

Redcliffe Bridge Club Inc.
Minutes for the
Annual General Meeting 5th June 2023

1. Fay Jeppesen (President & Chairperson) welcomed the Members present and opened the meeting at 10.04 a.m.

PRESENT: 44 as per Attendance Book.

APOLOGIES: 22 as per Attendance Book.

PROXIES: 42 registered with the Secretary.

2. Fay drew attention to the Draft Minutes for the 2022 AGM and there being no business arising from the minutes, Fay read **Motion 1:**

“That the minutes presented for the AGM on 13 June 2022 be accepted as a true record of the meeting.” **Proposer:** Jill Hanley. **Seconder:** Magdeline Wong. **Carried.**

3. Fay referred members to her President’s Report as printed in the Annual Report and thanked the many members who contribute to our Club with their volunteer work.

Fay wanted to make special mention that this is the first time that a member of our Club, Abby Wanigaratne , has been selected in the Qld Women’s Team to compete at the national finals in Perth, on behalf of our members, the Club has made a small donation to assist Abby with her travel expenses. With the support of our members, the Club has also been very generous in helping local charities during the year.

Our Club has been very successful in running our bridge beginner programs in the last twelve months, and Fay thanked Sue and Wayne for their ongoing support. Fay was very proud of the opportunities that our Club provides to develop and nurture new players by providing free lessons, resources, and supervised play.

Fay congratulated Linda Almond for her work as the Treasurer of the Club, we made a small surplus for the year and the Committee has struck a good balance to ensure that the monies received have been repaid to members through subsidies for major events, lunches, bridge workshops and the annual Christmas function.

During the year the Club purchased a name badge printing machine, and we now supply new members with a free name badge and provide replacement badges to members at a much lower cost, the Club also supports and provides name badges for the Caboolture Bridge Club.

Fay thanked all the volunteers who contributed to the Club, their service is widely appreciated by all our members and cannot be underestimated.

Fay read **Motion 2:**

“That the Presidents Report be adopted.”

Proposer: Fay Jeppesen **Seconder:** Sandra Routley.

Carried.

- Melva Leal presented the Treasurers report on behalf of Linda Almond who was unable to attend the meeting. The Club made a surplus of \$1,281.09 and our total equity stands at \$437,422.56 for the year ending on 31 March 2023. Our term deposits have been re-invested with Suncorp Bank and we will receive a better return this coming year. Linda proposed to the Management Committee that we change accountant and that we engage a new locally based accountant as our current auditor is based in Toowoomba. Members were asked if they had any questions:

Melva read **Motion 3:**

"That the Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements be adopted."

Proposer: Melva Leal.

Seconder: Thea Hobson.

Carried.

Melva read **Motion 4:**

"That the Auditor's Report be accepted, the Auditor be paid and that the Certificate by members of the Committee be authorized." (see By-Law 5.1)

Proposer: Melva Leal.

Seconder: Sue Kennard.

Carried.

Melva read **Motion 5:**

"That TWR Group Chartered Accountants at Margate be appointed as Auditor for the 2023-24 Financial Year."

Proposer: Wayne Parker.

Seconder: Denise Holland.

Carried.

Melva read **Motion 6:**

"That an honorarium of \$300 each be paid to the President, the Secretary, and to the Treasurer."

Proposer: Fay Jeppesen.

Seconder: Midge Spice.

Carried.

- Fay thanked Midge Spice, the Masterpoint Secretary and Peter Hancock, the Membership Secretary for providing their reports in the annual report.
- Fay declared all Management Committee positions vacant.
- Magdeline Wong, on behalf of all the members, thanked Fay and the Management Committee for their excellent work during the past year. She congratulated Fay on her role as President over the past three years and she wished her a happy birthday and great cruising over the next couple of months.
- Fay advised the meeting that only the Secretary's position remained vacant after calling for nominations. She then welcomed Sue Kennard as the new President, Maurice Sanders as the Vice-President, Linda Almond as the Treasurer and Di McColl, Tracey Langton, Melva Leal, Ted Morriss, and Barbara Wales as the new Committee members.

Sue Kennard thanked everyone for having confidence in her to lead the Club over the coming year, she thanked the outgoing Committee and welcomed the new one.

9. Sue noted that the Club still has a vacancy for the position of Secretary and asked for nominations from the floor:
- Fay Jeppesen nominated Tracey Langton, Tracey declined because of other commitments, and she was also President of Quota in the local community.
 - Fay Jeppesen nominated Di McColl, Di also declined as she did not know enough about bridge and the Club at this time to fill the role.
 - Magdeline Wong nominated Wayne Parker, Wayne declined and said that he had been on the Committee for a long time now and that it was time that other members stepped up.
 - Elizabeth Gibson nominated Jan Dann, Jan declined as she was already committed to other organisations over the next twelve months, and she has already volunteered some time to our Club as a dealer each month.
 - **Fay Jeppesen nominated** Elizabeth Gibson, Elizabeth accepted the nomination provided that she could commence after she moved house later in the year. Wayne said that he would fill the position on a temporary basis until Elizabeth was available. **Seconder:** Magdeline Wong. **Carried.**

10. Sue opened the meeting for General Business and informed the meeting that there were three notices of motion:

Sue read **Motion 7:**

“That the air conditioner is used only when the outside temperature reaches 25 degrees or more.”

Proposer: Jan Dann.

Seconder: Jill Hanley

Sue asked the meeting to give the speakers the courtesy of silence when speaking to and against the motions, she then asked Jan to speak to the motion.

