

# **New South Wales Bridge Association**

## **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 11 December 2002**

### **Apologies:**

Matthew Todd            (Stockford Audit and Assurance Services)  
Don Clilverd  
Eilis Clilverd  
Doug Lane                (Honorary Solicitor)  
Carolyn Molloy  
Merrillee Robb

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### **1                    Meeting Opening**

The meeting was opened at 7.30pm.

### **2                    Confirmation of minutes of 7th December 2001**

Motion:            That the minutes of the previous meeting be approved as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

Moved:            Keiran Crowe-Mai

Seconded:        John De Ravin

The motion was carried.

### **3                    Matters Arising and Correspondence**

A letter from Maureen Evers suggesting the possibility of holding beginners' lessons and a supervised session on a weekend and suggesting that the NSWBA contact a university or TAFE teaching marketing to try to secure the voluntary services of a student to do promote the activities of the NSWBA was briefly discussed.

#### 4 Annual Report and Balance Sheet

The Treasurer said that the real concern arising from the current set of NSWBA accounts was not the high level of expenses (which had been foreseen) but the reduced income. Nevertheless, the financial position of the NSWBA is sound; a \$25,000 depreciation charge for accounting purposes did not reflect the real movement in the value of the premises. However, something has to be done to improve the financial results or we will ultimately run into cash flow problems.

Motion: That the Annual Report and Balance Sheet be received.

Moved: David Griffiths

Seconded: Peter Boulton

The motion was carried.

Angela Thomson suggested that the NSWBA should conduct some evening sessions at an earlier time, say from 6.30pm till 9.30pm at the latest.

Judy Frazier suggested that there should be at least one session a week where a free short lesson should be provided before play starts. Getting senior players to contribute is hard but they have benefitted a lot from the game. The “free lesson” idea has worked extremely well elsewhere.

The NSWBA needs directors who show that they care for the players – the attitude of the directors is reflected in the responses of players.

It was suggested that the NSWBA should reinstate the former practice where both NS and EW receive session prizes, even if the prizes are only “half-price” game tickets for smaller sessions.

It was suggested that NSWBA directors, councillors and staff need to make our members feel special. We need someone with a strong personality to motivate people and get them involved. Member involvement can be achieved but “club spirit” is not strong now. We need to make it attractive for players to play at the NSWBA premises. We need to integrate the transitions from beginners’ lessons to supervised sessions and from supervised sessions to open duplicates. It would take one suitable and committed person to motivate everybody.

Directors have to chat socially with players, and to ring them up if they don't come. They need to make players feel welcome.

There was a suggestion that there should always be spare players available to partner individuals arriving to play.

There was a suggestion that amenities should be improved (better coffee and food).

## **5 Special Business**

Two amendments were proposed to the NSWBA's Memorandum and Articles of Association. These amendments are detailed fully in the attached document.

During discussion of the amendments, concern was expressed as to the meaning of "insufficient" in the clauses being amended. The Chairman advised that the Honorary Solicitor was reviewing the entire Memorandum and Articles.

Voting on the amendment was conducted by ballot (with the Treasurer and Alan Walsh acting as returning officers).

The first amendment was passed with 31 votes for the motion, 1 vote against and 1 abstention.

The second amendment was passed with 31 votes for the motion, 1 vote against and 1 abstention.

## **6 Election of Office-Bearers, Honorary Solicitor and Auditor**

There was only one nomination for each of the following positions so the nominees were deemed elected:

Chairman: Keiran Crowe-Mai  
Secretary: John De Ravin  
Treasurer: Mike Hughes

There were 4 nominations for the 5 ordinary councillors' positions and as such the following were deemed elected

Julian Foster  
Jillian Hay  
Colin Baker  
Heather Renton

Nominations were called for from the floor for the 5th vacancy. Mary-Anne Brifman was nominated (nominated D Beauchamp; seconded A Walsh) and accepted nomination. There were no other nominations and Mary-Anne was elected unanimously.

Motion: That Doug Lane be reappointed as the Honorary Solicitor to the NSWBA for 2003.

Moved Keiran Crowe-Mai  
Seconded John De Ravin

The motion was carried.

Motion: That Stockford Audit and Assurance Services be reappointed as auditors of the NSWBA.

Moved Keiran Crowe-Mai  
Seconded John De Ravin

The motion was carried.

## **7 General Business**

Motion: That Bobby Evans be awarded life membership of the NSWBA.

Moved: John Arkininstall  
Seconded: Mike Hughes

The motion was passed by acclamation.

A question as to the allocation of red-point events to a new club because many ex-members of Cammeray had moved to that club was raised. This was not regarded as an NSWBA matter, but the Chairman offered to take it up with the ABF and the Masterpoint Secretary.

The Chairman offered special thanks to all volunteers, and to the 5 outgoing councillors (the 3 present were presented with a small gift, the other two are to receive a similar gift in due course).

## **8 Closure**

The meeting was declared closed at 9:45 pm.