

NORTH SHORE BRIDGE CLUB.
Minutes of Committee Meeting
held through Zoom at 5pm on Thursday 19th November 2020.
(Abridged version of Minutes excluding personal or confidential information.)

- 1. Attendees:** David Fryda (Chairman), David Hudson, Les Grewcock, David Hagley, Elana Kohn, Graham Murray & Maryann Russett.
Also attending: Mike Prescott (Club Manager).
- 2. Approval of Minutes:** The Minutes from the meeting held on Thursday 22nd October 2020 were approved.
- 3. Property:** David Fryda clarified that the Willoughby Legion Club have decided not to complete their planned redevelopment on a phased basis. To condense the development schedule they will be demolishing and developing the site simultaneously. The required formal planning panel approval has not yet been provided and, in view of the above, the option for our club to remain within the CW premises is no longer available. The review of alternative sites continues through the great work that Leo Goorevich is doing and DFr advised that, due to landlord term conditions (timeframe and six month demolishing clause) the proposed 40 Oxley St, St. Leonards property is no longer viable. Other possibilities are being investigated and 8 Thomas St Chatswood appears to be a possibility. This 2nd floor option is in an older, strata building, in a good position on the western side of the station with suitable parking in the immediate vicinity readily available. Further input and information will be provided asap. DFr clarified that approximately \$7k was spent on costs (consultants' fees, partial loss of deposit etc) associated with the 2 Help St. Chatwood proposal. This was deemed to be acceptable.
- 4. Treasurer's Report:** The October financials, having been circulated within Les Grewcock's 8th November 2020 email, were discussed, the approximate break-even for the month noted and were formally approved.
- 5. Managers' Report:** Mike Prescott referred to his earlier circulated report in discussing increased membership numbers (now standing at 1901), RealBridge and Face to Face sessions. With regard to the latter, the club is currently providing two F2F Thursday open sessions at East Lindfield with suitable COVID-19 restrictions in place. With a 10 table limit the afternoon session is at maximum but the am session attendance is light. Following discussion, it was resolved, should there be no substantial increase in attendances for the morning session over the next week or two, to promote the session as a Rookie/Restricted session. Additionally, it was noted that CW members are not attending the EL venue in great numbers. The question is therefore asked why and how do we promote the EL venue to the CW membership? Elana Kohn is to keep this question in mind when completing the future membership questionnaire. MP indicated that the introduction of RealBridge is taking a little longer than expected. While some difficulties have been experienced with the RealBridge platform, trial and taster sessions have been most worthwhile. Note was made of the help provided by the RealBridge staff in the UK and also from those volunteers helping the club to achieve the transition from BBO. These include Matthew McManus, Peter Busch & John McIlrath and an acknowledgment of thanks has been appropriately made. It is hoped to complete the transition to the new platform within the next few weeks but no table fee charge will be made for RealBridge sessions until 30th November. Much discussion with regard to the suggested RealBridge charge and Les Grewcock was asked to complete a sensitivity model indicating the financial impact of various charge levels. These figures are to be then reviewed by the committee and a final informed decision made. MP then discussed next year's annual subscription level and suggested that, to ensure maximum retention of members, the annual membership fee be reduced from the current \$70 to \$50 for 2021. Following discussion and input from the Membership Retention sub committee, it was resolved to implement a marketing exercise and to introduce a "special" renewal rate of \$50 for all members and new joining members through until end February 2021. On 1st March the annual subscription level will revert to \$70. Members are to have the \$50 subscription fee taken from their PP account in very early Jan 2021. David Fryda agreed to draft a suitable article for the December newsletter and the club website incorporating details of the RealBridge online transition and the annual subscription rates. MP clarified that pre-game lesson attendance had dropped substantially and that these lessons are to cease with immediate effect for re introduction around end Jan 21.
- 6. Sub-committee Reports.**

 - a) Transition to the new normal:** David Hudson referred to the Manager's Report and advised that there was no further input to add.

b) Staff Salaries and Remuneration: Les Grewcock referred to today's correspondence within which he had provided procedures and payroll rates from November and also for the Jan to March period when there is a further reduction in the Govt JobKeeper subsidy. Individual details were noted. Further input and study is to be made in relation to the revised pay levels from 1st January 2021 for directors, teachers and supervised staff and these are to be then reviewed by the sub committee and MP and circulated to the committee for discussion and approval. The revised payments are to take into account both the F2F and online products and the workload and requirements of each upon staff.

To adjust for the most recent CPI level, it was agreed that Margaret Owen's level of payment be increased wef 1st Jan 2021.

c) Member Communication: Elana Kohn advised that further work is to be done on the planned member survey and when this is done the draft will be sent to committee members for review and comment. Other communication issues are a work in progress.

d) Membership Retention for 2021: Refer to details and decisions finalised within the Manager's Report.

e) Training & Teaching: David Hudson confirmed that Emma Barnes will be commencing formal new player teaching sessions in early February 2021. Exact details of these sessions will depend upon COVID-19 restrictions in place at the time.

7. Outstanding Issues and Other Matters: Nil were noted.

At 6:50pm Mike Prescott left the Meeting.

8. Next Meetings: David Fryda clarified that Mike Prescott had advised that Thursday evening meetings do not suit due to workload problems on Thursday evenings. It was resolved that Tuesdays at 5pm suits all and the following meeting dates are now planned for the near term.

Tues 15th Dec, Wed 27th Jan or Thurs 28th Jan (note that Tues 26th is Australia Day and the year end financial results may not be available the week before), Tues 16th Feb and Tues 16th Mar 2021.

9. Committee Only – further matters for discussion: David Fryda advised that a number of issues have further delayed the Manager's contract and remuneration discussions.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 6:55pm.

Approved by President David Fryda.

Date: 16th December 2020