

Minutes of VBA Annual General Meeting

Held: Tuesday 6th December 2011
At: VBA 131 Poath Road, Murrumbena Vic.

The meeting opened at 6.40 pm and the President Jeannette Collins welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were taken.

Meeting attendees: See back page

Apologies: See back pages

The President noted that a quorum had been obtained for the meeting.

1 Minutes of the 2010 AGM

Motion 1: That the minutes of the 2010 AGM be approved M

Moved Stefi Gerdan, Seconded Phillip Fent: **CARRIED**

2 Business Arising from Minutes

Sue Kelso requested the “meet & greet” policy suggested last year be reconsidered for implementation in the coming year. Sue Kelso advised she has written to all the clubs regarding the masterpoint system.

Tim Blizzard asked for a report from the sub-committee set up to increase player numbers. Dr Anton Stavik reported a survey had been taken and the results published in the bulletin. Anton noted that several issues raised in the survey may be intractable; e.g. expense of repainting. However some issues such as air conditioning are being addressed, and attempts have been undertaken to arrange more car parking with neighbouring properties, as it is a severe problem. Anton also noted we don't know why members are leaving. Jeannette Collins also stated that some improvements to lighting effected by Stan Klofa had helped with the physical condition of the clubrooms.

Judy Gaspar raised a concern regarding the age of members and the fact many can't drive at night. She queried if anything could be done to assist these members to get to the club, particularly on Monday night and Wednesday nights. Judy has volunteered to assist with this area.

Jeff Fust commented that the high turnout at the AGM showed the general member concern about the viability of the club and asked if the council could make presenting ideas more accessible.

There was no other business arising from the minutes.

3 Correspondence to the AGM

There was no correspondence.

4 President's Report

Jeannette Collins presented the President's report.

Jeannette also made mention of the following:

- Margaret Yuill has resigned as webmaster and Jeannette thanked her for her work in transforming the website to its current standard.
- Sue Kelso resigned as Masterpoint Secretary, and Jeannette thanked Sue for her hard work in this very large task.
- Jeannette also noted the excellent work that Robert Ellery has done managing the two VBA congresses held during the year, both of which have returned a profit.

The Members on the floor thanked Jeannette for all her hard work.

5 Match & Tournament Committee Report

Simon Hinge presented the M&TC Report. Simon thanked the M&TC committee for their hard work during the year. He noted:

- The calendar has been finalised for 2012, however there have already been some changes due to club's withdrawing congress requests.
- Margaret Yuill will take on a Women's Bridge Co-ordinator role to determine the best format for women's bridge selection trials and competitions for Victoria in 2013.
- M&TC is keen to continue promoting bridge via BBO
- Victorian bridge teams have enjoyed a very successful year winning both Youth & Open events at the ANC, and several players had achieved high placings in major tournaments throughout the year.
- Regional representation in pennant worked well this year. Thanks to Garry Ridgway for co-ordinating this. We will continue to promote a regional representative team in 2013
- Allan Woods ranking system largely unsupported. Continued use of the system under review by ABF.
- The key activities of the M&TC scheduled for 2012.

Jeannette asked the members to express appreciation to the M&TC members for their hard work this year.

6 VBA Foundation Report

Ian McCance was unable to be present at the meeting however the Foundation's report was tabled. The Foundation has had no expenditure in the past financial period. It was noted that there had been an agreement in principle for the foundation to contribute to the technology upgrade at the VBA.

7 Treasurer's Report

Neil Ewart presented the Treasurer's report, and highlighted the key aspects of the financial reports. It was noted that "The directors have declared that the financial statements give a true and fair view of the company's position and they believe that the company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due."

A number of questions were raised:

Jenny Savage: A VCC budget has been alluded to in the reports; is there a VBA budget? Response: A draft budget for the VBA has been prepared and the council has financial reports at every meeting. The council would take advice on whether budgets can be published more broadly

Richard Rozen commented that much has been made of the loss this last financial year, however the profits over the last five years have been robust and the last financial year is a small proportion in comparison.

Linda Baynman queried the amount of \$919,887 on page 5 shown as other comprehensive income in 2010. Response: This was due to a revaluation of the building undertaken when some exploration was undertaken with a developer regarding the future of the site.

Ken Lee stated as a former treasurer, budgets have been presented at the AGM in the past and he believes it should be done in future years.

Tim Blizard asked for clarification on the expenses for state events; Response was the figure was higher this year owing to the ANC costs, and that this had also inflated the figure in the Cash flow statement for payments to suppliers and employees.

Neil also noted that for an organisation of this size \$240,000 was not a huge amount of money in the bank.

Jenny Savage thanked Neil for his report stating it was very clear and easy to understand.

Motion 2: That the financial reports for the Year ended 31 August 2011 be approved.

Moved Neil Ewart, Seconded Richard Rozen: **CARRIED**

8 Election of President and Other Councillors

Jeannette Collins vacated the chair and Ben Thompson was invited to chair the meeting during the election of council positions.

Ben noted that a total number of 214 proxies had been received, however 4 were withdrawn as members attended in person. The most significant number of proxies were given to:

Jeannette Collins:	99
Stan Klofa:	49
Ruth Kingham:	10
Martin Willcox:	8

Cathie Lachman and Robert Drew were appointed as scrutineers.

There were two nominees for the position of President. A ballot was held and the results of the ballot were:

Jeannette Collins:	217
Martin Willcox:	43
Invalid	4

Jeannette Collins was declared elected as President.

There were four nominees for the position of Vice-President. A ballot was held and the results of the ballot were:

Simon Hinge:	197
Ruth Kingham:	31
Stan Klofa:	211
Christine Parkin:	85

Stan Klofa and Simon Hinge were declared elected as Vice Presidents.

