



**45<sup>th</sup> AGM OF THE WANAKA BRIDGE CLUB**  
**24<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at 7.00 pm.**

**Minutes**

**Present:**

Marc Simmonds (President) Jude Gunn (Secretary – Minutes) John Hogg (Treasurer) Janet Young (Secretary – Correspondence) Sandy Bryan Ann-Louise Stokes Heather Wellman Jan Baird Carol Orbell Rosemary Boswell Peter Hart Annie Hudson Jill Paxman Jacquie Staley Alan Richardson Marg Caldwell Jenny Turnbull Boyd Ottrey Nan Ottrey Judy Briggs Sheryl Strudwich Ena Leckie Nicole Meldrum Janey Kuzma Jeanette Gillies Sally Jackways Marion Furneaux Bridget McCaughan Debbie Reading Andrew Shaw Virginia Wells Madeleine Reveley Gerarda Herlihey Vivienne Christie Lorraine Ervin Noeline Harridge Louise Stokes Belinda Blaxford Nicola Brown Anne Howarth Jane Hamilton Carolyn Field Kate Hall Jules Hunt Pam Miller Lynne Miller Alan Foote Kaye Ross Sonya Adams Dorothy McDonald Sherril Harries Alan Kelly Annie Hudson Neil Robinson Mark Harry Robyn Gilchrist Lauren Sleeman Noeline Raffills John Milburn

**Apologies:**

Martin Unwin Liz Hawker Lee-Ann Mitchell Kate Coe Suzanne Ewing Jen Milburn Sue Orbell Robert Kaplan Dorothy Fennell Barbara Waterworth Georgie Roberts Ken Roberts Jacqui Roberts Kate Summers Bruce Cathie Janet Anderson Noeline Munro Lynne Woodhead Trish Foote Pam Mayo Michael Chapman-Smith Pauline Harvey Polly Foster Jenny Dickie Cathy Andrews Jenny Muir Sharron Collett Lesley Davies Ken Saxby David Brewer Lynne Fegan Maggie Stratford Brian McCandless Mel Meuller

Minutes of the 44<sup>th</sup> AGM held on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Passed: Jacquie Staley /Madeleine Reveley

**Matters Arising from the Minutes**

- Property Committee / Mitre 10 Update (as per the document sent out with the agenda) (Ken Saxby)

*Another frustrating year on our search for a permanent home. The Council finally agreed to sign a lease for the former Mitre 10 building in April. In late August we had a visit from two Council representatives who observed one of our Friday Bridge sessions and advised us that things were progressing and that the following week they would contact us and that we would be allowed to go and look at the building to see the progress and look at the plans to see the proposed layout. Late September no further contact from Council, so I contacted them and advised them that we had an AGM coming up and asked whether they had a proposal that we could put to our membership for consideration. A week later I had an email advising me that. "We don't have much of an update, unfortunately. The project is progressing slowly with the senior project team now working through the budget. Developed plans are yet to be approved." We will apparently hear from Council early in the New year. Watch this space!*

- Room Supervisor 2022 (Jan Baird / Carol Orbell)

Room supervisor working well on Monday but not so well on Wednesday due to the lack of numbers also not working so well on Friday as it is not known who would be turning up to bridge so hard to complete a roster

**President's Report (Marc Simmonds)**

*Before starting his report, the President asked members join him in a moment's silence whilst we remembered members and loved ones who we have sadly lost this year.*

*It feels like a long time since the last AGM. The issues we discussed were clubrooms and Covid, and both are sorted, at least for the time being. Our new premises have been a major upgrade on the previous room, albeit with a few restrictions, and we have been able to welcome back a number of familiar faces who have been unavoidably absent.*

*There are of course a few new problems that the Club faces, the main one being the incorporation of new members that we have attracted. This will be the focus of our later discussion tonight.*

*On that note, welcome to 25 novices and a number of other new arrivals this year. Thanks to Sonya Adams for managing to sign up this many people even without the help of an A&P Show, also to Claire Scurr and Martin Unwin for teaching, and lastly to all of the volunteers that have guided the novices through card play. It has*

been a difficult year for teaching, what with Covid and the sudden ability to take holidays once again. One of the novices signed up for twelve weeks of lessons and promptly booked eleven weeks' holiday.

