

I have been honoured to chair the Executive of the Renfrew Duplicate Bridge Club over the past year. Here are the highlights of the period:

Executive Meetings: The Executive has met regularly by Zoom to ensure that the Club has responded to the challenges of the unusual circumstances in which it found itself.

Method of Play: We examined the possibility of returning to in person bridge at various points during the year. Unfortunately the Executive determined that face to face bridge was not a viable option at any point. We look forward to returning to the table when we are able.

Options Available: We have worked hard to provide varied digital options to our members. At present, our members have a Renfrew club based option for five days per week. They are as follows:

Monday League: This league operates digitally each week. A predetermined schedule of play is provided. There are no points awarded. There is no cost to play.

Tuesday: We have recently arranged for a Renfrew Duplicate Bridge Club private game on the Bridge21 platform at 9 a.m. There are points awarded, and a cost determined by Bridge21.

Wednesday/Thursday: Renfrew shares a game with another Eastern Ontario club on Bridge21 each day. Again, there is a cost and points are awarded.

Friday: The Club provides a free Realbridge game for its members on many Friday's.

Donations: The club's digital activities have generated income. We have been able to donate \$5500 to local charities at this difficult time. These include the Renfrew Food Bank, Child Poverty Action Network, Bernadette McCann House and Hospice Renfrew.

Special Activities: In addition to our regular weekly activities, the club provided extra opportunities to connect. We sponsored a Spring Tournament replete with door prizes. As a Christmas treat, small gifts were purchased and distributed to our members, some by mail and some in person. A free private Christmas tournament on Bridge21 was well attended.

In Memoriam: The club mourned the loss of one of its founding members this year. We will miss Mary McCann greatly, but her smile, joie de vivre and contributions will not be forgotten.

Thank you: I am stepping down as Chair after two years. Never did I imagine that almost the entire time would be spent navigating a pandemic. I am so proud of our members for pivoting and flexing in such challenging circumstances.

To the Executive, I owe much. Its members have continued the philosophy of the Renfrew Club, to provide a welcoming environment in which to enjoy bridge. There has been much work done behind the scenes. Thank you to Lila Paddock, Mike Nagrodski, David Sulpher, Carol Sulpher, Shari Phillips, Ronda Vaillancourt, Ellen Penney, Mary Anne Marshall and Mona Brydges. Your work on behalf of the club is much appreciated.

I am grateful to Phillippa Baran of the Arnprior Club for her invaluable assistance and advice over the past year.

Thank you to all of our members who continue to support the Renfrew Duplicate Bridge Club. I wish you good bridge, fellowship and health.

Jane Wilson