

HOWICK BRIDGE CLUB MINUTES: 57th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

27th NOVEMBER 2022

PRESENT: The meeting was chaired by the President, Leo Sim. 37 members attended.

APOLOGIES:

Richard Andrew, Mary and Peter Browning, Brian Craig, Marion Douglas, Gillian Goodall, Jean Heath, Jan Hollway, Joan King, Bill Leach, Maureen McKenzie, Peter McLean, Lorraine Rimmer, Diana Still, Cheryl Winsor.

Moved that apologies be accepted: Wayne Oakley / Leo Sim / carried.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 5/12/2021

The minutes of the 56th Annual General Meeting held on 5th December 2021 have been circulated.

Moved that previous minutes be approved: Leo Sim / Pat Williams / carried.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: nil.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2022:

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

Moved that the President's report be accepted: Leo Sim / Pat Williams / 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. Copies were available at the meeting.

For the last 4 of the Club's financial years, we have operated at a loss. Hence the Committee's decision to increase table money.

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

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE TREASURERS REPORT:

Jane moved a vote of thanks to the previous treasurer Jean Heath for the condition in which she left the accounts. Approved by acclamation.

Leo praised Jane's work as "a godsend".

FEES – SUBSCRIPTIONS:

The committee proposes to keep subscriptions for 2023 the same as 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022.

- Neil Beckett pointed out that our members playing online at another club represented a ‘financial opportunity loss’ that was not reported in the accounts. Jane replied that quantify any value to this would be extremely difficult to validate when so many factors are at play i.e. personal choice, convenience, and session availability. A member also pointed out that we cannot force members to only play at Howick.

President.....

Date.....

There being no further business the meeting closed at 1:30 pm.

President's Message 2022

The winds of change blew strong in 2022. From the lock downs in the first quarter to the business as usual current model

Bridge clubs everywhere were forced to adapt and we were no different. On line bridge, contactless payments were introduced and now taken as the norm. Despite these unusually difficult times for local businesses our annual Hospice Charity event raised \$5000.00 comparable to previous years. A big thank you to all those who contributed to this very worthy cause and especially Mary Wood who once again worked her quiet charm on the local businesses to donate their many gifts.

On the competitive bridge scene we had a stellar year. Two of our youth members, Kevin Hu and Zachary Yan were selected to represent NZ in an international match against Australia.

At the NZ Bridge Congress, held at Mt Maunganui in October two of our members, Prem Soundranayagam and Jeffery Ren achieved an unprecedented feat by winning all four events that they entered. The Duplicate Pairs, Teams of 4, Swiss Pairs and Congress Teams in the Restricted Open Category. For a suburban bridge club we have some seriously good bridge players!

Our youth members come from our local Macleans college where we continue to provide support on Sunday mornings during term time for some 6 tables of enthusiastic students. A big thank you to all the members who have volunteered their time to help with this roster this year.

New members are the future of any club and this year we trialled a new buddy system for the second set of lessons to try to make the transition from lesson play to regular club play more enjoyable.

Our National body is working on formulating a guide to what form on line bridge will take in the future of our game. In the meantime we have decided to make a session a week a regular on line session and this has been popular. A second session was trialled on a Sunday evening but was not well supported and discontinued .

On a personal level I have been thinking of why we exist as a club. Most of us are attracted initially to the game because we enjoy mental gymnastics, be it Chess, Sudoku or Cryptic Crossword. In bridge we have found the

ultimate challenge.

Over time friendships form from a common interest and I know a number of you do weekend holidays together to combine sightseeing, dining and good bridge.

Importantly we provide support for each other as a community in an hour of need. A ride to the hospital or a driver for a non urgent medical appointment.

I believe that without face to face bridge at the club it will be difficult to foster and nurture the community spirit we now share.

As I pen this message Howick midnight madness is upon us and our thoughts are turning towards the coming Christmas break. Have a great time in the sun, keep safe and see you back at the club next year.

Leo Sim