



AUCKLAND BRIDGE CLUB INC

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Date: Sunday 12th November 2023

WELCOME from President and Chair of this Annual General Meeting

Thank you for attending today – your support by attending is certainly encouraging and very much appreciated.

The Club's Constitution requires at least 35 members to constitute a quorum.

As there are at least 66 members present, I declare the 2023 AGM open at 2 pm

48 APOLOGIES received by email or in person

Kanwal Agraval	Judi Higginson
Angela Ashley-Wilson	Ming High
Jan Ashwell	Anthony Hopkins
Julie Atkinson	Jackie Humphrey
Duncan Badley	Bruce & Elaine Fisher
Nicoletta Bartoli	Angie & Chris Fitzgerald
Lynda Bateman	Diane Knowles
Jan Bennett	Linda Macfarlane
Paula Boughey	Denise Mayhew
Lois Calvert	Patricia McCallig
Liz Carnachan	Sylvia Millard
Patrick Carter	Linda Phillips
Sarah Caughey	Christine Plank
Maria Collins	Leonie Rainbow
Moyra Cooke	Christine Scott
Judith Crimmins	Deborah Tangney
Ray Curnow	Liz Thompson
Hilary Dodunski	Neal Topia
Mike Dunn	Robin Topham
Stephen & Margaret Gilbert	Mitsuko Wada
Susan Glennie	Anna Wall
Elizabeth Gollan	Trish Young
Amelia Herbert	

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING - dated 13th November 2022

I would like to move that these minutes be accepted as a true and correct record of that meeting.

Nan McKay / Alan Morris

All in favour / carried

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising raised

PRESIDENTS REPORT

The 2023 President's report has been emailed to members so we will take that as read. Just to highlight a few of the points in that report

Thank you to Board members who have supported me through this last year.

We have had to increase table money (both online and F2F) by \$1 starting in January.

This will not cover the projected loss next year however rest assured we are continually looking at ways to make a positive difference.

A big thank you to members – your support and participation ultimately leads to us having a healthy club. And none of it would run as well as it does if it wasn't for our volunteers - you really make the club a better place, giving freely of your time and expertise.

To the members who made donations throughout the year, thank you as well. As a charitable entity we rely on your generosity and our end of year result would be worse without your monetary gifts. Please do keep those donations coming as we do have costs which subscriptions and table money isn't at a level to cover.

The Thursday monthly tournaments continue to struggle for numbers which is disappointing as this has always been a very social event. However, it was great to see much better numbers at last Thursdays 8B Tournament.

Generally, numbers attending during the year have not been sufficient so next year we will hold some of these events online - maybe not a bad thing as will reduce the disruption to Julie's supervised sessions which have good participation.

Our Club Manager has been here for 18 months – thank you to Kim – she certainly makes my role as President very much easier.

Thank you to Duncan, Mike, and Julie in the Education space. They are proving a real hit with our beginners and improvers. Thank you to all others that have been involved in the beginners' courses. The club's future relies heavily on the success of these programmes, and I encourage you to promote these to all your friends and relatives. Next year we will launch a campaign to attract younger people to our Bridge courses – this was also highlighted at a recent meeting with Jane Stern, Auckland Northland Regional Committee member who supports clubs anyway she can.

Royle Epsom and Eastern Bridge clubs continue to be model tenants of our clubrooms. However sadly EBC have made the difficult decision to disestablish their club at the end of the year.

REBC club invited our members upstairs to play in the Love Block New Zealand wide tournament last Friday and that was a really good event hosted by Angela Royle – all of us who played in this enjoyed it very much and appreciated the opportunity to join the two groups together.

Thank you to Anne and Peter who are stepping down from the Board this year – both have made a huge contribution, and we are very grateful for their time, service and expertise.

We welcome your ideas to any of our Board members so if you have some thoughts to help the club please let us know. Like if traffic is an issue would carpooling be helpful, or running a shuttle from the Market Road train station ...

TREASURERS REPORT

The Finance Report included in the Annual Report was emailed to members and available on our website – taken as read.

Sylvesters follow up comments: HelloClub improved our communication and organisation significantly and we now have 655 members and 1200+ registered to play online visitors.

There were a number of International online events we hosted on RealBridge.

- Bridge celebrities
- 3+1 experts
- Competitions with other clubs offshore, including a regular session with a Canadian club.

Despite all of these efforts and innovations it looks like a similar loss is predicted as last year. Mostly due to Tournament participation being lower, and not the number attending club sessions we used to enjoy back in 2016, the last year the club was profitable. The costly maintenance of this older building also impacts the bottom line.

