

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1979.

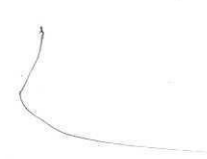
In many ways the past year has been one of transition for the Club and while it is not my purpose to recapitulate on all the aspects of what has occurred, the following seem to warrant comment.

1. CLUB PREMISES.

The General Meeting held on 22nd November, 1979, authorised the Committee to continue investigating the possibility of securing our own premises. It was obvious at the meeting that a long term loan from the Shire appeared to be the most viable method of obtaining this objective and, primarily through the continued efforts of Don Burgess, it is clear that a site in Longfellow Road, Gooseberry Hill is the one best suited to our needs. Whether in the current economic position the Shire will have Loan Funds available is a matter which is not clear at this time but certainly our plans are ready to proceed if the money becomes available. It is worth noting that this venture does commit the Club to a continuing long term financial liability and the consistent raising of Funds, will be a prime responsibility of Committees for the foreseeable future.

2. FINANCES.

It is not my brief to comment in detail on this matter as it will be covered by the Treasurer's report but I would say that the healthy position of the Club's Funds is due in part to a tight control on expenditure and some very good advice and hard work from Max Turley and the Congress Committee.



Our membership for the 1977/78 year was 70. Currently it stands at 90 and average weekly tables amounted to 12.3 in number. Probably the most noteworthy feature of the year's activity was the large number of new faces which is always a heartening feature of any organization's continued progress, our thanks are due to Roy Goddard for his continued efforts in developing Bridge players from the classes he runs at this High School.

At the same time, it was disappointing to note the comparatively infrequent appearances of some of the Club's more experienced players and it is hoped that the future will see a return to regular playing by these members, many of whom were instrumental in seeing the Club through it's formative years.

4. PLAYING STANDARD.

It is probably fair to say that, due to the factors I have just mentioned, the standard of Bridge dropped somewhat, particularly in the middle months of the year but although this must be a somewhat subjective judgement, it has been encouraging to see the beginnings of an improvement in recent months as newer players gained the experience which is essential to allow consistent Bridge.

I do hope that the more experienced players will continue to display the tolerance and patience with beginners which is essential if such newcomers are to enjoy their game. It is only if they do gain pleasure from their playing, they will continue to participate and it is this participation which will improve their play - to the benefit and greater enjoyment of all Club members.

5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.

The thanks of all Club members go to our tournament directors - Peter Hart, Mike Hopper and David Stephens as do our congratulations to David for his meteoric rise as a director during the year. We are very fortunate in having the services of such members who sacrifice a great deal of their time and own uninterrupted enjoyment of playing so that the remainder of us can play without chaos.

Don Burgess has been and continues to be Editor of B.T.G. and has improved on the very high standards set by his predecessors, our thanks also to the support staff of the magazine in Jan Burgess, A.N. Other and Kibitzor and to those who regularly contributed articles and comments (pithy and otherwise) during the year.

