

NEW SOUTH WALES BRIDGE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 10 December 2014

1. Opening

A quorum of members being present, Chairman of Council Julian Foster took the chair and declared the meeting open at 6.32 pm.

2. Apologies

Apologies were noted from Louis Koolen, Lynn Kalmin, Cath Whiddon, Dave Reddel, Graeme Payne

3. Confirmation of Minutes of meeting of 2013 Annual General Meeting

Motion (Rakesh Kumar/Julian Foster) *That the circulated minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 11 December 2013 be accepted as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of the meeting.*

Motion carried.

4. Business arising from the minutes

Rakesh Kumar noted that there had been a significant improvement in the NSWBA newsletter since this issue was raised at the last meeting.

5. Correspondence

There was no correspondence to report.

6. Annual Report and Financial Statements

The Annual Report had been circulated. The report included separate statements from the Chairman, Treasurer and Tournament Committee.

The Chairman thanked office bearers and service providers for their work during the year. A highlight of the year was the holding in Sydney in July of the Australian National Championships. John and Marcia Scudder were thanked for organising this event (as well as the subsequent Spring Nationals).

Members of the NSWBA had achieved some great results internationally during the year, most notably Liam Milne-Nye Griffiths (9th in the World Pairs) and Peter Gill-Sartaj Hans (5th in the US Reisinger).

A review of club operations at Goulburn Street had been completed and the findings were being addressed. Activities in promoting bridge round the state continued, with a meeting of Regional Representatives held and a country carnival organised for the first time.

The Treasurer noted that the profit for the year ended 30 September 2014 was \$76 004, compared with \$3 649 in the previous corresponding period. The result was greater than

normal due to the Australian National Championships being held in Sydney this year, which reduced travel subsidy requirements.

In response to a question, the Chairman stated his intention that next year financial results for both state and club operations would be presented.

Motion (Rakesh Kumar/Julian Foster) *That the report be accepted.*

Motion carried.

7. Special Business

It was noted that, in accordance with clause 3 of the NSWBA Articles of Association, the Council of the Association had recommended that three members be voted Life Members at this meeting.

7.1 Marcia Scudder

Motion (Neville Moses/Julian Foster) *That Marcia Scudder be voted a life member of the NSW Bridge Association.*

In speaking to the motion Neville Moses outlined some of the history of life membership and noted that Marcia was only the fifth woman to be so nominated. Marcia had been involved in running the 1985 Far East, 1989 Bermuda Bowl, and assisting John Scudder run the South-west Pacific tournament in Canberra. Marcia also has significant achievements as a player, having represented Australia four times and won numerous interstate titles both as a player and as a captain.

After her professional retirement in 2006, Marcia became a Director and has continued to direct NSWBA daytime sessions.

This year Marcia had done a wonderful job running the Australian National Championships, a much more difficult task than it is in the smaller states.

Motion carried.

7.2 Pauline Gumby

Motion (John Scudder/Julian Foster) *That Pauline Gumby be voted a life member of the NSW Bridge Association.*

Speaking to the motion, John Scudder noted that Pauline had been one of Australia's top bridge players for over thirty years and was the second person to achieve the rank of Emerald Grand Master. She was a winner of the 1985 Far East Women's Teams and made the quarter-finals of the Bermuda Bowl in 2007. She has won many national titles.

Pauline's biggest contribution however has been in revitalising and maintaining the NSWBA website and with Matthew McManus developing a world-leading method of displaying bridge results on-line. She also established the e-bulletin software now used in some tournaments.

Pauline has also been the NSWBA congress co-ordinator for many years, working tirelessly to establish a calendar which takes into account (and requires negotiation and resolution of) the conflicting demands of international, national, state and local interests.

Motion carried.

7.3 Bruce Neill

Motion (Julian Foster/Neville Moses) *That Bruce Neill be voted a life member of the NSW Bridge Association.*

Speaking to the motion, Julian Foster noted Bruce's achievements in the playing sphere, first representing Australia in 1979 and having played for Australia on many occasions since.

Outside the playing arena, Bruce convened the 2005 ANC, has been a member of the NSWBA Council since 2006 and was Chairman 2008-12. He was elected President of the ABF in 2014.

Life Membership is normally proposed after a person has stepped down from Council. An exception is made for Bruce, who remains on Council primarily because of his ABF role.

Motion carried

8. Election of Council office-bearers

8.1 Chairman

A nomination had been received in respect of Julian Foster. There were no other nominations and he was declared elected.

8.2 Secretary

A nomination had been received in respect of Richard Douglas. There were no other nominations and he was declared elected.

8.3 Treasurer

A nomination had been received in respect of Helena Dawson. There were no other nominations and she was declared elected.

8.4 Five Ordinary Councillors

It was noted that the agenda listed six nominees for the five positions. However Rakesh Kumar had since withdrawn his nomination.

The remaining nominations were in respect of Warren Lazer, John McIlrath, Bruce Neill, John Scudder and Michael Wilkinson. They were declared elected.

8.5 Four Special Councillors

Nominations had been received in respect of Graeme Payne (Northern zone), David Reddel (Southern & Western zone) and Louis Koolen (Outer Metropolitan zone). They were declared elected.

The Chairman thanked outgoing Councillor Lynn Kalmin, who had stood down at the end of this Council term, for her work over a number of years, particularly in the area of teaching.

9. Appointment of Honorary Solicitor

Motion (Julian Foster/Richard Douglas) *That Warren Robinson be appointed Honorary Solicitor of the New South Wales Bridge Association.*

Motion carried.

10. Appointment of Auditor

Motion (Helena Dawson/Michael Wilkinson) *That CBC Partners be appointed Auditor of New South Wales Bridge Association Limited for 2014-15.*

Motion carried.

11. General Business

11.1 e-congress newsletter

Rakesh Kumar complimented John McIlrath on his work on the e-congress newsletter

11.2 Sponsorship

John McIlrath outlined the nature of the sponsorship of Get Wines Direct, which benefits both buyers and the state association.

12. Closure

The meeting closed at 7.23 p.m.