

New Plymouth Contract Bridge Club
Annual General Meeting held at TSB Bridge House
Minutes 27 November 2022

Attendees:

Committee Members: D Skelton (President), C Stringer (Secretary), F Corcoran (Treasurer), C Burton, A Murcott.

Members: J Sutherland, D O'Shaughnessy, L Muller, G Masters, L Cleaver, F Lyall, M Biggs, A Frame, M Gilliland, T Wey, M Carter, K Lilley, J Clouston, R McLean, L Crawshaw, W Crawshaw, G Therin, L Couper, N Murdoch, N Fenner, H Shearer, D O'Donnell, J Herdson, F Barron, J Gaines, G Hill, M Hill, J Utting, M Schumacher, J Schumacher, A Fitzgibbons, G Gonthier, R Pring, J Metcalfe, C Murphy, V Clarke, L Couch, P Cantrell-Pary, S Calvert, C Carryer, F Murcott, S Larmer, J Hawkins, S Larmer. (Total present 49.)

Apologies:

J Cleaver, P Livingston, M Lewis, B Smith, G Phillips, J Roberts, R Weaver, A Weaver, S Luoni, B Hunt, J Holdom, C Thurston, P Martin, H Winyawonk, L Winyawonk, S Wray, P Modgill, R Modgill, L Page, H Carryer, P Jensen, D Wharfe, K Holm, L Smith, D Paynter, K Kingsbury, K Wyatt, I Kjestrup, C O'Connell, J Rutten, K Turner, G Gower, P Twiss, A Campbell, I Cooper, A McLay, Brent Hancock, M Dryden, B Bromfield, L MacDiarmid, P Newson, L Norgate, S Geraghty, J Fenelon, D Patten, R Wharfe, L Young, B Raisin, J Minchinton, J Shaw, D Blair, K Champion, L O'Shaughnessy, J O'Shaughnessy, S Green, J Hansen, J Hyde, P Blackbourn, P Barron, K Carter, L Jury, P Fitzgibbons, M Hansen. (Total apologies 63.)

Moved J Sutherland/**Seconded** D O'Shaughnessy "That the apologies be accepted/agreed."

The following apologies received by email 25 November were missed: Lalith Mendis, Nelun Mendis.

Minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting – written copy distributed.

Business arising:

- L Muller queried whether the manufacturer of Butanol has been followed up regarding the 20 year warranty. This matter still remains outstanding, to be attended to and reported back to members.

Moved L Cleaver/**Seconded** R Pring "That the minutes are a true and correct record/agreed."

President's Report (D Skelton - attached)

Moved D Skelton/**Seconded** J Sutherland "That the President's Report be accepted/agreed."

Matters arising from report:

- L Couch queried the \$15,000 total received in grants – explained later in Finance Report.
- L Couch queried capitation fees disparity between 2021 and 2022 financial accounts. This was partly because of fees being paid for members who subsequently resigned, but also due to payments not always catching the end of year cycle. Frances indicated she would report back to all members regarding the levies.
- L Muller raised mould problems particularly on the kitchen windows, plus prevalent cobwebs. Need to mention to cleaners.

Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements (F Corcoran)

These reports were circulated to all members via email prior to the meeting so they could have due time to appraise them and forward any queries into the Club before the meeting.

C Burton thanked Frances very much for taking over the finances early in 2022 after the elected Treasurer resigned.

- J Utting asked whether the bar stocks are taken into account? Stocktakes have been done over 2022 at various times but stock on hand is not included in the financial accounts. J Sutherland indicated there would be approximately \$3,000 in stock at the moment. G Hill indicated that there should be a monthly bar stocktake and he offered to take on the role alongside J Sutherland.
- M Gilliland queried extra wages to cleaners. In early 2021 the Committee discovered that payments to cleaners going back 15 years had not met minimum employment standards. The issue has now been fully resolved by back payment to everyone's satisfaction.
- L Couch requested further information on the Toi Grant of \$10,000. To date \$7,000 has been spent – bathrooms still to be completed. A vote of thanks expressed to Tony and Faye Murcott who have contributed a huge amount of voluntary time into this project which has kept the cost down.
- L Couch queried the \$15,000 grant total in President's Report. Grants are paid out in various ways and can overlap from one financial year to the next. The bathroom refurbishment money came through in the 2022 year once the job was largely complete, therefore as we operate on a cash basis it is in the income for 2022.
- L Cleaver – grants need to be applied for every year. J Gaines advised Aotearoa Gaming Trust is another avenue for grants.
- S Calvert's query regarding sponsorship – all tournaments were sponsored.

Moved F Corcoran/**Seconded** M Carter "That the Finance Report be accepted/agreed."

