

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the MCC Bridge Club held in the Hans Ebeling Room at the MCG on Thursday 28 November 2019 at 12pm

Present: See attendance records.

Apologies: Rob and Rosemary Nurse, Roger Kenna, Angus Graham, Cathy Taylor, Ann Heron, Doug Bell, Karen Wood and Sue McPhail.

Proxies: As filed

Chairperson: Chris Nixon

A quorum being present, Chris Nixon welcomed those present and declared the meeting open.

Approval of Minutes of previous AGM: The Chairman submitted a motion approving the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 22 November 2018 as a true and correct record. Proposed: Graham Hardie, seconded: Colin Walker. Carried unanimously.

1 Chairperson's Report:

1.1 Chris Nixon stated that he had nothing out of the ordinary to report and that the Committee was quite comfortable with the way the bridge club was proceeding.

1.2 Chris Nixon then listed some club statistics that applied to the year namely:

- The membership total is 130, down 11 from last year;
- There were 46 Thursday playing sessions averaging 15.5 tables per session [16 tables last year];
- There were 11 lessons given by Ben Kingham with an average attendance of 16 persons. It was noted that the standard of play had improved;
- There were 6 inter-club matches of which the club won 2. Unfortunately, player interest in this format seems to be waning in the participating clubs.

1.3 Several ongoing matters were raised as follows:

1.3.1 Club finances: Chris Nixon stated that the club finances are fine and that the process of returning equity to members was continuing by the following methods:

- free play days,
- subsidized inter-club matches,
- subsidized Christmas lunch,
- subsidized personal or group bridge lessons.

It was noted that there was a small operating loss but the Club will continue in a gradual return of equity to the members. The members were generally referred to the Treasurer's report.

1.3.2 Website improvements: It was noted that the systems introduced by Rob Nurse and administered by Alistair Minson were working well, eg., the booking system, but that "finding a partner" option was not being used.

1.4 Acknowledgments:

Chris Nixon thanked Sue and Laurie Kelso, Anna Fowler and Jess Herman, Sonya, Andy Home, Ben Kingham and all committee members for their valuable contribution and assistance during the year in making the bridge club such an enjoyable place for playing bridge.

1.5 Questions from the meeting: Chris Nixon then called for any questions concerning the Chairperson's Report:

- Graham Hardie asked whether a booking to play on the website can unilaterally be cancelled by the booking member? Alistair Minson replied that it can only be cancelled via an email to him;
- Alan Godfrey asked what happened to Ben's "Hand of the Week"? Chris Nixon replied that it just didn't happen and suggested that the ABF's daily bridge column is a suitable substitute;
- Colin Walker suggested that the combined cost of attending Ben's bridge lesson and playing the following duplicate session was discouraging visitors from coming along to the lessons. Chris in reply noted that considering the expenses incurred by the members and other relative costs of similar lessons elsewhere, the charges were reasonable and appropriate;
- Jennie Grey wanted to know whether other playing opportunities could be planned at the Club. Chris stated that given the circumstances of playing at the MCG, this was impractical and, in any event, not supported by the members.

There being no further questions, the Chairperson requested that his Report be accepted. Proposed: Linda Willersdorf, Seconded: Alastair Carnegie. Carried unanimously.

2 Treasurer's Report:

2.1 In the Treasurer's absence, Chris Nixon stated that the Club's finances are sound and the accounts have been audited.

For the financial year ended on 31 March 2019, there was a small operating loss of \$3,234.14 and Total Funds held were \$30,771.15

2.2 These figures, as previously noted, are consistent with the policy of "Returning Equity to Members." The aim is to reduce the Total Funds held by the Club to around \$20,000 in about 3 years whereupon there will be a review of the policy by the Committee. Chris gave some examples of the subsidies with approximate costs as follows: Xmas lunch \$2,000, Free play days \$5,000, Interclub \$2,000 and Lessons \$2,500.

2.3 Colin Walker suggested that the Term Deposit be invested elsewhere to obtain a better return. Chris Nixon stated that he will initiate a discussion on the subject. It was duly noted that the Term Deposit was considered a safe investment.

Chris Nixon submitted the report for acceptance by the members. Proposed: Andy Lee, seconded: Peter Newstead. Carried unanimously.

3 General Business

3.1 Election of Committee: Chris Nixon stated that as there had been no vacancies on the Committee nor any nominations to stand for membership of the Committee, the current members namely Chris Nixon, Greg Critchley, Brian Hassett, Alistair Minson, Rick Gaylard, Margrett Hardie and Sue McPhail are duly deemed elected to form the Committee.

3.2 Andy Lee then proposed a vote of thanks to the Committee for all the work done in running the bridge club during the year.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 12.20 pm

CONFIRMED:

DATE: