

HOWICK BRIDGE CLUB 54th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

24th NOVEMBER 2019

The minutes of the 54th Annual General Meeting Held at the clubrooms on Sunday 24th November 2019 at 1:00pm

PRESENT: The meeting was chaired by the President Pat Williams and 38 members attended.

APOLOGIES: B Telfer, M McKenzie, S Skelton, G Goodall, V Roberts, J Tylden, G Stubbins, M Mackay, L Rimmer, J Biddick, R Andrew

Moved that apologies be accepted - L Clarkson/B Cousins /carried

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 25/11/2018

The minutes of the 54th Annual General Meeting having been circulated and will be taken as read.

Moved that previous minutes be approved - P Bowyer/N De Gruyter / carried

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: nil

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

The President's report has been posted online and circulated to all members.

I am pleased to present the Howick Bridge Club's 54th Annual Report.

First, I would like to acknowledge the many Howick Bridge Club members who offer their support and assistance to the committee; thank you sincerely for the big jobs and the small jobs; your help is greatly appreciated.

- * Alistair Rowe for negotiating the maze of rules and regulations that is Auckland Council
- * Brian Craig for his funding applications
- * Peter Bowyer for his continued promotion of the Sunday Salver, along with Nicki on standby
- * Gail Unkovich and her volunteers for teaching a Bridge class once a week to a group of enthusiastic students at Bucklands Beach Intermediate.
- * Neil Beckett who for 6 years previously taught Bridge to students at Bucklands Beach Intermediate

- * Bill Leach for his willingness to do the little repair jobs
- * Julie Tinkler and Anne Newman for kitchen duties at tournaments
- * June Hughes for keeping the tablecloths clean
- * Susan Rowe our liaison person for Interclub teams
- * Our card dealers, Richard Andrew, Peter Denton, John Gaiser and David Rainey
- * Our partnership officers, John Gaiser, Judy Mitchell and Nicki Bowyer
- * Our directors, Neil Beckett, Peter Bowyer, Nicki Bowyer, Richard Andrew and Jeremy Frazer-Hoskins.

I also acknowledge and thank our sponsor Ryman Health Care, Tina Gao and New World, your contribution is appreciated.

Membership remains steady at 201.

The very successful beginners lessons, again conducted by Cheryl and Richard, continue to be our main source of new members joining, Many who attend the lessons are continuing to develop their play by attending the Tuesday evening bridge sessions directed by Neil who along with Cheryl and Richard, continue to encourage and boost the confidence of new players.

I am pleased to advise that table numbers are on the increase across most sessions. My sincere thanks to all members who volunteer to share their passion and enthusiasm for the game of Bridge in an effort to encourage more players.

Our tournaments continue to be popular, well attended and well run. Thank you to Richard, Suzie, Tony Morcom and Peter, not forgetting the standby pairs who front up “just in case”.

It is the natural progression of Tuesday night players to go on to play at Monday night sessions. The committee decision to introduce a Restriction to Monday evening play has resulted in increased table numbers and boosted the confidence of players. We will continue with the Restriction for 2020.

The appointment of Cheryl as our first Club Captain has enabled her to continue her commitment to Howick Bridge Club and for us to channel her knowledge to the development and teaching of new players, youth, and as well the promotion of our Club. She does all of these with energy, enthusiasm and passion. My heartfelt thanks Cheryl, we work well together.

My thanks to the committee who have all taken on the extra challenges this year has presented particularly in regard to the upgrade of the building fire safety code requirements. Special mention must go to Richard who continues to liaise with the many

workers involved. And as well a big thank you Richard for organising the repair of our computer and the subsequent hours spent updating the scoring data.

Please remember your committee are all elected volunteers. We work well together and are always learning. As members you don't always have to agree with committee decisions, and we can all have an opinion, but please be assured your committee only ever try to make decisions in the best interest of the club and the promotion of the game of bridge. We are very mindful of the legacy of our foundation members.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Happy holidays and I hope to see you all at the bridge table in 2020.

