

Redcliffe Bridge Club Inc.

Minutes for the Annual General Meeting 17 June 2024

1. Sue Kennard (President & Chairperson) welcomed the members present and opened the meeting at 10.04 am.

PRESENT: 40 as per Attendance Book.

APOLOGIES: 37 as per Attendance Book.

2. Sue drew attention to the Draft Minutes for the 2023 AGM and there being no business arising from the minutes, Fay read **Motion 1:**

“That the minutes presented for the AGM on 5 June 2023 be accepted as a true record of the meeting.”

Proposer: Wayne Parker. **Seconder:** Jenny Reid. **Carried.**

3. Sue 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. She especially wanted to thank Linda Almond and Wayne Parker for their tireless effort in making sure that the club functioned very well during the past year. Their service is widely appreciated by all our members and cannot be underestimated.

With the support of all our members, the Club has also been very generous in helping local charities during the year.

Sue read **Motion 2:**

“That the President’s Report be adopted.”

Proposer: Sue Kennard **Seconder:** Thea Hobson. **Carried.**

4. Wayne Parker presented the Treasurer’s report on behalf of Linda Almond who was unable to attend the meeting. The Club made a surplus of \$14,866.80 and our total equity stands at \$502,431.03 for the year ending on 31 March 2024. Our term deposits have been re-invested with Suncorp Bank and we will receive a better return this coming year.

Our Income was mainly table fees - \$62,837.70 and interest on our term deposits - \$16,482.48. No new plant and equipment were purchased during the year and our accountant recommended that the asset register journal be corrected which will be completed over the next couple of months.

In summary, the club is in an extremely healthy financial state, and we can attribute this to the diligent work of this committee and those committee members of the past. It is important that we continue to maintain this high level of integrity.

Wayne Parker read **Motion 3:**

“That the Treasurer’s Report and Financial Statements be adopted.”

Proposer: Wayne Parker. **Seconder:** Thea Hobson. **Carried.**

Sue Kennard 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: Wayne Parker.

Seconded: Max Kershaw.

Carried.

Sue Kennard read **Motion 5:**

“That TWR Group Chartered Accountants at Margate be appointed as Auditor for the 2024-25 Financial Year.”

Proposer: Wayne Parker.

Seconded: Sandra Routley.

Carried.

Sue Kennard read **Motion 6:**

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

Proposer: Elsa Arahill.

Seconded: Lynda Bennion.

Carried.

5. Sue Kennard thanked Midge Spice, the Masterpoint Secretary and Peter Hancock, the Membership Secretary for providing their reports in the annual report. Sue congratulated the members for doing very well in the State McCutcheon Awards during the year and Midge has listed the top 4 players in each category for our club.

Peter reported that the club had a total membership of 211 members in April 2023 and 192 members in April 2024 and provided a pie chart of the percentage of members in each masterpoint ranking. Maurice Sanders asked if Peter was aware of the principal reasons for the loss of members who have left the club and how many were dissatisfied with their treatment at the club? Maurice asked that the new committee investigate this matter.

6. Sue Kennard (*Chairperson*) declared all Management Committee positions vacant and called on Helen Chapman to declare the new committee for the 2024/25 year. Helen thanked the old committee for all the work they have done behind the scenes. Helen read the list of nominations received and congratulated Sue Kennard for running again as our President, one vacancy remained on the committee and Helen called for nominations from the floor.

Christine Broughton nominated Lesley Brown for the position, and it was seconded by Tracey Langton. Lesley accepted the nomination. **Carried.**

7. Sue opened the meeting for General Business and informed the meeting that there were no notices of motion received by the Secretary.

Other General Business:

Tracey Langton read out a motion that was put at the committee meeting on the 19th of October 2023 and passed by the committee regarding the Monday and Friday afternoon sessions. Tracey wanted to know why the Tournament Organisers and the Directors have not abided by the decision of the committee. Sue said that she made the original motion to try and create unity in the club by removing the masterpoint limit,

she confirmed that the committee had received letters and assured the members present that their concerns have been listened to. Sue said that the red section was not equitable and has divided the club.

