



84th Annual General Meeting

Wellington Bridge Club Inc.

Minutes

Apologies Tereska Knap, Ken Barnett, Warren Luey, Susan Laurenson, Karl Hayes, Stephen Henry, Joan Druett, Elaine McFadyen, Allan Joseph, Rosa Mishkin, Helen Carr, Chris Bolland, Kay Austad, Adele Weston, Suzanne Johnstone, Pamela Skogstad, Gloria Crabbe, Kevin Walker, John Elliott, Haley Fenwick & Susan Peacock.

Minutes of 83rd Annual General Meeting 13 October 2017 (previously circulated)

Proposed Acceptance Suzanne Duncan

Seconded Maureen Sheldon.

All agreed.

Annual Report

The Annual Report has been circulated. Brad summarised his President's report as a short report, with nothing controversial to note. We achieved a small financial surplus, the building is in good shape and membership is holding up with an extra set of learners' lessons this year. One issue to note, is the decline in attendance on Thursday night sessions. Brad is stepping down as President. He enjoyed his time in the role which was made easier due to the excellent work of his predecessors Derek Snelling and Kevin Walker, who addressed the issues with building maintenance. We are thankful for the great work of our volunteers and a special thanks to Bridget for keeping the club ticking over.

Financial Statements

John Wilkinson presented the Financial Report as tabled in the Annual Report.

Questions from the floor:

A member queried why Saturday play didn't continue. Brad advised that it didn't get the regular support to make it a viable session, however a weekend session may be reintroduced in the future.

A member asked if the surplus funds include the amount fundraised for the coffee machine. (which it does)

Financial statement to be accepted as read

Proposed Acceptance Ruth Brucker

Seconded Bruce Ivamy.

All agreed.

Election of Officers and Committee

Nominations received for the following:

President: Margaret Curnow

Vice President: Suzanne Green

Treasurer: John Wilkinson

Committee: Maureen Pratchett Ruth Brucker
Simon Louisson Susan Laurenson
Wayne Nicol Turei Haronga
Tereska Knap

Proposed Acceptance of the nominations Derek Snelling

Seconded Toni Izzard

All Agreed

Election of Hon. Auditor and fixing of Honoraria

Nikki Shone (subject to Nikki's confirmation)

Proposed acceptance Nan Wehipeihana.

Seconded Toni Izzard

All Agreed

Entrance Fees and Subscriptions

The Committee proposed that table money and subscriptions remain at current levels.

Comments /Discussion:

A member suggested that perhaps we need to increase the subscriptions with marginal increases on a regular basis.

A member commented increases should be as required.

A member suggested we look at other options to increase revenue.

With a show of hands approximately 1/3 of attendees think we should increase the subscription.

A member commented that table money should always be a round number

A member commented that table money should cover the cost of the running of each session to which another member commented that we are a club not a business and another member stated that this would penalise people who play on nights with low attendance

Proposed acceptance: John Wilkinson

Seconded Ruth Brucker

All Agreed

General Business

Thursday Night Play

Playing numbers are dropping on Thursday nights. The Committee are looking for suggestions and ideas for increasing them

General discussion with the following comments/suggestions:

If you play one night a week you can have a discount for subsequent sessions in that week. The club could subsidise this by not having a tea break.

Open the Neal Salver Event to players from other clubs.

Reducing table money a nightmare to administer.

Thursday has lost momentum and overloaded Wednesday

A suggestion (from a Director) that we reduce the number of boards played to 22 or 24.

There was little support for this from players

It is important to understand why numbers are diminishing. We can't put strategies in place to fix a problem unless we know what the problem is

Ask the Thursday players that aren't coming why they aren't

Thursday night – weaker players are coming along but are not prepared for the level of play.

Committee should do an analysis – how many players went from Thursday to Wednesday. 5 years ago Thursday was too large. Best source of players for Thursday is Tuesday night players.

Play 8 nights a month and then free.

Encourage players to try different partners

Individual events – draw for a partner

Tuesday players aren't moving to Thursday

Not all bridge needs to be a competition

A member took lessons 1000 years ago and it is a game of time (referring to slow play)

Starting time is too late and we should skip the tea break.

A show of hands for 7pm start. 50/50

Separate Thursday play into 2 sections

Turn off hand analysis

If we are going to have a tea break, we should improve the quality of the biscuits

Players do not treat this as a club but as a service. Players should help clean up etc, do away with tea person and allocate 2 or 3 tables to be on duty.

Presentation to outgoing Committee Members

Kevin Walker, Toni Izzard, Karl Hayes, Miriam Tankersly and Simon Tankersly

Presentation to retiring President

Margaret thanked Brad for his hard work for the club. She particularly appreciated the effectiveness of his low key and unassuming manner and the way he had built good networks with other clubs.

Presentation to Kate Davies on achieving Silver Grand Master.

Meeting Closed 6.44pm.

The meeting was followed by a light meal for all attendees.