



Minutes of Annual General Meeting for the Auckland Bridge Club Inc at the Club Rooms 273 Remuera Road Auckland

Date: 2pm, Sunday 20th March 2022

(originally scheduled for 20th November 2021 and unable to proceed due to government gathering restrictions)

AGM Chaired by Anthony Hopkins, President

Up until election of officers

Attendance by 49 members which satisfies the quorum requirement of 35 members present

The President opened the meeting at 2:00pm, and welcomed members attending...

1. Attendance by Members

Registration of members attending is held by the office

2. Apologies

Jan	Ashwell	Pauline	M	Sue	Spencer
Jan	Brown	Denise	Mayhew	David	Spencer
Michael	Chapman Smith	Allan	Morris	Deborah	Tangney
Maxine	Christie	Bev	Morris	Margaret	Tapper
Jill	Church	Birgita	Muller	Anna	Wall
Sally	Cole	Lynne	Perkins	Russell	Watt
Bev	Cossar	Sylvester	Riddell	Leslie	Watt
Billie	French	Jane	Ritchie	Gillian	West
Robin	Hardley	Jonathan	Ritchie		
Barbara	Hayes	Juliet	Rowe		

Moved that the Apologies be accepted - Anne/Peter

All in favour/ carried

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

o Minutes of the previous AGM November 2020 were circulated

Moved that the Minutes of Previous Meeting be accepted - Wayne/Anne

All in favour/ carried



4. Matters Arising

- There were none

5. President's Report to year ending June 2021 and to date

Anthony's Presidents account to Y/E 2021 was included with the financial report tabled with the AGM documents. He noted, as outgoing President, there were several people to thank and acknowledge including:

Denise Mayhew

Deborah Tangney – former Club Manager

Kim Bond – new Club Manager

The Education team ably led by Julie Atkinson – a very successful programme with 60 to 80 new members over the last 2 years, during a challenging and complicated transition to online learning and play.

Our directors headed up by Patrick Carter, Jeremy, Sylvester, and Duncan, with its own challenge switching to online while more recently adding in 2 weekly face to face sessions.

Mark Robertson for his contribution to the Board – standing down this year

Sara Worth for her contribution to the Board – standing down this year.

Sara along with Sylvester was very instrumental formalising online Bridge - they worked on changes required to make it available to our members, and subsequently many visitors from all over the country. A huge thank you for making it seamless as we know countless hours were dedicated to this project, which had to happen quickly – it was a time of great change and we had two options .. either duck low until it passes (who knew how long that would be) or grab the bull by the horns which is what we did.

So online play has provided a service, and an opportunity to keep members engaged in Bridge with AKBC. We have recently introduced 2 face to face sessions per week, and although attendance is low it is gradually building – and we do understand of course - some members will be reluctant to return until the risk has reduced. Social engagement is important nonetheless, and from a financial perspective we are much better off when people are in the Club. Operationally the costs continue regardless and there is no support from the Government any longer. It is also pertinent to note that the subsidy received late last year may need to be paid back in part. This is due to the criteria regarding earnings and our online play has helped towards a healthier period than initially forecasted.

How will the future look? This is a good question for the new committee.

The property value for the premises here at 273 Remuera Road has been set by the Council at 18million. Although we have had the benefit of rates rebates over the years the valuation increase, along with the projected 7% inflation, is set to see a significant rise in this quarterly charge.

Our Club Manager is tasked with looking at the future and will work with the board on short, medium and long term goals for consideration.

Although the accounts reflect a \$17k deficit, this is remarkable considering the climate, and thanks must go to Anne and the office for reducing and managing operating costs.

Moved acceptance – Anthony/Wayne

Comments in response to Presidents Report

Graham Wakefield

Real Bridge has allowed us to establish online and gives us the opportunity to seize the high ground in this country. We need to tap into this, and the people from around the country as a way to increase our revenue.

Questioned whether there is opportunity to run more tournaments online.



Anthony provided clarification that New Zealand Bridge do allow master points to be awarded provided there is no availability to play face to face at their own.

Q: How many club members prefer face to face vs online?

R: For planning purposes, it would be good to survey members as the social engagement has value too.

Q: What is the issue about retaining the building?

R: Work has been done on this in the past, and a 1000m² site with 60 carparks is hard to come by. There are several challenges, and the future building and club requirements will remain a project highlighted for the Board to continue work on.

President's report accepted

6. Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements

The Club's financial accounts to year end 30th June 2021 were made available in time for the planned November AGM.

The Treasurer Anne Barrowclough moves that these accounts be accepted

Seconded Wayne Gyde

All those in favour/ carried

Questions:

Q: Has the club considered aligning the year-end balance date with the calendar year subscriptions are based on?

