

## Minutes of VBA Annual General Meeting

**Held:** Monday November 21 2016  
**At:** VBA 131 Poath Road, Murrumbeena Vic.

The meeting opened at 6.30pm and the President Ben Thompson welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### Attendees

L. Allgood, S. Arber, L. Baynham, R. Berlinski, M. Bertuna, C. Bourke, L. Y. Chu, H. de Jong, F. Engelman, J. Engelman, N. Ewart, K. Frazer, R. Gallus, S. Gerdan, R. Geschke, M. Hall, F. Halmos, P. Havlicek, L. Hickman, P. Hobson, L. Kelso, P. Knightley, C. Leach, B. Lindsay, J. Masters, E. Matheson, A. Meydan, L. Meyer, L. Milman, K. Muntz, A. Paul, M. Phillips, G. Pick, S. Pick, J. Pulford, T. Rapport, D. Roe, A. Ropelberg, R. Rozen, OAM, E. Samuel, D. Sheather, M. Simons, J. Sin, J. Thompson, B. Thompson, S. Weisz, E. Windmiller, M. Yuill, D. Zec,

### Observers

Rob Quirk

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

## 1 Apologies

Anton Stavik, David Morgan

## 2 Minutes of the 2015 AGM

The minutes of the 2015 AGM were considered by the meeting.

## 3 Business Arising from Minutes

Nil

## 4 Correspondence to the AGM

There was no correspondence received.

## 5 Annual Report and Balance Sheet

Presentation of Accounts: The accounts were tabled for discussion. The President presented some highlights on the performance of the club in the past 12 months. He told the meeting it had been a difficult year for the club:

- Table numbers fell in many areas, mostly in competitions on Monday nights. The council has some ideas on how to address this in the year ahead.
- Supervised table numbers have been growing consistently since we put plans in place to address these.
- In 2016, the club had some expenses associated with replacement of equipment which had failed in the kitchen, as well as some further capital expenditure
- The club is rebuilding its website, and we had hoped this would be completed by now, however progress has been a little slow, and we expect this to be available in the new year.

In the year ahead, the council intends to focus more on communications and promotion. We are currently looking for someone to fill a part-time role to try to reinvigorate some of the club's events.

The President thanked the many members who contributed to the running of the club this year, and who gave up their time to help the club with its operations in the year gone by.

There were no questions from the floor on the accounts.

### **Resolution 1:**

To consider and if thought fit pass the following resolution as an ordinary resolution.

"That LZR Audit and Assurance Pty Ltd be appointed as auditors for the financial year ending 31 August 2017"

Moved: Neil Ewart; Seconded: Ben Thompson.

The Resolution was passed unanimously.

## **6 Special Business**

Nil

## **7 Election of President and Other Councillors**

A total of 2 proxies had been received.

1 proxy was given to the Chairperson.

1 proxy was given to the Secretary.

The following nominations were received for council in accordance with Article 33 at the close of the nomination period.

<b>Position</b>	<b>Nominee</b>	<b>Nominated by</b>	<b>Seconded by</b>
President	Ben Thompson	Jenny Thompson	Kim Frazer
Secretary	Kim Frazer	David Morgan	Dale Sheather
Ordinary Councillor	David Morgan	Kim Frazer	Neil Ewart
Ordinary Councillor	Christopher Leach	Kim Frazer	Neil Ewart

The following nominations were received for council in accordance with Article 36.

	<b>Location</b>	<b>Nominee</b>	<b>Nominated by</b>
Special Councillor	(Metro near VBA)	Rob Quirk	Waverley Bridge Club
Special Councillor	(Eastern)	Helen McAdam	Traralgon Bridge Club
Special Councillor	(Western)	Richard Giles	Ballarat Bridge Club

As there were no contested positions, the President Mr Ben Thompson declared all nominees duly elected.

The President noted there had been no nomination received for the position of Special Councillor (Metro Arc)

The President noted that the following nomination had been received after the close of the nomination period for the position of Treasurer.

<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Nominated by</u>	<u>Seconded by</u>
Neil Ewart	Ben Thompson	Jenny Thompson

There being no further nominations from the floor, the President declared Mr Ewart elected.

The President advised that Mr Dale Sheather indicated this evening that he was willing to stand for Vice President. The President called for further nominations from the floor for Vice President.

<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Nominated by</u>	<u>Seconded by</u>
Dale Sheather	Kim Frazer	Ben Thompson

There being no further nominations from the floor, the President declared Mr Sheather elected. The President noted that the second Vice President position will remain vacant.

The President noted that the following nomination had been received after the close of the nomination period for the position of Ordinary Councillor.

<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Nominated by</u>	<u>Seconded by</u>
Michael Phillips	Ben Thompson	Belinda Lindsay

The President called for further nominations from the floor for Ordinary Councillor. There being no further nominations Mr Phillips was declared elected.

## **8 General Business**

### [Annual Subscription Fees](#)

#### **Resolution 2:**

To consider and if thought fit pass the following resolution as an ordinary resolution.

"To increase the annual subscription by \$1 for all categories of membership"

Moved: Neil Ewart; Seconded: Ralph Berlinski.

The Resolution was passed unanimously.

The President invited any other questions or comments from the floor.

Mrs Samuel enquired whether the amount of table fees being higher than some other clubs may be a deterrent to participation.

Mrs Allgood asked whether table fee vouchers would be honoured given the fee increase. The President responded that the fee change did not relate to table fees but that the VBA would have honoured the table fee vouchers if table fees had increased

Mr Knightley queried what council has done regarding discussions with the local council regarding car parking issues in the area. He also asked what can be done regarding declining table numbers. He suggested that table fees don't compare to other clubs. He further suggested running competitions on the weekend to grow the club's membership. The President advised that the clubs in Victoria were essentially permitted one congress weekend per annum, and the VBA was required to comply with this regulation.

Mr de Jong queried whether the club had records regarding the average age of the members. He commented that there appears to be fewer juniors playing at the club now. The President responded that the junior program was run at Waverley, and noted it is difficult with many competing activities to attract young players to bridge, particularly to play regularly

Mr Meydan suggested contacting departing members who leave to gain an understanding of why people leave. He also suggested the area is over-serviced with clubs.

Mr Meyer suggested running a Green Point Swiss pairs (all day) event on the weekends once per month.

Mrs Yuill enquired whether the VBA has a contingency plan in the event that the numbers decline to unacceptable levels. The President responded that the VBA was not close to that position, however the council does have a view on how that situation would be addressed and does consider such a scenario every few years as a matter of good governance.

Mr Pick commented that the VBA is seen as an unfriendly place to play. This view was not necessarily shared by many of the members. The President noted that entrenched views were hard to change.

Mr Rozen asked the meeting to thank the council for their hard work, and for accepting the input and feedback from the membership.

Mr Geschke enquired what promotional activity is being done to promote bridge in younger communities. Mr Thompson responded that for bridge, people in the 40-50yo demographic are likely to be the more easily accessible and the more likely to play bridge regularly in the near term.

Ms Chu queried why matches need to be so long? She suggested having a shorter session & more social type of session of around 2 hours so members who have other commitments can still have a game. The President noted that this could be considered in the year ahead.

The President thanked the members for their attendance, and interest and declared the meeting closed at 7.12pm

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Chairperson

Ben Thompson