

**NORTH SHORE BRIDGE CLUB.**  
**Minutes of Committee Meeting**  
**held through Zoom at 5pm Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2020.**  
*(Abridged version of Minutes excluding personal & confidential information)*

**1. Attendees & Apologies:** David Fryda (Chairman), David Hudson, Les Grewcock, David Hagley, Elana Kohn, Graham Murray & Maryann Russett.  
Also attending (part time): Mike Prescott (Club Manager) & Leo Goorevich (property sub committee).

**2. Approval of Minutes:** The Minutes from the previous meeting held on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2020 were approved as a true and accurate record of discussions.

**3. Sub Committee Reports:**

**a) Property:** David Fryda referred to significant developments associated with the club's possible tenancy at 2 Help St Chatswood.. The committee was aware that two consultants had been engaged to offer professional advice in relation to our occupation at this level 2 area. Unfortunately due to the "change of use" requirement, advice indicated that further input would be required to review the position in relation to the fire safety perspective for the occupancy certificate. The outcome of further consultant discussions about this subject provided input that the cost to upgrade the building to current standard approval levels would be well in excess of \$100k. These costs would be for the whole building, not just L2, and it was agreed that this expenditure level was prohibitive and that we would now move forward to review other property options.

Leo Goorevich advised that this exercise had shown the need to ensure that any property to be reviewed in future would need to have a 9b public assembly approval rating to enable the club's occupancy. He recapped the position of previously reviewed properties at 71 & 73 Longueville Rd. Lane Cove, Cnr Pacific Hgwy & Help St. Chatswood, 80 Mount St., North Sydney, and his current preferred location at 40 Oxley St., St.Leonards. Leo provided a comprehensive summary of this location and is to follow up with a further detailed investigation and discussions. He will also organise a meeting for the Manager & the committee to visit the premise and will contact commercial real estate agents to see if other opportunities exist. The sub committee will now push on, provide a recommendation and reappraise the committee asap, Les Grewcock will follow up to redeem an appropriate refund on the club's deposit (\$14,666) paid at 2 Help St.

*At 5:45pm Leo Goorevich left the meeting.*

**b) Transition to New Normal:** David Hudson briefed the meeting - Face to face bridge coming back to life at other clubs in the state. Recommended and agreed that our club will trial a return to f2f bridge on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November at EL. President of EL, Roger Parks, has indicated in discussions with Sue Crompton that a rental increase would be expected. (DFr & DHa to follow up). Free bridge online has been a great success in dealing with the COVID-19 crisis. However, free online bridge and reducing levels of member donations are not sustainable in the future. Mike Prescott clarified that many clubs have found that a return to f2f bridge has not brought in large table numbers and that many sessions are struggling. The Hunters Hill Friday f2f session appears to be the only exception and HH is looking to increase table availability from 10-15. Given that the EL 5 Nov trial session proves to be successful it is planned to continue with the EL Thur pm session into the future and obviously expand after that depending upon demand. The online RealBridge option looks a preferred product to BBO. Because of the positive aspects of the product Mike, with help from Matthew McManus, is looking at a switch for the club. To play members would thus require a PP account. Regarding timeframe, a trial RealBridge session may be held (free of charge for members) on Sat 7<sup>th</sup> November. Suitable updates will be advised.

**c) Staff Salaries/Renumeration:** Les Grewcock advised of the planned reduction in the JobKeeper allowance (with immediate effect) and cessation of the allowance (wef March 2021). This will affect the majority of staff and payment levels will be reduced, albeit from, mostly, a high base. With this mind the sub committee will now review appropriate payment for staff and a suitable payroll model for the future. This will address f2f and online directing as well as admin and teaching/supervising staff. The outcome of the sub committee's deliberations is expected to be presented at the next committee meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> November.

**d) Member Communications:** Elana Kohn, while awaiting the outcome of particularly b) above, indicated that the sub committee had discussed a number of ideas – harder to communicate with members without f2f bridge, monthly President's newsletter, possibility to obtain membership details and thoughts/input from Mike, possible membership survey to extract needs and communication facilities available, use of emails, Pianola, newsletter, Australia Post, website and word of mouth. The exercise is ongoing.

*At 6:20pm Mike Prescott left the meeting.*

**e) Membership Retention for 2021:** David Hagley confirmed that this sub committee had reviewed options including a tiered structure. However, because of administration constraints this was deemed not to be ideal. A return to f2f bridge in the near future will now make membership retention so much easier. Highlighted, with a traditional \$70 annual membership fee that the club retains a net \$40 (following gst and ABF & NSWBA capitation fee deductions), thus not a great margin to permit any major discount option. A suitable recommendation is expected to be provided at the next committee meeting.

**4. Treasurer's Report:** The Sept 2020 Balance Sheet and 9 monthly Jan to Sept 20 Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss accounts had been previously circulated to all committee members by Les Grewcock on 16<sup>th</sup> October. Following discussion noting that no further business subsidies are expected to be received, that JobKeeper subsidies are to be reduced and that member donations continue to decline, the financials were approved. Additionally, the Treasurer confirmed that, after donations and government subsidies, a year end surplus is anticipated and that the club currently holds a very strong Balance Sheet. LGr confirmed that the Kubic/Upstream previous accounting problem is now under control and acceptable,

**5. Manager's Report:** Due to Mike Prescott's earlier departure from the meeting there was no report provided. However David Fryda made mention that it is currently expected that online beginner courses run by Emma Barnes may commence in Feb 2021.

**6 Outstanding Issues & Other Matters:** Nil.

**7. Manager's Contract & Remuneration Discussions:** David Fryda updated the committee on his most recent discussions with Mike Prescott.. David & Mike will be meeting in the next couple of weeks to restart discussions on a new employment agreement for Mike.

The meeting was terminated at 6:45pm.

The next meeting is to be held through Zoom at 5pm on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

Approved by President, David Fryda.

Date. 20<sup>th</sup> November 2020