



## Minutes of the 55th Annual General Meeting Held at the Club House on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at 10.55am

**The President Geoff Saxby welcomed all to the AGM and declared the meeting open.  
A quorum was established.**

- **Attendance:**  
22 as per the attendance book. A special welcome was extended to Lorraine Frederick our longest serving Honorary Life Member.
- **Apologies:**  
12 as per the apologies list. Geoff Saxby moved that the apologies be accepted.  
Seconded: Terry Higgs. Carried.
- **Minutes of the previous AGM held on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2019:**  
The minutes of the 2019 AGM were taken as read. Neil Strutton moved that the minutes be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the Annual General Meeting of 15<sup>th</sup> June 2019. Seconded: Margaret Prentice. Carried.
- **Business Arising from the minutes of the previous AGM:**  
None.
- **President's Report:**  
Geoff Saxby spoke to his written report. The past six months with the challenges raised by the COVID pandemic have proven to be the greatest challenge for this club since the 2011 floods. At all times the health and safety of members has been his, and the committee's, primary concern. The preparation of a comprehensive approved COVID Safe plan allowed the club to reopen as soon as that was possible. All decisions were made ensuring that the health of members was never compromised. Geoff focused his report on the committee which has done such a great job at this difficult time, keeping members safe and also introducing online options such as Stepbridge when face to face bridge at the club was not possible.

Geoff thanked the committee members standing down: Secretary Lena Darlington and Diane Swan who both made considerable contributions to the safe reopening of the club and Treasurer John Densley who made significant changes to the club's financial systems.

Geoff said he looks forward to working with the incoming committee with the very admiral goal of seeing the members safely through the COVID pandemic. With the usual TBC spirit and enthusiasm he hopes that the committee may also be able to tackle other issues such as resolving the carpark problems, introducing cashless payments and continuing strategic planning. He wishes the new committee well.

Geoff Saxby moved that the president's report be received. Seconded: Angela Lawson. Carried.

- **Treasurer's Report and Financial Report:**

David Sydes moved that the treasurer's report and the financial report as circulated be adopted. Seconded: Terry Higgs. Carried.

- **Appointment of Auditor:**

David Sydes moved that Barry Williams be appointed auditor. Seconded: Terry Higgs. Carried.

- **Election of Management Committee Members:**

Neil Strutton, the current vice president took the chair. Neil announced that all positions of the 2019-2020 committee are uncontested and the new Management Committee is: President: Geoff Saxby; Vice President: Neil Strutton; Secretary: Justine Wlodarczyk; Treasurer: David Sydes; Committee Members: Terry Higgs, Angela Lawson, Janet Lovell, Jo Neary, Peter Nilsson, and Margaret Prentice

Neil Strutton moved that the nominations be accepted. Seconded: Peter Noble. Carried.

- **Approval for Disbursement of Honoraria:**

The schedule prepared by the honorarium sub-committee was circulated. David Sydes moved that the schedule be adopted. Seconded: Terry Higgs. Carried.

- **Approval of Management Committee recommendation to award Honorary Life Membership to Margaret Prentice:**

Neil Strutton outlined the generous contributions that Margaret Prentice has made over many years. (See Appendix). Neil said that whenever Toowong Bridge Club is mentioned the name Margaret Prentice comes to mind. Margaret has been, or currently is, Treasurer, President, Committee Member, Membership Secretary, Providore, Walk-in Program Coordinator, Education Subcommittee Member, QBA Delegate and Scorer. She has contributed generously over the years representing the club as a player and giving her time in the day to day tasks that need to be done in a busy bridge club. She has an intimate knowledge of the workings of the club and its members and is a support to other volunteers. Margaret has for many years dedicated her time and energy to the successful operation and ongoing progress of Toowong Bridge Club.

Neil Strutton moved that Margaret Prentice be awarded Honorary Life Membership. Seconded: Pam Schoen. Carried with acclamation.

Margaret thanked the committee for this honour. She joined the Toowong Bridge Club in 2006 after a career in education. After volunteering and assisting in a number of ways, in 2010 she took on the daunting role of treasurer with no experience in this area but slowly learnt on the job. The 2011 flood which destroyed all records added to this challenge. In 2014 she was elected president. During her two year term the committee secured a grant for the installation of solar panels, initiated the use of Pianola and added what became a very popular Wednesday afternoon session.

