

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

14th March 2026

Welcome to our 2026 Annual General Meeting of Parramatta Bridge Club. Thank you for making the effort to attend today.

2025 was a good year for Parramatta Bridge Club as the table numbers increased gradually throughout the year and we are in a reasonably good position financially.

The G N O T was well attended and ran very smoothly, Directed by Paul Weaver. As a Club we don't have to run this event and although it ran at a small loss in 2025 it is the only time when members can receive gold points without travelling to Canberra or the Gold Coast. The cost to participate in the G N O T has been \$88 per team for many years but that fee will need to increase this year.

Parramatta Bridge Club has a bit of a reputation for providing a wonderful spread of food at the Congress. Once again the food kept coming all day so thank you members for your generosity. Thank you too to Roberta Bell and Helen Bambach who worked tirelessly throughout the day. Many Youth Players attended our Congress in 2025 and several Bridge NSW Board Members said thanks for encouraging the younger players. I don't know why it was so in 2025.

We do sometimes have two young girls who play at our Saturday session.

I would especially like to thank Martin Letherbarrow who has been dealing the boards for our bridge sessions. I've explained before that it is not just the dealing but hands have to be generated, copies need to be made and then the boxes need to be carried backwards and

forwards. In 2025 there were a few problems with the dealing machine and Martin had over 80 emails to and from the manufacturers to fix the problems. Martin has trained Brendan Duffy who plays on Wednesday evenings and he is about to train someone else so that Parramatta Bridge Club will have a few people who are familiar with preparing boards for our bridge sessions.

Providing Beginner Lessons is the only way for our Club to grow and on that note I'd like to thank Ann Lawrence and Caimein Bowyer for assisting me with the lessons running at the moment. Apart from giving up their time Ann and Caimein have had to give up their Monday online sessions. Thank you too to any members who encouraged their friends to attend lessons.

Your Committee has worked hard throughout the year to keep the Club running smoothly and efficiently. I'd like to mention two Committee members in particular, Ted Richards our Secretary, who books the hall, liaisons with Parramatta Council, responds to all emails, produces the Agenda for our monthly meetings and types and distributes the minutes. Ted even emails and corresponds with the Committee when on holidays in Perth. He is always thinking of our Club.

I think the Club would fall apart if it wasn't for Bill Doman our Treasurer and Director. Bill firstly moved all online players over to paying through MyABF and then later in 2025 he proceeded to do the same with the F2F players. This was an onerous task in itself as well as many hours of computer work. A very big thank you to Ted and Bill.

To all the Committee Members over the past year I thank you for the time and effort you put into the work you do for Parramatta Bridge Club.

Bridge Clubs cannot run smoothly without Directors. 'Thanks' goes to our online Director Eric Lam who tries to have full tables whenever possible and to our volunteer directors, Bill, Glen and myself.

Looking to the future..... The Committee does have some concerns regarding the future of Parramatta Bridge Club. We have seen a previously thriving Club in our vicinity reduced to one session a week of four or five tables. A driving force in this Club passed away and a couple of very active members moved away. Any and all Clubs need volunteers and Bridge Clubs probably more so because the majority of us are retired. Not all of us are able bodied but just look around. There are many 'lighter' jobs to be done around the place so please get involved.

I have approached several members about joining the Committee over the past few weeks. Two members said, "Not this year. Perhaps next year," and I'm very grateful to these people for even considering the idea. We have one new person joining the Committee this year but we will need more in the future if Parramatta Bridge Club is to grow and thrive.

Margaret East

..... 14th March 2026.