

HOWICK BRIDGE CLUB MINUTES: 56th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

5th DECEMBER 2021

PRESENT: The meeting was chaired by the President Pat Williams. 33 members attended.

APOLOGIES:

Lana Ashley, Elly Day, Marion Douglas, Doris Fiddell, John Gaiser, Gillian Goodall, Kevin Hu, Maureen McKenzie, Bill McKinnon, Sue McKinnon, Vivien Roberts, Diana Still, Joy Zeng.

Moved that apologies be accepted: Peter Mclean / Pat Williams / carried.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 22/11/2020

The minutes of the 55th Annual General Meeting have been circulated.

Moved that previous minutes be approved: Pat Williams / Nat Natarajan / carried.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: nil.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2021:

The President's report has been posted online. (See also below).

Moved that the President's report be accepted: Pat Williams / Mary Wood / carried.

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS:

The Treasurer's Report has been posted online and circulated by email and the set of Accounts for the year ended 31 September 2021 has been circulated by email and copies were available at the meeting.

Moved that the Annual Accounts and Treasurer's report be accepted: Pat Williams / Brian Craig / carried.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE TREASURERS REPORT:

Brian Craig moved a vote of thanks to Lenice for her work with our tenants. Approved by acclamation.

FEES – SUBSCRIPTIONS:

The committee proposes to keep subscriptions and table money for 2022 the same as 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021.

Subscriptions for 2022 will be:

Annual subscription \$100 Secondary membership \$77

Associate membership \$40 Youth membership \$20

Moved that the subscriptions be approved: Jean Heath / Rosemary Isherwood / carried.

HONARARIA:

The honorarium for the Secretary remain the same at \$4,000 and the honorarium for Treasurer remain the same at \$5,000 each per annum.

Moved: Jean Heath / Leo Sim / carried.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Nominations received for the 2022 committee were:

President Leo Sim - proposed by Cheryl Winsor seconded Sue Osborne

Immediate past President Pat Williams - ex-officio

Vice President Rosemary Isherwood - proposed Leo Sim seconded Wayne Oakley

Secretary Wayne Oakley- proposed Leo Sim seconded Cheryl Winsor

Treasurer Jane Thomlinson - proposed Jean Heath seconded Wayne Oakley

Committee members:

Richard Andrew - proposed Wayne Oakley seconded Leo Sim

Lenice Clarkson - proposed Wayne Oakley seconded Leo Sim

Peter Mclean - proposed Leo Sim seconded Cheryl Winsor

Sue Osborne - proposed Mary Wood seconded Wayne Oakley

Cheryl Winsor - proposed Sue Osborne seconded Mary Wood

Mary Wood - proposed Leo Sim seconded Wayne Oakley

Joy Zeng - proposed Leo Sim seconded Cheryl Winsor

As the nominations match 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: Pat Williams / Jean Heath / carried.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

1. **Moved** that Cheryl Winsor be elected a Life Member in recognition of her years of service to the Club: Pat Williams / Leo Sim / carried. (See also below).
2. Pat William moved a vote of thanks to Sue McKinnon for her work on Health and Safety.
Approved by acclamation
3. **Moved** that the outgoing officers relinquish authority for the Club's bank accounts 06-0169-0005333 and that the incoming officers (Leo Sim, Rosemary Isherwood and Jane Thomlinson)

take responsibility for the same bank accounts– refer Appendix A: Jean Heath / Jane Thomlinson / carried.

PRESENTATIONS:

Presentations were made to the following people in recognition of their service to the Club: Richard Andrew, Nicki Bowyer, John Gaiser, Jean Heath, Judy Mitchell, Anne Newman, Lorraine Rose, Chris Tinkler, Julie Tinkler, Pat Williams and Mary Wood.

President.....

Date.....

There being no further business the meeting closed at 1:18 pm.

Cheryl citation:

Cheryl has demonstrated exceptional loyalty and has worked for the betterment of Howick Bridge Club unwaveringly over many years.

