your diaries and watch for further information.

Introducing new ideas to the club is a fun part of being a member of the committee. Some of the things we need to do are less appealing, and one of those is to consider what we can do to improve player behaviour. This is a current initiative of the ABF and your committee feels obliged to take this matter seriously, particularly as our club does have a bit of a ferocious reputation locally (when I first came to the Sunshine Coast, I heard us referred to as “the pirhanas”!). Be assured that we will proceed cautiously on this sensitive issue, but proceed we will.

We have been receiving considerable feedback on the new air conditioning system from members, the most common concern being that it is a little too cold at times. We are still learning to use the new system and are confident that with experience we shall be able to use it very effectively. I sat towards the back of the room last Friday, and did feel a

little cool to start with. But then I realized that I didn't feel cold any more and learned afterwards that Steve Murray had turned the temperature control up two degrees, which seemed to do the trick. We are still gathering members' feedback and when we think we have an accurate understanding of members' concerns we shall bring the supplier in to help us use the system better.

John Gosney
President

The First Week – 15 September 2014

The first week of the new committee has passed without incident. The AGM was short and boring, as all good AGM's should be – well, not entirely boring as there was some useful discussion on playing matters. The first committee meeting was anything but short and boring, with the majority of the time spent on bridge-playing issues. The focus of this committee will be on enhancing the bridge-playing experience for all members, from beginners to grand masters, and we are looking at a number of initiatives aimed at achieving this objective. None of these initiatives will be introduced without careful consideration, and as a first step, Peter Busch will be seeking input from the Directors on some of the ideas discussed in Committee.

One idea which can be safely implemented immediately is the introduction of an official "Welcomer" for new players. We are not talking here about new players coming through the Wednesday Experience, but rather experienced players moving to the area. Adrienne Kelly suggested this idea and also volunteered to be the first official Welcomer. So when you encounter a new player, introduce them to Adrienne if she is at the club, or give them her phone number and suggest that they give her a call. Adrienne will tell them how our club works, offer to have a game with them, suggest which sessions would suit them and tell them how to arrange partnerships.

On Friday we tried a new idea – a teams competition. Eight teams played in the inaugural Friday Teams event and everybody liked it so we shall certainly do it again. Winners of the two four-team sections were Spork (Joan Coughlan - Beth Spork - Katherine Tucker - Jill Cameron) and Gosney (Dianne Thatcher - Moira Smith – new member Pepe Schwegler – my modest self) – a popular result!

Watch this space for more news from the Committee.

John Gosney
President