Move to accept the accounts for the Year End June 2023 as audited and made available to members
Sylvester Riddell/Wayne Gyde
All in favour / carried

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR

BVO have completed this year's audit, and we move they are appointed as the Club's auditors for year end 2024
Sylvester Riddell/Anne Barrowclough
All in favour / carried

2024 SUBSCRIPTIONS

It is proposed the Club's subscription rate for the calendar year
1st January to 31st December – remains unchanged at one hundred dollars (\$100). The NZ Bridge affiliation fee is additional, and this last year was \$23 and we understand this will be the charge for next year as well.
Neil Stuckey/Sylvester Riddell
All in favour / carried

COMMENT FROM THE FLOOR

Alan Morris complimented the Board and Management for the Annual Report and the work be done on behalf of the Club. The insights and reporting is really good. Knowing that the average age of members is 71.5 yrs, so I challenge the Board for next year to look at what can be done to reduce this, and attract younger players.
A look at clubs in the Netherlands who identified the number of people living on their own and how they could be attracted to learn bridge and connect with new people was very successful.

Chairman Neil said that although we know nothing about Tik Tok there may be a way there to introduce bridge to a whole new younger market – but we will need some help with that! Maybe get sponsorship and find a way into schools and universities.

LIFE MEMBER NOMINATION (4 proxies for the chair, 1 for Jody Burchall))
I invite Wayne Gyde to present Anne Barrowclough as the Board's nomination
(Anne Barrowclough leaves the room)

Recommendation for Life Membership

Anne Barrowclough

It is my honour and pleasure to recommend Anne Barrowclough for Life Membership of the Auckland Bridge Club. Most of you here today will know Anne, either from playing with or against her at the Club, or when she was serving the club members as President, Treasurer, Bar Manager or as helpful support during bridge lessons provided by the Club.

The records show that Anne started playing bridge in the mid 1990's and became a member of the Auckland Club in 1996. In her time at the club she has served some 10 years on the Board, including 2 terms as president and 6 terms as Treasurer.

Anne is intelligent, supremely capable and a great team player. She combines professionalism with warmth in her dealings with members, staff and other Board Members.

Anne has an excellent grasp of commercial matters such as finance, employment, marketing and contracts. She was instrumental in setting up the Xero accounting system and Hello Club membership database in our office and generally has provided strong support and encouragement to our office staff for many years.

When we needed a new Office Manager, Anne initiated the recruitment process, and interviewed all the short-listed candidates. Her assessment and judgement of the candidates was perceptive, astute and thorough and of course resulted in Kim's appointment.

Allan Morris recognised Anne's skills and abilities and recruited her to join the Board of NZ Bridge in 2019, where she is currently serving her 2nd term of 3 years. Anne has always been careful to separate her fiduciary duties to NZ Bridge and our Club but her wider knowledge of the NZ bridge community has been of significant benefit in her contribution to our Club.

In Anne's time on the board, she has always been motivated to grow the Club, and saw attracting new players as a key way to achieve this. For many years, she has willingly promoted and assisted in the tuition classes. Her support and coaching have no doubt been instrumental in encouraging many new players to join the Club.

She recognised we needed to build a more diverse Board with more women and younger people involved, and actively promotes this. We still haven't achieved her goal of 50/50 but we are getting there.

In my term as President of our Club, I was very grateful for her support, encouragement and positivity.

I am pleased and honoured to recommend Anne Barrowclough as a Life member of our Club.

Seconded Peter Hoskin

As this is a secret ballot, members voted with YES or NO on individual slips

Russell Watt and Katherine Fraser are the scrutineers to count the votes

Overwhelming support and Anne Barrowclough is declared a Life member.

Russell moves that the voting forms be destroyed

Sylvester Riddell/Neil Stuckey

All in favour – carried

Anne is invited back to the meeting and congratulated on behalf of the Board and membership.

Anne thanked everyone for their support and the amazing friendship circle she has around the club. She encourages everyone to think about what they can be giving to the club.

APPOINTMENT OF 2023/24 OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

Neil Stuckey – President

Sylvester Riddell - Treasurer

Board Member Nominations:

Wayne Gyde (as Immediate Past President),

Jody Burchall

Mark Robertson

Anthony Hopkins

Alex Baker

And of course, we thank Thomas Freeman-Greene who we co-opt to the board and he is happy to continue his support in this way.

Since the nominations match the available positions on the Board, the nominees are elected unopposed.

Applause.

PROPOSED MERGER

Chairman Neil said that while things were progressing along there was nothing further to say since the Special General Meeting held on the 15th October 2023 discussing the merger, so we won't re-discuss this again today.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Nomination and Awarding of the Bayleys Bursary .. Ben will be awarded his certificate at a later date as he wasn't unable to attend the AGM – he wins a 12-month subscription to AKBC.

The judges commented: Ben learnt to play in the July 2022 Sunday Classes. From the 1st January 2023 to 9th October he has participated in 87 sessions at the Auckland Bridge Club and has recently started playing in Tournaments

Franklin 5B Intermediate Pair 4th

NZ Congress Junior Teams 3rd

He has amassed 18B points in this short amount of time

A big thank you and a round of applause for our volunteers – you all do a great job for your club.

As there was no further business following the highlighting of our Club Restricted Christmas Party on **Saturday 2nd December** (with Bridge and Lunch),
The President declared the Annual General Meeting closed at 2:30pm

Certifying the Annual General Meeting took place at this time, 12th November 2023 at Auckland Bridge Clubrooms

Neil Stuckey
President & Chair



| 12th November 2023

Sylvester Riddell
Treasurer



| 12th November 2023