

NORTH SHORE BRIDGE CLUB

MINUTES for the COMMITTEE MEETING held via Zoom

At 4:45pm Thursday 22nd April, 2021

1. **Attendees:** David Fryda (Chair), John McIlrath, Les Grewcock, Maryann Russett, Elana Kohn, Mark Guthrie and Winston Horne. Also, Gary Barwick and Liam Milne were in attendance.
2. **Approval of Minutes.** The Committee meeting minutes from 16th March 2021 and 10th April 2021 were approved.
3. **Feedback on AGM:** Discussion on how to improve future AGMs identified a number of suggestions especially on ensuring a quorum of members is reached. Conducting an Open bridge playing session after the AGM with a financial discount on the cost was suggested. As well, tightening of the AGM planning process ahead of the AGM was recommended. Finally, we should consider a change in the constitution to a lower percentage of members attending to reach a quorum. This last suggestion will be taken up by the Administration subcommittee.
4. **Comments on Minutes of AGM 10 April, 2021** Liam Milne suggested one change to the answer to a question about having more Restricted face-to-face sessions. This change has been made to the minutes.
5. **Introduction and welcome to new committee members:** David gave a warm welcome to new committee members: John McIlrath, Mark Guthrie and Winston Horne. David asked all committee members to feel free to raise ideas via the Committee, sub-committees, or to David directly. He asked all committee members to be respectful and listen to others. David also stated the Committee's role is to govern not to manage the Club. The Committee members should feel free to offer assistance to Gary, Liam and any of the sub-committee Chairs but if there is a problem, please talk to David or the relevant sub-committee chair. Finally, John McIlrath's potential conflict-of-interest was noted. Currently, John works for MasterBridge Online, as an owner and director; in addition he is employed by several other organizations as a congress and national director. Should a topic involving any of these organisations be discussed at a Committee meeting, John will alert the Committee and a decision will be made at that time on whether John should step away from the discussion and/or decision making.
6. **Online Manager's report:** Gary sent a report to the Committee that covered the following topics: RealBridge weekly table numbers since 1st January 2021; "tablecloth announcements" advertising Club information; Director video announcements; a recommended Cameras and Microphones Policy; internet stability issues for members; creating a separate North Shore Online Club; a recommendation on a North Shore Online only membership category for members outside of Sydney metropolitan area including the Blue Mountains, Central Coast and Illawara regions; a discussion on Masterpoints allocation to Online Bridge; initiating a separate Rookie and Restricted Newsletter; Thursday Practice Nights; introducing more Restricted sessions; and policing Rookie and Restricted players so that players with high masterpoints are not playing (and winning) in these sessions. The Committee thanked Gary for his comprehensive report. The Committee resolved to:
 - a. Agree that members playing on RealBridge must have their cameras and microphones on during play.
 - b. The Finance sub-committee will look at calculating the table number breakeven point for RealBridge.

- c. Gary is to consider running sessions with 12 boards and to look at a social room on RealBridge with lower fees and no results to help new members or members unwilling to play in a larger, longer session.
 - d. Gary and Liam are to discuss Redpoints allocations and are to discuss their recommendation with the Tournament sub-committee.
 - e. Mark Guthrie volunteered to work with Gary to develop the next phase for our Online Bridge strategy.
7. **Face-to-face Manager's report:** Maryann acknowledged that Liam and Gary were not given a great deal of time to prepare their written reports to the Committee. Liam discussed: the preliminary results of the members Chatswood survey; Face-to-face table numbers including new sessions; the Margaret Smale Interclub championship; the North Shore Festival of Bridge; whether we should accept Discover NSW \$25 vouchers; introducing a Latecomers policy; Directors ongoing training; a new Beginners teaching course starting at NR RSL in July; and attending a Club Day on 20 May at AVEO Lindfield Gardens Retirement Village. The Committee thanked Liam for his comprehensive report. The following resolutions were made:
- a. Committee members are to contact Liam directly with any thoughts on how to get members back to F2F bridge at NR RSL or EL.
 - b. Committee members are to talk to Club friends and influencers to ask them to help promote F2F at both clubs.
 - c. Liam to consider running a teams event to bring people back to the Club.
 - d. A suggestion was made to ask Margaret to look at the membership to see who isn't playing anymore and consider ringing these members to find out why they haven't returned to bridge.
 - e. Liam is to talk to Margaret to determine how feasible it is for the Club to accept Discover NSW vouchers.
 - f. The Committee agreed Liam should feel free to hire a person to help him plan and run the North Shore Festival of Bridge.
 - g. The Committee agreed that a Latecomer's policy should be created and Liam was asked to draft it.
 - h. Liam is looking at organising an Optus connection at NR RSL as some directors are having difficulty getting phone calls before and during sessions.
 - i. John asked if we should connect with other bridge club's in the area such as Hunters Hill in order to promote our session timetable. Liam is to look at this.
8. **Statistics on Player Participation:** Information on this report prepared by Leo Goorevich was covered in the Face-to-face Manager's report and the Online Bridge Manager's report. It was noted that no clubs are back to pre-COVID table numbers.
9. **Subcommittee structure and membership:** The subcommittee structure proposed by David was agreed. The agenda for future meetings will require a report from each subcommittee chair. This subcommittee report should be sent to Committee members 3-5 days before the Committee meeting. The initial meeting of each subcommittee should include development of the activities through to 1st April 2022. The subcommittees' structure is noted in the table below. Committee members should reach out to a subcommittee if he/she is interested in participating in a subcommittee. It is up to the subcommittee chair to reach out to other Club members to join the subcommittee if considered necessary. Once the subcommittee membership is finalised, please advise Maryann so that it is documented in the minutes.

Name	Chair	Members
Tournament	John	David Beauchamp, Mike Hughes, Kevin Davies
Property	David	Leo Goorevich, Maryann Russett
Finance	Les	Mark Guthrie, Winston Horne (note: the changes to this subcommittee were made after the Committee meeting on 22 April)
Teaching & Training	Elana	Anita Curtis, Kay Moyes, Liz Wilkinson
Technology	Mark	David Fryda
Administration	Maryann	Elana Kohn
Business Development (e.g., sponsorship)	John	TBD

10. **Committee meeting frequency:** The Committee is to meet monthly via Zoom for the next three months. At the July meeting the frequency of future meetings will be discussed.
11. **Strategy paper discussion:** The Strategy Paper was pre-circulated to new Committee members. A question was raised on whether the paper should be sent to all members. It was noted a more summarised version could go to Club members.
12. **Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer's report was noted and briefly discussed. Les asked Committee members to send him any questions they have on the information pre-circulated. More time will be allocated to the Treasurer's Report at the next Committee meeting.
13. **Other Business:** The remuneration recommendation noted in Les's paper was briefly discussed. No conclusions were reached. This item will be included in next month's meeting.

Future meeting dates: 20 May, 17 June and 29 July. These meetings will be via Zoom, commence at 4:45pm and finish no later than 6:30pm.