



Minutes of the 55th Annual General Meeting

Held at the Club House on 12th June 2021 at 11:00am

The President Neil Strutton welcomed all to the AGM and declared the meeting open. A quorum was established.

- **Attendance:**

33 as per the attendance list. A warm welcome was extended to our Honorary Life members Mrs Lorraine Fredericks, Mrs Sue Eix and Ms Margaret Prentice.

- **Apologies:**

41 as per the apologies list. Neil Strutton moved that the apologies be accepted. Seconded: Ingrid Hartel. Carried.

- **Minutes of the previous AGM held on 12th September 2020:**

The minutes of the 2020 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 12th September 2020. Seconded: Judy Quick. Carried.

- **Business Arising from the minutes of the previous AGM:**

None.

- **President's Report:**

Neil Strutton spoke to his written report. He thanked the immediate past President Geoff Saxby for his enormous contribution to the Toowong Bridge Club in his two separate terms as President.

It has been a challenging year for the Club juggling the numerous Covid Safe requirements to ensure the health and wellbeing of our members.

The Club is now operating each weekday except Sunday with 2 sessions on Wednesday and Thursday. Larry Moses's Monday Mentoring and Pam Schoen's Intermediate Classes have resumed as well as Sue Eix's Beginner Classes and Supervised Practice. The first Covid Safe Congress in the Brisbane District was run successfully by Toowong Bridge Club thanks to Chief Convenor, Janet Lovell. Walk in Arrangements have resumed thanks to Margaret Prentice. The work of previous Committee Members has resulted in a Cashless economy and a Coupon system is in place for game payments. This return to a new Covid

normal has been achieved thanks to the hard work of all the volunteers who make the functioning of the Club so successful. He thanked the Committee members who were standing down.

Neil Strutton moved that the president's report be received. Seconded: Peter Noble. Carried.

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

David Sydes commented that the Treasurer's Report was audited without qualification this year as the move to a cashless venue has made all transactions transparent. An additional benefit has been the reduction in the Insurance Policy as there is no longer cash held on the premises. For the first three months there was no revenue raised as the Club was closed in response to the Covid. Table fees have been increased this year. There was a question from the floor concerning the legitimacy of the fee increase since it had been approved by the Management Committee rather than at a General Meeting of all members which according to some interpretations was contrary to the Constitution. It is the opinion of the Treasurer, that the Section of the Constitution being referred to, relates to decisions on Debt management not to table fees, which are essentially the day-to-day operations which fund the running of the Club. On the matter of these fees the Constitution is essentially silent. Clarification was previously sought from various sources including the Office of Fair Trading and various legal professionals. Further discussion was referred to General Business

Another question was raised re the difference between the \$6 charged per coupon in a bulk buy of 10 coupons and the current requirement for purchase of single coupons by Club members being charged at \$7. This matter was referred to the next Committee Meeting.

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

- **Appointment of Auditor:**

David Sydes moved that the Auditor's Report be accepted. Seconded: Marge Henry. Carried.

David Sydes moved that Barry Williams be reappointed auditor. Seconded: Jo Neary. Carried.

- **Election of Management Committee Members:**

Jo Neary, the current Vice President took the chair. Jo announced that the position of President was uncontested and Neil Strutton was appointed. Jo congratulated Neil and handed over to Neil Strutton. Neil announced that all other positions of the 2021-2022 Committee are uncontested and the new Management Committee is: President: Neil Strutton; Vice President: Jo Neary; Secretary: Caroline Nelson; Treasurer: David Sydes; Committee Members: Terry Higgs, Janet Lovell, Marge Henry, Sue English, Marsha Knoll, 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: Ann Griffin. Carried.

- **General Business**

Further discussion re the question of the validity of the decision to raise the table fees. In the short term and until further investigation Bill Heath moved a motion: That the AGM hereby endorses retrospectively the Managements Committee decision to increase table fees by \$1 per session from 01/01/2021. Seconded: Ann Griffin: Carried.

- **General Business:**

Several members congratulated the President and the Committee on their efforts in returning the Club to safe face to face bridge. Starting time of 10:00am seems to be well received. Uptake of the two sessions on Thursday is no greater than the single session. Request to increase support for the Toogoolowah Club. Concern re need for short break during the sessions.

The President noted these issues will be addressed in future committee meetings.

The meeting closed at 11.55am.

Signed by:

Neil Strutton
President

Caroline Nelson
Secretary

Date: