

MINUTES OF WESTERN CAPE BRIDGE UNION
63rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
01 FEBRUARY 2020, 10AM

1. **PRESENT**

- 1.1. **Clubs**: Nita Abel (Trumps), Toni Hendler (Keurboom), Barry Gunton (Pinelands), Mark Kenyon (Peninsula), Greta Levenberg (Aces), Harold Bernstein (Grand Slam), Michele Alexander (CTWDBC), Zoe Charnock (Bay), Cary Roberts (Impala), Shirley Karon (Alliance), Joyce Hessen (CTWDBC).
- 1.2. **Committee**: Steve Bunker, Kitty Cruise, Hilary Nick, Andre Truter, Andrew Cruise, Shirley Phillips, Shirley Kaminer, Duncan Keet.
- 1.3. **Guests**: Jocelyn Ashberg, Tim Cope, Eckhard Böhlke, John Bryant, Jill Rabie, Gail Gersowsky, Selwyn Gersowsky, Joyce Hessen, Lorraine Weers, Zela Stern, Merle Bracher, Gerard Verhoog, Erica Zimet.

2. **APOLOGIES**

- 2.1. Anneke du Toit (Bidding Box, voting by proxy), Ann Sturrock, Peter Terblanche.

3. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM**

- 3.1. Proposed by Nita Abel, seconded by Joyce Hessen.

4. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

- 4.1. Proposed by Jocelyn Ashberg and seconded by Joyce Hessen.
- 4.2. SB noted that our local and regional competitions have been better attended than previous years and this was likely due to new formats.
- 4.3. SB spoke about the successes of our players in local, regional and national competitions, and discussed improvements to be made for the Festival.
- 4.4. SB reviewed the two workshops run by our local experts Tim Cope, Glen Holman and Diniar Minwalla.
- 4.5. SB praised SK for successful publication of the quarterly newsletter which is growing in size and popularity.
- 4.6. SB thanked DK for his assistance with applying for and receiving funding for the Teaching Programme from DCAS.
- 4.7. SB updated the attendees on the progress in getting a lease for the Bridge Centre, there was further discussion on this process.
- 4.8. SB thanked the committee.
- 4.9. SB reinforced that our mission is to keep bridge alive and welcomed ideas.
- 4.10. SB's report will be available online at www.wcbridge.co.za.

5. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

- 5.1. Proposed by Erica Zimet and seconded by Michele Alexander.
- 5.2. HN mentioned how much easier and more efficient it was now that most monies were being paid online.
- 5.3. HN suggested sub-committees were needed to run specific events.
- 5.4. We are fortunate to have adequate funds to cope with cost inflation, mainly due to sponsorship (Warwick Wealth and DCAS).
- 5.5. Once a lease is signed the intention is to invest in improving the Bridge Centre, we will also be required to maintain and insure the building.
- 5.6. The Union contributed to the Friendship Club which contributes towards bridge expenses for indigent players.
- 5.7. The teaching programme goes from strength to strength: more schools are expected this year and the teaching stipend is to be increased.
- 5.8. HN thanked Wilson McLeod and Harold Bernstein for tax and audit assistance.
- 5.9. HN thanked SB for all his efforts and input.
- 5.10. SB presented the audited Financials and gave more detail around certain items.

6. **MARKETING & SPONSORSHIP REPORT**

- 6.1. The newsletter now reaches around 1200 to 1500 bridge players every quarter.

7. **TEACHING PROGRAMME REPORT**

- 7.1. KC thanked DK and HN for assistance with the Teaching Programme.
- 7.2. A small band of teachers receive a stipend which will be increased this year and more regularly in future.
- 7.3. There are seven schools currently in the programme and DK has assisted in the transformation of the programme by introducing more schools from previously disadvantaged areas.
- 7.4. We are gaining momentum and anticipate five new schools during 2020.

8. **VOTING AND ELECTION OF COMMITTEE**

- 8.1. A robust discussion around the Committee's decision not to allow a late nomination ensued.
- 8.2. Written nominations were received in time from a total of nine nominees: Kitty Cruise, Hilary Nick, Andre Truter, Andrew Cruise, Shirley Phillips, Shirley Kaminer, Duncan Keet, Michelle Alexander and Tim Cope.
- 8.3. Trumps, CTWDBC, Keurboom, Impala, Bay, Aces, Pinelands and Bidding Box voted for the nine nominees who were duly elected by substantial majority.

9. **CORRESPONDENCE**

9.1. Anthony Goldstein wrote about the Friendship Club, suggesting present haphazard methods. SB explained the process to him to end the discussion. Joyce Hessen and Shirley Philips both strongly objected to this process being described as “haphazard”.

10. **GENERAL**

- 10.1. Harold Bernstein requested training on Scorebridge and a show of hands indicated several other members/clubs are also interested. Committee agreed to appoint a trainer to deliver a suitable half-day training course. (NB. If we change our scoring system then there should be training on this as a priority.)
- 10.2. Joyce Hessen requested that Clubs communicate to their members not only the date of the WCBU AGM but also solicit nominations and subsequently inform who has been nominated.
- 10.3. KC particularly thanked SB for all the work he has done over the last two years, warmly endorsed by the floor.

MEETING ENDED AT 11.45AM.



Stephen Philip Bunker
President