

Franklin Bridge Club *"We promote face to face bridge"*

Minutes of Committee Meeting, held at the clubrooms on Sunday, 5 th February 2023, 3pm

Present: Neil Miller (President), Caroline Griffin, Arie Geursen, John Fergusson, Jonathan Taylor, Henriette Annabel, Kevin Griffin, Maureen Nelson, Teresa Green.

Apologies: Susie Longdell, Linda Thornton. Bev Henton joined the meeting late. Accepted Caroline Griffin/John Fergusson.

Minutes of previous meeting, Friday 16 th December 2022:

Correction: Swiss Pairs Tournament: we have never charged \$40 entry fee for this tournament. The fee was confirmed at \$35 per person. Subject to this correction, the minutes were confirmed.
Jonathan Taylor/Arie Geursen

Matters Arising from Minutes:

(Incoming correspondence)

NZ Bridge email 20 th January 2023, re proposal that on one weekend every month from February to November, clubs with tournaments scheduled will have the option of running their tournament online or in person. We have a scheduled tournament on weekend of 16 September 2023 (Open /Intermediate Pairs, 3A/5B). Arie said that he believed that it would not impact our tournament. Further discussion ensued about the plusses and minusses of online bridge. Arie noted that Auckland Bridge Club does not have a single face-to-face session this year. Interclub will be "online only" this year too. The Committee is firmly of the opinion that we should at all times and in all communications emphasise that Franklin promotes and encourages face-to-face bridge. This should form part of our marketing strategy for the upcoming lessons, and for all tournament advertising. Susie to write to Kate Terry, Chair Online Bridge Strategy Working Group, outlining our position on the matter. This to be done before the deadline of 31st March at latest.

Officers' Reports:

President: Neil reported on the flooding in the Committee room during the "atmospheric river" of rain which engulfed the Auckland area over last weekend. The insurance assessor has been very helpful, the northern wall of the committee room is presently stripped of its gib, and alterations are to be made to the downpipe system on the northern wall. Neil Miller and Kevin Griffin are liaising with the insurance people and a plumber.

Treasurer: 88 people have so far paid their 2023 subs. The bank account stands at \$53,000, of which \$35,000 is on short-term deposit. We have a \$500 excess on our building and contents insurance.

Training and Development/Lessons: John Fergusson outlined strategies for advertising and promoting the only 2023 set of lessons, to commence on 23 rd March 2023. Unfortunately, John will be away in Nepal from 4th -20th March, returning just in time to give the first lesson. A brief discussion about cost of lessons confirmed that we will charge \$60 per person: the first 2 lessons to be free. A major component of our advertising will be a letter drop into people's letterboxes commencing 1st March or thereabouts. We aim to get 20 club members to volunteer to distribute 100 flyers each, a target of 2000 letterboxes. If we get more volunteers than that, so much the better.

John pointed out that even if we only get a 1% response, this would be 20 new people attending lessons.

Other issues in this area included:

- (a) Design of the flyer – Kevin Griffin and daughter Jacquie, who is a communications professional, to refine the proposed design. Print it in a bright colour, on light card.
- (b) Kevin will erect the banner(s) at the front of our building
- (c) Kevin will discuss with Jacquie a new design for the existing billboard outside the club, making a more modern and attractive format. We would then have it repainted
- (d) Jonathan will talk to Linda Thornton about publicity on Facebook and the local County News. Also look into Franklin Grapevine
- (e) Susie has offered to have the club's phone no. redirected to her phone for recording names and details of interested people
- (d) Jonathan will investigate a separate database for newbies, so they get Table Talk and other mails. He will advise Wendy Morris of the distribution list
- (e) Jonathan will get a printout from NZ Bridge twice a year – March and September, for comparison with our Compscore database, and to ensure we're not paying the NZ Bridge levy for resigned members.

The recent Swiss Pairs tournament: Arie said that the recent tournament had gone well. Jonathan to press on with documenting how to score. The Committee agreed that we need more people able to do the computer scoring. At present we have Arie, Jonathan, Kevin and Chris Glyde. Arie thanked Neil for his sole effort in the kitchen on the day and suggested that others should be involved. Encouraging comment was made on prizes for rating categories, we should promote this in future.

The Committee agreed that we must continue to promote and prioritise "Face to Face Bridge".

Auckland Region Pairs/Teams – a 2 day tournament scheduled for 15 & 16 July 2023. This is a big event for our club (10A), we last ran it 3 years ago. We provide lunch on the Sunday as part of the entry fee – discuss outsourcing pre-made wraps etc. If we get 26 tables, that's 104 players + officials to be catered for. Decided to limit entries to 26 tables and to publicise this well in advance, along with our promotion of "face to face bridge"

Maria Casci has a Tournament Secretary's list of to-dos

Arie has a map for setting up the tables.

Kevin will make 2 more sturdy tables, to bring our complement to 26 (check first that we have 24 now)

We need to organise getting boards back from Auckland well in advance

We need a team of dealers, and organise who does the dealing

We need a team organised to help set up the room

We need a kitchen team organised and someone to run the bar

Prizes to be cash, not wine/chocolates

New Business

Tuesday afternoon bridge. It has been suggested that we trial Tuesday afternoon bridge, 1-4pm, for those members who would like to play 2 sessions a week but don't want to come out at night. Decided that we would gauge interest first, before moving any further with planning, which would have to include: Someone to run the computer – Jonathan and Arie said this could probably be done remotely, especially if numbers were not large.

Director – Jim Buckland may be available. He directs every second Tuesday at Eastern Club (Remuera)

If enough interest, run it as a 6 month trial (make this clear from the beginning) and then reassess. The 6 month trial would allow visitors free access to Tuesday without becoming associate members at Franklin.

If we do go ahead, meet with someone from Papakura and Papatoetoe clubs emphasising that we're not trying to poach their members. It would be like the Sunday bridge they offer at Howick

Our first step to gauge interest – Maureen to place a notice on bridge tables, saying "if you're interested, please write your name up on the whiteboard".

Hiring the clubrooms

Ann Anderson has asked to hire the room on Sunday 26th February for a family party of up to 100 people for her 80th birthday. She will have outside caterers. Committee decided to charge her the cleaning fee only, room hire to be free. Further resolved that for any social events, such as birthdays and weddings, that there must be a bridge club member present as part of the group. Arie Geursen/Neil Miller.

New Member

The Committee approved the application of Trevor Grey. John Fergusson/Caroline Griffin.

The meeting closed at 5.15pm.