

President's Report 2017-18

Well, I thought Billie had done all the hard work getting the new North shore District established, and I could come in as President and have a nice easy job, however Women's Bowls NSW had other things in mind! One of my first tasks as District President was to attend the District President's Conference at Club Merrylands last November. I must admit this was a rather underwhelming experience, however it did forewarn us of changes to come. I am pleased to report the second conference I attended, held over two days in Bathurst in July this year to discuss the new Expenditure Policy and other changes planned for Districts, was very interesting and informative. There was much robust discussion on many topics and many contentious issues were resolved. New District and Club Operation Manuals, and proposed changes to Pennant for 2019 have been given to the District Executives to comment on before their implementation. We also discussed the new Summer League, and a proposed Graded Weekend Pennant which may be introduced next year. It is anticipated this more inclusive method of conferring with the Districts before introducing new events and policies will prevent similar criticism to that generated by the Expenditure Policy.

The new WBNSW District Expenditure Policy was introduced in February and was met with a great deal of angst from many quarters. This policy was discussed at our Management and District meetings, and it was agreed a policy was necessary to ensure all Districts spent their members fees responsibly and within common guidelines. Our District already complied with most of the new policy so did not need to make too many changes. It was therefore decided to make a few minor adjustments to what had been done previously and implement the new Policy. Although this presented our Treasurer with some challenges, we now believe we have a formula which will stand us in good stead going forward. There were a few modifications agreed on at the recent President's Conference which will also be included. My sincere thanks to Annette Renshaw and Bev Piper for their work on this project.

The proposed Metro Pennant and the Commonwealth Games made scheduling of our 2018 events extremely difficult, however our Match Committee did a superb job of fitting everything into the calendar. We know everyone wasn't happy with the timing of every event. One thing I can tell you is that WBNSW has decided that, due to results of the pennant survey they commissioned, Pennant will not start before March next year.

North Shore District performed extremely well this year. In Pennant, the Warrawee Grade 2 and the St Ives Grade 4 teams won through to the State Finals. In the District Championships we had good participation in all events. The introduction of weekend play for some of our events enabled our working girls to play, and it was great to see some of them get through to the finals. Congratulations to all winners, however Belrose were the stars with their players winning the District Singles, Open and Senior Pairs, Triples and Senior Fours. Their teams then went on to win the Regional play-offs in the Open Pairs, Triples and Senior Fours. The support these players received from their club was amazing, and great credit must go to Belrose for not only their ability but also their Club spirit. Our District was also well represented at the State Carnival, with two North Shore teams winning their sections, and the State Champion of Champion Singles where Elizabeth Blackwell (NBC) and Julie

Baker(Forestville) won through to the third round. A special mention must also be made of Jenny Hepburn from Neutral Bay who has been chosen in the New South Wales Senior side to play in the Australian Senior Championships to be held in South Australia in October.

St Ives did a superb job of hosting the Jean McKinnon, played against Manly-Warringah, and we were very excited to bring home the Shield for the first time in four years!
Congratulations to all the players who represented our District in this prestigious event.

There were many Club Select and Carnivals played at clubs throughout the District, and the Weekend Triples, organised by Judy Legras, once again proved popular throughout our Region, with the Pittwater team winning the event for the second year running.

It would like to thank my Committee for all their hard work. My two Vice Presidents, Di Tracy and Bev Piper have been a great support, assisting with club visits and delegate reports, and kindly stepping in for me when needed to do Presentations. Bev has also assisted Annette in setting up our new accounting system. Angela Little has guided me through my first term and I have certainly appreciated her wise counsel. As mentioned previously, our Treasurer Annette Renshaw has worked very hard this year to get our new Expenditure Policy in order and has done it all with her usual grace. Pat Pierson has once again lead the Selection team, who have performed their duties admirably, attending many events to watch our players and selecting a great team to win the Jean McKinnon! Sue Hamilton stepped in to the role as Chairman of Match, and with the assistance of her team has ensured all our events have run smoothly. Thank you also to the clubs who have hosted all our District events, and their members who have assisted in so many ways to ensure our events run smoothly.

Rosemary Dale and the Social Committee have not had a great deal to do, however Rosemary's contribution on the Management Committee has been much appreciated. Billie Maas has kept us all informed with publicity, hooking up North Shore District with face book and keeping the website updated, with a little help from me. Sandy White has ensured we are kept abreast of any welfare issues in the District, as well as updating us on what is happening with the Blind Bowlers. Sandy is moving to live closer to her daughter, and we all thank her for interest in the District and wish her well for her move. I would also like to thank all the Delegates who have attended our District Meetings, contributed to our discussions, and reported back to their members.

Ann Cowlshaw has been a member of the Match Committee for the past year, however did not stand for re-election this year. Lucilla Dalton and Beryl Thompson from Social have also chosen not to stand again as there has been little work for this Committee. Thank you, Ann, Lucilla and Beryl for your contribution. I am pleased to report all other members of the Management and sub committees are re-standing. I am most grateful we have the same Management team going forward as I am sure this will ensure the District continues to run smoothly over the next twelve months.

Julie Hayden
President