

- Dear members

Thank you for attending our 52nd AGM Meeting today.

Let me start with thanking our Neerlandia members that again have helped to keep our club running, from the membership registration by Kay & Bob Wegman, to the magazine preparation by Pieter Leeftang and off course his proof readers (Henk and Lianna). I always feel proud when I hear the comments received on our magazine, it is such a pleasure to read everytime.

The entertainment by Henk, John and offcourse the junior entertainment led by Machiel.

Please a round off applause as without them the club just wouldn't work.

Looking back on the year that has been I am very grateful that our members and the wider community have not been exposed to COVID-19 as in other part of the world or other states.

During the year it has come apparent to the committee that we need to ensure the clubs survival to ensure the dutch culture is not lost. We are currently as we all know thanks to Henri Koldenhoven still bearing the fruits of the sale of our clubhouse.

What we at the committee have come to realize is that not everything always goes to plan. For this reason we will start to explore different avenues to protect & future proof the club's income and ultimately its existence. I do want to emphasis that nothing has happened nor have we heard that anything is going to happen. It is always good business practice to look ahead. I expect to report more during next year's AGM.

During the year we have progressed well with discussions with the Morley Windmills club. And I am pleased to report that we have been able resolve all our concerns and can move forward. Once we finalize the agreements and dates involved I will report in due course.

Here are some interesting statistics for our membership numbers between 2019 and this years status:

- 2018 – 338, 2019 – 328, 202 – 330 and 2021 - 320 members
- Surprisingly the membership numbers have not had big decline – as the family memberships have been on the raise.

Between 2019 and 2021, Total members: 328 – 320 (-8) Ordinary members: 60 – 56 (-4), Associate 26 – 9 (+3), Concession 225 – 222 (-3), New members 28 – 49 (+21)

These statistics are very encouraging. Lets together try and keep this trend going.

It has become very encouraging to see the new members joining us. John and Machiel are continuously working to improve and cater for all members. Ideas and suggestions are always welcome.

It has been a pleasure during the year that we continue working together with LanguageOne with the Neerlandse lessons during the Maas en Waal Borrels, Koningsday celebrations and the upcoming Sinterklaas celebration.

With a heavy hart I had to accept Yolanda Strauss's and Henk Oorschot's resignation from the committee during the year, I would like to thank Yolanda and Henk for their tireless devotion to the club and everything they have done for all of us and wish them all the best.

I want to express my gratitude to John Zwartkruis who has stepped up to take on the the huge void that would have been created once Henk would have left us. How good was the Anniversary lunch and het Leidens Ontzet.

I would like to thank my committee members and their partners for their ongoing and continuing support. Without them nothing would happen.

I do encourage all to assist where you can as many hands make the tasks at hand easier.

At committee level we are always listening. Any questions, comments or ideas please let me or our committee members know.

That's it from me. All the best.