R: We have, and we will again - there are pros and cons both ways. A 31st December balance date requires staff availability during the Christmas/New Year period; however, we agree that having it align would be a good idea. It will be helpful to review when invoices are actually paid

R: Usually one of the functions of an AGM is to review the new year's subscriptions so that should be considered

R: The timing of the invoice issued by New Zealand Bridge for the affiliation fee should also be factored in – this is based on the number of members we have on record and is reviewed quarterly.

All those in favour/ carried

The Treasurer also provided an update on financial situation to mid-June.

Financial Update

Treasurer Anne reported to 18th March – year on year report.

At the time of the introduction of income generation online bridge, using Real Bridge, (October) the decision was taken to launch and promote this at an affordable level of \$5 a session from 1 November – to all players. This was to encourage trial and participation throughout the country and build a player base. This was done at the same time as we launched a new membership management system that allowed for the direct debit of playing fees, the ability to have different kinds of members and different rates of charging.

Online bridge has contributed \$46,582 in player fees (not including online tournaments) but comes with its own direct charges including additional director charges (because of the extra sessions) and Real Bridge user charges, delivering a net \$26k to the accounts.



We also for the 2022 calendar year halved the membership fee for existing members – acknowledging the lack of play over the previous two years and thanking them for their ongoing support as we developed the online offering. Many members included the difference in membership rate as a donation.

Membership for new members has returned to the \$100 + \$23 NZB levy.

Across all the income streams – donations, education, tournaments etc. the year to date is around \$26k behind the level of income from last year.

Management of costs has continued to be very effective, and helped by Covid-19 subsidies, we are sitting with a \$20k loss (compared with \$17k over the same period last year).

Remainder of the year? Expect it to be worse by year end.

7. Financial Auditor

The President Anthony Hopkins moves to reappoint Blackmore Virtue & Owens as the Club's Auditors for the ensuing year

Seconded Anne Barrowclough

All in favour/ carried

8. Appointment of Officers and Board

President: **Wayne Gyde** (unopposed)

Treasurer: **Anne Barrowclough** (unopposed)

Immediate Past President: **Anthony Hopkins**

Board Members: **Peter Hoskin, Sylvester Riddell** (re-standing)

New Board Members: **Susan Stephens, Neil Stuckey** (unopposed)

Mark Robertson retires by rotation after 8 years and has chosen not to stand again

Newly elected President Wayne Gyde introduced Board members, and Jody Birchall, Thomas Freeman-Greene, who have expressed an interest in being involved with the Board, and have agreed to be co-opted onto the Board to work across various projects

Wayne thanked Anthony for his work and contribution in the top job and looks forward to having him continue with our new board. Anthony has done a great job with 2 terms of leadership.

Having Anne, Peter, and Sylvester stand again is much appreciated as continuity will make for a great mix with the skill set this Board has.

Wayne acknowledged that online play is an essential part of our future, and we need to embrace this technology. At the moment online has well taken over face to face but we hope to start gradually increasing the club sessions over the coming months.

We got in first with the move to online (in New Zealand) so we need to ensure we optimise the first mover advantage. Working with NZ Bridge has had its challenges re the Master points – their rule doesn't seem to be rational, and there's no need to have blocks in the way.

The Board worked on strategy and took into consideration the valuable feedback from the member survey as a good foundation for direction. Mark and Sara had huge input into this discussion as well – new Board members will offer other perspectives and we know Jody and Thomas will be a big help in this area as well.



9. Remits

- a. The Board recommends that the annual subscription remains unchanged at \$100 for the period 1st January to 31st December 2022.

President Wayne Gyde moves \$100 is accepted as the annual member subscription fee

Seconded by Peter Hoskin

All in favour/ carried

10. Harry Littlewood Bursary

The Littlewood Bursary fund was set up in the year 2000 with a substantial donation from Harry Littlewood, and contributions from members. The bursary recognises promising and keen new players attending the novice classes. The teacher(s) nominate possible recipients to the Committee. The original \$5,000 has supported **21** new players paying their initial club subscription.

The last recipient to receive this award was Catherine Barclay in 2020

The Board will consider who may be a worthy recipient and this will be announced in due course.

11. General Business

President Wayne Gyde congratulated member Graham Wakefield while presenting his Silver Grand Master certificate.

Julie Atkinson advised attendees that Director Patrick Carter has achieved Emerald Grand Master.

Graham Wakefield suggested AKBC consider becoming the National 500 Centre. Wayne advised that opportunities such as this would be considered in the development of the strategic plan.

As there were no further matters to raise **the Chairman closed the meeting at 2.48pm**

Signed by Past President, Anthony Hopkins  Dated 28 / 03 / 2022

and

Newly elected President, Wayne Gyde  Dated 28 / 03 / 2022