

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF BALLINA BRIDGE CLUB

HELD AT THE CLUBHOUSE, 13 NORTH CREEK ROAD, BALLINA on

SATURDAY 2nd September 2017 COMMENCING at 9.30 am

PRESENT: The Executive Committee:
Rebecca Rogers (President)
Chris McDowell (Vice-President)
Bev Peart-Kuter (Secretary)
Lorraine Bryant (Assistant Treasurer)
Judy Forsyth (Chair of Play Committee)
Committee members: Chery McCallum, Maureen Baker, Sue Mason
In total, 87 financial members signed the Attendance Sheets.

APOLOGIES:

Apologies were received from 57 members; these are recorded on the Apologies Sheets.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES of the 2016 AGM

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Ballina Bridge Club held on the 3rd September 2016, previously circulated and displayed, be recorded as read as an accurate record of that meeting.

Moved: Chris McDowell

Seconded: Bev Peart-Kuter

Business Arising from the Minutes:

Dept of Fair Trading required upgrade of Constitution - completed

REPORTS

All reports referred to below had been circulated before the meeting.

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

In her report the President thanked the Assistant Treasurer, Lorraine Bryant, for her assistance during the year, and superb management of the financial aspects of the club when our Treasurer, Judy Peiti, unfortunately became unable to continue the duties of her office.

The President mentioned particularly the changes to the constitution, which were introduced in 2017, and also the establishment of a social bridge session open to any players.

There being no discussion or comment arising from the President's very comprehensive report, the President asked that her report be accepted.

RESOLVED that the President's Annual Report be received and noted. Passed on a show of hands.

Ted Walsh complimented the President, Rebecca Rogers on her exemplary service.

TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT

In the Treasurer's absence, the Assistant Treasurer summarized a positive financial position with a net profit of \$47,132.91. There has been an increase in receipts from table fees, and an increased amount was taken on Charity Day. Expenses beyond the normal outgoings included a new printer for the dealing room, two dealing machines, a new air conditioner for the dealing room, and an upgrade of the power supply to the dealing room for these purchases. There are now increased gardening and cleaning expenses. Replacement of all 100 chairs is pending at a budgeted cost of \$250 per chair. A dollar for dollar Federal Funding Grant has been applied for. Jenny Wardley suggested replacing existing chairs as need arises. The President replied that this would result in mismatching and the current chairs are not the best ergonomically.

Questions Arising:

Ian McLean questioned the significant difference in depreciation: \$20,000 last year and \$4000 this year. Reply: There has been a write down of \$186,000 for plant and equipment this year.

Sharon Carver asked if there were any outstanding accounts to be paid. Reply: None.

Ted Walsh pointed out the anomaly of referring to "profit" when the BBC is a not-for-profit organization. He suggested "cash surplus" as a better description of such funds (held towards future maintenance) to avoid possible taxation audit. Treasurer agreed to discuss this matter at next Management Committee meeting.

In clarification of significant kitchen supplies expenditure, the Treasurer explained that this covered all consumables in addition to food. The Treasurer plans to implement a revised chart of accounts to better reflect the division of expenditure.

There was no other business arising from the Treasurer's Report.

RESOLVED that the audited copy of the Treasurer's Report 2016/17 as circulated be received.

Moved: Jenny Wardley

Seconded: Sharon Carver

CHAIR OF PLAY SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

Received, with no discussion arising. The Chair of Play asked that if members have anything they wish to be included in the play book, then it is to be passed to the Secretary for inclusion on the Management Committee Agenda.

Barbara Stephens thanked the Chair of Play, Judy Forsyth, for her wonderful service.

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS FOR 2017/2018

The President declared all positions on the Executive Committee vacant and vacated the Chair. John Fraser as the Returning Officer, then took the Chair. John congratulated and thanked members who took positions last year, commenting that the Club was run very efficiently. There was only one nomination for each vacant position except for Vice-President and one committee member, for which there had been no nominations. Nominations were called from the floor for these two

positions. No nominations were received for the position of Vice-President. This vacancy was referred to the Management Committee. Sharon Carver was nominated for the position of Committee Member. After declaring the following positions filled, the Returning Officer, John Fraser welcomed the incoming committee and wished them well for the coming year.

Elected Committee Members

President: Chris McDowell Prop – D. Brumley; Sec – J. Wardley

Vice President:

Secretary: Beverley Peart-Kuter Prop – S Henry; Sec – M Goodall

Assistant Secretary: Sue Mason Prop – B Peart-Kuter; Sec – J Forsyth

Treasurer: Lorraine Bryant Prop - J Woodward; Sec – J Forsyth

Assistant Treasurer: Lorraine Miller Prop – L Bryant; Sec – J Rogers

Play Committee Chair: Marjorie Askew Prop – J Forsyth; Sec – E Hurley

Three Committee Persons:

Chery McCallum Prop – J Woodward; Sec – B Peart-Kuter

Paul Blanch Prop – J Forsyth; Sec – H Pearce

Sharon Carver Prop – C. McCalum; Sec – Paul Blanch

The Chair was then handed over to the new President, Chris McDowell, who accepted and thanked the Returning Officer. After welcoming the new committee members and thanking all others for renominating, business continued to the nomination of Life Members.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP NOMINATIONS:

The former President, Rebecca Rogers spoke to the nominations.

Judy Forsyth Proposed – R Rogers; Seconded – Judith Woodward

Judy began lessons at Ballina Bridge Club in 1998. She began teaching in 2001

Since then she has given service to the club on the dealing sub-committee, with technology, as Assistant Treasurer, Treasurer, Master Point Secretary, a member of the play sub-committee of which she has been Chair for the past eight years, and has served for thirteen years on the Management Committee.

Judy is a most worthy recipient of this honour.

Lyn Graham Proposed – Anne Bigg; Seconded – Cally Mail

Lyn learnt to play from Eric Hurley. Over the years she has been a Director, Head Director, President and Chair of Play. Lyn has been conducting the beginner lessons for many years and (with Anne Bigg) is responsible for the format of our teaching program.

Lyn is a most worthy recipient of this honour.

Eric Hurley Proposed – Marjorie Askew; Seconded – Judy Forsyth

Eric has served for many years as a Director and Head Director and is always first choice for an Appeals Committee. As a teacher he has given lessons at the Club across a range of different bridge abilities. He also mentors groups of players. He has served on the Play Committee, Management Committee and as Vice President. Eric has been a key instigator and now Coordinator of the Thursday evening monthly Teams sessions.

As a player representing the Club, Eric has distinguished himself locally and at regional, state and international events.

Eric is a most worthy recipient of this honour.

The three nominations were unanimously accepted by the members. The President presented each recipient with a Life Membership badge.

MOTIONS

Membership and Table Fees Proposer: Club Treasurer

- i. Agenda Item 13.1.1 Proposed: That membership Fees for 2017/18 remain unchanged at FORTY DOLLARS (\$40) per person for Home Members, and TWENTY DOLLARS (\$20) per person for all other categories of membership.**
- ii. Agenda Item 13.1.2 Proposed: That Table Fees for all Ballina Bridge Club Inc Members remain at FIVE DOLLARS (\$5) per session and that fees for visitors be SEVEN DOLLARS (\$7) per session.**

Eric Hurley informed us that it is 5 years since the membership fee was set at \$40. During that time the ABF fees have increased by \$5 to \$25. This fee is forwarded to the ABF from members' annual fee. Eric therefore **proposed** that Home Members' fees be increased to \$45 and Social Members' fees remain at \$20. Social Members' ABF fee is paid from their home club. This was **seconded** by Janet Brown.

John McCade asked if this was necessary in light of the Club's "profit" this year.

Chris McDowell pointed out that we have previously had a deficit and any "profit" will be used against future expenses.

Lorraine Bryant advised of the increased expenses related to electricity now that the solar rebate has been cut, and also the rise in gardening and cleaning expenses.

Sharon Carver stated the need for cash reserves to maintain the 20 year old building.

The proposal to change motion **13.1.1** to read **(\$45)** was passed by majority vote.

Motion **13.1.2** to remain at **(\$5)** for home members and **(\$7)** for visitors was proposed by Lorraine Bryant and seconded by Jenny Wardley.

Directors' Free Game; Thursday Partners Proposer: Howard Jeffery (Head Director)

i. Agenda Item 13.2.1 Proposed: *That Directors who direct within any month be entitled to one free game for that month*

There was spirited discussion from the floor with some members emphasizing the voluntary nature of all positions held.

It was also felt that this would set a precedent if one group of volunteers received a free game.

Liz Howard emphasized the fact that no other position interferes with one's game as happens when Directors are called.

The motion was put to the floor for a show of hands.

The motion was **passed**.

13.2.2 Agenda Item 13.2.2 Proposed: *That the Management Committee address the running of Thursday sessions so that a workable method of providing a partner for Thursday players is defined;*

OR

That Thursday sessions be changed so that players must turn up with a partner

This motion was again greeted with hearty discussion for and against from the floor. It was put that fifteen of the eighteen directors wish to change the current situation as it is unnecessarily stressful for directors.

The motion that the Management Committee address the running of Thursday sessions so that a workable method of providing a partner for Thursday players is defined was put to the floor for a show of hands.

The motion was **passed**.

Agenda Item 13.3 Proposed: *Thursday Play* - Proposer: John Rogers

This motion was withdrawn as the matter of returning MP requirements to less than 100 per person for Championship Days was voted in the affirmative at a lunch meeting of the Management Committee on Tuesday 29th August. There will consequently be no change to the book for 2018.

It was expressed from the floor that there remains a need to provide more opportunity for novices, (who comprise 54% of membership) to earn points. Split fields of play were suggested.

Jenny Wardley suggested that the relative newness of committee members, with the exception of Marjorie Askew, all newer than twelve years, is testament to the encouragement offered to newer players.

John McCade asked about the results of the Novice Survey. Judy Forsyth said the previous President had collated the results which are the basis on which the calendar events for 2018 will be predicated.

Marjorie Askew suggested that one or two from among the new members should join the play committee. Chris McDowell agreed strongly.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- a) Mary Leonard suggested investigation of improved lighting to be discussed at the next Management Committee Meeting.
- b) Replacement of chairs – Beverley Peart-Kuter is organizing sub-committee to research best in ergonomic chairs both with and without arms. Called for suggestions in writing for any particular opinions.

The President congratulated the Life Members and declared the meeting closed at 11.35 am.

Chris McDowell

President

8th September 2017

Beverley Peart-Kuter

Secretary