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### ◆ MG – President

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President

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In a rather unfortunate April Fool's mistake, I seem to have ended up as the president of the club. Turning up at East Lindfield for the AGM this year on what I took to be Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April, I was informed that March has only 31 days this year and as nobody else had applied, I was now officially the president.

More seriously, I am very proud to be the president of our wonderful club, even if not a single member voted for me (and quite right too!).

We had a good turnout for the AGM (wonderfully arranged by **Maryann Russett**) thanks to a lot of behind-the-scenes cajoling led by Maryann and **Margaret Owen** with others also applying the odd threat here and there or offering a small number of overtricks depending upon their style. When the music stopped, we had 73 people attend, both in person and online (admirably managed by **Elana Kohn**) which was great.

As the outgoing Secretary, Maryann not only did a fantastic job of organising the AGM, she also made some great changes to the club constitution which were passed unanimously at the AGM. In future we only need 20 people to form a quorum at an AGM, you can become president or vice president now without needing to have been on the committee (or a similar one) before and she also snuck in something about nobody called Maryann having to be on

the committee again. On my copy I have crossed that bit out and signed underneath with the word "PRESIDENT" which I think makes it official so hopefully we can get her back in some capacity at some point in the future.

In a not too surprising move, as soon as they heard I was going to be president, the entire committee resigned on the spot. I'd like to commend them on their prompt action in this matter.

As I said at the AGM, **David Fryda** has been like our wartime president. He's had to cope with things that he couldn't have thought possible when he first signed up. He's had to steady the ship through several senior staff changes, TWO changes of venue (which is unheard of) and many other unexpected problems. When it started raining frogs, he should have got out of Sydney to higher ground... wait, maybe he knows something we don't know.

I would like to thank David again for everything he has done for the club and for me. He will be a hard act to follow but I am hoping the challenges will take a look at me and decide they don't need to be as severe to cause me major problems. Poor David couldn't even be at the AGM because of an outbreak of something called Covid in his house. I will look into what that is, but I doubt it is anything to worry about.

**John McIlrath**, our outgoing vice president, has also stood down from the committee. When I first went to Willoughby John was the club. He owned it, managed it, directed, hung the wallpaper, made the tea, and played in. His mantra about us all being there to have fun and enjoy ourselves, seemed totally anathema to the principles of bridge, but after trying it out we all found it actually did work. I'm sure John won't be far away from the action, but it will be strange for him not to have a central role at the club. Thank you John, for everything you have done for the club and bridge in Australia! I'm sure you will be doing more, but I always like to clap halfway through a performance to encourage the performer to keep going.

As a numbers man, **Les Grewcock** was out before anyone else. He knows when 2+2=April 1<sup>st</sup>. After being treasurer for six wonderful years, Les wasn't hanging around to watch me put it all on Black. (*Note to self, check into this further*). Treasurer is a hard job and Les has been a rock for us. When I joke that he ran out the door that is entirely untrue. Les is still involved in a lot of the ongoing activities and the handover to Rod, our incoming treasurer. He is too thorough and committed a member not to see things through. I'm hoping I can pull off an Arabian Nights strategy and keep him involved forever with just one more thing.

**Elana Kohn** has also hung up her Zoom password. Elana, along with David, were the rascals who talked me into joining the committee last year. Something I am sure they regret more than me. Elana always seems to be in sixth gear, running around doing everything. I'm more of a neutral kind of revving the engine sort of driver. Her energy was very important to driving the committee and especially managing the teaching side of things and the "Hunt for Mike Prescott" recruitment effort.

**Winston Horne** has also, at least temporarily, left the committee. A strong debater with great depth of knowledge about people, I found Winston one of the more interesting people on the outgoing committee. He is tenacious and acted a bit like the conscience of the committee, always wanting to dig into things and uncovering what others had missed (not me, I still missed it even after Winston had found it).

Anyway, those overachievers have gone. And good riddance.

As I sat there on my own at the big table in East Lindfield where the gladiators of the outgoing committee had sat just before running out the door, I thought to myself, well at least I'll finally be the smartest person on the committee.

