



## **WEST AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE CLUB MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OCTOBER 2022 held at 7 Odern Crescent Swanbourne**

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**DATE:** 18 October 2022 commencing 4.30pm

**VENUE:** West Australian Bridge Club – Swanbourne, WA

**PRESENT:** Nerilyn Mack, Margaret Shaw, Dymphna Elsey, Helen George, Michael George, Jane Henderson, Helene Kolozs, Hilary Hepinstall, Terry Hepinstall, Carol Pocock, Ann Youngs, Rhona Barton, Alison Rigg, Anne-Marie Marias, Aruni Bandarage, Sue Broad, Tracy Kudelka, Peter Smith, Helen Cook, Bruce Fraser, Martin Doran, Bernard Yates, Deborah Greenway, Jocelyn Parry, Ray Purdy, Margaret Tierney, Chris Bagley, Kitty George, Peter Sumner, Brian Embleton, Judith Lauri, Jane Blacklock, Kerry Barns, Shirley Lavarack, Barbara Engelbrecht, Janne Hollingsworth, Jan McNab, Shelley James, Gwen Wiles, Janine Hughes, Sandy Veling, Prue Hart, Jacqui Ecclestone, Helen King, Peter Hicks, Carla Sullivan, Eve Clarkson, Cindy Rodeheaver, Ray Flanagan, Sue Field, Helen Kemp, Marion Jefferson, Jill Mowson, Glen Basham, Richard Basham, Ross Duberal, Sylvia Bray, Dorothy Cain, Sheenagh Young

**APOLOGIES:** There were 16 Apologies recorded in the Attendance Record Book

### **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:**

The Minutes of the Meeting of 12 October 2021 were accepted.

**Moved:** Helen George    **Seconded:** Gwen Wiles    **All agreed**

**MATTERS ARISING:** Nil

### **PRESIDENT'S 2022 REPORT**

Good afternoon everyone and thank you for attending this AGM.

Covid-19 restrictions continued to impact the running of the club during this year. Border restrictions were in place which resulted in Andy Hung not being able to conduct the lessons in term 1. Carla Sullivan kindly conducted the Beginner Lessons for Term 1 with assistance from Jane Henderson. Peter Smith also assisted by giving lessons when Andy was away on other commitments. David Burn assisted also by running the mini supervised sessions. Thank you all for helping the club out during these difficult times.

Wearing of masks was introduced to the club. This was a very unpopular decision for members. The Management Committee received many complaints from members, for either not wearing masks correctly or not wanting to wear them at all, therefore choosing not to play at the club.

Also, at this time the government introduced a mandate that all members visiting clubs and various other venues had to be double vaccinated. This took a lot of organising to ensure all members who played at the club were double vaccinated. Our members were really fantastic in their cooperation with this. Those who chose not to be vaccinated did not play. This was a period of 4 months.

The Code of Conduct document for members was reviewed and is now included in the Handbook.

We introduced a President's Award this year, to be given to members as an acknowledgement for their significant contributions as volunteers to the club. The recipients were Jane Henderson, Kate Nadebaum and John Nelson.

A significant achievement this year has been the revision of the website. Richard Basham started the ball rolling with input from his son Peter. Eve Clarkson has driven this change, contributing many hours of research and sourcing an appropriate website designer. Eve has been ably assisted by Carla Sullivan and Prue Hart. Many thanks to you all. Eve will be presenting this update later in our meeting.

The Christmas Congress was very successful with positive feedback. Kerry Barns organised the afternoon teas on Friday and Saturday which is always greatly appreciated by the members. Thanks to Kerry and the volunteers who helped with the catering.

Mark Doust joined our Director team to take over from Dave Parham who has retired. We wish Dave all the best in his retirement.

Our Charity Day was a success. This year the charity was Express Wildlife, a non-profit organisation which tends to sick and abandoned wildlife. We raised \$3,900.00 which was gratefully received. Our thanks to Jacqui Ecclestone, who organised the collection of raffle goods that were kindly donated by the members. Thanks also to her team with the selling of the raffle tickets. We are also collecting items for this charity. The cartons for collection are outside the office.

