

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - BARGARA BRIDGE CLUB 2018 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The past year has been a period of consolidation. As committee members and dealing machine volunteers have become more familiar and comfortable with the technology, procedures have been refined to suit this Club's particular challenges. While sharing premises has distinct financial advantages, the necessity to set up and pack away all equipment for each session is labour intensive and creates challenges that make use of the dealing machine around the daytime sessions the only practical option.

Towards the end of the March financial quarter, and after twelve months of increased uptake of technology, it became clear that our expenditure was exceeding our income. The Committee took the decision to increase table fees by \$1 from the beginning of April.

The separate annual costs of access to the website and WIFI, printed hand records, a growing library, our luncheon on the day of the AGM (first introduced in 2016), and provision of an alternative coffee for our sessions all contribute to our added expenses.

As is customary, we conducted the Italian Pairs in November, held our Christmas Party in December and played the annual game against the Bundaberg Club in January. While we again lost to our Bundaberg hosts, the number of our members who participated was pleasing and all seemed to enjoy the day. We have a good relationship with Bundaberg, with a number of our players enjoying the benefits of dual memberships. The Bundaberg President, Mike Verdel, is a welcome regular at our Tuesday night sessions – even acting as Director on occasion.

Our pool of directors is a healthy one and we thank Babs Beh, Helen Manzau, Steve Taylor, Alan Baker, Sheryl Matthews, Heather Walsh and Susie Stevens for making themselves available to perform this role.

Dealing machine volunteers Laurel Mathews, Cynthia Ryan and Jill Serra make a very significant contribution and we thank them for that. I encourage other members to give this task a try. It would be good to share the load and the instructions have been refined so the job is less daunting.

We remain indebted to Rod Pershouse for his continuing role in website and computer issues.

Thanks also to Val Knapman who has resumed contributions to the *Buzz* on our behalf after a request from the Editor.

There are those of us who find the people of this Club just as appealing as the bridge. The preparedness of so many members to assist with the pre-session setup and post-session packing away is evidence of the goodwill of members and I can assure those people that their efforts are very much appreciated by the Committee.

The *Sandhills* staff members, led by Naomi Santin, are consistently helpful, respectful and cheerful and this contributes in no small way to our continued enjoyment of our sessions and functions.

Finally, I should pay tribute to the outgoing Committee for their efforts. Particular thanks are due to Leone Collins who continued on in her usual calm, friendly manner without complaint when a clash of holidays, health issues, family and other commitments meant she was the only Committee member present. She has rarely missed a session and continues to work before and after play for three sessions a week for fifty plus weeks of the year. We salute you Leone.

Best wishes to the incoming Committee and happy bridge to all.

Ann Dillon (President)

16 July 2018