

Timaru Bridge Club Inc

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in the Clubrooms, 63 Wilson Street, Timaru at 7.30 pm on Thursday 5 December 2024

Welcome:

The President welcomed everyone present to the 71st AGM of the Timaru Bridge Club Inc which follows the 50th Birthday of our Building this year.

Present:

Officers: Carole Brand (President), Chris Darvell (Vice President), Wendy Taggart (Secretary)

General Committee Members:

Grant Patterson, Joe Harris, Anne-Marie Pavletich, Claire Neilson, Sue Milmine & Jo-Anne Tinkler

Club Members:

Lesley Andrew, Mary Cumming, Dave Gaskin, Margaret Jones, Robin Rogers, Kath Galwey, Vicki O'Brien, Monique van Vugt, Cheryl Begg, Bill Begg, Kay Nicholas, Keith Nicholas, May Mould, Cena Moulson, Caren Hampton, Mark Hyde, Anne & Ross Glendinning, Evelyn & Ashley Milliken, Dave Batchelor, Jackie Jones, Janis Parsons, Gail Brien, Susanne Windsor, Bev Dryden, Lorraine Jamieson, Sandra Perfect, Winsome Cox, Jenny Johnson, Allan Luscombe, Angela Spence, Gavin Spence, Jim Burford, Irwin Seyb, Chris Allan, Colin Truman, Daphne Fitzgerald, Neville Twaddell, Paula Gregory, Michael Johnstone, Ron Griffiths, Bill Schmidt, Bruce Ashton, Penny Dewar, Stephanie Thompson plus 1 unreadable signature

Apologies:

Sue McConway, Cath Preen, Lesley Pincombe, Brendon May, Dorothy Bain, Sarah McLeod, Adriene Bruce, Dot Rapley, Sharon MacKay, Duncan Brand, Diane Radcliffe, Phil Jackson, Neville Newburn, Raewyn Guise, Steve & Sue Geddes, Mary Mulligan, Sue Wills, Sally Taylor, Kate Dobbin, Nicky Hayman.

"Apologies be accepted."

B Dryden/A Luscombe Carried

Procedural Matters:

The President outlined the procedures for the meeting, noting that the meeting was being recorded. Members to indicate if they would like to speak during the meeting, wait to be recognised and passed the microphone. Voting on the remit received will be by way of paper ballot (no proxy voting) and two scrutineers to be appointed.

Minutes of Previous AGM – 30 November 2023

As the minutes had been circulated by email, they were taken as read
"The minutes of the AGM held on 30 November 2023 to be confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting"

P Gregory/G Patterson

CARRIED

Matters Arising:

Our big social event this year was Jim's big bash.

In response to the request to clarify the circumstances in which players may play in a higher division the Club by-laws have been amended as follows:

"Any silver player may at any time play in the gold group, and any bronze player may play in the silver group. When playing in a higher division, players are entitled to earn any C points and are eligible for prizes"

Allan Luscombe enquired if anything further has happened with the thought of amalgamating the Gold & Silver Group.

Monique van Vugt enquired about how minutes are circulated. Caren Hampton doesn't believe the minutes are going on the webpage fast enough.

The committee will consider ratifying their minutes by email and making these available sooner on the website and noticeboard.

President's Report:

As the report had been circulated by email it was to be taken as read
"President's report to be received and adopted."

C Brand/J Johnson

CARRIED

Treasurer's Report:

Draft has been circulated. Review just completed by Martin Wakefield (no changes were required and their conclusion was that the financial position at 30 September and financial performance for the year are fairly represented.) In the absence of our Treasurer the President read her report.

This year's financial statements show a profit of \$8,659. After deducting the annual depreciation, we have a loss situation of \$9,457.

This year the committee has discussed the need to increase the annual member subscriptions to \$100. We need to pass on the increased charges that NZ Bridge have advised us of. They have also advised us that next year there will be a similar increase in their charges.

We will have a reduction in the amount of interest income we received with the current dropping in term deposit interest rates.

We are looking at ways to reduce the operating expenses as much as possible but a large number of these are beyond our control, as seen by the increase in our insurance costs. (The committee has subsequently agreed on cancelling honoraria, using the paper cups for tournaments and special events only and cleaning the toilets and kitchen ourselves on Wednesdays)

We have seen a pleasing increase in the table fees this year which is a result of our new members remaining players after completing their lessons. We

need to keep this going as this is the most effective way to increase our income.

The new double glazing & improved heat pumps has been reflected in the reduced power costs for 2024.

The variance in the cost of rates in 2023 & 2024 is simply a timing difference. There were only 3 payments in 2023 and 5 in 2024.

