

Minutes of VBA Annual General Meeting

Held: Monday November the 9th, 2019
At: VBA 131 Poath Road, Murrumbidgee Vic.

Attendees

Andrew Macready-Bryan, Robert Ellery, John Hare, Jenny Hoff, Kim Hoff, Margaret Yuill, Dianna Middleton, Meredith Lambert, Jan van Riel, Jenny Thompson, Ben Thompson, Len Myer, Nina Zurek, Christopher Leach, Lynne Davis, Erica Windmuller, Arie Meydan, Edna Matheson, Erica Linton, Jean Hall, Chris Hughes, Michael Phillips, Meredith Woods, Roger Kenna, Michael Sullivan, Belinda Lindsay, Steven White, Diana Jacobs, Dan Phelan, David Morgan, Thea Cowie, Philip Knightley, Mary Elson, Belinda Pearson, Franci Halmos, Sam Arber, Richard Greenfield, Michael Gurfinkiel, Eva Samuel, Martin Simons, Stan Klofa.

Observers

Nil

The meeting opened at 6.00pm and the President, Ben Thompson, welcomed everyone to the meeting. The President Mr Ben Thompson noted that a quorum had been obtained for the meeting.

1 Apologies

Paula Schroor, Dale Sheather and Shirley Collins.

Two proxies received for Kim Frazer and George Lovrecz.

2 Consideration of the Minutes of the AGM held on 19th November 2018

The minutes of the 2018 AGM were provided at the meeting.

3 Business Arising from Minutes

Nil

4 Correspondence to the AGM

There was no correspondence received.

5 Presidents Report

The President spoke to the club's performance over the past year. He spoke to some of the factors which have contributed to the profit and loss of the club's accounts in the past 12 months, including table numbers. In terms of the impact on profitability the increase in table fees has been helpful.

He called on the Treasurer to speak in more detail to the Treasurers Report.

The President mentioned the work being done on looking at future options for the VBA. He noted that a number of options had been explored and the most viable and exciting option would be presented in General Business today.

The President thanked the many volunteers who have given their time over the past year, plus thanked the staff members and members of the council for their contributions.

6 Treasurers Report (Annual Report and Balance Sheet)

The Treasurer spoke to the state of VBA finances and the cash flow position.

The Treasurer summarised the VBA as a tightly managed business running in an asset rich and cash poor environment. There has been improved revenue and profit but at the cost of not running as many bridge sessions. He spoke to future risks, including risks with the current building infrastructure (roof and air-conditioning) which will need large amounts of money to maintain. He also mentioned the lack of utilisation and optimisation of the current building, for example falling numbers on Mondays and for competitions.

The meeting considered the appointment of auditors for the next year.

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 2020"

Moved: Kim Hoff; Seconded: Christopher Leach.

The Resolution was passed unanimously.

6 General Business

With the background of strained financial resources, Christopher Leach outlined the work of a 'Futures' subcommittee to explore options to maintain and improve the viability of the VBA going forward. This subcommittee comprises David Morgan, Kim Hoff and Christopher Leach.

Options explored focussed on investigating synergies of sharing premises with other organisations. Advantages would include, but are not limited to, optimising usage of facilities, liberate capital to be available for other uses, and improve the parking position for VBA players.

Christopher Leach spoke to the prospect considered most exciting by the subcommittee. The East Malvern RSL Club wants to concentrate more on veteran welfare and outreach and as a consequence is interested in a sharing arrangement whereby the VBA could rent premises over the long term. A non-binding agreement to investigate further has been agreed.

The next steps involve developing a MOU with East Malvern in the New Year, then to commence a process of consultation within the VBA and take the results to an Extraordinary AGM in 2020. Christopher Leach emphasised the importance of achieving consensus at each step.

Kim Hoff added the car parking would be considerably improved.

There followed a number of questions from the floor about this option.

Could the VBA acquire the RSL premises?

The building is held in a Patriotic Trust. It is understood that the Trust supports the planned continued occupation of part of the building by the EM RSL and for it to share and lease other parts of the building to help fund its ongoing veterans support, ceremonial and outreach activities

Is there a lift? Yes, it is ancient but would be replaced.

What would be the Relationship? Long term lease provides incentive for the RSL, 20 year with extensions is being discussed.

Comment: Hope expressed that playing income pays for rent.

What is Plan B? Improved performance of this building or find other.

What is the address: Stanley Grose Drive, Malvern East

What is the space available? The space was described and two largest rooms could be arranged contiguously, they could hold the current max no of tables but not big enough for VCC.

Public Transport? Located between 2 train stations, may need to look at shuttles.

Outlay that may need to be made? No estimate until further work done.

Comment: Congratulations. Would like to flag that there appears to be an assumption that money would be applied to a fund for promoting Bridge in Victoria. Oppose this, as the funds from any sale of the Poath Rd premises were a return on the investment made by the VBA in owning its own premises. Need to explore what funds are required to ensure security for the future of the VBA as a club, before funding the promotion of bridge throughout the state.

7 Election of President and Other Councillors

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

Position	Nominee	Nominated by	Seconded by
President	Christopher Leach	Jenny Thompson	Ben Thompson
Vice President	Jenny Thompson	Christopher Leach	Kim Hoff
Vice President	David Morgan	Jenny Thompson	Kim Hoff
Treasurer	Kim Hoff	Jenny Thompson	Christopher Leach
Councillor	Michael Phillips	Jenny Thompson	Christopher Leach
Councillor	Margaret Yuill	Jenny Thompson	Christopher Leach
Secretary	Jan van Riel	Jenny Thompson	Christopher Leach

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

	Location	Nominee	Nominated by
Special Councillor	(Metro near VBA)	Rob Quirk	Waverley Bridge Club
Special Councillor	(Norther Region)	Derek Poulton	Shepparton Bridge Club

As there were no contested positions, the President Mr Ben Thompson declared all nominees duly elected. The President invited nominations from the floor for councillor positions, and asked members to consider standing. Should any choose to nominate after reflection they can do so to Christopher Leach.

8 General Business

The incoming President, Christopher Leach, said a few words, including thanking the outgoing President for his work over the past year and the excellent way in which he has managed the transition to him. He indicated he was honoured to be in the new role and spoke to his thanks for being supported in this. He also welcomed new and old councillors and spoke about his threefold strategy, including addressing and solving financial issues, building on work already done, and creating an environment to attract new players. His emphasised his approach was based on consensus and process improvement.

David Morgan spoke to thank Ben Thompson for his work as President covering a number of achievements, most importantly achieving unity in council and across bridge clubs in Victoria. Ben Thompson has been voted previously to be a life member for his efforts.

Andrew Macready-Bryan noted 2020 bridge calendars have arrived and can be collected.

There were a few additional comments from the floor around the future VBA option, and it was noted that Malvern is suitable in a bridge demographic sense and the RSL had a building plan but have revised their long terms needs and now will start a period of negotiation and approval with their members.

As food arrived, Ben Thompson called a finish to meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

The meeting closed at 7.05pm

Chairman

Ben Thompson