

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2024 – 25

The 2023-24 year was a year when significant changes were made.

This past year has been a year when those changes have been fully implemented and some new management efficiencies introduced.

I must acknowledge the efforts of your Committee – everything runs very smoothly with all contributing. As a club, we need to appreciate the fact that everything is done on a completely voluntary basis – club management, session directing, card dealing, program and competition setup, masterpoint management, club delegates, U3A program support – we must thank our members who give their time to do all these things – their efforts mean that our table fees are only \$4 – thank you.

This has been the first full year as an affiliated club with the ABF and SABF – all is going smoothly. In the past 12 months you have shared in 412.84 green masterpoints and 64.84 red ones. – as well as many Ranking Promotion Certificates. Our club is more recognized in the wider bridge community and outside people do take an interest in us. More of our members are attending congresses. We should congratulate Janine Lusher and Mandy Tomney who were runners up in the Autumn National Rookies Swiss pairs in May – well done!

The major change we introduced this year was becoming cashless. The change was made in October in a very smooth and seamless transition – paying table fees via Eftpos and awarding Free Table Fee Vouchers for monthly handicap winners – instead of a cash prize. The change worked so well because of thorough planning and excellent cooperation from all members, thank you to our Eftpos machine operators.

Shortly we will learn that we remain in a very sound financial position. John Glenn is retiring as Treasurer – the club has been very fortunate to have John as Treasurer for the past few years – his accounting has been meticulous and under his direction we have transitioned completely to electronic banking and only cashless money transactions.

The Treasurer's job is now more efficient, safer and much less time consuming.

I personally would like to thank John – he has made my job as incoming President, new to the Committee, much easier than it might have been – not only as Treasurer but also as a provider of a wise ear when needed.

You will be pleased to know that we have entered into a new Hall Hire Agreement here at St Pius X Church Hall for 3 years commencing September 1st. There will be a rent increase of \$10 per week with annual CPI increases. Our rent had not been increased for at least 3 years – the increase is less than half inflation over the past 3 years.

This is a good deal and I can report that the Church is very supportive of our continuing here – they recognize and encourage the social benefit that you all gain from attending your bridge sessions.

The only change will be that the hall will be unavailable on Easter Thursdays.

This years Christmas Function will again be held on Thursday December 4th at the Clovey Hotel Function Room – where our prizes will be presented.

Our attendances are fairly stable – averaging 18.65 tables per week across the year – there has been an increase in Friday attendance especially over the past 3 or 4 months.

We now have detailed attendance mapping week by week – so future comparisons will be easily made.

Tea Tree Gully Bridge Club is in a stable position and running smoothly.

Our biggest potential threat would be a significant decline in attendance.

We all need to work toward keeping our current members happy – to be a friendly, welcoming and encouraging club – attracting new members is also important, but new members will neither come nor stay unless we are welcoming, friendly and supportive.

While table fees are set by the incoming committee, I see no need for a change in the next year or two at least.

In summary, the past 2 years have seen significant changes - particularly around affiliation and financial management systems. The changes are all in place and we should be entering a period of confident consolidation.

I hope you will all enjoy the coming year, keep attending as many bridge sessions as you can, but most importantly, have fun while you are here.

Milton Hart