



Canberra Bridge Club

CANBERRA BRIDGE CLUB AGM 2025

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It is my pleasure to report that 2024-2025 has been an outstanding and rewarding year for the Canberra Bridge Club. Our continued success is the result of the combined efforts of a hard-working Committee, the professionalism and dedication of our staff, and the tireless support of our many volunteers. Together, they are the foundation upon which the CBC continues to thrive.

Club Management

The Committee has continued to focus on supporting and refining the roles of our two key staff - Manager Member Services, and Manager Financial Administration.

Elizabeth recently accepted a permanent part-time position as Manager Member Services and continues to be one of the Club's most valuable assets. She remains the friendly, reliable and welcoming presence that many members associate with the Canberra Bridge Club. Over the past year, she has undertaken a significant amount of work to enhance the Club's presentation, including a comprehensive overhaul of the noticeboards and other improvements that have helped create a more organised and inviting environment for members and visitors alike. Along with others, thank you to David Hoffman & Cathy Nichols, Elizabeth is currently undertaking the updating of the honour boards.

Steve has contributed significantly to the Club's operations, travelling long distances to support Elizabeth and oversee our financial systems. His contributions and support to the Treasurer and his overall financial oversight are deeply appreciated.

Directors & Dealing

The Club simply cannot function without our wonderful team of directors, whose role is often thankless. While others enjoy playing, our directors are working hard to ensure sessions run smoothly, fairly, and with a high standard of play. Their dedication makes bridge at CBC possible.

We extend our sincere thanks to: Jodi Tutty, Bruce Crossman, Ian Robinson, John Donovan, Steve Geddes, Adam Robinson, Alex Hewat, Josh Tomlin, Paul Nelson, Tamara Cutcliffe & Bricet Kloren. We also thank Darryl Whitfield, Sebastian Yuen and John Spooner for their contributions when required.

Behind the scenes, we are also deeply grateful to David, our dealer, who ensures that boards are always well-prepared for all sessions.



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House Committee

Special thanks to the House Committee - Nick Vonthethoff, Steve Kyburz and David Kenny for their dedication and hands-on leadership in delivering significant improvements to the Clubrooms. Their efforts have been instrumental in ensuring the Canberra Bridge Club remains a well-maintained, comfortable, and welcoming space for all members. Key projects completed or initiated during the year include: Painting of the railings and outdoor seating areas, *ongoing* major roof repairs, managing a white ant infestation in one of the large trees, continuing the fine tuning of the heating and cooling system to optimise member comfort, organising several gardening bees resulting in new plantings, mulching and overall landscape enhancement, preparing the Olive Lott room in readiness for the 2025 beginner classes, commencing the process to identify suitable replacement chairs for the Barry Turner Room and continuing to maintain the bridge mates and bidding boxes etc. These enhancements reflect a proactive approach to facility management and significantly contribute to the positive experience of members and visitors alike.

Volunteers

To all our volunteers - thank you! Whether you have participated in working bees, laundered tea towels and tablecloths, watered plants, decorated the Club, or stepped in as a fill-in player to help keep sessions running, your contributions are noticed and deeply appreciated. The success and smooth operation of the Club depend on this quiet but essential support.

Social Committee

A special thank you to the Social Committee, led by Barbara Bialowas, for organising much-loved events including Melbourne Cup Day, our Christmas celebrations, and other social gatherings. These events play a vital role in fostering a sense of community and making the Canberra Bridge Club a vibrant, inclusive, and welcoming place for all.

Education

2025 has been a transformational year for education at the Canberra Bridge Club resulting in significant growth in new members through our revitalised learning pathway.

The Club has reimagined the beginner journey, creating a structured and flexible program designed to guide players from their first lesson to confident participation in duplicate sessions. The updated pathway includes Beginners Courses, Fundamentals Classes and Refresher Courses. This three-tiered structure has proven highly effective, increasing participation in Supervised Play and contributing substantially to our growing and more engaged membership base. It provides learners with a clear progression,



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allowing them to build skills at their own pace while becoming an active part of the CBC community from the outset.

