



## CITY OF MELVILLE BRIDGE CLUB

AGM 9<sup>th</sup> September 2018

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### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome to our 2018 Annual General Meeting. It's heartening to see so many people in attendance today. We all are here because we love our Club and our Bridge and keen to hear about the future of our Bridge Club.

The last year has seen steady growth in our membership base, which currently stands at 328, which is a fantastic achievement. Many competitions have been played during the year and except for some minor hiccups all has gone smoothly, thanks to our very able Directors. Without the contribution of our passionate Directors we could not have these great outcomes.

In my last address I informed you that we have joined the Pianola Community and I must say that after some initial teething issues, things are now running smoothly and its features have been great for our members and also for admin work by your Club.

Once again, your Club enthusiastically participated in the "Bridge for Brains" event, supporting research for Alzheimer's. This year we were able to increase our contribution to \$2000 for this great cause. The members had a good game and showed their generosity by donating items for the raffle as well as cash. Thank you all very much for your support.

Miniature Cups have been a welcome addition to the presentation format and as the survey indicated it was what 60% of members wanted and enjoyed receiving to savour their victory.

Our house manager, Noelene, has done a marvellous job organizing the logistics we all take for granted such as making sure members had snacks and food and organizing the table presentation for the main occasions. I would also like to thank all the members who put their hands up to donate their time to help her out. There are too many to mention and I am sure they know who they are. Our Club is always singled out with praise for the excellent spread we put on at events and our members' delicious contributions make that a reality.

Special thanks to Peggy and Tom Stacy, Paul and Ann Sarich, Irene D'Almeida, Paula Pritchard and Mary McCaulay for contributing their time for various tasks allocated to them and team up with Noelene to make sure everything is humming along nicely.

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

Our Directors have done a great job making sure all games are run efficiently. Thank you to Bill Symons, Noel Daniel, Leon Ref, Dave Parham, Jeannie Ravn and Nicole Bertinshaw. 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 better for the club's future.

Our knowledgeable teachers, Bill Symons and Noel Daniel have dedicated their time and have helped many members improve their bridge and their efforts have had a significant impact on our membership base.

In the month of August, we experimented with doubling the green points for 4 Saturday afternoons. Your Club has been investigating ways to increase interest at this session. It is unfortunate that in spite of this special promotion the response has been poor. Sadly, this promotion has ended and will not be repeated.

Now I come to a topic which is on everyone's mind. When are we relocating to our new location?

Firstly, I must tell you that your Management Committee and the various sub-committees have worked really hard to ensure we get everything right the first time. All have contributed their time to help the club make good decisions. At the moment the timeline suggests that we should be into the new location by early December. Whether we will be in time to host our 2018 Xmas party remains to be seen. We will do our best but if not this year DEFINITELY the 2019 party!! Things can change, and your Club will keep you informed via email as the time nears.

In preparation for the move we have been in process of selling items that we do not need. Members have taken up this opportunity to grab some bargains. Marty Goodall is in charge of this and is doing a marvellous job (which has not been easy) and we thank him for that. The less we have to take from here the better for our Club. If you are interested in anything, please talk to Marty and if still available he will indicate a price for you to consider.

Final negotiations regarding the lease have still to be completed with the Council. After much to and fro and strong representation by the sub-committee in charge of this, we are endeavouring to finalize a good outcome for the Club for its long term sustainability. Thank you, Mark, Merwyn and Dorothy for your time and patience in seeing this through to an acceptable outcome.

This year will see substantial capital costs incurred to ensure our club has the best and latest equipment that any modern club requires. Fortunately, our club is in a healthy financial position to achieve this. We want to make sure our Club is the best and most modern bridge club in Perth!

Once again, your Management Committee does not see an increase necessary in either the Subscriptions or Table Money for the coming year which is good news for members.

However, once a year has passed at our new location, we will have a much better idea of our expenditures and revenues and will be able to decide whether we need to make any changes. Even if we do, we hope to still be in a competitive position with our peer Clubs.

As I requested last year, when we finally move to the new location, marketing will be of paramount importance. This is where the membership can help. It would be wonderful to have members who have a marketing background and experience come forward and help our Club with strategies to grow our club. We hope to hear from you soon! Another

effective way is of course word of mouth which is the best marketing tool. That is where you ALL can help. Spread the word around!

We sadly had to say goodbye to Phyllis Gaffney. Our thoughts are with her family. RIP.

I would like to offer my sincere thanks to your outgoing Management Committee. They have all worked very hard to ensure that our club runs efficiently.

Two of our 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 Rachel Shave and Lorraine Jacobson for their 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 the 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.

Whilst there have been many positive things we've achieved this year, one issue I would like to raise relates to the contribution from our broader membership base. We have often asked members by Pianola emails to come forward for various tasks. However, the response we have received has been quite disappointing. Members are content to come and play bridge as the platform is provided for them. In order to provide that platform a lot of effort by a lot of people is required. It does not just happen! If I could please take this opportunity to request the membership to get more involved in helping the club that would be greatly appreciated. More hands make light work.

We had to make certain necessary changes to our Constitution and our Secretary Richard Fuller with help from our Treasurer Mark Hughes have spent many hours to make sure we comply with the changes as required by the Associations rules. Other changes in the Constitution were deemed essential for the smooth running of your Club. Our Secretary will explain this in detail to you all. We seek your "yes" vote in approval of these changes.

Before I close, I am delighted to present your 2018/2019 Management Committee. I would like to welcome Merwyn Menezes (Vice President), Richard Fuller (Secretary), Mark Hughes (Treasurer), Lyndie Trevean (House Manager) Bill Symons (Tournament Manager) and Committee Members Claire Weston, Chris Eales, Eugene McClorey and Noelene Smith, and myself as President.

And finally, I would like to thank you all. In the bridging community we have a reputation for our "friendliness" and that is because our members are so welcoming and congenial. Our united goal is to continue to make our Club a great place to enjoy Bridge and encourage friendship and fellowship.

Thank you all.

**Salim I Songerwala**  
**President.**