

Ballarat Bridge Club Inc

Annual General Meeting

Thursday 8th October, 2020

Minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Ballarat Bridge Club held on Zoom, Thursday 8th October, 2020.

The President, Anne Beck, declared the meeting's commencement at 11.07 am and welcomed participants.

Note: Documents for the meeting had been emailed to all members or posted if requested.

Attendance

Nineteen members attended the Zoom meeting. Anne Beck, Kaye McFarlane, Trish Farney, Ian Gunn, Noemi McKinnon, Helen Dolan, Clare Beer, Gayle O'Loughlan, Maureen Christopher, Pat Fiskien, Robert Scott, Maree Burns, Peter Wells, Richard Giles, Lainie Carrol, Rayleen Hardy, Helen McKnight, Jenny Hoskin, Ray Beacham

Apologies

Forty members apologised for their inability to attend and ten of those gave their proxy vote to an attending member.

Business Arising from Previous Minutes

Anne Beck identified that an error had been made recording the proposed composition of the Ballarat Bridge Club committee. The record should show seven (7) general members, not eight (8).

Anne Beck moved that the 2019 minutes be accepted, Clare Beer seconded this motion. Carried by show of hands

President's Report

This was assumed to have been read (see pp 3-5)

Richard Giles raised the following issues

Why wasn't Ballarat running its own BBO events?

What was being done to improve member's play?

Ballarat Bridge Club members were under represented in the Club sponsored BridgeSW/BBO events.

Anne Beck responded:

BridgeSW/BBO was providing tournament Bridge six times per week online, the Ballarat Bridge Club could not offer the same opportunity.

Ballarat Bridge Club member's skills were being developed by playing competitively. Skill development programs are available on line eg ABF, VBA.

When a Ballarat Bridge Club member specific tournament was offered, insufficient members showed interest. The Ballarat Bridge Club sponsors BridgeSW/BBO tournaments two sessions/week and were available to all; to ensure registration, log-on early.

Anne Beck moved that her report be accepted, seconded by Gayle O'Loughlan. Carried by show of hands.

Treasurer's Report

The tabled Audited Financial Statement for 2019-2020 was assumed to have been read.

Summary of the 2019-2020 financial year

Bank Balance acc: 143932572 as at 30/6/2020 = \$ 9741.90

Balance Term deposit acc: 14452879 @ 30/6/2020 = \$ 63733.79

Total at Bank \$ 73475.69

The Financial reports for June 2020 show a Loss of \$ 8020.26-YTD.

Due to Covid-19 the Club has been closed since mid March as has the EGV so we have had no Table fees or Rental income since then.

As at February 2019 Table fees were on a par with Last Financial Year.

Ron Walters who has kindly audited the club's books for many years has retired and is no longer available, so PPT Accountants were engaged to prepare the financial statements.

Regards

Trish Farney

Richard Giles queried why the capitation fees for the VBA for 2020 had not been included in this statement. Trish Farney explained that the VBA invoice was not received in time and further explained that invoices including those for internal maintenance and painting were paid in the 2019- 2020 financial year when they belonged to previous financial years.

Peter Wells suggested that the club might be eligible for a government subsidy for the loss of income due to the COVID-19 shut down

Trish Farney moved that her report be accepted, seconded Robert Scott. Carried by show of hands.

Election of Office Bearers

Trish Farney assumed the role of chairman and declared all positions vacant.

She read the names of the incoming executive and their nominators. Subsequently declaring all positions filled.

Anne Beck resumed the role of chairman and read the names of the general committee members and their sponsors. She declared all positions filled.

POSITION	Member Nominated	Proposer	Seconded
President	Anne Beck	Rosemary Kinna	Maureen Christopher
Vice-President	Ian Gunn	Anne Beck	Clare Beer
Secretary	Kaye McFarlane	Anne Beck	Rosemary Kinna
Treasurer	Rosemary Kinna	Anne Beck	Kaye McFarlane
General Committee	Clare Beer	Anne Beck	Rosemary Kinna
	Diane Bulman	Anne Beck	Colleen Ludbrook
	Helen Dolan	Kaye McFarlane	Maureen Christopher
	Geoff Dwyer	Ian Gunn	Anne Beck
	Noemi McKinnon	Geoff Dwyer	Robert Scott
	Bruce Morley	Ian Gunn	Anne Beck
	Gayle O'Loughlan	Geoff Dwyer	Robert Scott

General Business

Nil

Trish Farney and Raelene Hardy separately congratulated Anne Beck for her weekly Newsletters that have kept the members informed and connected to the club

Anne Beck declared the meeting closed 11.28 am.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020

Anne Beck

October 2019 saw a new Committee installed. Our main aim being one of transparency to Ballarat Bridge Club's Members.

