



WEST AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES 2023

- DATE:** Tuesday 17-October-2023 commencing 4.30pm
- VENUE:** West Australian Bridge Club, 7 Odern Crescent, Swanbourne, WA
- PRESENT:** Glen Basham; Jodie Basham; Richard Basham; John Bell; Tom Berrigan; Sylvia Bray; Eve Clarkson; Jacqui Ecclestone; Dymphna Elsey; Richard Elsey; Brian Embleton; John Finlay-Jones; Ray Flanagan; Jan French; Bruce Fraser; Helen George; Kitty George; Mike George; Deborah Greenway; Jane Grove; Phil Jacobsen; Helene Kolozs; Shirley Lavarack; Steve Ledger; Anne-Marie Marias; Karen Moller; Kate Nadebaum; Kate North; Veronica Ntoumenopoulos; Ray Purdy; Sally Savini; Peter Smith; Carla Sullivan; John Taylor; Marg Tiernay; Sandy Veling; Gwen Wiles; Bernard Yates; Ann Youngs.
- APOLOGIES:** Rhona Barton; E Black; Jane Blacklock; David; Burn; Alan Buzza; Angela Carroll; Judy Croke; J Curnow; Lisa Cusack; Susan Dawson; R Duberal; Isabel Eggins; Rod Enright; Mira Erskine; S Field; Jenny Ford; Viv Goldberg; I James; Valda Gray; Prue Hart; Lee Hazell; Jane Henderson; Beverley Hunt; Pauline Kelly; Rob Kelly; Helen Kemp; Nayda Keogh; C Lim; L Lim; Jan McNab; P McNamara; Ziggy Morewicz; Jill Mowson; Will Nunn; Maurice Owen; Jocelyn Parry; Carol Pocock; R. Rear; Alison Rigg; Patricia Rosser; Marie Sheridan; Dee Sinton; Jo Sklarz; Trevor Smith; Anne Smithdale; L Thompson; Pam Veary; Karen Wallwork; Janet Williams; Judith Wilson; Lesley Wineberg; Sue Wyche; A Yusof.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

The Minutes of the Annual General October 2022 were accepted.

Moved: Dymphna Elsey

Seconded: Deborah Greenway

MATTERS ARISING: There were no matters arising.

PRESIDENT'S 2023 REPORT

Since being elected, it's been an eventful 12 months (it's probably true that every President can say that), particularly at the beginning of my reign, when we were in the throes of Sheenagh resigning and Martin coming on board. Sheenagh and Martin worked together for a short time, enabling Martin to learn the secrets of being our Executive Officer. That transition went very well, with Martin easily fitting into our bridge community. With Martin's exceptional bridge experience (GrandMaster) and management skills, we were fortunate that he was available to take Sheenagh's place, after her efficient and competent running of the club for some 20 years. You have all given Martin an unqualified warm welcome, which is well deserved. Martin officially took over on 15th November.

John Nelson suggested that we hold a bridge session & **Farewell Party** on the 19th November for Sheenagh, which was enthusiastically taken up and which many of you participated in. This was a great event, I know Sheenagh enjoyed the day, and there were many contributors making sure it was a success. Not to single anyone out, but Eve Clarkson even coming up with that colourful banner.

Our **Christmas Congress** followed, and was well supported, with positive feedback from members, and visitors from other clubs. Kate North and Martin undertook the running of the congress, and Kerry Barns once again arranged for the catering on Friday and Saturday. Thank you to all who contributed food, and who helped in the kitchen. As well as the efficient running of the congress, we always receive positive comments on the food provided, and I can't emphasise enough how important this aspect is – people like to eat!

Our annual **Christmas Party** was a great day, with a bit of a change to the catering arrangement and the usual friendly atmosphere prevailed after the award presentations.

These social events are an important aspect of our club, particularly after the restrictive years of Covid, and the inevitable reduction in our membership. So to build on that, the Marketing Committee followed up with something completely different. A large number of you attended the **Chrissy Bray** interactive music show we held on 27th January this year. The Management Committee made the decision to offer this as a free event, and we held our breath – would anyone turn up? Yes, indeed they did. Members brought their own nibbles along, and drinks were available from the bar. All who attended enjoyed the evening, and the Management Committee basked in the feedback as people continually told us how much they'd enjoyed themselves. Accolades to the Marketing Committee for running with this event. They took a possible risky step into the unknown, and it worked. Thank you also members for your enthusiastic support, you are good sports (you can dance as well as play bridge!).

