

MINUTES OF TOMAREE BRIDGE CLUB COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD 26th FEBRUARY 2025

Meeting commenced at 11.00am

Present: Kerry Wright (President), Helen Jones (Vice-President), Lee Preston (Secretary), Linda Butler (Treasurer), Pat Pepper (Masterpoint Secretary), Robyn Geale, Tom Fehily, Sue Grice

Apologies: Dot Saxon-Williams

Minutes of Previous Meeting held 22nd January 2025

Moved: Lee Preston Minutes be accepted: **Seconded:** Linda Butler **AIF**

Correspondence In:

23/01/2025 Brian Hodges – No. of boards played
25/01/2025 John McIlrath – Movements at the Club
30/01/2025 Nelson Bay Golf Club – Confirmation Booking 5/12/2025
06/02/2025 Stephanie Brookman – Re grants
18/02/2025 Melanie Coleman PSC – Use of EWFR Good Friday

Correspondence Out:

23/01/2025 All members – Australia Day Bridge
23/01/2025 Nigel Eves, Peta Grice, Kay Baguley – Thank you
26/01/2025 All Members – RIP Diane McLean
30/01/2025 John McIlrath – Response to email re movements
30/01/2025 All members – Funeral for Diane McLean
14/02/2025 Various Members (11) – Reminder annual fees due
19/02/2025 Melanie Coleman PSC – Booking for EWFR Good Friday

Moved: Lee Preston Correspondence be accepted: **Seconded:** Tom Fehily **AIF**

Business Arising from Correspondence:

Email received from Melanie Coleman from Port Stephens Council advising there was to be a large football competition to be held at the football field on Good Friday. Committee all agreed by email 19/02/2025 it would be advisable to cancel Bridge that day as parking would be difficult and the noise from the ground most disruptive. An email to be sent to Members advising no bridge on Friday 18th April 2025.

Treasurer's Report:

Linda presented her report and financial position as at 31st January 2025 (attached). Included in the report were her comments regarding the balance of the account being too large for a non-profit organization such as ours. Linda felt we need to start gradually reducing the balance in a way which benefits all Members (both competitive and social players). She presented a few random ideas and it was decided to include this in our Items for Discussion at our next meeting.

Moved: Linda Butler report be accepted **Seconded:** Robyn Geale **AIF**

Items for Discussion:

➤ **Beginners Lessons and Supported Play Meeting**

Held 12:00 Monday 17 February, 2025

Present: K Wright (KW), J Sykes (JS), S McMahon (SM), P Pepper (PP), I Spight (IS)

Beginners Lessons

Ian Spight has volunteered to conduct Beginners Lessons from 17 March to 21 April – 6 lessons. KW will fill in for him on 14 April. As it is felt people need to commit the charge will be \$30 upfront for 6 lessons and course material.

The lessons are to be promoted on local radio station. Helen Jones has contact at the station who will promote as will our member Kristin King. An email will be sent to members with the revised details of the lessons e.g. Payment up front and the website will also be updated.

Concern was expressed by those conducting supported play that **Ian's lessons did not cover topics such as !NT openings and responses that current supported players have been taught. That could cause difficulties when the beginners joined supported play. KW will therefore give a further 3 lessons after Ian's to cover those topics. This will be made clear from the outset and those lessons are a prerequisite to attending supported play. * Charge will be \$5 per lesson.

* Tom Fehily queried why we charge for lessons and it was explained that it was thought they would be more valued by those attending and also would require a commitment to attend all lessons.

** Ian to announce beforehand that there are different conventions

Supported Play

Supported play will resume on 10 March for 4 weeks only – to 31 March.

The usual discussion was held as to how to move people from Supported Play to join the actual bridge sessions. It was thought a mentoring program (eg. a member offering to play with a beginner) would assist newer players with the transition to playing at the club.

And/or

Suggest newer players come to a session before play to ask questions they may have from previous playing sessions. For both suggestions we could work on an email to members asking those who would be prepared to support such a programs.

- **Bookings for EWFR** – Melanie Coleman (PSC) requested we complete the Facility Hire Request for EWFR form for bookings 2025. It was agreed we book each Monday from 10.00am until 5.00pm; Wednesdays from 12.30pm until 5.00pm and Fridays from 9.00am until 1.00pm with the exception of 18/4/2025 (Good Friday), 25/4/2025 (Anzac Day), 25/12/2025 (Christmas Day), 26/12/2025 (Boxing Day) and 31/12/2025 New Year's Eve. Secretary to follow up.

- **History of bridge in Port Stephens Book** – Drafts and proof of book have been read and edited by various Members and it was agreed it is ready for printing
Moved: Helen Jones we get a quote for the printing of 50 copies and sell for \$10 each
Seconded: Robyn Geale **AIF**
- **Length of comfort-break when after-game drinks are planned** – **Moved:** Tom Fehily there be no afternoon tea break when drinks are planned after the game
Seconded: Linda Butler **AIF**
- **Sports Council Meeting:** - Our delegate to the Sports Council Linda Butler, advised she attended the meeting held on Monday 24/2/2025 during which it was announced the Council had a master plan to provide an indoor sports building to cater for indoor sports such as squash, basketball etc. and this could be something in the Club's favour eventually.
- **Side Tables** - Kerry Wright advised as the Club doesn't have enough side tables she has purchased 8 at a cost of \$11 each. She will check with Congress Convenor Dot Saxon-Wiliams if we will need any more for the Congress.
- **Tournament Committee** – Helen Jones to investigate role of the Tournament Committee.

New Member

The Club received an application for membership from Jeffrey Suckling

Next Meeting: Wednesday 2nd April 2025

Meeting Closed: 12.20pm

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Kerry Wright (President)