

Nomination for Life Membership of Maitland Bridge Club

Name: Ruth Perris

Ruth has been a member of Maitland Bridge Club since 2014.

She learnt to be Bridgemate operator in 2015 and has 9 years experience as a bridgemate operator and has provided 9 years of support. She is proficient in the use of Compscore and Scorebridge and is assisting to train new people in Compscore.

She became a qualified Director in 2016 and has 8 years experience in club directing and service to MBC.

She shares Saturday Directing role with Jill Parsons, and assists on Wednesday regularly.

She continues as a Standby Director and Bridgemate operator, even while taking on secretary and president roles, assisting when other directors are not available.

She was a member of Management Committee from August 2017 – August 2018.

She was Secretary and Public Officer of Maitland Bridge Club for 3 years September 2020 – August 2023.

She is currently President of Maitland Bridge Club since August 2023.

She began teaching Bridge in 2021 - now in 4th year of teaching Beginners and Stage 2 lessons. She has introduced Stage 3 lessons in 2024.

She is constantly refining lessons to include visual aids and handouts with explicit notes and examples. Sample hands are now dealt in boards prior to lessons so lesson time is spent learning, not sorting cards.

She gained ABF Teacher Accreditation in 2022. This required at least 36 hours of face to face and online learning about teaching bridge. This has enabled Maitland Bridge Club to maintain its status as an ABF Accredited Teaching Club. This added to Ruth's extensive experience as a teacher and educational consultant.

She initiated Know your Rules Workshops in 2023 to support players who were not familiar with decisions when the director was called to the table.

She assisted with the organisation and running of the 2018 MBC Congress.

She organises and supports Invitation Days to encourage experienced players to support newer players.

She washed tabled cloths on a regular basis for several years with Kay Hale.

She supported players who wanted to learn to play bridge online during covid by running a workshop to demonstrate the process and providing support as required.

She trained as dealing machine operator in 2020. She has recently developed (in consultation with Gary Parsons) detailed instructions to support other card dealers in 2023. She has supported dealing of cards for many months while the dealing machine has been causing problems 2023 – 2024.

She initiated the changed the layout of the Bridge hall to move the dealing machine to the back of the room so the front computer could be left for Bridgemate operators and Directors.

She initiated and directed Tuesday morning Bridge sessions just prior to Covid for those who like to play bridge in the mornings. She also initiated the trial of Tuesday Social Bridge to support new players in 2024.

She created many templates on MBC website to support future secretaries e.g. emails, News Items etc that can easily be adjusted each year with new dates.

She has streamlined many MBC processes using technology (in consultation with webmaster) e.g. online Membership application, Enrolment in lessons and other events using Online whiteboards, RSVP for Annual General Meetings to determine if a quorum would be reached. She liaises with the webmaster with regard to the possibility of new things for the website e.g setting up competitions for each day in in 2024.

She identified that no receipts were being issued for approximately \$30,000 worth of income each year. She initiated the Token Register in 2021 to track payments for tokens. This brought the club's finances more in-line with constitutional and legal requirements.

She has encouraged members to pay for tokens, membership fees etc by direct deposit to reduce the amount of cash kept on the premises.

She has worked collaboratively with teams to develop the MBC program for 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024. The program is now published online on the MBC Calendar which saves the club considerable funds by not printing a booklet that is often out of date before it is back from the printers. (e.g. change to program, change of phone numbers etc). The Management Committee now has the flexibility to change dates and events as required and all players are alerted via the website.

She has worked collaboratively with Wendy Davies in the role of Welfare Officer since 2021. Ruth and Wendy developed Guidelines to ensure a consistency in how funds are expended and people are supported.

She has organised Christmas functions in 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023. She has assisted Wendy Davies with organisation of Melbourne Cup Functions in 2021, 2022 and 2023.

She takes a lead role in the Friday lunch culture after bridge each week.

She liaises with the MBC sponsor Creighton Funerals each month to arrange delivery of vouchers and expenditure so sponsorship is shared equitably among players. e.g. prizes for Invitation days to reward new players and experienced players who are willing to support them.

Ruth has two main priorities:

- building capacity of members, to ensure Maitland Bridge Club is well equipped to provide a supportive Bridge environment that is aligned with Bridge NSW and the Australian Bridge Federation Guidelines.
- promoting a friendly bridge club where people can enjoy playing bridge in a fair and competitive environment, at the level they wish to participate.

Nominated by:

Kay Hale

Seconded By:

M. Hall

Date: 10.5.24