The **Marketing Committee** has continued with a programme of social events (Super Saturday, Marvellous Monday, Fantastic Friday) and our grateful thanks to **Aspire2Wealth** for sponsorship. The Committee recognises the value in bringing people together socially. A bridge session followed by complimentary food and a seriously challenging mastermind quiz from John Nelson. We welcomed people from Supervised to one of these events, and they appreciated being included as a part of the club (they even took off most of the prizes!).

Again, at the instigation of the Marketing Committee, we held a **Gala Open Day** on the 19th April. Once again, who would show up? 100 attendees! We were amazed and delighted with the numbers considering most of the advertising was fairly low key. What was most pleasing was the response from our members, as it wouldn't have worked without your support. Carla Sullivan did a great job with holding a mini lesson and quite a few of these people became regular attendees at the Supervised sessions. This was such a positive outcome, and we'll be repeating this event next year.

Our attempts at bringing back members and increasing our membership in this difficult time – all clubs have the same problem - is starting to pay off, and although our numbers are not up to previous years, it is gratifying to see incremental improvements.

Our usual **Charity Day** was held late April, and once again, you were all very generous in donating goods, and with buying raffle tickets. Well done, and \$4,000 plus was raised to aid **Ambulance Wish WA**. Earlier there was also a flood relief fund raiser, which you generously donated to.

Our annual **Winter Congress** was held in June, again managed by Martin and Kate North, was well attended, and again, thank you to the usual helpers in the kitchen and Kerry Barns' crew and the Monday evening helpers. David Burn as Director did a great job – I think he managed this one single handed, quite an endurance test, so well done David. Thank you also to **TBIB** for their sponsorship for both major congresses.

The **Australian National Congress** was held at the Convention Centre in July and the club sponsored this event to the amount of \$2,000. Quite a few of our members did very well at the various sessions, I believe that story is still on the website. This Congress rotates annually around Australia, so won't be held here for another 7 years.

As you can see the first six months or so of the year were demanding and eventful.

The **Annabel Booth Memorial Trophy** has been kindly offered by Annabel's family in memory of her contribution to the club and to new players. This will be presented to the best novice player of the year.

Onto more mundane (but important) items

An updated document called **Session Director Duties & Guidelines** was produced during the year and is available to view on the website. This is a very detailed and invaluable guideline to assist Directors with precise protocols during bridge sessions.

Ian Clarke is the new BAWA President, taking over from Nigel Dutton. Ian's mission is to improve player behaviour at the table. The **BAWA Code of Conduct** supporting framework including the formation of a Behaviour and Ethics Committee has been completed. It will commence 1st January 2024.

An ABF workshop was held at the BAWA headquarters during the year to demonstrate the **MyABF** website for ease of member registration and upfront payment for congresses and club events. Martin and I attended the demonstration. This is available for all clubs should they choose, and many players are using this facility. Those wanting to enter our Christmas Congress have got this option, or directly through the club, or alternatively can register by using an entry form. However, it is anticipated that the MyABF facility will be a convenient and fully utilised option in the future.

A fully automatic **reticulation system** was installed in the front entrance garden earlier this year, and along with the work of the Garden Group, this has been hugely beneficial and our entry way is looking so much better. Well done **Karen Moller and her group of busy gardeners** – join them if you can.

We have replaced the broken **dishwasher** and invested in a **Square** terminal for credit card payments. We have also had to replace the **fire detection** units as the previous units were over ten years old. There's also a new **photo-copier**, which was offered to us at a cheaper rate and is a new updated model.

We have had several meetings with people from the **Perth Children's Hospice**. They are expecting works to begin in February 2024, and have promised to minimise disruption to the carpark, and to keep us informed of developments.

Penni Fletcher-Hughes has taken over from **Carla Sullivan** to provide the Club input to the BAWA Focus magazine. Thank you to Carla, and to Penni for their valuable contribution.

The positive outcomes of **Supervised Sessions**, with Jodie Basham, Carla Sullivan and Jane Henderson are having impact. The importance of their contribution can't be emphasised enough. The people attending these sessions are the club's future. Our sincere thanks to Carla, Jodie and Jane for their invaluable contribution. Carla has been involved for something like 7 years, and has recently decided to "retire". We wish you well Carla, your dedication has been amazing, but time to concentrate on some bridge for yourself. I know your students will miss you. Jodie has generously offered to take over the Friday morning session. Excitingly, Peter Hicks has offered to bring back the **Saturday Afternoon Supervised** session, along with some volunteers to assist. Thank you Peter.

