

**TOMAREE BRIDGE CLUB INC.**  
**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**Held in Elizabeth Waring Function Room, Nelson Bay**  
**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2024**

**Present:** 48 as per attendance book

**Apologies:** 37 as per attendance book

Meeting opened 11.30am

President John McIlraith welcomed all present. He then referred to the minutes of the previous AGM held on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023 which were made available to members.

**Moved Minutes be accepted:** John McIlraith **Seconded:** Chris Ledingham

All in favour **Motion carried**

**2024 Annual Reports:**

**President's Report:** (copy attached)

John did not read out his report as it had been previously sent to all members but he added his thanks to Kay Baguley for her contribution as Secretary since 2023 AGM and also his thanks to Bev Lawler as Vice President for her support and skills re social events. Thanks to all Committee for their contribution and also to all the members who assist when needed.

Presentations were then made to the following:

Helen Jones – contribution as Bridge Co-Ordinator – Special Events

Judy Parkinson – Partnerships

Ian Spight – Auditor/Directors Roster

Jenny Sykes – Looking after support play

Sandra McKenzie – Catering etc.

Sue McMahon -Dealing/Cards

Pat Pepper – “Lady with the Key” – always providing access

John also acknowledged Sue Grice for organising the previous 3 Congresses and had now passed the baton on to Dot Saxon-Williams. He also requested any members who can assist at the upcoming Congress to talk to Dot. The Congress which is now to be held at West's Diggers is looking at having 28 tables – pairs and teams.

He also made mention that if we want the Club to flourish we must encourage our beginners – be kind/commiserate/help.

**Moved** John McIlraith Report be accepted: **Seconded:** Terry Cooper All in favour

**Motion Carried**

**Treasurer's Report:** (separate file)

Not read out as Report and Income and Expenditure Statement along with the Auditor's Report had been sent out to all members. Linda Butler thanked Auditor Ian Spight for his assistance and support and also thanked all members for their co-operation in filling out the form with the table fees after a suggestion by Kay Baguley to introduce "envelopes". Also a thank you to those who collect the envelopes when she is not available.

**Moved:** Linda Butler – Treasurer's report be accepted. **Seconded:** Helen Jones

All in favour **Motion carried**

**Questions arising from the Treasurer's Report:** Nil

**Setting of Fees:**

John McIlraith spoke of the fees charged by the Club. The Club Joining fee is to be kept at \$20 which includes the \$15 cost for a badge.

Yearly Subscription which is paid to the ABF at present is \$20 but will be going up \$3.30 per annum. Capitation – paid to the NSW Bridge Association was \$10 but increased to \$20.

Direct cost to the Club for each person is currently \$43.50 out of which Tomaree Bridge Club pays all the Masterpoint fees and also paid for entry to Nationwide Pairs.

The Committee therefore proposes the yearly subscription for each member be \$45 payable 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024.

Brian Hodges spoke against the motion, putting forward his view he was surprised fees would be increasing by 50% when surplus/profit had increased by approx. \$13,000 and similar the previous year. Also there is an amount of \$139,000 in the bank "for a rainy day". Brian spoke of fees being charged by other Clubs in the regional area and suggested we would be one of the highest paying Clubs. He would like the Club to absorb the increase.

John McIlraith asked for a show of hands in favour of the increase and those against:

The majority were against raising fees.

**Election of Office Bearers and Ordinary Members of the Committee:**

Conducted by Public Officer, Brian Hodges. As all positions have been filled there is no need for election.

**President** Kerry Wright Proposer: Angela Tilling Secunder: Tom Fehily

**Vice President** – Helen Jones Proposer: Linda Butler Secunder: Sue McMahon

**Secretary** – Lee Preston Proposer: Kay Baguley Secunder: Jackie Williams

**Treasurer** – Linda Butler Proposer: Jann Thomas Secunder: Elena Rochtchina

**Masterpoints Sec** – Pat Pepper Proposer: Robyn Geale Secunder: Sue McMahon

**Ordinary Committee Members:**

Tom Fehily Proposer: Bruce Baguley Secunder: Rosalie Derrick

Dot Saxon-Williams Proposer: Sue Grice Secunder: Chris Ledingham

Sue Grice – Proposer: Terry Cooper Secunder: Lois Dudley

Robyn Geale – Proposer: Pat Pepper Secunder: Bev Lawler

The Committee being elected – thank you Brian Hodges  
The new Committee took their place and the meeting proceeded.

**Appointment of Auditor:** Ian Spight

**Appointment of Public Officer:** Brian Hodges

**General Business:**

Vice President Helen Jones thanked John McIlraith for his contribution and all he had achieved to the benefit of the Club and also thanked Bev Lawler for her contribution.

Jenny Sykes moved to thank Robyn Geale for her contribution as Welfare Officer.

Tom Flynn questioned what the goal was in having \$139,000 in the bank.

Linda Butler said she was conscious of the amount of money sitting in the bank and suggested as Council was aware Elizabeth Waring was a multi-use facility it would be beneficial if there could be improved access for those with a disability such as an external elevator or stairlift. Tomaree Bridge Club could be in a position to contribute some funding if Council would also contribute.

Brian Hodges raised the point if the Club were to contribute we would need to seek a long term lease with Council.

There followed general discussion from the floor as to what the new players were paying to learn and how many would then become members. Jenny Sykes advised new players were only charged for the book at lessons. Those who then paid to come to supported play had been able to have a free game if they then played in the afternoon.

There being no further business the **Meeting Closed at 12.30pm**

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Kerry Wright (President)

## Presidents Report 2025

Well another wonderful year of bridge under the guidance of our committee and with support from many of our members. To the dealing team, Directors, Lesson providers, Supported Play facilitators, Caterer and Cellar Master. Thank you all and of course thank you to everyone who comes along to enjoy playing bridge. We have 15 new members this year, our membership now totalling 142.

We have held several Novice Pairs competitions which have been very well received and offers much encouragement for our less experienced players. Our Team events have also been very well supported. At the end of these events we generally have wine and nibbles to celebrate and of course socialise.

Many of our players have attended interclub and regional events during the year. One of our teams, Patricia Grigson - Ian Stewart - Elena Rochtchina - Oleg Glushchenko, have qualified for the *Country Teams* Hunter/Central Coast Regional *Zonal* final to be hosted by our club on 7th September 2025. Well done and we wish you *them* well for the finals.

Two of our teams Patricia Pepper - Lynette Fitzhenry - Kay Baguley - Bruce Baguley and Therese Cooper - Susan McMahon - Elena Rochtchina - Oleg Glushchenko both did well in the regional GNOT event held in Newcastle earlier this month and have qualified for GNOT National Online Final to be played online on 19-21 September. Well done and we wish you all well for the finals.

We celebrated 50 years of bridge in the Bay with many past and present players coming along to enjoy lunch and the launching of a book by our very own Christine Blackledge which provides a short history of bridge in Port Stephens. The book has been sold out so it is obviously a best seller.

Whilst I am pleased to say that most of our committee members are standing again I am sad to bid farewell (from the committee) to our Vice President Helen Jones and Treasurer Linda Butler. They have both played a very important role in the smooth running of our club.