- *Member since 1992*
- *2009 elected to committee*
- *2011 – 2015 Vice President*
- *2011 – commenced sending out a weekly newsletter keeping members informed of our successes at the Bridge table*
- *2017 – Cheryl became Howick's first Grand Master*
- *2017 – 2019 President*
- *2019 – 2021 Club Captain*
- *Has held the position of Tournament Secretary*
- *Actively involved over several years teaching bridge and encouraging people to join the club.*
- *Often follows-up with informal lessons for the beginner members.*
- *Actively encourages Youth and learners to join Howick Bridge*
- *Actively involved in Youth teaching (Macleans College)*
- *Follow-up and organised youth teaching enquiry (St Kentigern College)*
- *Organises and oversees the printing of our annual Programme Book including maintaining records of membership detail.*
- *Actively keeps our website updated and liaises with providers*
- *Provided relevant data re new members for analysis by Strategic Plan team*

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

I am pleased to present the 56th Annual President's report.

We are fortunate Howick Bridge Club committee have recognised the concept of future planning our club and that members have risen to the challenge and accepted new initiatives. Please be assured that it is not 'change for changes sake' but a necessity that our club embraces modern and evolving technology to improve processes, facilities and membership.

Interest from the local community in learning Bridge is growing and this is evident in the increased numbers participating in lessons. I consider this to be a direct result of intensive advertising. This year we were able to provide two 10 week blocks of lessons held twice weekly. My thanks for an excellent job well done by the two teaching teams of Cheryl and Richard and Annette and Judy. Today's beginners are the future of Howick Bridge Club.

As a direct result of us taking Bridge to the community, ie advertising and demonstrating the game in the Highland Park Library, we have a further group of people waiting for another block of lessons.

Considering the annual attrition of our aging membership, this year 35 beginners have joined from lessons and we have increased membership overall by 23. Advertising and signage exposure is paramount in the recruitment of new members and it is essential for the health of the club that we continue to grow and retain membership and increase member participation. Thank you Rose for your intensive advertising 'sell' to the community and thank you to members who dropped notices in letter boxes. Incentives for current members who introduce beginners to the club become effective when beginners take out a full years membership, ie introduced to lessons in 2021 and continue with a full year's membership no later than 31 January 2022.

It is with beginners in mind that we introduced another playing session on Thursday morning from 9:30 until 12:30 to provide beginners with an extra session at an alternative day and time to suit all lifestyles. Like Tuesday evening beginners session, the Directors and regular helpers continue to 'teach' the beginners at these sessions where they can ask questions and ask for help to bid, they have their 'cheat sheets', they learn bridge protocols and etiquette; all important aspects to aid their understanding and thus their enjoyment of the game.

I have never underestimated the voluntary contribution of our members and have been overwhelmed at times by those of you who regularly step up and show up. I am extremely grateful and thank the 'army' of helpers who have embraced the club's need to grow the membership. This volunteer group consistently show up every week to help beginners with the playing of hands relevant to the lesson just learnt and to reinforce the theory.

During the year Richard initiated negotiations with our Compass provider in the US to streamline an on-line table money payment service to suit our needs. Table money payments have now changed to an **optional** on-line system with members able to login to their account and view transactions. Ideally we would like to discourage cash but will continue to accept cash and pre-paid tickets for now. As well, our Partnership Officers have been superseded with an on-line service. Thank you John Gaiser, Judy Mitchell and Nicki Bowyer for successfully serving your club in this capacity over a number of years. However, to aid members not computer literate we have asked John Gaiser to continue in this role in the meantime. Thank you John.

Although the Strategic Plan team disbanded earlier in the year I acknowledge and thank all of the members who were actively involved. Their recommendations are on file and form a “blueprint” guide for the future planning of Howick Bridge Club. Our Mission and Vision statements are displayed in the club to serve as affirmation for committee and members moving forward. Nothing is an exact science, we can only do what our finances and voluntary contributions allow, being mindful of what works for our members. Committee do not consider money to be an instant fix for everything.

After the Covid lockdown of 2020 it was good to note an increase in table numbers this year particularly on Monday evening and Tuesday and Friday daytime sessions.

However, just when we were getting comfortable after the unprecedented events of last year, a further challenging curveball was thrown at us with another Covid Lockdown forcing our club to again ‘absorb’ loss of revenue, and players the loss of play and socialising.