Then they appeared.




The B Team.

Slowly emerging from the audience, they came. First mumbling, then speaking, then shouting. "I am Spartacus! I am Spartacus! I can be Spartacus every second Tuesday!"

And what an impressive group of people we have stepping forward to join the committee this year. I handed my wallet and phone over immediately and pleaded for them not to hurt me.

At the darkest hour for our club, with the great committee leaving and the door shutting in my face to trap me behind, the finest members of our club stood up and said "No! Don't let him make decisions alone."

You will be hearing more about our fine committee over the next year, but for now here are their names:

	<b>Jane</b> "I've done this all before" <b>Russ</b> –  Vice President
	<b>Rod</b> "What just happened?" <b>Owen</b> –  Treasurer
	<b>Sharon</b> "Why didn't I talk to Maryann first?" <b>Thompson</b> –  Secretary
	<b>Jake</b> "I've got my work cut out here" <b>Andrew</b>



**Ian** "Vote early, vote often"  
**MacLaren**



**Carol** "Voice of Reason"  
**McMurray**

We actually had the committee oversubscribed this year which is a real testament to the support of our members. Of course, you don't actually need to be on the committee to help out and we have fantastic volunteers at the club, in particular my two favourites who refuse now to be on the committee but have actually done a stint each. I think of them as "I tried it once, but I didn't inhale" – **Kevin Davies** and **Leo Goorevich**.

The three people who stood but didn't get on were **Terry Dunne**, **Winston Horne** and **Robin Devries**. I would like to thank them for standing and I hope that they are still prepared to help the club out. If I have proved nothing else, it is that this club needs help.

Cheers

Mark

## ♦ MP – Club Manager

Mike Prescott  
0435 528 872



Club Manager

I would like to welcome our new NSBC Committee for 2022-2023

Mark Guthrie - President  
Jane Russ – Vice President  
Rod Owen - Treasurer  
Sharon Thompson – Secretary  
Committee members  
Ian MacLaren  
Carol McMurray  
Jake Andrew

On behalf of all members and staff we would like to thank you for taking on this task. I look forward to working with you all to get NSBC back to some sort of normality in the coming year.

Face to Face

Table numbers at many of our sessions are growing which is fantastic but we still have some sessions that are very small. We need members support to get numbers up. Please keep coming along I am working on different ideas to get more players to these sessions.

It is great to back at the club after my absence and I am very much up for the challenges ahead in getting our club Face to Face sessions all up and running again.

## ♦ March Statistics

Mar Tables - Club Venues	Planned Venue Use	Active Tables	Active Sessions	Tables / Session	%Tables
"RB" RealBridge Online Totals	100	1150	101	11.39	73.77%
"EL" East Lindfield F2F Totals	28	314	23	13.65	20.14%
"WS" Willis Sports & Rec Centre	13	95	17	5.59	6.09%
March Totals	141	1559	141	11.06	

March Tables by - Session Type	Active Tables	%Tables
"Open" Type Sessions	1074	69%
"Restricted" Type Sessions	103	7%
"Rookie" Type Sessions	323	21%
"Supervised" Type Sessions	59	4%

## ♦ Q1 Statistics

2022	Ven Note	Active Tables	No Sess	Avr Tables / Session	Comments	RB Tables	EL Tables	Willis Tables	Net Num of Members at End of month
Jan-22	RB EL WS	1,328	129	10.29	ABF RB Summer Festival, Covid resurgence, NSBC Congress event, RB=84% Tables, Open grade =71% Tables	1,118	153	57	1,736
Feb-22	RB EL WS	1,331	121	11.00	ABF F2F Surfers, NZB RB Congress, Covid improving, RB=80%, Open=68%, 100 new members from beginner lessons, Members not renewing being removed.	1,061	195	75	1,755
Mar-22	RB EL WS	1,559	141	11.06	ABF F2F Tas, NSBC F2F Congress @ EL, Covid improving, Floods, RB=79%, Open=66%, Membership ABF rationalisation, Mike Prescott back as Mgr	1,150	314	95	1,728