Kay has been doing an excellent job in looking after the room hire and we have had some valuable income from this area this year. With our new sign out the front it is hopeful this will continue. Thanks Kay for all the work you put in.

Thanks must also go to Grant for his successful application to Pub Charities for the replacement of the remaining windows. I am hopeful we will be able to apply for more funds next year to help with the increasing costs & capital maintenance and a replacement dealing machine.

This year has seen an increase in the value of our Property, Plant & Equipment, this is due to the write up in value of our land and buildings to the latest QV valuation, as explained in note 1 of the accounts.

Owning our own buildings does come with additional costs and we need to remain mindful of these. It has been indicated that we will need to do some repairs to the exterior of the building after some water damage was found when the windows were being replaced. Your committee has these costs in mind and have put funds aside on term deposit to help meet these larger expenses, which would also include things such as the replacement of the curtains and carpet as required.

It is hoped that we will be able to attract some sponsorship from our new brochures for tournament costs. This should then help with the total income we can make from holding these during the year.

Thanks to Gavin & Dorothy for doing the banking during the year. Also, to Ashley for running the bar.

I look forward to another successful year in 2025

Sue McConway

"That the reviewed financial statements for the year end 30 September 2024 be adopted." **M Johnstone/G Patterson** **CARRIED**

Some discussion from the floor

Colin Truman enquired about steps to re-register as an Incorporated Society by April 2026. Carole confirmed that Special Meetings would be held to confirm re-registration and discuss the revised constitution.

Bill Begg would be willing to assist with sponsorship approaches.

As the committee has removed the payment of honorariums for a year, Bev Dryden would like them removed permanently while Bill Begg believes they should be still paid to recognise the hours given to the Club.

Paula Gregory asked if more than one quote is received for insurance renewals and Carole advised Club does get another quote.

Appointment of Reviewer.

Martin Wakefield is happy to continue as our reviewers. Our constitution states that the reviewer must be a suitably qualified person, in other words a Chartered accountant.

“Martin Wakefield to be reappointed as reviewers for the current financial year ending 30 September 2025”

B Dryden/V O'Brien

CARRIED

Election of Scrutineers:

Irwin Seyb P Dewar/A Luscombe

Ross Glendinning B Dryden/D Batchelor

“The above two scrutineers to be appointed”

P Dewar/L Jamieson

CARRIED

Election of Officers:

President – Carole Brand C Preen/A Pavletich

Vice President – Chris Darvell C Preen/G Patterson

Secretary – Stephanie Thompson C Darvell/W Taggart

Treasurer – Sue McConway G Patterson/C Darvell

Having received only one nomination for the positions the above were duly elected.

Election of Committee Members:

Anne-Marie Pavletich C Preen/C Neilson

Joe Harris C Brand/S Milmine

Grant Patterson D Darvell/A Pavletich

Claire Neilson S Milmine/C Darvell

Sarah McLeod C Darvell/C Brand

Having received 5 nominations for the 5 positions the above were duly elected.

Plus, the 3 Division Chairperson's from each group form the full committee.

Cath Preen (Gold,) Sharon MacKay (Silver), Monique van Vugt (Bronze)

Annual Subscription:

Committee recommendation for annual subscription to be increased from \$93 to \$100. This \$7 increase will fund the increase of \$4.60 in NZ Bridge player affiliation fees for 2025.

The committee has also decided to increase table fees by \$1 to \$ starting on 27 January 2025 the beginning of the new playing year. Our operating budget for the current year shows a net profit of just \$2,555 (includes increased subs) We need to be able to fund additional building repairs such

as the likely replacement of our spouting and addressing of some rot which has been found in the building framework. And to fund any other unforeseen expenses. By increasing table fees, we will be keeping our emphasis on user pays.

“That the Annual subscription of \$100 be charged for the 2025 year with an additional charge of \$5 for fees outstanding by the end of February 2025”

J Johnson/G Patterson

CARRIED

Remit Submission:

“That the penalty currently imposed on Silver Division players that do not accept promotion is removed”

Rationale factors to be considered:

The implementation of penalties on Silver Division players has not, to date, resulted in any player accepting promotion.

Penalty implementation is having a negative effect on Silver Members and their potential continuation as Club members.

The implementation of penalties is not supported by the majority of the Silver Division. This is evidenced by the vote on November 4, 2024 asking if members supported this remit. Result 31 voted Yes, voted 2 No and 5 abstained.

A promised review of the penalty implementation has either not occurred or did not include consultation with the Silver Committee or members.

S Milmine/C Hampton

CARRIED 32 / 24

Sue Milmine said players felt belittled and bullied by the penalties. She saw the issues as being low numbers at gold sessions and the same members winning silver competitions. Most silver members play for social reasons and there is a risk of 10 or more members resigning.