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS:

The Treasurer's Report has been posted online and the set of Accounts for the year ended 30th September 2019 have been available and circulated to all members in the clubhouse.

TREASURERS REPORT

I hope you will agree that our 2019 finances stand up well with the heavy costs for the compliance work carried out this year. The costs incurred may seem high, however, the committee believe that in an emergency the safety of our members and visitors is paramount.

As you will be aware, much work has been done to begin to bring our building up to the standard required for a Building WOF. This is still a work in progress in which the Council dictates what further work must be carried out to complete the process. Many thanks to Richard for his work in this area and thanks must also go to Alistair whose knowledge of Council matters has helped move the process along and saved the club money.

The Fire alarm system cost \$8574; the installation of Emergency Lighting was \$8567; The fire doors to be installed between the two floors are currently being manufactured at a cost of \$3256. The Council fees accounted for a further \$2626.00. The total of all Compliance Costs for the year was \$23,624.

The payment of these costs is reflected by the deficit of \$5326 for this financial year. Not a bad result considering the high prices we were originally expecting. We are hopeful that there will be no further major costs involved in this process.

It is great to see our table money is up this year- there is no doubt Cheryl, as our popular Club Captain, has helped inspire more attendance at our sessions.

Our rental income is also up – and our thanks go to Lenice for her hard work again in creating extra income in this area. The Masterpoint charges are up a little but this is due to NZ Bridge being a little erratic in the timing of sending out their invoices resulting in this year's charges also covering some from 2018.

We have made savings on our Insurance – many thanks to Haydn Wilkinson for his help in ensuring our new Insurer – Crombie Lockwood – was giving us the cover we required but at a better price.

The Power costs include the balance owing from last year when there were issues with linking to our meter and we paid off the balance from 2018 in this financial year.

Thanks go to Bill Leach who saves us quite a few dollars by his expertise in all manner of repair work.

The committee has made the decision to keep our subscriptions and table money the same as 2017, 2018, 2019;

The annual subscription for 2020 will be proposed as :

Annual subscription \$100; Secondary membership \$77; Associate Membership \$40; Youth membership \$20. Under the constitution if any subscriptions remain unpaid at 31st January the membership is suspended.

Jean moved that the report and accounts be taken as read and be approved seconded Sue Osborne / carried

Comments

Neil brought up the matter of extra expenses in respect of the Land Lease. Jean advised the Lease comes up for renewal in August 2020 and the committee are aware of this and the matter is in hand.

Jean also pointed out that the extra information he was bringing up was noted in the full set of audited Accounts which can be emailed out to interested members on request.

Peter complimented the committee on the way they had managed the accounts for the year especially considering the expenditure required for the compliance work.

FEES – SUBSCRIPTIONS:

The committee have made the decision to keep our subscriptions and table money the same as 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020.

Subscriptions for 2020 be

Annual subscription \$100 Secondary membership \$77

Associate membership \$40 Youth membership \$20

Moved that the subscriptions be approved J Heath/N Bowyer / carried

HONARARIA:

The honoraria for the Secretary remain the same at \$4000 and the Treasurer be increased to \$5000 each per annum from the 1st January 2020.

Moved P Williams/N Bowyer / carried

REMITTS:

Remit from the Committee of Howick Bridge Club

That the Constitution of Howick Bridge Club be amended as follows:

That Clause 15 be deleted and be replaced by the amended Clause shown below, namely:

Current Clause:

15. Notices

Notices calling General Meetings, setting forth the nature of the business of the meeting shall be posted to each Member at least fourteen days prior to the Meeting

To be replaced by amended Clause 15

15. Notices

Notices calling General Meetings, setting forth the nature of the business of the meeting shall be made available to each Member either on the Club's website or by Notice available at the Clubhouse, at least fourteen days prior to the Meeting.

This is to allow for current communication by email, website and verbal advice of the AGM Meeting.

That Clause 16 be deleted and be replaced by the amended Clause shown below, namely:

Current Clause:

16. Quorum

At all General Meetings twenty-five members shall form a quorum; at any Executive meeting six Members.

