

CITY OF MELVILLE BRIDGE CLUB AGM – 27TH AUGUST 2017

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome to our 2017 Annual General Meeting. It's wonderful to see so many people in attendance who obviously care not only about their bridge, but the future of their bridge club as well.

Nicole Bertinshaw our past President left the Club in a sound and financially healthy position. This has made it possible for the current Management Committee to work effectively for you, it's members.

This financial year saw our Club join hands with BAWA and signed a M.O.U which is mutually beneficial. We look forward to enjoying many years of cooperation and collaboration with BAWA.

As we all know ADSL Internet is being phased out and instead of being reactive our Club has been proactive in signing up for NBN Broadband with linet our service provider. With initial hiccups and teething problems, everything is now running smoothly and members have been given the benefit of accessing the internet whilst at the Club and many members have embraced that facility.

Another major decision made by your Club was to subscribe to PIANOLA. It has been very helpful to the Club's Administration and given the members alternative options to check their bridge results and interact with PIANOLA website.

Our Club participated in the Bridge for Brains event and was successful in raising 50% more funds than the previous year and your support was an essential ingredient in that achievement. Thank you all who participated.

Our House Manager Kathleen Thomson (who is on a long holiday) has done an excellent job to make sure all aspects of her duties were managed efficiently and effectively. The House Manager role is a heavy one with many tasks for one person. On her initiative and with approval from the Management Committee the tasks were subdivided and members were approached to help out. Special thanks to Peggy and Tom Stacy, Paul and Ann Sarich, Lorraine Jacobson, Hazel Evans, Irene D'Almeida, Paula Pritchard and Mary McCaulay for putting their hands up to contribute their time for various tasks.

You have all seen and experienced the great quality of our Table Covers. This excellent tailoring work is the handiwork of Glenyse Fraser. Her attention to detail is evident and it is hard work doing it for 60 tables! A big thank you Glenyse for her help.

I would also like to thank the many volunteers who helped out with Catering at various events. Our Club is always singled out for praise at the excellent spread we put up at events and our member's delicious contributions make that a reality.

Once again Richard Power our Bar Manager did an exemplary job. Thanks also to the many Bar attendants who helped manage the bar after all bridge sessions.

Our Directors have been doing a great job making sure all games are run efficiently. Thank you to Bill Symons, Noel Daniel, Leon Ref, Dave Parham, Jeannie Ravn & Joan Valentine. We are always on the lookout for more Directors and if anyone here is interested in doing a Director's course please do let us know. The more the merrier.

Our able teachers, Bill Symons and Noel Daniel have dedicated their time and have helped many members improve their bridge and this has seen an increase in our membership. Currently our membership stands at 394 which is more than 10% increase from the previous years. Claire Weston has also been instrumental in coordinating these lessons. Thank you all.

The next year, on suggestion from a member, we are happy to inform you that your Club has decided to have a Red Point event celebrating Australia Day but with a twist. Our club is cosmopolitan and diversified in its membership and we would like to have members who participate come in their National Dress for this event. Let's make it a colourful and fun event. Details to follow, so start planning!

We need to grow our Club further and we need to interest younger people to take up bridge. We would welcome suggestions from members how we can achieve this. Please come to us with your proposals and your Management Committee will certainly give it due consideration.

I was recently playing bridge in San Jose California and on enquiring their strategy for this, they indicated that they have qualified teachers going to schools in their area to tap the students for interest and giving lessons. Members who have connections with education facilities can help our Club achieve similar results Do let us know if you can help.

You have already heard from Christine Young and her team from Melville City Council. Let me assure you that your Management Committee and selected club members are actively working with the Council to be able to present to you a modern, innovative Club going forward. I thank them all with special mention of Marty Goodall, Dorothy Stevenson, David Lobo, Noel Daniel, Richard Power, Dave Parham and last but not least Sandy Sutton-Mattocks.

Next year will see substantial capital costs incurred to ensure our club has the best and latest equipment that a modern club requires. Fortunately, our club is in a healthy financial position. We have a sub-committee established to see how we can tap Lotteries Grants Commission to help us in any way they can. That sub-committee is working hard to achieve that.

At present your Management Committee does not see an increase necessary in either the Subscriptions or Table Money for the coming year. However, when the dust has settled after our move we will be in a better position to assess if an increase is essential.

My thanks also to Keith Norris our Trump Newsletter editor, who puts together an informative and interesting newsletter on a regular basis. I would like to encourage members to give us ideas of what they would like to see and read about in future editions.

When we finally move to the new location, Marketing will be paramount. It would be wonderful to have members who have marketing background and experience come forward and help our Club with strategies to grow our club. We hope to hear from you soon!

We sadly had to say goodbye to some of our current and past members of the Club. Our thoughts are with their families and friends of the following who left us this year: Gail Putz, Pat Jordan & Lillian Key. RIP.

I would like to offer my sincere thanks to your outgoing Management Committee. They have all worked very hard to ensure that your club runs efficiently. Healthy discussions lead to healthy decisions and working harmoniously has been the key.

Some of the Committee members are leaving us for the next year but I am optimistic they will come back in some role in the future. I would like to take this opportunity to farewell and thank them for their outstanding contribution to CMBC.

Each retiring committee member has been involved in special and general roles, giving freely of their time and individual skills. It is a great honour to serve on our committee and such service should be considered as an opportunity to repay the club for the great pleasure we all derive from our special game – Bridge.

Before I close, I am delighted to present your 2017/2018 Management Committee. I would like to welcome Lyndie Trevean (Vice President), Richard Fuller (Secretary), Mark Hughes (Treasurer), House Manager (Hazel Evans), Committee Members: Merwyn Menezes, Claire Weston, Rachel Shave, Lorraine Jacobson. We hope to find a suitable candidate for the position of Tournament Manager in due course.

Finally, I am thankful to you all, our members, who make our Club a friendly place to meet. We all have one common goal, which is to make our Club a great place to enjoy bridge and maintain friendship and fellowship. I wish you happy bridging.

Salim I Songerwala

President.

