



**WHANGAREI CONTRACT BRIDGE CLUB
MINUTES OF 70TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD
AUGUST 25TH IN CLUB ROOMS AT 1.30pm**

Present: Lee Walters (in the Chair), Kevin Grundy (Recording Secretary), Stanley Abrahams, Judy Allison, Mandy Bax, Andy Bax, Roger Bell, Glen Bilton, Jayne Broome, Penny Broughton, Tania Brown, Henri Cramer, Len Dent, Olive Dent, Val Hegh, Peter Hirzel, Margaret Hooson, Tel Hudson, Barry Johnson, Janice Johnson, Raewyn Keane, Robert Marwick, Laura Maton, John McIntosh, Yvonne McKinnon, Dianne McLeod, Neil McLeod, Peter McNab, Adam Okura, Anne Rosandich, Rosalie Ross, Neil Ruddell, Heather Saunders, Bruce Thom, Isabel Thom, Kim Thomas, Renate Tolks, Patsy Walters.

Lee Walters opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and thanking them for their attendance.

Apologies were received from: Tim Barnaby, Dave Beck, Nancy Beck, Richard Bland, Laurie Brockliss, Laurie Butland, Gayle Christensen, Rod Christensen, Glennis Christie, Hillary Edmunds, Janinka Greenwood, Heather Harmes, Anthony Hopkins, Ann Lovich, Judith Mehrtens, Elizabeth McCabe, Fred Muller, Deidre Nicholls, Ellen Parker, Alan Pumfleet, Pauline Sieling, Teresa Small, Jenny Trigg.

Len Dent moved that the apologies be accepted, seconded by Janice Johnson; Carried

Minutes of the last A.G.M held 27th August, 2023:

Len Dent moved that the minutes, as amended, be accepted as a true and correct record, seconded by Jayne Broome; Carried

Matters Arising: There were no matters arising.

Reports:

The Club Captain's report was tabled.

The President's report was tabled and Lee spoke to it, thanking all of our sponsors, donors and members for their support and help throughout the year. As a result, the club is in good shape.

The Financial report was tabled and Neil informed the members present that the club's finances were in reasonable shape. He invited questions from the members present.

Len Dent asked about the total cost of the 70th birthday celebration. Neil responded that these expenses won't appear in the statements until next year but amounted to about \$5000. Tel Hudson asked whether the position of the club made the treasurer smile or frown. Neil smiled in response.

Election of Officers:

All Officers and Committee Members were elected by acclamation. The new committee for 2024/25 is as follows:

President: Lee Walters, nominated by Alan Pumfleet, seconded by Juliet Golightly.

Vice President: Richard Bland, nominated by Juliet Golightly, seconded by Alan Pumfleet.

Secretary: Kevin Grundy, nominated by Maureen Simmonds, seconded by Tel Hudson.

Treasurer: Neil Ruddell, nominated by Maureen Simmonds, seconded by Tel Hudson.

Assistant Treasurer: Olive Dent, nominated by Lee Walters, seconded by Glenn Bilton.

Club Captain: Janice Johnson, nominated by Tel Hudson, seconded by Kevin Grundy.

Vice Club Captain: Alan Pumfleet, nominated by Judy Allison, seconded by Jayne Broome.

Committee Members:

Assistant Treasurer:

Olive Dent, nominated by Tel Hudson, seconded by Lee Walters.

Members at Large:

Stanley Abrahams, nominated by Alan Pumfleet, seconded by Janinka Greenwood.

Jayne Broome, nominated by Patsy Walters, seconded by Alan Pumfleet..

Tel Hudson, nominated by Laurie Butland, seconded by Janinka Greenwood.

Kim Thomas, nominated by Tel Hudson, seconded by Kevin Grundy.

Finance Committee: John McIntosh was nominated for the vacant position by Kevin Grundy, seconded by Olive Dent. John was elected by acclamation.

Auditor: Neil Ruddell moved that we appoint Mike Bezuidenhoudt as our Auditor, seconded by Olive Dent; Carried.

Lee announced that the Finance Committee had met and recommended that there should be no change in the table money or subscriptions for this year, even given the increased costs experienced during the year.

Moved (Neil Ruddell/Olive Dent): Following the Finance Committee's recommendation, table money and subscriptions remain unchanged for the coming year; Approved.

Notice of Motion:

Motion (Kim Thomas/Kevin Grundy): That the club, which is currently an incorporated society under the Incorporated Societies Act 1908, proceeds to re-register as an incorporated society under the Incorporated Societies Act 2022.

Kim Thomas spoke to the motion, summarising the information accompanying the notice (attached). He outlined some of the disastrous consequences of not re-registering. Prior to the deadline of April 2026, the club must revisit our rules, processes and constitution to ensure that they are in accord with the Act. The principal reason for the motion is to formally start this process as recommended by both NZ Bridge and the Act.