To be replaced by amended Clause 16

16. Quorum

At all General Meetings eighteen members shall form a quorum; at any Executive meeting six Members.

This is to take into account the change in membership numbers over recent years.

There was discussion following the presentation of the remit with Neil pointing out that posting means mailing. Pat agreed but pointed out that the modern interpretation of posting can also mean 'on line' and posting on notice board. Discussion followed with Neil pointing out that technology can break down.

Pat summarised advising members we will post on line and notice board only.

Wayne Oakley Proposed that Clause 15 of the remit be amended to say

“Notices calling General Meetings setting forth the nature of the business of the meeting shall be made available to each member on the Club’s website *and by* Notice at the clubhouse at least fourteen days prior to the meeting.

Pat explained that we will need to take the suggested change on board as we can’t make an amendment to the remit at this meeting because it hasn’t been circulated to the members for consideration and there may be different views.

We will bring Clause 15 back to the AGM next year.

Wayne then suggested we adopt the changes to Clause 16 of the Constitution as detailed in the remit.

These changes were put to the meeting and adopted following a vote.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Nominations received for the 2019 committee were:

President	Pat Williams - proposed by J Heath seconded S Osborne
Vice President	Richard Andrew - proposed C Winsor seconded L Clarkson
Secretary	Anne Ridenton - proposed P Williams seconded M Wood
Treasurer	Jean Heath - proposed S Osborne seconded L Clarkson

Committee members:

Cheryl Winsor - proposed R Andrew seconded S Osborne
Sue Osborne - proposed R Andrew seconded C Winsor
Mary Wood - proposed C Winsor seconded R Andrew
Lenice Clarkson - proposed S Osborne seconded J Heath
Sue McKinnon - proposed D.McKeen seconded C Yardley

Leo Sim - proposed N Becket seconded P Bowyer

Pat announced the 10 nominations and asked for further nominations from the floor

Nomination for Wayne Oakley proposed by Nina Gebler seconded Leo Sim, elected.

Pat announced that as the nominations now match the vacancies under the constitution (10b), they are declared elected.

ELECTION OF AUDITOR:

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

J Heath/Sue Osborne / carried

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Nat Natarajan welcomed the move in 2019 to exclude Open players from eligibility to win any competition on Monday nights (except the four night Restricted pair event) to give more chances for Intermediate and Junior ranked players to win such events and so attract more such players to attend Monday sessions. Nat proposed

1. That all Open players be treated on par without any distinction between Open players with Local Master 5 stars and others with 50 A points and/or 100 rating points.
2. That in announcing previous week's results the names of Open players not eligible to win competitions should be omitted so that other players get encouraged and enthused to hear their names announced as winners.

In response, Chery Winsor said that the new "Restricted" system worked well attracting many new players to come in on Mondays. She said that many Open players with Local Master 5 stars are still not highly competent enough to be rated on par with other open players, hence the distinction. She agreed with Nat on his other proposal not to announce names of non-eligible Open players winning Monday nights.

The President, Pat Williams, thanked both Nat and Cheryl for their inputs and said that the Executive Committee will consider these matters and arrive at appropriate decisions

Neil addressed a question to Cheryl regarding new players coming to Fridays session and the viability playing with experienced players

Cheryl explained the new players like the Friday experience and are keen to learn. Despite their grading they are not overwhelmed by the experience nor are they concerned with their placing.

Pat also responded to Neil stating maybe the day suits them and as well not all members are there to analyse the hands but to play for enjoyment regardless of their grading.

Presentations

Card Dealing	Richard Andrew, David Rainey, John Gaiser, Peter Denton.
Partnership officers.	Judy Mitchell, N Bowyer, J Gaiser
Maintenance	Bill Leach for his assistance in attending to repairs and general maintenance
Auckland CC negotiations	Alistair Rowe
Catering	Julie Tinkler and Anne Newman
Youth teaching	Gayle Unkovich
Xmas Cake	Helen Andrew

President.....

Date.....

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2:00pm