President and Club Managers Report

Annual General Meeting

September 26, 2019

We are pleased to provide our thoughts on the progress made in the seventh full operational year of the Grand River Bridge Club.

Table Count

Table count or participation in games by bridge players during the fiscal year (July 1, 2018-June 30, 2019), decreased to 3,850 tables compared to 4,027 tables the previous fiscal year. The decrease in table count was the result of closing the bridge club for the first week in July, 2018 due to the local Regional tournament and a physical move to a new temporary location. The days with the higher table counts, in descending order, are Friday afternoons, Wednesday mornings, Wednesday afternoons (0-499 and an Open game) and Thursday afternoons (Open and 0-99 game). The initiation of two games, of different skill levels, at the same time is proving beneficial in providing members more game times and also financially.

There are now two 0-99 games, three 0-499 games and five Open games a week. There is also a supervised bridge lab each Monday and Saturday for new players and those wishing to improve skills.

Lessons

Malkin Howes, the club's lesson lead, in conjunction with the other lesson instructors, provides seasonal lesson plans based on student feedback and demand for courses. The provision of lessons by knowledgeable instructors continues to attract new members and develop the skills of existing players.

There has been a noticeable decrease in the number of students participating in multi-week lessons. This is perhaps a reflection of the busy lives of active seniors. Single modules on specific topics are being offered in response to member's request for this type of class.

Financial Status

There was an overall decrease in revenue, primarily due to reductions in games and lesson revenues, offset with increases in membership dues and bridge lab revenue. Membership numbers were higher than the previous year. The club ended the fiscal year with a net loss of $12,165. The Treasurer's report will provide further details.

Organizational Structure

The current organizational structure is working well. The Board of Directors meets regularly every month and is focused on longer term, strategic issues. The Management team meets monthly and makes decisions on operational aspects of the club.

Premises

The bridge club relocated during the first week of July, 2018 to a temporary home at 55 Franklin Street in Kitchener and subsequently across the street to 2481 Kingsway Drive. There were many member volunteers involved in the initial move, the two subsequent moves and in the preparation of the three different spaces. We moved into our permanent home in January, 2019.

To help pay for the renovations to our new space, members came together and donated over $30,000 to help defray these costs. Thank you to all those who contributed.

Currently, the Decorating Committee, chaired by Roz Shortt, with Sharon Boyd and Margot Stockie, are making finishing touches to make the space even more inviting.

Volunteer Appreciation

The bridge club is successful due to the efforts of many individuals in the club; we applaud and thank all those members who selflessly give of their time and expertise. In particular, we thank outgoing board members, Dave Longstaff who served as President for a year, during his time on the board, Pat McMillan and Jim Dalgliesh who served as the Treasurer during his time on the board. All three individuals provided valuable input on the issues dealt with by the Board during their tenures.

We also thank Stephen Carpenter for being the Facilities Lead and for his contributions on other issues as a member of the Management Committee for a number of years.

If you as an individual have some time to donate to the benefit of the club please advise Sue Moses or Brenda Semple, our volunteer coordinators, a board member or a manager.

We would be happy to answer questions that any of the members have at this time.

Carolyn Baechler   **Jim Dalgliesh and Joan Slover**

President   **Manager and Assistant Manager**