

HOWICK BRIDGE CLUB
MINUTES OF THE 58TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
26 NOVEMBER 2023

PRESENT: The meeting was chaired by the President, Leo Sim. 42 members attended.

APOLOGIES: Robin Goulding, Sue Osborne, Cheryl Winsor, Jenny Oxley, Lysandra Zheng, John Gaiser, Jocelyn Biddick, Rob Shaw, Gail Stubbins, Julia Timperley.

Moved that apologies be accepted Leo Sim / Pat Williams / carried.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 27 NOVEMBER 2022:

The minutes of the 57th AGM held on 27 November have been circulated.

Moved that the previous minutes be approved Lorraine Rose / Peter Bowyer / carried.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: Nil

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2023:

The President's report has been posted online, circulated by email to members and hardcopy available.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As our bridge year draws rapidly to a close, we look back to the plywood shuttered entrance, having to share the gents' toilets, (ugh) all seems such a distant memory.

We are thankful to have had a full playing year and while Covid remains with us with its ups and downs, we have learned to live with yet another curve ball that life sometimes throws at us.

As a club we have continued to focus on growing our members, as without a vibrant and strong membership we will gradually wither. Our Auckland Northland Region has supported us with sharing resources and ideas, and we are beginning to see the benefit of this collaboration across the region. We have grown the region by 180 members while the other five playing regions of New Zealand have shrunk.

Word of mouth remains one of the strongest ways to attract new members so if you have friends who you think could be interested in playing this great lifelong game of ours, please spread the word that there will be lessons as usual next February. All details on our website. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the helpers and mentors that came along tirelessly to help the beginners get into the game during those early weeks. Many of them tell us that was helpful.

During the year unbeknown to many Jan Hollway, Nat Natarajan and Dave Christian have been beaver away redrafting our club constitution to bring it in line with the new Incorporated Societies Act. We should be able to roll it out next year to meet the date set by the new Act.

One of the changes that the lockdowns precipitated was the introduction of working at home instead of our offices and likewise playing bridge from home is now part of our weekly offering. Our National body NZB is still wrestling with the roll out of a guidance policy particularly with how on-line tournaments are affecting face to face tournaments. For the immediate future we will continue to support online bridge and face to face bridge as they both add value in different ways. A time may come when we are able to combine both methods simultaneously but for now our club is not sufficiently large enough to do so.

A number of our members have been doing improvers lessons online from earlier this year and next year we will be offering improvers lessons in our clubrooms. Watch this space for further details.

Many of you know that our long serving Tournament Secretary, Sue Osborne has retired and is moving south to Waikanae very shortly. I have known Sue for a good many years and served for several years with her on the club committee. I will miss her clear thinking and dry humour and steady quiet advice. Her best quip from way back when we were both busy working with our respective jobs and struggling to find the time to play bridge was, "The trouble with life is that it interferes with Bridge". On behalf of the club, I wish to take this opportunity to wish her all the best in her retirement and thank her for her contribution to the club for a good many years. She has promised to play with us next year online and we look forward to seeing her there.

Wishing all of you a great Christmas and New Year break and looking forward to meeting again across the card table next year.

Moved that the President's report be accepted Leo Sim/ Peter Bowyer / carried.

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS:

The Treasurer's report has been posted online and circulated by email to members. A hardcopy is available along with a set of Accounts.

Jane advised that a good financial year has seen us back into the 'black' showing a small profit due to the rise in table money and membership.

We are still waiting on the audited accounts; Jane will keep members up to date and she will be available to answer any queries from members that may arise.

Excellent feedback from members re presentation of the financial statements.

Moved that the Treasurer's report be accepted Jane Thomlinson / Rose Isherwood / carried.

FEES – SUBSCRIPTIONS:

The committee proposed to keep subscriptions for 2024 the same as the previous 6 years.

The Treasurer will send an email to all members with an invoice detailing the fee payment date of 31 January 2024 to be paid to the 00 account.

Subscriptions for 2024 will be:

Annual Subscription \$100

Secondary membership \$77

Associate membership \$40

Youth membership \$20

Moved that the subscriptions be approved Tony Turner / Geraldine Rose / carried.

HONORARIA:

The honorarium for the Secretary remain the same at \$4,000 pa

Moved Rose Isherwood / Annette Brown / carried.

The honorarium for the Treasurer remain the same at \$5,000 pa

Moved Annette Brown / Mary Wood / carried.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Each nominee for committee was introduced by Leo with a short background of their expertise.

Nominations received for the 2023/24 committee as follows:

President Leo Sim – proposed by Pat Williams seconded by Rose Isherwood

Vice President Rose Isherwood – proposed by Pat Williams seconded by Dave Christian

Secretary Pat Williams – proposed by Dave Christian seconded by Rose Isherwood

Treasurer Jane Thomlinson – proposed by Pat Williams seconded by Peter McLean

Committee Members:

Richard Andrew proposed by Pat Williams seconded by Dave Christian

Dave Christian proposed by Rose Isherwood seconded by Pat Williams

Lenice Clarkson	proposed by Pat Williams seconded by Peter McLean
Heather Green	proposed by Olive Boyd seconded by Jane Thomlinson
Peter McLean	proposed by Pat Williams seconded by Dave Christin
Alan Sheath	proposed by Leo Sim seconded by Richard Andrew
Mary Wood	proposed by Rose Isherwood seconded by Sue Osborne

As the nominations are equal to the vacancies under the constitution (10b), these people are declared elected.

ELECTION OF AUDITOR:

Moved that Jolly, Duncan & Wells be appointed for a further year.

Jane Thomlinson / Nicki Bowyer /carried.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Leo commended both Jan Hollway and Nat Nartarajan for their outstanding contribution in upgrading our Constitution which will be presented to members at our next AGM. Presentation of thanks made to Jan Hollway who was present at AGM.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 1:20pm

President

Date