Neil Ewart was declared elected as Treasurer, there being no other nominees

Kim Frazer was declared elected as Secretary, there being no other nominees

There were 11 candidates for election to the position of councillor. Each candidate was invited to speak to their nomination. Jill Magee announced to the meeting she was withdrawing her nomination due to other commitments. A ballot was then held and the results of the ballot were:

Tim Blizard:	214
Henri De Jong:	250
Robert Ellery:	193
Phillip Fent:	277
Jill Magee:	85 (nomination withdrawn)

Geoff Schaller:	48
Robert Stewart:	259
Robert Stiles:	170
Anton Stavik:	238
Jenny Thompson:	286
Stephen Weisz:	230

Tim Blizzard, Henri De Jong, Robert Ellery, Phillip Fent, Robert Stewart, Anton Stavik, Jenny Thompson and Stephen Weisz were declared elected as council members.

The President Jeannette Collins resumed the chair and thanked Ben Thompson for conducting the elections.

9 General Business

Motion 3: That the Joining Fee and Annual Subscription fee remain unchanged for the 2012 year.

Moved Neil Ewart, Seconded Val Trice: **CARRIED**

Motion 4: That the LZR Partners would be appointed as Auditors for the financial year ending 31 August 2012.

Moved Neil Ewart, Seconded Pam Ramshaw: **CARRIED**

Motion 5:

The following motion was on notice for the meeting.

That the Victorian Bridge Association Council of 2012

1. Undertakes a review of the current situation where the Articles of Association do not prevent members from collecting huge numbers of proxy votes with which to control the outcome of voting and formulates a policy to limit how many proxies one member may hold.

Moved Ruth Kingham Seconded Annette Rose

The President invited members at the meeting to speak for or against the motion:

Jenny Savage stated that she wished to move the following amendment to the motion:

Amendment No 1.

That proxy touting be limited to that period after the notices for the AGM have been distributed and that proxy touting is not to be conducted in the playing area of the club on duplicate nights.

The amendment was later withdrawn

Jeannette Collins As a public company we believe the requirements for proxies are a requirement under the rules. However if the membership wishes to direct the council to commit funds to a review they can choose to vote for this.

Jean Hall: Use of email addresses to tout for proxies may be a privacy issue.

Richard Rozen: The motion is illegal. The organisation is unable to limit the number of proxies and it is normal for companies to allocate multiple proxies to an individual.

A member stated that he provided his proxy vote 3 weeks ago and hadn't felt intimidated to do so.

Jean Eadie: Several years ago, a lot of proxies were collected for an AGM, and there is no point attending the meeting if large numbers of proxies are collected.

Eva Samuel: More people at this AGM despite the high number of proxy votes collected.

Neil Ewart: Would be appropriate to review procedures for proxies. Believes there are legal issues if proxy given to a 3rd party, and then passed to another person. There are points in each arguments favour.

Some other general comments:

Club could consider transferring to Incorporated Associations Act

Normal for companies that candidates for election are included in the notification papers, the VBA should consider doing this.

Ruth Kingham advised the meeting she had the agreement of Annette Rose to accept any amendments.

Amendment No 2.

A subsequent amendment to the motion was moved so that the motion would read:

That the Victorian Bridge Association Council of 2012 undertakes a review of the current situation where the Articles of Association do not prevent members from collecting huge numbers of proxy votes with which to control the outcome of voting and formulates a policy with respect to voting procedures.

Moved Tim Blizard, Seconded Ruth Kingham
Motion Withdrawn

A further amendment to the motion was moved so that the motion would read:

Amendment No 3.

That the Victorian Bridge Association Council of 2012 undertakes a review of the current situation in relation to voting procedures and in particular proxies

Moved Tony Warnock, Seconded Robert Ellery: **CARRIED**

The new motion as amended was then put to the members:

That the Victorian Bridge Association Council of 2012 undertakes a review of the current situation in relation to voting procedures and in particular proxies

Moved Ruth Kingham Seconded Annette Rose **CARRIED**

The President thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.

Chairperson
Jeannette Collins

Members Present at the AGM:

Robert Drew, Cathie Lachman, Jeannette Collins, June Pulford, Gilbert Riley, Anne Paul, Robert Ellery, Martin Willcox, Jean Eddie, Valerie Trice, Ann Bednarz, Roger Kenna, Peggy Glasser, Sam Arber, Pat Makinson, John Makinson, Pamela Ramshaw, Tim Blizard, Roy Gordon, Franci Halmos, Erica Windmiller, Joseph Stevens, Nathan Kohn, George Sandor, Edna Matheson, Larry Attwood, Richard Greenfield, Stephanie Gerdan, Geoff Schaller, Lilli Allgood, Phill Fent, Simon Hinge, Anton Stavik, Bob Stiles, Chris Wallace, Sue Kelso, Richard Rozen, Jean Hall, Jull Percil, Jenny Savage, Kim Frazer, Neil Ewart, Stan Klofa, Ken Lee, David Flynn, Ralph Berlinski, Helen Snashall, Terri Kay, Kim Hoff, Sara Tishler, Rex Livingston, Pam Hemingway, Gordon Shinewell, Ruth Kingham, Stephen Weisz, Ben Thompson, Pam Smith, Eva Samuel, Jill Magee, Terry Strong, Dubrovka Zec, Tony Warnock, Mary Warnock, Bill Jacobs, Ruth Bourne, Jeff Fust, Henri De Jong, Felicity Beale, Robbie van Riel.

Apolgies:

David Sliee, Renate Slee, Kate Bechet, Mary Bertuna, Ken Pearson, Jenny Hoff, Diana Jacobs,