The 12 months for the Committee have been six months before COVID-19 and six months after. An interesting time.

The first task saw a complete overhaul of the premises, cupboards, pantry, office, and clubrooms, with a working bee by Committee, resulting in a trip to the tip with unwanted and broken items. In the office, new carpet was laid, and blinds installed for security and privacy, plus a general reorganisation of equipment.

The filing cabinet was cleaned out and the previous minutes and financial records were collated systematically into filing boxes. These were all labelled and stored in the office cupboards. The documents in the filing cabinet were evaluated and appropriately filed or discarded.

A WIFI microphone was purchased for clearer communication with members in the clubrooms.

A First Aid Cabinet was installed in the kitchen area and stocked with the necessary supplies, thanks to Orla Conaughton. A fire blanket purchased also.

Plants and new pots were purchased for the Club Room.

Kaye McFarlane and Noemi McKinnon updated the membership data base enabling both an ease of communication with most members as well as the updating of membership records. They also developed a comprehensive membership record form with Trish Farney.

A new blind between the Main Club Room and servery hatch was installed.

A new split/system air conditioner was installed in the Embroiderers Room.

The tasks Committee Members have completed included:

Noemi McKinnon - has been responsible for the recording of all masterpoints with the ABF, and liaising with Jim Naughtin during the BBO/BWS Online Bridge, also for the updating and inclusion of items on the Club's Website.

Clare Beer - has been responsible for the updating of the kitchen pantry and cupboards and the purchase of the weekly snacks and nibbles for during and after sessions, as well as special birthdays and occasions.

Rosemary Kinna - has assisted Trish with the banking, and other related financial business plus the purchase of wine for the Club.

Trish Farney - has been responsible for the management of the Club's finances and the Annual Financial Report. Trish is retiring, and sincere thanks go to her from the Committee and membership for her contribution and comprehensive financial reports. In spite of there being little or no income received this year the Club remains in a strong financial position as is evident in the Annual Financial Report.

Kaye McFarlane - to help facilitate the running of the bridge sessions a new Router from Telstra, a new computer, and a colour printer photocopier have been purchased. This will allow

Kaye and her team to manage the dealing of the cards more efficiently. This team does a sterling job. Bridge playing could not run without them.

Trudi Broeders - has worked tirelessly for both Committee and the Ballarat Bridge Club in a variety of roles. She is retiring this year. Many thanks to her from all of us. We know she will always be willing to assist.

Geoff Dwyer - has completed many maintenance jobs around the clubrooms and garden. He has installed - a new cupboard over the switch board, evacuation signs, a new coat rack in the entry hall, and new security signs around the building. He has regularly mowed the grounds and undertaken other club and garden maintenance tasks as required. A new garden bed was established at the west end of the garden and it is developing very well thanks to Pat Fiskien and the team of volunteers that helped set it up.

New decals have been installed in the entrance hall, the signage on the shelter has been removed and new signage put on the two pillars at the entrance gate.

Gayle O'Loughlan - managed to produce one newsletter before COVID-19. There will be more to come.

Helen Dolan - was responsible for the distribution of vouchers for players but these were not needed in the past 6 months due to COVID-19.

Ian Gunn - a valuable contributor in meetings and for general consultation.

Tim Woodley undertook the updating of all the Bridgmates II and supported the various roles of the Directors.

The Ballarat Bridge Club donated \$1000 to the Bushfire Relief fund.

A feedback box was introduced to facilitate member's ideas and comments.

The ownership of the building occupied by the Ballarat Bridge Club has been an issue for many years and finally clarification was achieved.

The building is owned by the City of Ballarat. The Ballarat Bridge Club leases the building from the City of Ballarat, paying annual rent and rates. (The next Lease Agreement is due for renewal December 2021.)

The City of Ballarat is responsible for any major maintenance and future building developments and/or improvements. Because the City of Ballarat owns the building it is responsible for Building Insurance. Ballarat Bridge Club is responsible for Contents Insurance. Public Liability Insurance is the responsibility of the ABF (Australian Bridge Federation).

A Black Book was issued to members outlining the timetable of events for the year (unfortunately any future events have been cancelled) with an up to date contact list.

Liquor Licensing and Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA) courses and certificates were undertaken. I (Anne Beck) am the current Licensee; both Clare Beer and I hold RSA (Responsible Service of Alcohol) certificates, with other Committee members to follow.

Socially, the Club held a very successful - Cup Day event, an offsite Christmas Party, a New Year's Eve get together, as well as the fortnightly Friday Pizza night held during daylight saving time. The regular after Bridge, afternoon drinks, snack and chat sessions are still very popular.

Although there has been very little actual play thanks must be given to the Directors, Tim, Carol, Dianne, Anne, Rosemary, Ray and John for their contribution at each playing session. We look forward to needing your services again.

During the first six months there were few special events. The green point competition days were ongoing, interspersed with monthly redpoint teams events and the Nationwide pairs continued fortnightly. The Western Region Congress was held in February at Geelong, but the Bendigo event

due to be held on March 14th was cancelled. Ballarat Bridge Club had booked Joan Butts for a Workshop, but this too was cancelled.

Currently the Ballarat Bridge Club has 112 full members and four associate members. The Wednesday afternoon supervised Bridge sessions were not well attended and hence were disbanded. An attempt to gain new members was trialled at the Ballarat Library for a few weeks but did not prove to be successful. The plan to target Seniors' Week to promote Bridge became unrealistic.

Bridge lessons finished at the end of December 2019 - unfortunately no new members or ongoing interest resulted from those participants. Thankyou from the Club members to Carol for the work she consistently put into those lessons, for what we know to be a demanding commitment.

On Saturday March 21st the doors to the Bridge Club closed and have remained so since.

The Committee has had regular meetings and contact before and during the COVID-19 six months; we meet now on Zoom (a new venture for all of us). Committee business includes the ongoing accounts that must be paid (inherent in the running of the club), maintenance that needs to be done, adapting to change - ensuring all will be ready our return to Bridge playing.

I started a Weekly Newsletter to members after the COVID-19 closure of the Ballarat Bridge Club as a way of contact and keeping members informed. This has been well received, but will conclude after the AGM, that will be week 30. Communication with Club Members will continue via a Monthly Newsletter and the Minutes from the scheduled Committee Meetings.

The Embroiderers Guild has also closed its doors and is not paying rent (only its share of the utilities) until they resume. It seemed only fair to put this agreement in place.

Jim Naughtin introduced the membership to playing Bridge Online through BBO/BSW; this opportunity to continue playing bridge has been enthusiastically accepted by many Club members. Red and Green MP's can be earned by playing in the daily tournaments he has set up and supports as facilitator/director.

Marj Davies, a former member, left a legacy to the Bridge Club of \$10,000 a very generous gesture indeed. Marj also donated a plaque in 2010 which now resides in a prominent position over the fireplace. A reminder and a thankyou from all of us. A more permanent memorial is being planned and will be outlined to members soon.

We were saddened at the passing of Janet Oates and are concerned about the health and well being of some other members.

This year has seen many challenges for the Bridge Club as well as for members personally. COVID-19 has changed the world as we knew it and the future of Bridge playing.

As a Committee we have worked hard and cohesively and achieved a great deal. When we return to playing at the Bridge Club our aim is to once again provide a variety of programs to facilitate all aspects of Bridge: playing, competition, lessons and social camaraderie.

Trudi Broeders and Trish Farney are retiring. Our sincere thanks go to both of them for their valuable ongoing contributions

We welcome two new Committee Members, Bruce Morley and Diane Bulman and know they will be valuable additions to our team.

Thank you, the Members for your support this year, and I believe that the Committee and I can continue in the same vein for the next 12 months. (COVID-19 free of course)

Anne Beck

(President)