And onto actual bridge. The Club was able to hold both its Open and Intermediate tournaments this year, thanks to the considerable efforts of Lynne Fegan and Jan Baird. Lynne has stepped back from tournaments, teaching, directing and the Committee, but remains involved with Otago/Southland bridge. I would like to thank Lynne for her selfless contributions to the life of our club.

Wanaka members featured strongly in our tournaments again this year and achieved some spectacular results in the renamed Lovelock Pairs. Maggie Stratford and Sherril Harries finished 12th in a field of 55 clubs and were the top South Island pair in the Open Restricted section; while Janet Young and Sally Welch were 4<sup>th</sup> in the Novice section.

Maggie is leaving Wanaka to move to Te Anau. She has for a number of years been undeniably the strongest player in the Club and has represented us whenever called upon. Thank you, Maggie, we will miss you, but not your uncanny knack for finding the right bid.

The Hamilton Plate was contested once more this year, and Wanaka held onto the trophy again in a hard-fought competition. Congratulations to all involved.

As John will detail, the financial position of the Club has improved this year because of our move, but also due to Allan Kelly's intervention. Not that Allan needs an intervention, but he successfully applied for a Lotteries grant of \$10,000 to make up for our Covid-related issues. Allan, your turn to bask in the warm glow of the Club's gratitude.

Lastly, a word for all of the other people who make the Club tick. Thanks to all of those on the outgoing Committee. Ken Saxby guided us through Covid and has spent seven and a half years attending on Tuesday nights and is due a rest; Martin Unwin has given freely of his time in many different areas; Jan Baird has organised not only the tournaments but the room supervisors and the AGM; and thanks also to Jude Gunn, Janet Young, Carol Orbell and Sandy Bryan and the poor souls who have agreed to carry on next year. And to Heather Wellman - She works, has another volunteering role, directs and runs Tuesday bridge, as well as being the conscience of the Club; and she has agreed to be Vice-President next year. And to Sherril Harries - I'm not sure how we coped while she was away. And to Ann-Louise Stokes, who has volunteered to be Secretary for next year. To these three and Nan Ottrey and Martin for directing on Wednesday nights - it is bad enough trying to play while you are directing, but giving up a night to do very little for three hours is outstanding. To the other directors, thank you, additional help will be forthcoming next year but we would still like a few more volunteers. To the scorers, apologies for the mess that you've had to clean up at times. To the card dealers and Mark Harry, thank you. To all of the other volunteers, thank you. And finally to Ken Roberts, for the use of his barn to store all of our stuff, and who will be my partner every week next year.

#### Adoption of the President's Report

It was resolved to accept the President's Report (Carol Orbell / Judy Briggs)

#### Presentation of Accounts (John Hogg)

- The Treasurer's Report was circulated to all members with the agenda
- Signed copies of the accounts had also been circulated to members
- The Treasurer thanked Allan Kelly for doing a review of the accounts
- The Treasurer made the following commentary on the financial situation of the club
  - John acknowledged the \$10000 that Alan Kelly had gained for the club through a successful application for a grant from the Lotteries Commission
  - WBC is in a much better financial situation than this time last year
  - While lately table numbers have been building up again, takings from table money are still significantly down on previous years
  - Options for payment of table money and subs for 2023 were discussed. These included:
    - Direct debit system with a limit on what could be direct debited at any one time
    - Bond system with people paying their bill each month (to avoid having to chase people who do not pay their monthly account)
- It was proposed that two payment systems would be run in 2023 and that members opt into either paying via
  - direct debit
  - or pay their bill (no bond) with a penalty system for those who don't pay their accounts. (Passed by a majority of members via a show of hands)

## Membership Payments for 2022

- Motion: That the membership fee stay the same - \$125 full membership and half that for country members and that table money remain at \$6.00 (John Hogg / Marc Simmonds)

## Appointment of Reviewer for 2022

- It was resolved to reappoint Allan Kelly as the Reviewer for the 2023 Financial year (John Hogg / Jane Hamilton)

