

PATRON'S TROPHY for 2021

It has been a tradition every year to honour someone from our club who has demonstrated the values promoted by our patron, Alexandra Russell, a great bridge player, mentor and friend who helped us to establish our wonderful Bayswater Bridge Club a decade ago. Alexandra believes that a happy bridge club is one where everyone can join in equally and be treated with respect. She appreciates those who support the club through their participation and hard work to make belonging to a bridge club a pleasant experience for all. The winners engraved on the Patron's Trophy have all earned their place through their loyalty, integrity and hard work.

The winner of this year's Trophy is also a very worthy winner. There is no aspect of the running of the club that he hasn't been involved in and he has spent literally thousands of hours working day and night over the years to support the club. In fact, the Bayswater Bridge Club has been a huge part of his life over the last decade and he counts the players here not just as his friends but as his family. This gives it away, I am sure – the 2021 Winner of the Patron's Trophy is Don Sutton-Mattocks.

“Director Don” has played a huge role in the establishment of Bayswater Bridge Club and without him there would be no Bayswater Bridge Club as, for almost a decade, he was our director, dealer and scorer every week and was often on the Committee.

Even though the club is now under very capable direction and has its own entity, functioning successfully in its own right, Don still works behind the scenes, still directs at Canning, still deals boards for teaching and creates individual hands for Sandy's lessons.

Don is a canny bridge player, a teacher and mentor and is the duty dummy or swinging player, sitting in, or out depending on the numbers so that everyone gets a game. Don spends any free time working on a Bridge App to help directors. He has even stepped up again to be on the Bayswater Bridge Club Committee for the coming year.

I am sure you will agree that Don is a worthy winner of the Patron's Trophy and I am sure Alexandra will be pleased.

Sandy Sutton-Mattocks (President)