No play, no tenants, no income. The lockdown has seriously affected the beginners who no sooner had joined the club than they were locked out. Therefore we will offer the beginners from the second intake, free lessons next year if they would like further assistance to reinforce and refresh their learning.

It is heartening that our sponsors are still on board in these uncertain times; Ryman Health Care, Tina Gao and New World, we thank you for your continued support.

I acknowledge and thank

- Sue Osborne and her team for the successful Howick Tournaments held this year
- Mary Wood and her team of helpers for the success of our Charity Tournament with \$5500 being raised for our chosen charity, South Auckland Hospice.
- Card dealers, Lorraine Rose, Mary Wood, Richard Andrew, Chris Tinkler
- Directors, Peter and Nicki Bowyer, Richard Andrew, Kevin Hsu and Chris Tinkler.
- Club Captain, Cheryl, who has willingly shared her font of knowledge on all things Bridge related in what was uncharted waters for me.
- Richard Andrew for his work with Compass payment and RealBridge
- Tournament caterers Julie Tinkler and Anne Newman.
- Lenice Clarkson for her hands on management of our tenants

I have been fortunate to serve on a proactive committee who have embraced the issues of membership and technology. Thoughtful discussion and consideration is given to issues and they always act in the best interest of Howick Bridge Club. I acknowledge and thank you, the committee, for the jobs you do, your voluntary contribution to these challenging issues is second to none and is a direct result of the success of our club. All members should applaud your outstanding effort carried out in unprecedented times.

I am sorry that Jean has decided to step down as Treasurer. Thank you Jean for your many years of service, and your expert decision making, with particular mention of your understanding the availability of Government grants/funds during the Lockdown periods. You have willingly served your club in exceptional times and we are indebted to your level headed actions and expert fiscal management of Howick Bridge Club. Congratulations on an outstanding job done well.

In spite of the present day difficulties I have appreciated your support and hope I have responded fairly to the challenges presented during my tenure as President of Howick Bridge Club. I leave you all in good hands as I pass the 'baton' to Leo.

Remember, the culture of our club will dictate its success.

Wishing everyone good health and a happy festive season and New Year.

Pat Williams President 31 October 2021

TREASURER'S REPORT 2021:

This year has been another eventful year for our members. Lockdowns effected our club in February/March and the latest beginning on 18th August is still underway.

During this financial year we successfully applied for a total of three Resurgence Support Payments and four Wage Subsidies from the Government.

Our membership numbers and therefore table money have benefited from an increase in the number of lessons held this year, as well as the extra session introduced on Thursday mornings.

The comparison with last year's accounts is influenced by the different length of time in the lockdowns – we were longer in lockdown during our "financial" year last year.

Table money - shows a significant increase with the extra session on Thursdays and better attendance at sessions.

Bridge Lessons were administered differently this year resulting in an increase in surplus.

Rental – Brazilian Jiu Jitsu started in the last week of September 2020 and the Worship Centre Christian Church Howick from June of this year. We received less rental last year because of Covid and this year we received extra income from our two new tenants making quite a difference to the income received. Lenice has once again done a brilliant job keeping our tenants happy. Thank you Lenice for your sterling effort over the past year.

Cleaning costs reflect last years longer lockdown period.

Insurance Costs have increased due to an update of our cover for Public Liability, Cost of Building and Plant and Equipment.

Wage expenses are up this year with holiday pay being changed “to pay as you go” and also wages for the extra session created on Thursday mornings.

Repairs & Maintenance / Compliance Costs: there have been no significant expenses.

I am stepping down as Treasurer at the AGM. I have enjoyed my time in the role and it has been great to be able to help in upgrading our systems over the years to our online accounting/payroll package and the proposed new online banking systems of today. I will miss the camaraderie with my fellow committee members and wish the incoming officers and committee every success in the future and will ensure there is a smooth transition with our new Treasurer.

The Committee has decided to keep our Subscriptions and Table Money the same. The Subscriptions for 2022 will be proposed as: Ordinary Membership \$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.