Jan said that she knows that it was a contentious motion, and that she was aware that the Club has a By-Law to cover this issue and that that her motion was not about taking away the power of the Director. She wanted to bring attention to members that the air conditioning unit is a sealed unit which only recycles air within the building and only extracts dust. The unit does not pull the microscopic virus particles out of the air including Covid, Cold, Influenza, and RSV viruses. Jan said that the room needed to be ventilated to disperse these viruses and that schools were looking at running their air conditioning units with windows open to circulate new air in the building. She informed the meeting that she had been in touch with our service provider, Rawl Leslie from Peninsula Electrical Services, and that he was looking into this issue and has not supplied any new information at this time. Jan informed the meeting that that the motion was not meant to stop the Club using the air conditioner but to use it when needed and to open the windows for ventilation whenever possible. Jill had nothing to add to Jan’s explanation.

Maurice Sanders wanted to know whose job it was to monitor the outside temperature and secondly the way the motion was worded it meant that the air conditioner could not be used on a cold day. Jan agreed that the motion could have been worded better.

Fay said that there was a Workplace Health and Safety requirement for the Management Committee to ensure the safety of all members in the Club and that she did not believe that we could solve this problem today and suggested that the Committee look into the issue at a future date when more information was to hand.

Gordon Gemmell suggested a change to the wording of the motion, however changes to motions at the annual general meeting are not allowed. Helen Chapman did not think that this kind of motion belonged at an AGM, rather it was an issue for the Management Committee and that the current motion was not practicable. Ross Shardlow wanted to endorse what Helen said and suggested that the motion be withdrawn or voted down. Thea Hobson did not agree with the motion and said that the Director had enough to do during a bridge session and that the matter should be handled by the Committee. Sandra Routley said that any changes by the Committee should not breach By-Law 81. Sue Kennard said that regulating the temperature in this room is very difficult.

Jan Dann said that she was **happy to withdraw the motion**. Jill Hanley agreed.

Sue read **Motion 8**:

“That members and visitors of the Redcliffe Bridge Club be permitted to play a Red System”

Proposer: Elizabeth Gibson.

Secunder: Annette Hyland.

Elizabeth explained the Red, Green, and Blue systems allowed in bridge clubs by the Queensland Bridge Association. Elizabeth said that more and more of our members are playing in congresses and are playing against other players who are playing red systems. It is important that members should be able to practice red systems in our Club to allow players to add bells and whistles to their bidding system to play against more experienced players. There are no secrets in bridge, we take a system card from table to table and no player should be left in the dark, good bridge is achieved by not deceiving our opponents but by how well we understand the system and we should be allowed to practice it. Annette said that she had nothing to add.

Sue made an enquiry to Jan Peach through Jo Neary about the red system:

- How many Clubs use a red system – Jan said that it is hard to find out, QCBC and BBC allow red systems
- What are the advantages or disadvantages to our Club by allowing a red system – Jan said that it is tough to go to a congress without any practice, and play against players with a red system, Jan felt that most sessions should remain blue and green as more than that could be stressful for the social players. Jan suggested that the Club only play a red system on selected sessions.

Sue felt that as well as looking after our 70% of social and novice players we should also be looking after the 30% of experienced players who go to club congresses. Sandra Routley said that we could not pass this motion today because our By-Laws state that we only play blue and green systems, so there would have to be a motion put at a special general meeting to change the By-Law. **Elizabeth withdrew the motion** so that the By-Law could be addressed at a later date, Annette agreed.

Sue read **Motion 9:**

“That the Committee of the Redcliffe Bridge Club re-install the scores (travellers) on the Bridgemates.”

Proposer: Elizabeth Gibson.

Seconder: Annette Hyland

Elizabeth felt that the scores should be available for everyone, she spoke about the old scoring system and the changes with modern technology and Compscore3. Elizabeth felt that the travellers provide good feedback to players on their own performance and their opponents, this information may give players clues on how to improve their game. Seeing the results gives players numerous benefits and encourages healthy competition, provides feedback, allows players to share strategy and can be used to improve game play. The travellers have had a twelve-month trial now and no difference to the noise level has been made, it takes nothing to ask players to refrain from table talk. None of the criteria for removing the scores has been met, therefore the travellers should be reinstated. Annette added that it has always been part of the game to see the scores and that the travellers have nothing to do with the time allowed to play each board, she felt that changing the travellers to avoid the chatter is an ethical issue and not a technical one.

Steve Woodrow was not sure it is right that everyone has the right to see the score, players can look them up when they get home. Maurice Sanders said that the wording of the motion requires the travellers to be turned on for all sessions and By-Law 9.5, on Ethics and Proprieties, asks members to refrain from any action or remark likely to embarrass a partner or opponent – therefore you should only look at the travellers and not discuss the results. Maurice felt that it does add delays in playing the round and also adds to the noise which is a big problem. Helen Chapman felt that issue should be discussed at the Committee and not at an AGM, the Committee could run a survey. Turning the scores on does make extra noise in the clubroom, it creates time delay as players talk about one board before playing the next one, sometimes players overhear that a slam was made on a table on a board they are about to receive. Ethics and technology are two different things. Elsa Arahill said that this issue was brought up last year and we voted on it, Sandra Routley said that she could live with what the Committee voted on otherwise we will have this see-saw discussion at every AGM. The Committee could survey members to know what their needs are.

The Chairman put the motion: 23 For, 51 Against and 12 Abstained.

Lost.

Other General Business:

1. Elsa Arahill said that the Committee should think about introducing an assistant Secretary and maybe an assistant Treasurer role to train members for the future.
2. Elizabeth Gibson asked that the Directors should request players to keep their hands on their lap as some players are suggesting cards for the declarer to play.
3. The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 11.16am.



Sue Kennard, **President** – 17/06/2024



Wayne Parker, **Secretary** – 17/06/2024