

Franklin Bridge Club Inc.

Minutes of Committee Meeting, held at the clubrooms on

Monday 22nd April 2024 at 5.30pm.

Present: Linda Thornton (President), Terry Evans, Bev Henton, Teresa Green, Kevin Griffin, Neil Miller, Maureen Nelson, Jonathan Taylor

Apologies: Susie Longdell, Henriette Annabel, Arie Geursen

Minutes of meeting 17th March 2024:

Moved that they be accepted Neil Miller/Kevin Griffin

Inwards Correspondence:

14 items listed in the agenda be approved. Terry Evans/Kevin Griffin

Outward Correspondence:

Further to the 22nd April minutes, in which it was decided that the President should have sole discretion in dealing with a request for seating rights, Linda advised that she had replied declining the request, without further explanation, as this is a recurring item of correspondence.

2 items listed in the agenda be approved. Jonathan Taylor/Teresa Green

Individual Reports:

Lessons:

Maureen reported that there had been 40 original expressions of interest, and that 23 people had paid the \$60 to continue after the first 2 free lessons. Another 2 or 3 may yet pay. We have received the \$300 subsidy from NZ Bridge towards advertising the lessons. The system of running supervised play from the committee room has worked well.

A brief discussion ensued regarding changing the timing of lessons for 2025, perhaps to a Tuesday night so that supervised play can continue on Thursday nights. The supervised play sessions are valued by new (and some old) members.

Wednesday teams, which used to be the point of ingress for new members into the regular Wednesday night sessions, start on 4 September. A very few of the new people may want to give this a go, most of them will just stay in Thursday supervised play.

Treasurer:

Teresa reported that we have \$25,000 on term deposit and \$10,000 in our cheque account. We are 7 months into the financial year.

NZ Bridge have advised that their levy to clubs will increase for both the 2025 and the 2026 years. We presently pay them \$23 pp, to go up to \$27.60 then to \$32.20.

Agreed that we should publicise this to our members and increase our annual subs to reflect the increase. Increase to be \$5 next year and \$4 the year after. Costs are gst-inclusive.

Insurance: our club's annual insurance invoice is due on 31st May, Kevin had earlier circulated his belief that we should try another broker, and get a comparison of premiums. He further said he believed we should do this every 3 years. Maureen advised that we have had the same broker for more than 10 years, and they don't seem to make any effort – just forward their annual invoice. Last year's premium was \$5600 (plus gst), we should expect it to be more this year because of Cyclone Gabrielle.

Teresa offered to look into it. Accepted with gratitude.

Director Training:

Is progressing, the new trainees are on the job. Note the need to have someone to back up Jim Buckland on Fridays.

Property Manager:

Kevin advised that he had climbed up on the roof just before recent stormy weather, and the gutters had less than one bucketful of leaves for the whole building. Our 2023 decision to remove the birch trees has been vindicated.

He advised that he has the new honours board under way, it will be the same shape as the old one. Kevin will construct it, Terry will get the lettering done.

Computer Matters:

Jonathan advised that Arie had acquired all of Akarana's Bridgemates, but that Akarana did not yet seem to be ready to bite the bullet and sell them to us. Their Bridgemate server is corroded, and the units themselves aren't much without a working server, so Jonathan suggested that we may just be a bit slow handing them back to Akarana after our tournament is over.

Terry advised that he has built an emergency backup PC that just sits in office turned off, waiting to be pulled out and used if our primary PC has a hardware failure. Terry and Jonathan will cross-train each other - Jon to know how to start it up and recover from hardware failure, Terry to be trained on Scoring and DealMaster etc

The committee agreed on the value of surveying the members on matters such as are Tuesdays worthwhile? Would you play on a Sunday afternoon? Surveys to be limited to 2 per year. Terry Evans will co-ordinate the surveys, to be done online, with printed copies for the people unable to cope with this.

Roni Bistricher had asked for access to our scoring programme to assist a friend in Israel. Decided that we are firmly against this, owing to security risk and that there is no benefit to our club in allowing this access.

General Business:

Seating Rights:

Decided that from 1st May we will explain that the purpose of the coin toss is to randomise seating, so that no-one can gain an ongoing advantage from always sitting in one particular direction.

And to introduce a new system whereby once members are seated for the evening and before Bridgemates are launched, that director will announce the coin toss will now take place. Once this is done, Bridgemates will be launched and names can be entered.

Substitutions:

Following a couple of recent queries about eligibility, Arie had earlier advised that our substitution rule was deliberately phrased vaguely to allow all but the most egregious substitutions. (e.g. a Grandmaster for a junior). Kevin Griffin wants to have this clarified.

It was suggested that substitutions be allowed of equal rank, or one rank above. So that for example an intermediate, but not an open player, would be allowed to substitute for a junior.

Decided that a sub-committee be formed to iron out a definitive rule. This committee to be Arie Geursen, Linda Thornton and Kevin Griffin.

Social Event:

The bridge plus potluck on Sunday, 5th May. This had been agreed to at a previous meeting, confirmed that it should go ahead. Format to be bridge at 1.30pm, followed by a complimentary glass of wine/beer/juice. Non-playing partners are welcome to join us at 5pm.

Upcoming tournament, 27th April:

Maria Casci, acting Tournament Secretary, joined the meeting at 6.40pm to discuss the tournament. She advised that all official positions were filled (director, dealers, scorer, prizes, envelopes, catering, standby pair, bar).

A brief discussion took place about prizes, Maria advised that rule of thumb is 1/3rd of income to be allocated to prize money.

(Subsequent to the meeting, Arie advised that Tony Morcom would be unable to direct for health reasons. Arie will take over)

We only have 14 tables enrolled to date, we agreed to "hustle" and see if we can get a few more.

The meeting closed at 6.55pm, as members were arriving for the evening's play.