Caren Hampton described the penalties as a punitive measure and as being too harsh. She considered players should be allowed their choice of nights and noted that there are similar numbers of members designated as gold and as silver players. She asked for consideration of a more positive approach to retain members.

Michael Johnstone gave some background and context to the silver division promotions policy. There have been no promotions from silver to gold for more than 20 years. However, some members, perhaps 6- 10, have applied and moved up. Complaints have been received from silver members that they are being held back by the same people winning C points and trophies. In a 2018 survey of the silver group the majority supported a promotions

policy. The Promotions committee was reinstated in 2022. After Bill Mecchia resigned in 2024, 6 members of Silver Group were approached to join the Committee, they all declined. No system is perfect and the Promotions Committee had attempted to create a fair playing field.

The question was asked why this penalty system was not imposed on the bronze group with the answer being that bronze players willingly progress to the silver division. And of course there is no place for advancement of gold players.

AnneMarie Pavletich's view is that if promotional invites are not accepted (and silver players who should be playing in gold are still playing in the silver division) then this makes a mockery around our rule that players are not allowed to play down a level.

If the remit is passed then the recognition of the silver division as a social group is likely to be essential for the survival of the club.

The view received from Dorothy Bain was that the penalty system had been set to restore equity and not to encourage promotion. That less proficient players are deserving of respect.

Jenny Johnson's opinion was that it has always been a privilege to be promoted. And that the promotions policy is robust.

Mark Hyde believed that the promotions policy is harmful to the club and he made a plea for an alternative policy.

Bill Begg thought there should be opportunities for all, both social and competitive.

Penny Dewar believed times have changed and she was supportive of the remit.

Grant Patterson was supportive of AnneMarie's suggestion for Monday night to be social, similar to Friday afternoons.

The view received from Cath Preen was that two years of the penalty system would make for a more level playing field. That members not accepting promotion invites are playing down a grade and therefore gold players should also be able to play down in the silver division.

If it is accepted that the remit was supported by the silver group, sociability is proclaimed and Monday is preferred, the resolution is likely to be social

Monday nights. For the sake of a united club. Monday nights will be a bit like Friday bridge, open to all grades with no penalty system. If silver players want to improve or have a more competitive edge, they can play up but they can keep playing on their preferred night as well.

She proposed a working group and member consultation.

Jim Burford – if you want to improve your bridge play up!

Dave Gaskin had no issue if silver members stay and accept a handicap system, as for golf.

Kay Nicholas noted that the remit was based on the rationale that it had the majority support of silver members as evidenced by the 4 November vote. However, she considered this vote to be irregular as proper meeting procedures were not followed. Also 6 members present were ineligible and 35 further silver members who were not present were effectively excluded. She considered that the vote was not in the spirit of the by-laws, not transparent and undemocratic.

When Sue Milmine replied to the speakers to the remit, she expressed her support for a Monday social group going forwards.

Following on from the remit being passed the following motion was put.

“A working group is formed, 2 members elected from each division to work with the Promotions group to come up with an acceptable solution for all”

P Dewar/R Glendinning

CARRIED

Carole's view was that the working group should firstly identify the issues to be addressed, then agree on the best options, consult with all our members on these and finally determine the best way forward for our club.

She thanked everyone for their contributions to a constructive discussion which had sometimes been difficult. She believed that a resolution would be found and we would stay a united club with everyone enjoying their bridge experience.

Daphne Fitzgerald asked that the working group discuss the option of handicap systems for the silver and gold divisions.

Presentation of Club Trophies:

Helen Barker Trophy – awarded to the top Timaru Pair in the Timaru Anniversary Pairs

Jillian Lister & Jenny Johnson

NZ Wide Pairs/Allard Trophy – awarded to the top Timaru pair

Cath Preen & Jim Burford

Rene Payne Trophy – awarded to the Timaru Pair with the highest score in any session of the SC Congress Pairs

Claire Neilson & Bill Schmidt

Nevis Jones Trophy – awarded to the top placed Timaru Junior pair competing in the SC Congress

Margaret Jones presented this to: **Claire Neilson & Bill Schmidt**

General Business:

Some concern from Bev Dryden & Allan Luscombe that the landline had been taken away. Request that committee reconsider this decision.

Jim Burford thanked the Club for getting behind the Bash Dorothy had organised for him. He was humbled by the support.

Kay Nicholas brought up her concern regarding heating in the winter not satisfactory. Grant advised starts at 6.45pm before Club nights. Any members who require clarification about the heating to see him personally.

Carole Brand thanked everyone for coming along to support our AGM and her best wishes to members and families for a Happy Xmas.

Paula Gregory thanked Carole for a very good meeting and for taking the club through the year.

Meeting Closed: 9.40pm

Confirmed:

Date:

