

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Firstly I must apologise for not being in attendance today due to my ongoing health problems.

The past year has been a difficult one. I took over as Chairman following the resignation of Dennis Jowett and shortly thereafter Club Manager, Luke Richards, moved on leaving a significant void both in experience and, in Luke's case, on-the-job expertise. The Board made a decision not to replace Luke in the short term and all Board Members took on additional responsibilities.

All licenced clubs rely heavily on poker machine trading as a major part of their income. As the accounts reveal, patronage and attendance have remained steady compared to 2016-2017 which was a record year and realised an operating surplus of \$135,000. Unfortunately, gaming revenue has fallen dramatically and despite a number of measures did not improve up to 31st May 2018. The purchase of two new machines, upgrading a number of others and a promotion period of 2 months (costing \$7,000) during January and February did not improve the situation significantly. Advice was sought from gaming industry representatives, a consultant from Clubs NSW and other local club managers all confirmed that poker machine revenue is down significantly across all venues. Smaller clubs are particularly vulnerable if "high rollers" leave the area, move on or simply cease playing. The incoming Board have a range of options open to them regarding revenue streams and possible changes to the Clubs operations. Some, but certainly not all, of these possibilities were mentioned in my recent open letter to the members.

I must thank the members of the men's and women's bowling clubs and the Board Members for their efforts on the Clubs behalf and, in the case of retiring members, thanks for the years of service. On a personal note, due to my recent health problems, many thanks to a number of members who have come forward to carry out the majority of my duties over the past month. I wish the Club and all members' success in the future.

John Hughes
Chairman of the Board