Sincere thanks to our outstanding teaching team: Barbara Toohey, Will Jenner-O'Shea, Jeanette Grahame, Steve Geddes, Jodi Tutty and assisted by David Lee. Their energy, creativity, and commitment have brought new players into the game, and into our Club in impressive numbers. Table numbers are steadily increasing, and we are seeing stronger member retention as learners continue on to regular duplicate and stay connected to the broader CBC playing community.

Youth Development

Youth bridge continues to thrive under the leadership of William Jenner-O'Shea, with several outstanding milestones achieved this year. We were especially proud to see Jade Wilkinson and Alexis Wilsmore selected to represent Australia in the Under-21 Team at the 19th World Youth Team Championships held in Italy this July - a remarkable achievement. At the Australian National Championships (ANC) in Brisbane, our ACT Youth Team - Dev & Diya Shah, Maxwell Ashurst & Natalee White (Monaro Bridge Club), and Byron French & Jessica He delivered a strong performance. With three new team members, their success demonstrates the growing depth of talent in our region and signals a very promising future for youth bridge. In addition, the Club hosted multiple "Youth-ish" nights, which consistently attracted 25 to 35 participants, an exceptional turnout and a testament to the enthusiasm and momentum building among our younger players. These achievements reflect not only the dedication of our youth players, but also the importance of nurturing the next generation of bridge enthusiasts. The future of youth bridge in the ACT is looking very bright.

Representation at International Level

Not only have our youth players achieved outstanding results this year, but several of our most experienced members have also proudly represented Australia on the international stage, showcasing the high calibre of talent nurtured within the Canberra Bridge Club. At the 54th Asia Pacific Bridge Federation (APBF) Championships held in China: Jodi Tutty (Women's Team) and George Kozakos (Seniors Team) represented Australia with distinction, with the Seniors Team winning the GOLD medal. This was a remarkable achievement and a proud moment for both CBC and Australian Bridge. Further international representation followed in August, with Jodi Tutty (Women's), George Kozakos and Ian Thomson (Seniors) and Sebastian Yuen and Christy Geromboux (Mixed). These outstanding players continue to compete at the highest levels, and their success reflects not only individual excellence but also the depth and strength of our bridge-playing community. We extend our warmest congratulations to them all.



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The Committee

The Committee have been exceptionally active this year. Each member has brought their time, dedication, and leadership to the table, ensuring that the Canberra Bridge Club remains a friendly, efficient, and well-managed organisation.

The Governance & Ethics Sub-Committee have completed a substantial body of work that has significantly strengthened the Club's foundations and enhanced transparency, accountability, and member protection. Key achievements include: updating a comprehensive suite of Club policies now available on the website; refining the Barry Turner Fund processes; streamlining the Recorder procedure; and undertaking a full revision of the By-Laws. These initiatives not only improve how the Club functions today but also lay a solid and sustainable foundation for future decision-making and growth. I would like to thank Stephen Fischer, Alison Russell-French, Jenny Bergin, John Brockwell, and Ian Robinson for their expertise and leadership across these vital governance areas.

Special acknowledgement goes to our Treasurer Jenny Bergin for *leading* the By-Laws review with exceptional care and attention to detail, and for her valuable contribution to the financial and budgetary management of the Club.

I also want to highlight the work of our Secretary, Liam Minogue. The role of Secretary is central to the smooth and transparent operation of any association. Liam has carried out his duties with diligence, professionalism and a quiet efficiency that often goes unseen but is essential to the Committee's overall effectiveness. His service over the past year has been outstanding.

Lastly, I warmly acknowledge Barbara Bialowas, Vanessa Brown, and Malcolm Carter for their valued contributions and for the ongoing support they have provided to me as President. Their thoughtful engagement and steady presence have been both helpful and greatly appreciated.

Conclusion

The Canberra Bridge Club is in a strong position supported by a dedicated team, an engaged and expanding membership, and a clear pathway for continued growth and development. I look forward to working with all of you to build on this year's achievements and to continue strengthening our bridge-playing community in the year ahead.

Thank you.

Mary Tough

President, Canberra Bridge Club