Roger Bell commented that our constitution has served us well for 70 years so that no radical restructuring should be necessary. We should focus only on those changes needed to satisfy the requirements of the Act.

The motion was put to the vote and passed unanimously.

Remits:

1. That the Club cease using stop cards. (Janice Johnson/Adam Okura)

Jayne called Richard to assess whether such a change could be left to the club. Apparently, the use of stop cards is only mandated for A-point tournaments. Jayne recommended playing up by continuing the use of the cards. Olive recommended continuing their use in the club. If a player fails to use them in an A tournament, trouble could ensue.

Tania Brown asked if this issue was being considered by NZ Bridge. Apparently, no decision will be forthcoming until September. If the stop card is only being used to alert your partner, why continue to use it? Tel Hudson noted that using a stop card solely as a means to alert your partner contravenes Law 16B regarding unauthorised information. The only way to avoid unauthorised information is to use stop cards consistently. The problem stems from players not knowing how to use them.

Peter Hirzel recommended simply following the NZ Bridge rules regarding use of the cards. On behalf of other novices in the meeting, Peter McNab asked what law 16B referenced. Olive responded that it dealt with any hesitation, body language or other casual gesture that could impart information. Peter noted that novices don't get any instruction about this issue, asking if it could be incorporated into the lessons.

After calling the question, the motion failed on a show of hands.

2. That the club change the present format of allowing a substitute for one night of the 4-session monthly competitions to read: That the club will allow substitution for one night or alternatively a dropped night but not both. (Bruce Thom/Dave Beck and Nancy Beck)

Bruce spoke to the motion, noting that this was the way play in Kaikohe was structured. Dropping 1 night allows for more competition at the top and helps out players who, for whatever reason, can only come 3 times per month. He felt that the issue needed more debate. Olive noted that the scoring program allowed for scoring over 3 nights with a dropped score of the best 3 of 4.

Stanley suggested that we need to foster playing rather than results. Val Hegh responded that there are very competitive players in the club for whom the results are important. Margaret Hooson questioned why it was necessary to drop 1 night when substitutes were already available. Anne Rosandich asked for further information for the newer members of the club. Margaret responded by noting that 5-week championships allow for 1 substitution and count the best 4 of 5.

Lee suggested that this issue could be referred to the committee at which point it was moved (Bruce Thom/Anne Rosandich):

That this remit be referred to the committee for further consideration; Approved

3. That the start time of morning sessions be moved to 10:30 am (Margaret Hooson/Yvonne McKinnon)

Margaret Hooson spoke to the motion, noting that starting time has been an issue throughout the club's history with 10 am, 10:30 am and 11 am being used at various times. She made the case that as we age, it becomes more difficult to get out the door for morning bridge.

A number of members commented on the issue of traffic at North and Maunu roads. It is bad at the current ending time and only gets worse as the afternoon progresses. Whereas some members can simply turn left and detour around the worst of the traffic, others have to cross Maunu Rd in order to turn right onto Western Hills Dr, which can be extremely difficult. John McIntosh argued that if the start time is a health and safety issue, which should opt for the safest starting time. A few members also advocated for the earlier start time since it provided more time in the afternoon for appointments.

After calling the question, the motion failed on a show of hands.

General Business:

Tania Brown congratulated all those involved in the planning and execution of the 70th birthday celebrations.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 2:13 pm.

Notice of Motion:

That the club, which is currently an incorporated society under The Incorporated Societies Act 1908, proceeds to re-register as an incorporated society under The Incorporated Societies Act 2022.

Moved by: Kim Thomas

Seconded by: Kevin Grundy

Background explanation

Whangarei Bridge Club was formed in 1953, and registered as an incorporated society, under the name Whangarei Contract Bridge Club Incorporated, on 10 July 1953. Operating as an incorporated society was then, and still is, an obvious and common sense step for a club like ours to take. The club is not – for – profit and intends to continue operating indefinitely, whereas our members come and go, for all sorts of reasons. The Incorporated Societies Act 2022 recently came into force. It replaces the old 1908 Act which had become outdated. The significant point is this. Under the new 2022 Act the club is required to re-register under the new act if it wants to continue, as it has done for the last seventy years, as an incorporated society. If the club was to do nothing then it would cease to exist as an incorporated society as from 5 April 2026, a most unwise course to take.

It costs nothing to re-register, and the club will retain the same name following re-registration. What happens once this motion is passed and the club decides to re-register? Re-registration won't happen overnight as there is some work to be done by the committee before that is possible, to ensure that our processes and rules are up to date to meet the requirements of the new act. Kim Thomas, a current committee member, will be the liaison person to progress matters. A new draft set of rules, based on our current rules and with any necessary changes, will be put to a club meeting at a later date, most likely the AGM in 2025, for approval before they are submitted, together with other paperwork, for re-registration. Voting for this motion is simply saying yes, let's begin the re-registration process. You'll have the opportunity to consider any changes to the club's rules later, and vote on them.