## Election of Officers

<b>Position</b>	<b>Nominee</b>	<b>Proposer</b>	<b>Second</b>
President	Marc Simmonds	Ann-Louise Stokes	Sonya Adams
Vice President	Heather Wellman	Ann-Louise Stokes	Jane Hamilton
Secretary	Ann-Louise Stokes	Lynne Fegan	Heather Wellman
Treasurer	John Hogg	Jude Gunn	Ann-Louise Stokes
Committee	Bridget McCaughan	Sonya Adams	Jen Milburn
Committee	Jane Hamilton	Heather Wellman	Debbie Reading
Committee	Russell Bishop	Jude Gunn	Nan Ottrey
Committee	Rosemary Boswell	Carol Orbell	John Milburn
Committee	Andrew Shaw	Judy Briggs	Jacque Staley
Committee			

The WBC Officers for 2023 were elected in a comprehensive motion (Jude Gunn / Sandy Bryan)

## General Business

### Organisation for 2023 Bridge

- After considering all the requested feedback from members, it has been proposed to keep silver as it is and have a bronze division that caters for bronze players and a second bronze group which plays a shorter session running alongside Bronze
- The reasons for this included
  - 49 bronze players played 5 sessions or more
  - 55 silver players played 5 sessions or more
  - There are over 100 bronze players but many do not come to the WEdnesday session / don't play for a variety of reasons
  - Many 2021 learners are not coming to Wednesday bridge. Of these many find they cannot commit to 3+ hours of bridge due to other commitments
- Feedback from the floor regarding this proposal
  - Suggestions
    - Have 2 groups on Wednesday night – Bronze 1 with a Bronze 2 / Bronze Reserve running alongside the Bronze Group
    - Bronze Reserve / Bronze 2 would play around 15 boards and leave earlier than the Bronze 1 Group
    - That the Bronze 2 / Bronze Reserve is run with the same scoring as used on Tuesdays and Fridays
    - Bronze 1 players be encouraged to invite the Bronze 2 players to play with them
    - Bronze / Bronze 2 play 21 boards only
    - If there is a lesson on Wednesday night, it would start a 6.30
    - Have a 10-minute tea break on playing nights to enable more socialising
    - Whether social bridge or competitive bridge player playing bridge at the club still need to abide by bridge rules and etiquette
  - Issues
    - A lack of socialising has affected the integration of the learners / novice group into the club – They feel they haven't been able to get to know many of the members of the club – get a chance to meet and integrate in a social way
    - A group of the 2021 learners are keen to play social bridge rather than competitive bridge
    - Bridge club is important to get to know others - Playing in another room, isolated from other members is not conducive to help the learners learn and progress in their bridge, nor does it help with learning and progressing bridge

- The club needs to take into consideration when making its decision that social bridge as such isn't permitted at the club by NZB. Also, less than 20 boards in a session attracts only half C points and sessions still need to be supervised
- Social bridge can be a bit noisier and may create issues for Bronze players who are playing in the same room
- Summary
  - The first committee meeting will decide of how Bronze / social bridge will operate but will consider the introduction of a tea / coffee break

AOB

#### Numbers in the Silver / Bronze Divisions

Heather Wellman presented to the meeting her thoughts around the increasing imbalance in numbers between the Silver and Bronze Divisions and believed that this is a real issue for our club which needs to be considered by the incoming committee. In particular Heather felt the 'transfer system' based only on championship pairs needed review and that a more robust system taking into account a player's performance over the entire year looking at their scores, whom they played with, how often they played, the speed at which they played and other variables needs to be considered. She urged the incoming committee to approach other clubs to see how they deal with promotion and relegation and use this to help the committee make an informed decision re this matter for implantation in 2024.

It was agreed by the President that the incoming committee would look at the 2 divisions and transfers between divisions including finding out what other clubs do in terms of dealing with promotions / relegations. The example of the Queenstown club given by the president – This club has changed from having from 13 championship pairs sessions to 6 championship pairs sessions with the remaining 7 nights being used as promotion / relegation sessions.

#### Other Matters Raised

- It was raised (by Nan Ottrey) that back-up people were required for allocated tasks to ensure the efficient running of the club – this idea will be considered by the incoming committee.
- Presbyterian Community Centre - We will continue to play at the PCH but this may require members to be flexible in their playing times especially at the end of January.

#### Closure

Meeting closed at 8.15 pm and was following by prizegiving.