

The Maleny Contract Bridge Club Inc.

Dear Member

I'm pleased to report that we have 22 people enrolled in our beginners' lessons starting on Tuesday. That is exciting news for the future of our club. We are very grateful to Anne O'Hagan for teaching the group, and to Jenny Rosenfeld and Peter Russell for all the work they are putting in to make the classes run smoothly.

Mark your calendar

We have a couple of events coming up in August, and a new one in November:

Monday 24 August 11.30am - general meeting. This meeting is being called to vote on an increase to the membership fee. See more information below. An official notice will be sent in the next week. Bring your lunch and make your vote count.

Monday 31 August - Australia-wide Open Pairs. Note this was originally listed in our members' booklet for 24 August. This will run as a normal Monday bridge session. Those wishing to take part in the competition need to register and pay an extra \$5, which also entitles them to a booklet after the event with the boards etc.

Monday 16 November - A new event - teams competition. We didn't hold this event last year, but the committee has decided to reinstate it and invite other local clubs to take part. Start thinking about getting your team together!

Our finances

Thank you to all who sent their very thoughtful and useful ideas about how we should go about raising fees/ensuring our viability. It's a sign of a healthy club that so many members are prepared to take the time to assist in this way. There was no common thread to the suggestions offered, but all comments have been carefully considered by the committee.

Let me assure that we are not in any financial trouble – in fact we are quite comfortable, considering we had the building to pay off until very recently. But that building is now eight years old. Equipment and fittings will have to be replaced and repaired at some stage, and we need to be putting funds aside for this.

The bottom line is that our income is virtually all from membership and playing fees, and as our membership has remained fairly static, so has our income. Meanwhile costs have been rising for us, as for everyone else. So at some point, we go backwards if we do not increase fees, or reduce expenses. There is little that we can actually reduce, apart from the afternoon tea. But the consensus is that it's worth a little extra to make that time enjoyable for everyone. Please don't treat afternoon tea as your lunch however, and limit consumption of the food.

After careful consideration, the committee recommends increasing the membership fee by \$10 annually. This is all we need to do at the moment to keep us on an even keel. The next step would be to increase playing fees, but we do not need to do this yet. It's been helpful to have all your suggestions about how best to do so, and when we get to the stage of needing to raise playing fees, we will look at those again.

We require a special general meeting and a vote to increase membership fees, which are due on October 1st. So if we are to increase the fee, the meeting needs to be before then. Hence we have settled on a special general meeting at 11.30 on Monday 24 August. A notice will arrive shortly, and you will be able to send a proxy vote if you cannot attend in person.

Happy bridging all.

Barbara Jones

!2607 Newsletter.docx