Tracey Langton said that no one at the meeting wanted to have a divided club, what is happening is that people are asking questions and that they are not feeling satisfied that they are being heard and that this discussion needs to happen in order to clear the air because this issue has been going on too long.

Denise Holland said that she has looked at other bridge clubs on the computer and said that they run novice sections for their members – Sue replied that novice sessions are not run in club bridge sessions, they run novice events in club congresses which have a masterpoint factor attached to the competition.

Barbara Wales said that the Tournament Organisers were present at the meeting in October last year so why wasn't the committee advised before the motion was put.

Sandra Routley said it was recorded in the minutes that the Directors would decide if a separate section was needed and said that the Management Committee's role under the club By-Laws was to ensure that enough sessions were being provided for members during the week. Directors cover whether sections will be played depending on table numbers and that is the difference, when there are 14 tables or more – the directors will divide the field.

Annette McNee asked if we could seed the bridge sessions, Wayne Parker said that we do seed special events, but it was impossible to seed normal club sessions as players would have to nominate in advance of the day so that the session could be seeded.

Jan Bencsevich was worried that the newer players were being taken advantage of by the experienced players when playing in one section, Sandra said that it was the same for new people coming out of the beginner classes and playing in the red section. Lynda Bennion said that our teaching program has improved a lot over the years and experienced players have volunteered as mentors to coach players wishing to improve their game.

Tracey was not happy with the feeling at the meeting that people in the red section were creating a toxic environment and that they were conspiring to divide the club, she felt that she has been raising these issues with the committee in a professional manner without emotion.

Sue Kennard said that under the new committee, it is her goal that the club will be unified. When she took on the role as President last year this was an underlying issue in the club and it has been raised every month at our committee meetings, it is time to rule a line under this matter – the directors will run the game of bridge under the Laws of Duplicate Bridge, the QBA Regulations and the Redcliffe Club rules which are itemised in the By-Laws.

Denise Holland noted in the membership report that 65% of the membership was under 100 masterpoints and she wondered if it was possible to run a separate competition for these players. Sandra said that there were a lot of players in this group which are considered as some of our best players and that your masterpoint level does not have anything to do with your ability to play bridge or your success in playing bridge.

Barbara Wales said that Northern Suburbs Bridge Club run a session like this and asked if Greg Gosney would speak about that session.

Greg Gosney said that Northern Suburbs was a much bigger bridge club than Redcliffe Bridge Club and he said up front that he was not supportive of a under 100 masterpoint session. He said that he could understand why they do it, but it has created two separate clubs within a club. These players do not develop very well as bridge players but when they play in the open sections with more experienced players, they will improve and play much faster. Greg also said that there was no mentoring at Northern Suburbs and that he would like to see their committee consider this arrangement.

Maurice Sanders said that he was not an accredited director and if anyone wanted to learn to be a director, he would be willing to help.

Wayne Parker wanted to speak to the members at the meeting about an earlier statement that the committee did not listen to their concerns. He said that he had been on the committee for many years and that past committees have made mistakes, but they have always listened and been invested in members' points of view. These committees have always been aware that 65% of our membership has less than 100 masterpoints and we have tried to satisfy this group of players by introducing an under 50 MP section, an under 30 MP section and an under 20 MP section over the years – there was even one time when we considered an under 10 MP section.

None of these ideas have ever worked in our club, I agree with Sue Kennard that it is time to rule a line under multiple sections and leave it up to the directors – it is not getting any better and this issue is not going to be resolved by any committee. We need to build a united club and we are in a much better position than some other clubs who have much bigger problems like court cases, punch-ups and theft. We need to appreciate our club and what we do here.

8. Meeting Closed at 11.10am.



Sue Kennard

President

24/06/2024



Wayne Parker

Outgoing Secretary

24/06/2024