Margaret thanked the committee and the club members for supporting this honour. She also thanked Pam Schoen under whose tutelage she has improved her playing skills and thanked Diane Swan and Sue Eix who have given her considerable practical support over the years in all the work she has undertaken. She thanked them for their friendship and ongoing support. Margaret looks forward to continuing her support of Toowong Bridge Club.

- **General Business:**

A number of members congratulated the president and the committee on their efforts in returning the club to safe face to face bridge. Some suggestions were raised. The president noted these for consideration at future committee meetings

**The meeting closed at 11.45am.**

Signed by:  
Geoff Saxby .....  
President

Lena Darlington .....  
Secretary

Date: .....

## Appendix

### Margaret Prentice – Nominee for Honorary Life Membership

To some a good friend, to many a competitive bridge partner and opponent, Margaret Prentice is respected by all at our Club as a long-standing Committee member who is dedicated to the successful operation and ongoing progress of Toowong Bridge Club.

She is indeed a professional volunteer and even before becoming an office bearer, Margaret began her volunteering efforts together with Diane Swan, monitoring and purchasing the office supplies.

In 2010, Margaret was elected to the Management Committee as Club Treasurer. It was a challenging year for the Committee and in particular for the Treasurer, as the 2011 Brisbane Floods brought major funding decisions through Club closure and clean up, rebuilding, reopening and recovery. Taking this opportunity to learn more about Club procedures and our members, Margaret continued as Treasurer for three years.

Then in 2014, Margaret was elected Club President. With even more to do, she took on an active role, being present at the Club on most days and over time, endeavoured to play at each session, so coming to know our members. She also became involved in all special occasions, coordinating our Melbourne Cup Pairs and Lunch; fundraisers such as Charity Day and of course our 50th Anniversary celebrations with the production of our Club history, *Tricks and Trumps*.

A good communicator, Margaret continued to edit our regular newsletter, endeavouring to keep everyone up to date with coming events, member profiles and members' bridge achievements. She initiated the use of Pianola as our membership database and along with our membership renewals, began to apply this for electronic dissemination of relevant bridge and Club news. Since then, use of this tool has been extended to publication of session results and finding partners.

As well, she took on the role of QBA delegate which kept her in touch with the broader bridge scene and encouraged our Club as host of the Queensland Youth Bridge Fun Day, the QBA Novice Teams of Three and an ABF Continuing Professional Development day for bridge teachers.

While she stood down as President in 2016, this was not the end of her volunteering. Margaret took on Membership Secretary, Providore and in the last year, Walk-in Program Coordinator. Having introduced a structured education program, she is an active member of the education subcommittee, taking supervised play every Saturday morning, organising bridge workshops with visiting presenters as well as supporting our Club intermediate lessons. She is the rostered scorer for Tuesday morning sessions, has been kitchen convenor for congresses and can sometimes be seen working in the garden, very early on a weekend morning.

Margaret is a keen bridge player and has represented Toowong in the annual InterClub Teams and Zone GNOT Finals. She is a regular participant at the Gold Coast Congress and more recently at the Summer Festival of Bridge.

Margaret is the face of our Club to our paid workers. She liaises with our tea assistants, our cleaner, our garden service, ensuring that work arrangements are clear and that they have all required to perform their tasks effectively. When needed, it's Margaret who contacts and often meets with our service providers, the plumber, the printer and just now the NBN. And this service applies to our members too. Requests to buy some coupons, borrow a library book, or order a name badge, are met with on-the-spot attention and action.

Recognised for finding the right volunteer for our many jobs, a new banker or someone to care for the book table, Margaret willingly shares her knowledge of Club activities. She assists other volunteers, welcomes new members and encourages novices and improving players. For many years, this Club and our members have become a substantial part of her life and Margaret has contributed her time, energy and skills to keep it a great place to play.

This supports the Management Committee's recommendation to award Honorary Life Membership to Margaret Prentice.