

Manly Leagues Bridge Club

President's Report 2009

Dear Members,

I would like to thank you for your continued support of the Bridge Club over the past year and into the next. We are fundamentally a social organisation that exists to foster friendship amongst those afflicted with an interest in duplicate bridge – all of us have a role in furthering our Club in this role.

Some of our members have suffered major health issues over the past year – this has taken some from us, which we acknowledge with sorrow, while for others we have rejoiced in their return to the bridge table.

We also welcome the many new players who have joined us during the year, including the graduates from the Beginners' Classes we started in 2009. These new players are the ongoing lifeblood of our club.

The past year has also seen our switch to our new playing area on the mezzanine level. While the stairs and occasionally some conflict with nearby sound sources remain issues, on the whole the move has worked out fairly well – with reliably having cupboards, and a bar, adjacent to our playing area a definite plus.

Bridge wise we have seen some marvellous, perhaps even miraculous, feats of bidding and play at points during the year and I would congratulate those who are listed on the 2009 Prize Board. In particular we were successful in winning the Manly Daily Northern Beaches Pairs for the second year. We have also introduced Handicap prizes in some sessions to recognise any pair that has a great personal session.

Financially we have been stable in 2009, with an increase in standard table money during the year offsetting the impact of some decline in numbers, particularly for our Wednesday session.

I would like to thank the 2009 committee who have made all this possible, and in a very efficient and enjoyable manner. I would also like particularly to thank those who are not on the committee but who help the club run pleasantly – such as by getting out and putting away the club's materials and removing the rubbish, cups and glasses that others (who must be suffering some form of memory lapse) leave behind. Taking care of the playing environment is, of course, something that all players, without exception, should take responsibility for.

There are some important roles that I would like each of you to consider taking on over the next year – non-committee members can undertake these roles:

- **Social Coordinators** – working with Pegg Carlson to run events or activities either at a bridge session or outside them that help build the social enjoyment of our members
- **Member Contact** – making contact with members who have not been coming regularly, resolving any hurdles that may be in the way (such as finding partners, solving transport issues etc), and reporting to the committee on any recurring issues
- **Newsletter Editor** – producing and distributing occasional newsletters

- **Website Editor** – contributing bridge and club related content to our website <http://northernbeachesbridge.info/manly-leagues>

Niki Radnidge, Anne Small and John O'Brien are leaving the committee – thank you to your work, particularly Niki in her role as treasurer. I understand that Christine Smith, Jan Chivers, Annette Kearns and Martin Stone are joining us – welcome!

As I mentioned when I took on the role of president two years ago, I think it is better for this critical role not to be held by one person for too long. Consequently should I be elected for 2010—that will be my final year. Moreover our very able Vice President, Jan McLennan, has advised that she will not stand for President next year, though she would be happy to support a new president by remaining as vice president should this be sought. So it may be time to start thinking of who you would like to be your next president.

David Farmer
President, Manly Leagues Bridge Club
6 December 2009