I've already mentioned the exciting work the Marketing Committee does. The **Tournament Sub-Committee** is a vital component of the club and keeps the wheels turning for all our tournaments and congresses. As are our valuable **Library and Finance Sub-Committees**. Those committees make up some 35 volunteers, quite a few of them doubling on more than one committee. This is a big club, and we rely heavily on volunteers. Outside of those committees are a huge number of people who are also willing volunteers.

Our **Directors** also deserve a special mention, they make our afternoons possible, let's not take them for granted. I also thank Helen George and Peter Smith in their roles as **Patrons**.

Steve Pynt, who has given legal advice during the year, and **Steve Ledger**, our honorary auditor. Thanks also to **Aspire2Wealth**, and **TBIB** for their generous sponsorship throughout the year.

I want to thank my hard working **Management Committee**. You've been a great support to me throughout the year, thank you for your feedback and your intelligent advice. I sure need it sometimes.

Martin, we have worked well as a team, and I look forward to another year of getting things done and making a difference. I suspect your first year has been a huge learning curve, in spite of your bridge background. Your willingness to get things done (even changing lightbulbs, plumbing issues, dishwasher installation, sometime cleaner), and your personal contribution to the club is hugely appreciated. Thank you also personally for your support and encouragement.

Thanks also to Brian Embleton – I always say he’s the most important man in the room – he manages the bar. Brian often turns up to open the bar even when he hasn’t played, and keeps the supply interesting and well stocked for our thirsty players. Thank you Brian.

In one of the Trumps Plus, I wrote how much we appreciate John Nelson’s production of this newsletter. He crossed it out and refused to publish. Well, you can’t escape now John, we all appreciate your hard work, (the quiz especially), and we know the time and effort you put in is enormous. Thank you – we love that you’re able to keep it going.

There are so many more people who deserve recognition and thanks. If you’re aware of someone who contributes, give them a warm thank you. I hope as the year progresses we can acknowledge more of our heroes.

Thank you all as well, it’s a pleasure being in this role and I appreciate getting your feedback. Do keep supporting the club and enjoying our facilities.

Sylvia Bray
President

TREASURER’S 2023 REPORT

Last year’s results were affected by discovering that in prior years we had not remitted GST owing on token sales that resulted in a prior year adjustment to Profit and loss of \$38,000.

The total loss for this year’s operations was \$44,467.

The number of members attending sessions was down by 4% on the prior year.

Significant increases in costs were: Office management \$10,000 largely due to the double up of Sheenagh and Martin; and cleaning \$5,000.

Investment income increased by 10% as a result of increased interest rates. On the investment side we transitioned out of hybrid and quasi interest investments to term deposits as interest rates became more attractive. At June 30 our asset allocation was 42% in term deposits, 3% in interest related investments, and 55% in growth stocks. The market value of our investment at balance date was \$64,000 over cost as compared to a deficit of \$12,000 at the start of the year.

Cash flow from operations this year was a positive \$32,783.

My thanks to Martin for all the recording work and advice during the year and to Jock Muir, secretary of the finance committee, for his guidance.

A huge thank you to Richard Basham for always been available when I needed anything and he always gave freely of his time and expertise. Thank you Richard.

Also many thanks to our honorary auditor Steve Ledger we appreciate the professional work he does for the club.

I would also like to welcome our new treasurer Christine Spartalis and wish her all the best in the future.

Lastly my thanks to Sylvia and all the management committee members for the sterling job you have all done. I don’t think members realize the amount of work that goes on behind the scenes.

Shirley Lavarack
Treasurer.

AUDITOR'S REPORT 2023:

Our Auditor, Steve Ledger, reported that the accounts for 2023 had been examined and were a true and correct record, and assured members that the Club is in a good financial position with no matters to be reported. Steve thanked the Treasurer and Martin for their assistance throughout the year.

NOTICES OF MOTION: No notices were registered.

ELECTION OF HONORARY AUDITOR:

Steve Ledger, practising Chartered Accountant has agreed to undertake the audit for the coming year.

LIBRARY REPORT:

This year the Library Committee has focused on promoting our wonderful library to WABC members. Trumps Plus now features a regular column with reviews of new and classic bridge books along with suggestions of good titles on specific topics. This has resulted in a renewed interest in what our library has to offer, both to those new to bridge but also to highly experienced members.

A stock take was undertaken early in the year and satisfyingly only a few publications could not be accounted for. The aim is to check stock annually but due to a Covid and a shortage of active members this has not been possible for a few years.

Library Committee members: Alison Rigg; Janice Cain; Jacqui Ecclestone; Tessa Mayall; Karen Moller; Maurice Ford.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

There were two proposed amendments to the constitution:

- **Virtual Meetings**
- **Change the banking frequency**

It was noted that these that had been circulated to all members as required. No correspondence or other feedback had been received. Both amendments were unanimously passed by those present.