Election of Officers

- President – Deane Skelton – **Moved** J Rutten/**Seconded** F Corcoran.
- Secretary – Cecelia Stringer – **Moved** Betty Smith/**Seconded** S Wray.
- Treasurer – Diane O'Donnell – **Moved** F Corcoran/**Seconded** D Skelton.
- Vice-President – No nominations.
- Committee – Christine Burton – **Moved** C Mann/**Seconded** K Lilley.
- Committee – Jenny Cleaver – **Moved** R Pring/**Seconded** L Cleaner
- Committee – Frances Corcoran – **Moved** C Stringer/**Seconded** Betty Smith.
- Committee – Tony Murcott – **Moved** L Cleaver/**Seconded** D Blair.

- Committee – Pam Livingston – **Moved** H Carryer/**Seconded** R McLean.
- Committee – Jim Sutherland – **Moved** D Blair/**Seconded** C Stringer.

There being no further nominations all were elected unanimously.

- The meeting was advised of the committee appointment of Stephanie Larmer as Tournament Secretary.

Election of Financial Reviewer

The current Reviewer, Anne Hatch, has resigned and we are currently looking for a replacement. To be followed up.

Remit 1 - Moved F Corcoran/**Seconded** D Skelton “That the annual subscription be raised to \$120.00 to cover the increase in costs that we have incurred and which results in the club operating at a loss.”

Remit 2 - Moved F Corcoran/**Seconded** D Skelton “That the table money be increased to \$5.00 per session.”

Meeting agreed these two remits needed to be discussed concurrently.

- Frances elaborated on alternatives to increases in subs – these include fundraising, increasing rental of rooms amount and opportunities, renegotiating Directors contracts, take out mortgage and/or loan. Currently not paying honorariums and this year not giving Convenors a table money free night.
- The \$102,000 total expenses in the accounts includes \$13,000 of depreciation.
- Frances confirmed we have a budget and do a cash flow analysis monthly.
- J Sutherland to look into our Bar Licence costs – maybe we could operate on a Club Licence.
- L Muller provided written information on subscription amounts and table money that Clubs around the country charge. The increase suggested by the remits would make us the 4th most expensive Bridge Club in the country to belong to – the most expensive ones are in big centres. With the increase in subs from \$85 to \$100 the previous year Lyn feels that a further increase would be detrimental to the retention of members. Frances said other matters had to be taken into account when comparing subs – i.e. do other Clubs pay Directors; the number of members; how many times a week do they play.
- G Hill – the profit should be around \$5,000 a year on the bar.
- Frances advised that \$10,000 was taken off deposit this year. Investment now stands at \$25,000.
- J Clouston suggested a reduction of \$10 if subs paid by a certain date would encourage prompt payment
- L & W Crawshaw urged everyone to support both remits now. Thrive and go forward. Other clubs, e.g. RSA's and Cosmopolitan Clubs, are closing up. Do we need to give members who wins pairs competitions a monetary prize. We need a few years of austerity and get the Club into a strong financial position
- S Calvert – Agree with the \$5.00 table money as this is “user pays”. Does not agree with subs going up 20%.
- J Hawkins felt Directors fees should remain as is.

It was decided a show of hands vote now be taken.

Remit 1 – “That the annual subscription be raised from \$100.00 to \$120.00”. – **Remit lost** on a 60% against, 40% agreed show of hands.

Remit 2 – “That table money be increased to \$5.00 per session from January 2023” – **Remit passed** on a 90% agreed, 10% against show of hands.

Remit 3 - Moved F Corcoran/**Seconded** D Skelton “That the due date for payment of subscriptions be 27 December in any year.”

This remit was withdrawn as L Muller advised it would require a change to the Club’s Constitution. Clarification was provided that the subs are charged for a calendar year 1 Jan to 31 Dec, not for a financial year 1 Oct to 30 Sept – therefore payment for levies for the Oct to Dec quarter of each year are covered in the subs charged in the previous financial year.

Life Membership Nomination – Maggie Garnham

Lois Cleaver read out the nomination for Maggie Garnham to become a Life Member of the Club which included her involvement as below:

- Active and loyal member of the Club since 1982.
- Winner of Thurston Cup 2003 and Auckland Cup 2005.
- Member of the Club Team which won the National Club Team Championship in 2008.
- Longest serving committee member of the Club, having served 18 stellar years as the Club Treasurer.
- Recently worked with John Warner in encouraging and assisting learners.
- Regular contact with club sponsors.

Moved L Cleaver/**Seconded** J Cleaver “That Maggie Garnham be made a Life Member of the New Plymouth Contract Bridge Club.” **Unanimously agreed.**

General Business

- L Couch requested that monthly financial information be available to members. This information is in the “Minutes” file in the office and available to members but it must not be removed from the office area.
- J Utting advised he is finding it difficult to know who to approach to partner him. He likes to play the daytime sessions. Suggested he phone the Convenor for help with connecting him with players. To be discussed further by the Committee.
- R Pring asked who is the Convenor of Convenors – to be covered by the Committee.
- W. Crawshaw offered to pick up elderly players in his vicinity who wish to play at night.

Closure - The meeting closed at 4.30 pm.

Signed by the President

Deane Skelton