

Timaru Bridge Club Inc.

Minutes of the Club Committee meeting held in the Clubrooms 63 Wilson Street Timaru on 17 September 2020 at 5:45 pm.

Present

Allan Luscombe, Joe Harris, Penny Dewar, Julie Chambers, Ashley Milliken, Sue Milmine, Pauline Prendergast, Cynthia Bailey & Gavin Spence.

Guest: Mark Hyde

Apologies: Cena Moulson

Motion – “The apology is accepted”

Seconded and carried

Minutes of 20 August 2020

Motion – "That these Minutes be confirmed as a true and correct record of the Meeting."

Seconded and carried

Mark's presentation

Mark Hyde had previously submitted a discussion document (attached) regarding the Club's bridge programme & award structure to the Committee. He had requested the opportunity to present this to the Committee in person and answer any questions regarding his proposals. After outlining his proposals, Mark left the meeting at 6pm.

Matters Arising

- **Trophy Cabinet**

Discussion regarding expense and usefulness of a trophy cabinet. Current estimate is that cost would be at least \$2000 and the consensus of the Committee was that these funds would be better used elsewhere. It was felt that the Club trophies are nicely displayed on the current shelf. It was noted that the idea of a trophy cabinet originated with discussion of a plaque for Collin Marshall.

Motion: We will place a plaque for Mr. Marshall on the trophy shelf and will not further pursue obtaining a trophy cabinet.

Seconded and carried

- **Club Bylaws**

Discussion of Bylaws will be deferred until 2021. It was suggested that the new Committee should appoint a subcommittee of 3 people to develop a proposal to present back to the General Committee.

- **Beginner lessons 2021**

Sonia Gill may be available as a tutor, but the expense has yet to be determined. Pauline will contact Sonia to see if she is available. We are still searching for someone to act as coordinator for the lessons. Pauline will report back at the next meeting re: Sonia's availability, and **by then someone on the Committee must agree to either coordinate the lessons – or have arranged for someone else to do so.**

- **Purchase of AED (automated external defibrillator)**

Purchase price is approximately \$1995 + \$175 wall bracket. Renewables (battery & pads) are \$416 every 4 years.

Motion: The Club will proceed with purchase of an AED

Seconded & carried

- **Draft minutes of the 2019 AGM**
The draft minutes will be circulated to the entire membership when the agenda is sent out prior to the AGM.
- **Computer Manager job description**
Carried forward to next meeting (apologies from Bill Mecchia conveyed by Allan)

Correspondence

- **Mark's discussion document**
 - **Evolving Wednesday night into a Handicap Competition:**
The Committee felt that the idea of a Handicap Competition certainly has merit. However, it would likely not sit well with many players currently attending Wednesday night bridge. This is offered as a social & non-competitive evening, offering less experienced players the opportunity to request help with bidding or card play. This would make the calculation of any handicap meaningless.

There has been discussion of establishing a Wednesday afternoon game so perhaps that might be a more appropriate venue for a Handicap Competition / Handicap Championship. Joe will discuss this with Kay (who had proposed the Wednesday afternoon sessions).

- **New Awards**
Motion: The Committee accepts Mark's excellent idea for an Improver's award -- to be called the "Brian Usher Cup". The first award will be given in February 2021.

Seconded and carried

The Committee did not approve Mark's proposals for the "Contribution to the Club or "Friendship" awards. It was generally felt that these would be problematic as it would be quite subjective and difficult to judge over 2 very distinct Divisions.

- **Report from Kay re: Club Hire accepted**
- **Letter from Kay re: Temuka card dealing**
The Committee accepts the recommendation for reduced pricing as outlined by Kay
- **Letter from Kay re: Wednesday afternoon bridge**
The Committee thinks this is an excellent idea and encourages further development for winter 2021. It was felt that this might be the perfect venue for a Handicap Competition.

Reports

- **Treasurer**
No formal report, estimated cash on hand reported as \$20,000.

Motion: to switch to Xero payroll management software (and not renewing Cash Manager).

Seconded and carried

Motion: Honorariums to the Secretary (\$1100), Treasurer (\$1200) and Tournament Secretary (\$650) will be paid in September.

Seconded and carried

- **Match Committee**
No report received, but discussion around exactly what is the function of this Committee. This needs to be formalized with development of the revised Bylaws next year.

Generally felt that any changes to the competition schedule are the responsibility of the Division affected. Also, if changes are necessary, the strong preference should be to maintain the structure of any competition already underway. Any changes should affect competitions not yet begun.

- **Works Committee**

Gavin reported that the roof recoating will take place December.

Ashley reported that the remainder of the brown vinyl chairs could be upgraded with the new fabric for about \$600. This was approved.

General Business

- **Definition of General Business vs Remits at the AGM**

The definition of General Business (attached) will be circulated with the AGM agenda. Anything requiring significant discussion must be submitted in a remit.

- **How often can someone speak to a point at the AGM?**

Agreed that Pauline will keep to the agenda and limit discussion appropriately.

- **Team's bridge instruction session**

The Committee supportive of the concept. Joe will liaise with Kay to proceed.

- **Division prize money**

Each Division will receive \$250 for prize money as well as 4 bottles of wine.

- **Cleaners have been paid during Level 2 Covid restrictions**

- **Potholes in driveway**

Allan asked about the status of covering the remaining potholes in the driveway. Allan will check with Steve re: repair status.

- **End of year function**

Discussion re: optimal format for this function. Numerous ideas put forth, but the consensus seems to be that a combined function has never been particularly successful. The plan for this year is that each Division will have their separate nights. Next year, consideration will be given to a Sunday afternoon/evening function for all members with social bridge and potluck snacks/supper.

- **Café machines**

Apparently have been some problems with operation recently. Unclear if this is a machine problem or operator dependent error. Apparently, the machines were purchased 2nd hand so the age of the machines is unknown. Ashley & Allan will investigate and report back.

Next Meeting: Thursday, 29 October 2020 5:30 pm

Meeting adjourned 6:55 pm

Confirmed _____

Date _____

Submitted by
Joe Harris, secretary

1. Change of emphasis for Wednesday Night Bridge

Preamble.

With Covid 19 preventing the annual bridge lessons a new group of players has not joined the club so the educative function of the current Wednesday night programme will not be so necessary. A handicap competition would provide an opportunity for all members of the club to participate on an equitable basis.

Proposed: That the Wednesday night programme be played under Handicap conditions.

Format

General Competition

The competition would generally have, as at present, a 7pm start and a 9pm finish and play 12+ boards with no scheduled break. It would be open to all club members.

Play would be for the Challenge Trophy (or similar). This would be awarded to the pair who achieved the highest average net score for the calendar month. No scores may be dropped. The trophy would then be 'challenged for' in the following month and re-awarded to the new winner and so on. Handicaps would be adjusted each month.

Handicap Championship

A Handicap Championship would be held over eight sessions (two scores dropped) later in the year. It would be open for all club members.

2. New Awards

Two new awards are proposed for the club. The club has many unsung heroes who willingly and frequently give of their time and effort. The following awards are a recognition of this.

a) Award for contribution to the club.

Awarded to the member who in the opinion of the committee has done outstanding service to the club for the preceding year.

b) Friendship award

Awarded to member who in the opinion of the committee best enhances the overall positive morale of the club in the preceding year.

3. The Improvers Cup

This would give recognition to lesser player(s) who have worked hard to improve their game. Awarded to the player(s) graded as novice, junior or intermediate who improve their Rating the most in the previous year. This could be jointly held. To be awarded in February each year using Ratings from the NZ Bridge Website.

TBC proposed definition of General Business.

The AGM agenda will have a slot for general business and 15 minutes has been allocated for this agenda item.

Items of general business are usually:

- uncontentious,
- can be dealt with by members without having to understand a complex issue at short notice, and
- can be disposed of quickly.

Examples may be to move a vote of thanks, or to ask an Officer or Committee to consider doing something and report back.

Those proposing such general business should advise the Secretary before the meeting or there may be no time available.

If you want to raise a more time-consuming item for consideration at the AGM, you must give the Secretary (joeharrisnz@gmail.com) notice 21 days in advance of the AGM (as specified in the Constitution S 22.c for a formal agenda item) and send with that notice:

- a precise resolution for the AGM to consider,
- the names of the proposer and seconder,
- a realistic estimate of the time you calculate will be needed to dispose of the matter, and
- written material that explains the issue and can be sent to those attending to ensure they can make an informed decision.

As time at the AGM is valuable, there is no guarantee that a lengthy matter can be dealt with and it may have to be adjourned to a subsequent General Committee meeting.