

2019 AGM PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A warm welcome to you all and thank you for attending MBC's 2019 Annual General Meeting.

2019 has been a remarkable year for the Club. When I delivered my address to members at last year's Annual General Meeting we were in the midst of intense negotiations with the City of Melville. As I address you today, we have successfully crossed the finishing line.

Thank you for the honor and privilege of leading this wonderful Club for the past 3 years. It has been a challenging yet rewarding and memorable experience. In my journey, I have had much help from my team without whom it would not be possible to be where we are today. And I think we are in a great space (no pun intended). Right now, I contend that at present we are the friendliest most modern club in WA. I know you will all agree. I have many people to thank, in particular, our Vice President Merwyn who has coordinated the difficult move from our old address to this address with precision and dedication. Many of our members were also involved in organizing the move and I thank them all too. It was so wonderful that we did not lose even 1 session of bridge despite the move! That's fantastic.

It was only recently that our Lease with the CoM has been signed. Lengthy negotiations with the CoM were necessary and our core team of Merwyn, Richard, Mark, Dorothy and myself spent many hours and meetings with CoM to come to a workable solution that satisfies us and them and ensures that our Club has longevity. Negotiations with BAWA have now been completed and a Sub-Lease signed. The rent from BAWA will help our club offset some of the rent we have to pay the Council which is a great benefit. Thus far BAWA events and our events are all running smoothly and there is no reason why this will not continue to be so.

The Grand Opening by Mayor Russell Aubrey on 10th March 2019 was a great success and attended by Council and local government dignitaries all very complimentary of our facilities and the Management Committee.

Our membership currently stands at 349 which is good. Your Management Committee is working hard to find ways and means to increase membership. One way is to offer lessons at a nominal

cost and get the learners to join up after their lessons. We have supervised sessions especially for these learners so that they can be gently initiated into competitive bridge.

On a sad note, we said goodbye to 4 long-time members. They will be missed.

R.I.P Jean Westle, Darryl Williams, Gordon Calvert, and Russell McIntosh.

Many of our events both for OPEN and RESTRICTED Level Members have been organized in the past year which caters to all levels of bridge. This is mainly due to the hard work put in by our Tournament Manager Bill Symons. He has proved invaluable to the club and we are very happy that he has agreed to continue as TM for the coming year. Thank you, Bill. Also, a note of thanks to Lyndall Steed for conducting the Supervised Sessions with finesse. House Manager's duties are not easy and our experienced House Manager Lyndie Trevean has been exemplary in this regard. She has been able to organize a band of helpers and their team is responsible for the catering and other social functions that happen so flawlessly at the Club. Many thanks to Lyndie and her band of helpers. They are too many to mention individually but they all know who they are. Lyndie is taking a break from House Manager duties and we have 2 new ladies who I am sure are great at this. Thank you, Heather Watts and Jackie Bullock, for putting your hands up. I am sure Lyndie will be happy to give advice when needed.

Our Secretary, Richard Fuller's dedication to making sure all our paperwork and administrative work are in good order and compliant has been a revelation. His knowledge and counsel are very much appreciated by me and the MC. Thank you, Richard. I am happy that you are continuing the great work you are doing for the club in the coming year and for many years, I hope.

Our Treasurer Mark Hughes and soon to be President has a head for numbers and is perfectly suited for his role. He has been a great help to the Committee where any financial matters required interpretation and understanding and have guided me and the Committee in the right direction. I wish him well in the coming year to continue his great work for the Club.

Our committee member Claire Weston is also taking a break for Committee duties. She has been a valuable asset to the club and played a major role in designing the Kitchen. As you will agree we have a great kitchen now. Thank you, Claire. Also, thanks to Noelene and Eugene for their hard work during the year.

I raise my glass to compliment Richard Power for his efficient bar management skills. Thank you, Richard.

I would also like to mention Marty Goodall. He has been a great help to the club in helping us dispose of many of the old furniture and fixtures. A good sum was raised through his efforts. Thank you, Marty.

All members of the present committee have been pulling their weight and doing things that have been necessary and beneficial for the Club. **That is what we need in the Management Committee.** People who will take on tasks and not just sit and vote on matters. Many hands make light work. This is the great culture in our present Committee and I am sure it will continue in the new Committee.

Now a quick word on our Sponsors. Our 9 sponsors benefit the club financially and that pays for a lot of the items we supply in the club that you as members benefit from and it contributes to our bottom-line financially. It is my sincere request to you all that when a need for their services presents itself that our members give them an opportunity for their services. It takes 2 hands to clap.

We now have plenty of room to grow and although we are experiencing steady growth there is no better way to advertise a Club more than by word of mouth. So, I would also request you all to do just that. More members playing leads to a challenging competition and is good for the club.

As we grow and more sessions are planned, we will need more Directors. We currently have 10 regular and occasional directors on our books. Which is great. My thanks to all for making sure we all enjoy a good game of bridge day in and day out.

The Club now has a Defibrillator machine on site which is registered with St John's Ambulance Brigade. We hope we never need to use it but it can save lives if needed and that is why the Club decided to install one.

With this in mind, if you have not already entered your **In Case of Emergency** contact name and phone number, we highly recommend that you do so. Quite a few have already done so and I thank you for their prompt response. Please give the Director the details if you decide to do so and they will enter it into the Register.

I have enjoyed my tenure as President of the club. I still, have something more to offer and will continue as Sponsorship Manager and the WebMaster.

I am now ready to pass on the baton to the incoming committee. Most of them are veterans and we have some new faces too. So, I welcome them to the new Committee. My best wishes to them for another successful year as they direct MBC to bigger and better things. Please allow me to present your 2020 Management Committee:

President & Treasurer: Mark Hughes

Vice President: Merwyn Menezes

Secretary: Richard Fuller

Tournament Manager: Bill Symons

Joint House Managers: Heather Watts & Jackie Bullock

Committee Members: Eugene McClorey, Di Nelson, Bruce Penhey and Dorothy Stevenson.

I now declare the Annual General Meeting closed. Once again thank you for your attendance.

Lunch and bridge to follow and I wish you happy bridging.