

Franklin Bridge Club - Minutes of Committee Meeting, held at the clubrooms on Sunday, 3rd July 2022, 5pm.

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

Caroline welcomed Sue and David Spencer to the first part of the meeting, which was concerned with attraction, training and retention of new players.

Education - First of all, we all watched an hour-long video by Jane Sterns, on behalf of NZ Bridge, presenting her ideas about how this can be achieved.

Discussion followed, agreeing that although Monday nights will be unchanged, we can and must change some of our Wednesday night schedules/behaviours/ to draw in those who have just completed lessons and make them feel part of the club.

These include:

- Having only 1 set of lessons per year, starting after Easter, which coincides with Term 2 of the school year. Jane Sterns suggested that summer lessons are not popular as people want to be outdoors and at the beach, not indoors learning to play bridge. Also summer lessons are interrupted by Easter, Anzac Day, etc., which breaks continuity
- Rearrange the Wednesday night playing programme so that “rounds” which have trophies attached are played in the early part of the year, before the lessons end
- When the lessons are over, and newbies assimilated into Wednesday night play, reduce the number of boards played for a limited time, so that newbies are not subject to “rush and shush” – i.e. hurry up and don’t talk
- Try finishing earlier, at 10pm/ish, by starting earlier and having a tea break part way through

□ Acknowledged that there will be Wednesday night players who won't like this. They should be encouraged to play on a Monday night for that limited period

□ We will have to work to get buy-in to this

□ The importance of every newbie having a designated buddy

□ Buddies are shoulder-tapped before the programme book is issued, ask around the established club members to find people willing to be buddies. Everyone's book fills up so fast when they have been issued

□ Every member needs to find someone for the lessons

□ Use longer lead up time for advertising for May start

A break was then held for pizzas, and Sue and David Spencer left the meeting.

The normal committee meeting resumed with:

Apologies: Susie Longdell, Teresa Green, Bev Henton, Dennise Biddick, Judy Collins

Minutes of meeting 4 May 2022:

Moved that they be accepted Caroline Griffin/Neil Miller

Matters Arising:

1. Increasing our annual Subscriptions

Maureen handed out a proposal to increase the sub for 2023 to \$123 p.a., being \$100 (including gst) for the club, plus the \$23 NZ Bridge levy.

It will have to be approved by members at either a Special General Meeting or at the AGM – query whether to combine this with the AGM. Suggested that we call an SGS, on a Wednesday night for 7pm.

Information from NZ Bridge re online strategy:

This strategy is due for implementation on 1 January 2023.

Discussion revolved around the survival of clubs as online bridge gains

strength. It was agreed by all that both online sessions and online tournaments would cause the disintegration of clubs and eventually NZ Bridge. We agreed that NZ Bridge must only support the masterpoint system of in person club play for the survival of NZ clubs.

We discussed how there are many ways to cheat in online bridge, and how the larger clubs may have the personnel and facilities to run online bridge, which becomes lucrative for them, considering the overhead costs of in-person play for both players and clubrooms. Some larger clubs have begun advertising for new members from other clubs, signalling the beginning of the disintegration of small clubs.

We agreed that for many people, our return to bridge after Covid lockdowns is about the social hub and competition of the clubroom and this is of utmost importance for the future.

Agreed that Caroline is to make a submission to NZ Bridge outlining all of the above, and circulate it by email to the committee for approval, before submitting by the deadline of 12 th August.

Registered player transfers to/from Franklin:

Transferred to Franklin: John Martin, Gina Sangster.

Transferred from Franklin: Jo Griffiths (to Cambridge)

Treasurer's Report:

Our bank balance stands at \$37,000. We have paid the annual insurance premium of \$6040.

We discussed the Rates Relief application and follow up. Phone calls and emails to Council have not been acknowledged and it was decided that the opportunity for establishing this was missed some time ago, and is probably no longer possible.

Education Officer/lessons:

John Fergusson reported that the Pam Livingston seminar "Hone Your Defence" on 11 th June was a great success, with more than 60 people attending. New lessons will begin on Thursday 18th August.

The meeting closed at 7.50pm