

QCBC – Board Update January 2024

Dear Members

This is a short update from your Board about our current areas of priority. It is also a call-out for volunteers - we have several areas of need and there is something for everyone! Please consider whether you have time to help us out. I promise you that you will make a valuable contribution if you are able to.

The Board is meeting monthly and is currently focused on reviewing QCBC's core functions – governance, finance, building and maintenance, QCBC operations. Each Board member is looking after a 'portfolio' and everyone is busy.

Charles Page – finance. He has developed a 6-month budget and our new Finance Committee will meet soon.

Rachel Langdon – Board secretary. Rachel is keeping us on focus and organized.

Ross Murtagh - Building and Maintenance. Ross is working with our amazing Maintenance Committee and is the link between the Board and the Committee. He's had plenty to keep him on his toes including follow-up of the toilet redevelopment project (yes, toilet roll dispensers are high on the list); another gutter flood into the building – a palm tree frond was the culprit; and installation of a new air conditioning unit in February. QCBC be closed from Monday 19th – Wednesday 21st February so a crane can be positioned in the rear carpark to hoist the new unit into place. This is during the Gold Coast Congress to reduce the extent of disruption to the members. Thank you in advance for your understanding about the closure. It is important.

Patrick Bugler – Marketing. Nearly every QCBC member has had the pleasure of a phone call from Pat as he persuades you to attend Club events. He has a honeyed tongue and is very persuasive. He's going to be looking for sponsorship for Club events so if you have any leads, please send them to Pat. Pat needs a partner in this work – someone comfortable with social media marketing. We need someone who can work the socials so that we attract new participants in our beginner's classes and other events. If you have this talent, we'd love to hear from you.

Joyanne Gissing – Governance. Joyanne is a qualified Australian Institute of Company Directors. She will guide the Board through some work to ensure we are focused on our governance priorities. We are embarking on some work to review our corporate legal structure and Constitution with the very able guidance of Peter Lyons. This is important foundation work for the organization but perhaps, for some, not the most enthralling topic. We will keep you informed occasionally about this work.

Mike Martin – Club operations. Mike is working closely with Toni to look at some key aspects of QCBC operations. At present, they are doing some work about Directors.

I am sure you realize that Toni is involved in everything. She has a huge scope of duties and one of my personal priorities is to work with Toni to identify what the Club Secretary needs to do and what can be done a different way. I am also the Board's link with the Education Committee, chaired by Christine Newbery. 2024 beginner's classes have commenced and we have over 30 participants. The full range of Help with Play, Supervised Play and mentoring is all underway too.

Call for volunteers – please.

We have a few glaring gaps right now and several areas which could really do with some skilled attention. If you feel you could contribute in any of these areas, please have a chat with Toni.

Role	How often?	What's involved?
Dealers	Once a week for 1-2 hours. You decide when.	You'll be trained in how to deal. We have step-by-step instructions. It is quite easy. If you're methodical, you are very well qualified.
Scorers	One session a week.	Our Directors are busy on the floor so it is great if someone can set up the movement on the computer, launch the Bridgemates and finalize the scoring. You will receive training. Skills – basic computer skills (nothing fancy).
Directors	One session a week.	We have some magnificent, loyal Directors and we are eternally grateful to them. We do not want to burn them out. If you are interested, you will receive support to learn the role. Director's training is important. The ideal Director has a calm demeanor and a keen interest in bridge.
Social media marketing	As needed – on ongoing basis.	We would love to develop an improved presence on social media to promote our lessons, supervised play and the Club. You will be working closely with Pat Bugler. Good advice is also available from the ABF who have a marketing guideline available for Clubs. Probably needs an initial focus to get going and a bit of focus every 3-4 months to promote classes and other activities.
Kitchen	One session/week (or even per fortnight)	All members are responsible for collecting their cups and bringing them to the kitchen. We have some wonderful members who regularly run the dishwasher and clean up the kitchen but we could really do with more. Skills – ability to push a button on the dishwasher, to wipe benches and put things away.

I hope your slams are working and you have mastered your system (mine is very much a work-in-progress). Happy bridging and a very special thank you to those of you who are volunteering and who offer to volunteer. Let's have a wonderful 2024 together as members of the amazing QCBC.

Annette Hogan

Chair of the Board of Directors