

HOWICK BRIDGE CLUB
MINUTES OF THE 59TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
23 NOVEMBER 2024

PRESENT: The meeting was chaired by the outgoing President Leo Sim. 33 members attended.

APOLOGIES: Simon Morley-Jones, Sunita and Mervyn Peiris, Jenny Oxley, Cheryl Winsor, Mary Ryan, Diana Still, Brian Craig

Moved that the apologies be accepted

Leo Sim / Pat Williams / carried

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM HELD 26 NOVEMBER 2023: circulated and displayed in the club rooms for the past 12 months.

Moved that the previous minutes be accepted

Leo Sim / Pat Williams / carried

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES: Nil

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2024: The President's report has been posted online, circulated by email to members and hardcopy available.

Wow 2024 coming to a close! It has been a year with many different projects and challenges.

Our main focus remains growing the club and we are fortunately well supported in our efforts by both the regional and National body helping us run advertising campaigns on Facebook. The summer and winter lessons conducted by Rosemary and Richard have received many compliments from the participants however retaining students beyond the first year remains a challenge. There is a Spanish saying that says to discover bridge is to find the fountain of youth. So tell your friends that there is such a fountain in Howick.

There is also a misconception that bridge is a game for the elderly. The fact remains that top international players mostly learned to play when they were teenagers. So let age not be a deterrent to joining the club. Encourage your younger friends, children and grandchildren. We are fortunate to have a small but active group of youth presently. They contribute in many ways not just flying the Howick flag when they play at tournaments but also by training to become directors of our club sessions and tournaments.

The beginners find out quickly once they start playing that there is so much more to learn and we finally managed to organise a number of improvers classes this year. These were very well attended and we are planning another set for next year.

Following a survey of our Thursday members we found that approximately half preferred to play online. Fortunately, technology has allowed us to set up a hybrid session which caters for both mediums of play. It is not without its challenges, but Richard our Thursday evening director is on top of it.

Next year we will be having a few handicap events on Monday evenings. In the past we had a manual handicapping system which was rather crude and not very fair. Today there is a National Grading System (NGS) running in the background that tracks every session you play and this will form the basis of your handicap. It is dynamic so will change with each result. More on this later from Dave Christian.

Our annual charity event for the Totara Hospice raised \$4500 in line with previous years despite the depressed economic climate. The fact that it runs like clockwork is largely thanks to Mary Wood and her team of able helpers.

This year at the AGM we will be asking members to pass our new Constitution as required by the Incorporated Societies Act. Special thanks to Jan Holloway, Nat Natarajan and Dave Christian and all members that have provided input on corrections etc. It's been a long two-year project.

Enjoy the Christmas and New Year break and see you at the club in 2025.

Moved that the President's Report be accepted Leo Sim / Ngaire Barrack / carried

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer's report has been posted online and circulated by email to members and a hard copy is available. A full set of audited accounts is held in the office and can be emailed to member(s) if required. Jane summarised her report to members and reported that a breakeven result was a good result.

Nat Natarajan thanked Jane for her excellent 'easy to read' presentation of the accounts which makes them readable and understood by all members.

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

FEES – SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Due to an increase in NZ Bridge fees, the committee has approved the 2025 fees, as listed below

Annual Subscription \$105

Secondary membership \$77

Associate Membership \$45

Youth membership \$20

The Treasurer will email all members with an invoice detailing the fee payment and due date of 31 January 2025 to be paid to the 00 account.

Moved that the subscriptions be accepted

Jane Thomlinson / Alan Sheath / carried

HONORARIA:

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

The honarium for the Treasurer remain the same at \$5000 pa

Peter McLean suggested both positions should be the same amount but this was declined by Secretary.

Acceptance moved

Jane Thomlinson / Annette Brown / carried

REMITTS: Constitution

Under the new requirements of the Incorporated Society Act 2022, we were required to rewrite our Constitution. The requirements of our new Constitution impacts on committee with more processes to follow and abide by. There were no objections to the 'final' draft recently emailed to all members. Discussion between Nat, Jan and Dave confirming that Constitution considered ratified when passed by HBC members. Dave will submit our final Constitution to Registrar on the understanding that any changes suggested by the Registrar will be considered by the committee. The committee is authorised to make any change deemed necessary in response to the Registrar's suggestions and to report any such changes back to members.

Moved acceptance of new HBC Constitution

Dave Christian / Jan Holway / carried

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Nominations for officers of the club have been handed to the Secretary and displayed on the club notice board as required. As the nominations are equal to the vacancies under the constitution the following members are considered elected.

President	Rose Isherwood – proposed Pat Williams seconded Chris Tinkler
Vice President	Lana Ashley – proposed Nat Natarajan seconded Dave Christian
Treasurer	Jane Thomlinson – proposed Mary Wood seconded Peter McLean
Secretary	Pat Williams- proposed Dave Christian seconded Barbara Gibb
Committee	
Richard Andrew	proposed Pat Williams seconded Rose Isherwood
Lenice Clarkson	proposed Heather Green seconded Jane Thomlinson
Dave Christian	proposed Peter McLean seconded Rosemary Isherwood
Heather Green	proposed Lenice Clarkson seconded Jane Thomlinson
Peter McLean	proposed Rosemary Isherwood seconded Jane Thomlinson
Geraldine Rose	proposed Chris Tinkler seconded Meri Mackay
Mary Wood	proposed Jane Thomlinson seconded Heather Green
Leo Sim	ex officio
Acceptance moved	Pat Williams / Alan Sheath/ carried

GENERAL BUSINESS

- On behalf of the committee Leo Sim confirmed Richard Andrew's nomination for Life Membership and outlined Richard's outstanding contribution over 30 years to the club. All members present applauded this popular nomination.
- Acknowledgements and thanks followed.
 1. Nat congratulated and thanked outgoing committee.
 2. Lorraine thanked Rosemary for accepting position of President.
 3. Leo thanked Geraldine and Lana for being available for committee.
 4. Rosemary presented Leo Sim with a thank you gift from the club.
 5. Rosemary thanked Alan Sheath for his expertise and services to committee.
 6. Rosemary thanked all committee and members of Howick Bridge Club who have volunteered their time and expertise over the past year with dealing, catering, scoring, directing, lessons.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 1:26pm.

President _____

Date _____

1/12/24 Addendum: Apologies from Ian and Gabrielle Kelman