GENERAL BUSINESS: There was no general business.

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS:

Members of the 2023-2024 Management Committee are as follows:

President:	Sylvia Bray
Secretary:	Jacqui Ecclestone
Treasurer:	Christine Spartalis
Committee:	Eve Clarkson; Brian Embleton; Jan French; Prue Hart; Veronica Ntoumenopoulos; Carla Sullivan; Sandy Veling.

Retiring members from the Management Committee are Bernard Yates (Secretary); Shirley Lavarack (Treasurer) and Kate North, the previous president who had stayed on. They were presented with a gift of appreciation for their services, and were unanimously applauded by members.

PRESENTATION OF PATRON’S CUP: The Mabs McCulloch Trophy – 2023 winner

Our patrons, Peter Smith and Helen George presented the 2023 winner, Kate North, with the trophy. It is the sixth consecutive year that Kate has won this trophy and she ties Jocelyn Parry for the most number of wins. Congratulations Kate who thanked the members and the Committee.

CONFIRMATION OF LIFE MEMBER

The President announced that she had great pleasure in awarding a Life Membership to **Richard Basham**, as a very deserving recipient.

Richard has been an active member of the club since joining. He has served on various committees in different roles under five different club presidents. He was the club Treasurer for six years. During that time, he helped to steer the club through the Covid period when there were many decisions on how to prudently look after our finances when required to spend extra funds to safeguard everyone and ensure the club remained viable with little income being generated. After retiring from the role of Treasurer, Richard continued to assist Shirley when she took over, as well as Martin in his role as the new EO.

Richard managed the required updating of the club constitution in 2016, and around the same time, he was instrumental in the successful negotiation of a new lease to the year 2045 with the City of Nedlands.

Richard was instrumental in establishing the Marketing Committee, when it became obvious that attendance, and membership numbers were decreasing. It was his concern that this would seriously impact the club in the future. He was also instrumental in establishing a risk management profile for the club.

Richard recognised that a gardening group would be beneficial, and made sure it happened. He has liaised with Nedlands Council, for their input and donations of plants, organised busy bees, and kept an eye on what’s happening around the club rooms.

Richard is staunchly and tirelessly supportive of the club. He is always friendly, willing to help, and has devoted many hours to the benefit of the club. His wife Glen and daughter Jodie are also well known club members.

Richard thanked members for the honour and reflected on his long involvement and love of the game of bridge, and of the Club.

MEETING CLOSED

There being no further business the meeting closed at 5:30pm.

Signed: _____
President

Date: _____



PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE WABC CONSTITUTION 2023

1. Virtual Meetings

It is proposed that the Constitution of the Club be amended as follows in order to comply with the Associations Incorporation Act 2015:

(a) by inserting a new Rule 14.1A as follows:

"The Committee may meet in person, or by using any technology that allows a person to participate in a meeting without being physically present at the meeting ("Virtual Meeting Technology"). A Committee member is regarded as present at a meeting where the meeting is conducted by Virtual Meeting Technology, such that the Committee member is able to hear, and to be heard, by all others attending the meeting."

(b) by inserting in Rule 25.2 after the word "person" the words "or by proxy".

(c) by inserting a new Rule 25.10 as follows:

"In addition to the demanding of a poll in accordance with Rule 25.8, a poll may be demanded by the Chairperson on any resolution."

(d) by inserting a new Rule 25.11 as follows:

"A general meeting, including the Annual General Meeting may be held:

- 1. at one or more physical venues, provided that the sole physical venue must be the Club's premises, unless they are uninhabitable, or otherwise unfit to hold the meeting; or*
- 2. at one or more physical venues in accordance with sub-paragraph 1 above, and using Virtual Meeting Technology approved by the Committee which gives members as a whole a reasonable opportunity to participate in the meeting, and participation by a member in a meeting using such Virtual Meeting Technology, or by their proxy, will constitute their presence as if in person."*

(e) by inserting at the end of clause 28.1 the following sentence:

"The Committee may in its absolute discretion limit the number of proxies that a member may hold for a particular meeting".

(f) by inserting at the commencement of Rule 44 the words:

"Except where the dispute is the subject of a complaint to which Rule 23 applies".

2. Change the banking frequency

To reflect the the move away from cash, it is proposed that the Constitution of the Club be amended as follows:

(a) by changing Rule 31.5 to:

"All funds of the Club must be deposited into the Club's account at least once per calendar month or within 10 working days after their receipt if the amount exceeds \$1000."

4 September 2023

Management Committee