

AGM REPORT

Ladies and gentlemen, it is my great honour to present to you the President's report for 2018.

The year really jumped out of the blocks with lots of action, some of the highlights being:

- The drama and subsequent publicity for the Club with the Grocon development on the Telstra Land;
- Our full house for the teams congress in January;
- The sold out Commonwealth International pairs event in February;
- The full house on both days of our June congress;
- A stellar year for profit and continuing recovery in new membership numbers;
- A complete makeover of our club's online presence;
- The completion of enhanced club house security.

The club's board worked tirelessly on your behalf to continue to grow the club membership and the average attendance at play of all members. Thanks to all of you for being so welcoming and considerate. Together we have succeeded in increasing our numbers across all aspects of player participation, as our income reflects.

During the term of my presidency, I observed that Bridge is a lot more than just playing the game – it is mostly about connecting people, albeit in a unique domain of intellectual combat and also, as importantly, socializing after play.

However, in a busy Bridge club, such as ours, it is easy to get caught up in “fish bowl” thinking – where small issues can sometimes be blown out of proportion. Most times it's best to take a chill pill and smile graciously in the face of any real or imagined sleight, to preserve that vital ingredient of goodwill amongst the

family of our members and guests. There is an old Russian saying ‘that a thousand friends are worth more than a thousand roubles’. Our relationships, here, are the most important of all.

At the end of the day, we are all ambassadors of the game, not only at play but when talking to friends and family. If we do not have anything positive to say about our fellow members, then PLEASE do not say anything – malicious gossip is really social terrorism.

The clubs finances are in tip top shape and we have term deposits of \$250,000.00 plus cash reserves of \$124,000.00. What these funds represent are the life savings of our membership over the 55 years of our existence. Former Board members had suggested we seek alternative modes of investment for the term deposits, to increase their returns; but this proposal was rejected, as it should have been. Any change to this status quo should be put to the members for approval. However, once our reserves exceed \$400,000.00, I may vote in favour of two alternative investments of \$40,000.00 each.

If I may conclude my term with this one, further request, it is this: please do anything and everything you can to encourage youth bridge, for they hold the future of the game we all love so much.

In closing, let me thank everyone who has contributed so vitally to the on-going health of this wonderful club, including the following:

1. John Glennie for his outstanding contribution, mainly behind the scenes;
2. My bridge partner, Di Hodges, for the wonderful legacy she left after her 3 years as President and her enormous contribution to the success of our large events;

3. Julie Wicks for her long hours and faithful service as club secretary and teacher;
4. Leslie Sutherland for her great support at Board level and for taking up the convenor's role in Dot's absence;
5. Julian Edgerton-Vernon for his excellent work as my Vice-President;
6. Paul Brake for his continuous support and his work with our accounts, youth bridge and the Commonwealth Pairs competition;
7. Marlene Dwyer for her amazing work behind the scenes;
8. Neil Reward for his passion;
9. Cecily and Lynley for their gifted teaching;
10. Dot Piddington for the huge work she does as our club convenor and board member;
11. Lorraine De Nett for her input;
12. Tony Berger for his key role in club maintenance and Eva for her work with our new players;
13. All of our wonderful directors of play and dealers who are a vital ingredient to the success we are enjoying;
14. Margaret Pisko for her wonderful work with scoring, Bridge Mates and competitions.
15. Ruth Tracey, Cheryl Hensel, Sue Herse, Edith Richardson AND Kym McMaster for her outstanding work on our Club Facebook page, as well as our wonderful kitchen staff, Chris and Carol.

So, in wishing you au revoir, may I also say it has been an absolute honour and privilege to serve you all as your President over the past 12 months and it is a delight to be able to hand over the management of the club affairs, in such good order, to the new board and President.

Thank you.