The Marketing Committee have continued to hold Super Saturdays and Fabulous Fridays. These have been extremely successful with record attendances. Our thanks to John Nelson and his team of Prue Hart and Jacqui Ecclestone with the added assistance of Sheenagh Young who designed the novel personal scorers. Our sponsor for these events, Aspire2Wealth are willing to continue to sponsor these events.

Trumps Plus has continued to be published bi-monthly by John Nelson and the marketing team. These publications are welcomed by our members.

Our Winter Congress, organised by the Tournament Committee, convened by Kitty George and directed by David Burn, ably assisted by Peter Hicks was another successful event. The catering was organised by Kerry Barns, assisted by Sylvia Bray and was appreciated by all.

During the lockdown period John Aquino wrote a book on bridge. He has now published it and made it available for club members to purchase. John has kindly donated the proceeds from this book to the club. Many thanks John, this is greatly appreciated.

As you are all aware Sheenagh Young is retiring in December. We have appointed Martin Doran as our new Executive Officer starting on 15<sup>th</sup> November. We are holding a farewell bridge day for Sheenagh on 19<sup>th</sup> November. Thanks to Prue Hart and the Marketing Committee for organising this event. We wish Sheenagh every happiness in her retirement.

We also have a retiring Treasurer this year. Richard Basham has been our Treasurer for 7 years. Richard has provided great service to the club during this time with his knowledge of finance. The club has been in good hands during his term as treasurer. Thank you Richard.

As you are all aware we have proposed new neighbours, the Perth Children's Hospice. It is proposed that the construction of this hospice will commence sometime in 2023. There will most likely be inconvenience to our members during this time, but we will be negotiating with the Foundation regarding any issues that arise.

I would like to express my thanks to so many people who have contributed their services in making this wonderful club of ours function so smoothly. We have so many volunteers giving their time; in the library, mentoring and buddy programme, book exchange, bar roster, Saturday cheese roster, tea rotation duty, gardening, duty partners, food donation and preparation – just too many to name, but thank you all. We have the Directors with the important role of supervision of play, the Recorders with their diplomacy with complaints, our patrons Helen George and Peter Smith who are there for advice when needed, and our Honorary Auditor, Steve Ledger, who willingly provides us with his services. Thanks also to Steve Pynt who kindly donates his time with legal advice and to Ross Duberal who updates our Memoir book. Many thanks to the Tournament Committee who competently organise our tournaments and events, to the Finance Committee and Marketing Committee who have worked diligently throughout the year. Many thanks to our Executive Officer, Sheenagh Young who has provided support to me and the Management Committee members. Sheenagh runs the office with diligence and amazing efficiency which truly astounds me. Her knowledge of the history of the bridge club and bridge related matters prevents us from making errors.

Lastly, but not least my thanks to the Management Committee who have provided me with such great support and advice when needed. This Committee has been a great team and I thank you all sincerely for your input. I wish Sylvia Bray all the best as the elected President for next year.

Kate North  
President

President's Report accepted.

## **TREASURER'S 2022 REPORT**

Good Afternoon

I had hoped that my last report would be a bumper one but alas the aftermath of Covid and the world stock exchanges intervened

The value of our investments are down 8% on the previous year and investment income is down 50%, albeit the previous year was a record for the Club

At the moment our investment spread is very conservative with 35% in growth stocks and 65% in defensive stocks, including 16% in cash or short term deposits. Hopefully we are in a good position to reinvest when signs are more positive

Operationally we had a fair year with duplicate revenue up 6% from a low base. Overall costs were reasonably kept in line. The bar was the big winner this year.

The challenge for the Club, along with other bridge clubs, is to increase membership. In four years our member numbers have dropped from just under 1100 to around 850

A good sign is that our members still play on average about 40 times per year.

I ask that members encourage their friends to take up bridge and join the Club

Increasing membership not only has positive financial implications but more importantly suggests the Club is appreciated by the community.

Although we made a loss for the year of \$17,395 we had a positive cash flow of \$67,058 from operations and consequently the Club is in a good liquid and financial position.

My thanks to Sheenagh for all the help and hard work she carries out during the year

Also to Steve Ledger for carrying out the honorary audit so efficiently.

Before commending these financial statements to you are there any questions?

(There were no questions)

Richard Basham

Treasurer.

Treasurer's Report accepted.

#### **AUDITOR'S REPORT 2021:**

Our Auditor, Steve Ledger, reported that the accounts for 2021/22 had been examined and were a true and correct record. Steve thanked the Treasurer and Sheenagh Young for their assistance throughout the year.

**NOTICES OF MOTION:** No notices were registered

#### **ELECTION OF HONORARY AUDITOR:**

Steve Ledger, practising Chartered Accountant has agreed to undertake the audit for the coming year. Agreed unanimously.

#### **ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS:**

Members of the 2022 Management Committee are as follows:

President:	Sylvia Bray
Secretary:	Bernard Yates
Treasurer:	Shirley Lavarack
Committee:	Kate North
	Brian Embleton
	Jacqui Ecclestone
	Prue Hart
	Eve Clarkson
	Carla Sullivan
	Sandy Veling

Retiring members from the Management Committee are Janine Hughes and Richard Basham.

#### **Incoming President Report**

Friends. Thank you for electing me as your President. I consider this an honour and a privilege and I will do my utmost to continue to serve as well as the past presidents of this wonderful club.

Prue Hart has agreed to help me in this position, as my vice President, and I'm looking forward to working with her. Shirley Lavarack has kindly offered to be Treasurer, and as she hasn't been on the committee previously, this will be a little bit daunting to begin with, but we know she has the skills to competently manage this important position. We warmly welcome her to join us. Bernard has agreed to be Secretary and I'm sure he'll handle that position with great competence.

We have one more new member on the committee, Sandy Veling has kindly agreed to join us and I welcome her on board. Sandy, I'm sure you'll find your time on the committee rewarding.

It came as a shock earlier this year to hear that Sheenagh is retiring. I thank her for her dedication, for her vast knowledge and total commitment to her position and to the club. There'll be more on that when we have our "celebrate Sheenagh" day later in November. I am pleased that Martin Doran will be taking over her position.

Martin has already shown his enthusiasm for joining us – he's here today and I hope as many of you as possible will introduce yourselves and make Martin welcome. I know he's going to be a valuable asset to the club.

Our marketing committee is doing a wonderful job in creating a more social ambience and I hope this is going to continue with more of these events happening in the future.

I am reluctant to thank individual volunteers right now, and I'm not going to do that here, except for one person, probably the most important individual in the room, because he's the man who looks after the bar. Would you please thank Brian for his continuing voluntary bar management. Later on I'll be mentioning more volunteers' names, they are such an important asset and the club can't manage without them. But thank you volunteers, you know who you are, and your input is extremely valued and recognised.

Thank you again for your support and confidence in me. I look forward to the year ahead and seeing you here as often as possible.

### **Thank you to Past President and Treasurer**

The new President thanked Kate North for her valued service to the Club as President. As well as being President for the past two years, Kate has been very proactive in making sure that things which need attention at the club are seen to in a timely and efficient manner. This included the huge task of sewing new table covers, two for each table. Her work during Covid ensured the club could keep operating as regularly as government directives allowed, presiding over some difficult and unpopular decisions. Kate has offered to remain on the Management Committee, and also to continue her involvement in the Tournament Committee. We look forward to seeing her at the Club as often as possible. Kate was presented with a gift from the Club, for her contribution as President.

The President also thanked Richard Basham, thanking him for his valued service as Treasurer over a period of six years. His wise advice and guidance helped the Club to prosper, even during this period with Covid and the restrictions imposed on us. There were major acquisitions during Richard's time as Treasurer, including the purchase of solar panels. An expensive item, which will have long term

