



Minutes of Special General Meeting held 16th March 2020

PRESENT: Karen Cowley, Jane O'Brien, Alison Saville, Dave Halliday, Mike Callahan, Bridget Willcox, Megan Eddy, Francey Rolls, Tony Gilbert, Julian Herbert, Alison Armstrong, Jenny Ballantyne, Lyn Bowcock, Heather Bowmer, Brian Boxall, Sylvia Brown, Lyndsay Browne, Alister Buchanan, Linstead Castle-Allen Ngaire Crow, Anne Crowfoot, Paul Entwistle, Prue Farnworth, Ash Fitchett, Barry George, Annette Hagan, Sue Halliday, Lynnaire Hampton, Sandie Hampton, Cecily Harrow, Lavinia Hart, Julie Haslett, Jo Hayes, Phil Holt, Peter Hubscher, Phyllida Isles, Norman Knight, Rachel Knight, Diana Lees, Neil McDonald, Carol Murphy, Tony Murphy, Doreen Nunn, Trish Patterson, Erica Pearson, Anne Powrie, Alison Ritchie, Barrie Russell, Mike Smith, Marie Spiers, Jennie Turbitt, Barbara Twyford, Shirley Wall, Yvonne Whittle, Janice Willoughby

APOLOGIES: Alan Haslett George Masters Pauline Molloy Phyllis Patrick Nick Powrie Jan Stansfield Sue Kay

This Meeting was held to gauge the thoughts and views of members of the Napier Bridge Club (NBC) with respect to the possible amalgamation of the NBC with the Taradale Bridge Club (TBC) to form one Club if the members of TBC are in agreement.

The Meeting commenced at 5.30pm with President Karen welcoming everyone including Life Member Alister Buchanan. An apology from Life Member Cath Halpin was record verbally.

A letter was read to those in attendance from NZ Bridge regarding the Coronovirus outbreak advising that they didn't see the need for Bridge Clubs to close yet but emphasised if you are unwell don't come.

President Karen asked members to speak to the floor to view their thoughts on the two Clubs becoming one as it will be a Membership decision.

Barbara Twyford – full member – felt that the two Club arrangement is working well under the one roof and with the timing of the sessions and would like that to be implemented. Megan Eddy responded on behalf of the Committee that the 2 Club scenario is stressful on key Committee members with the extra workload and the Committee was of the view that one Club would be better.

Janice Willoughby – Associate – said she had heard that if both Clubs are joined to become one that the Club's money goes back to NZ Bridge.

Alison Saville responded on behalf of the Committee that the Constitutions of both Clubs state that assets or cash would be held in Trust by NZ Bridge and made available to fund any New Club so there would be no issue.

Sylvia Brown – full member – queried could the assets/cash go to any other Club and Alison responded there would be no issue as long as a new valid Club was formed.

Peter Hubscheer - Full member - suggested the Committee's process was flawed and set out how he thought things should be done. He spoke again later in the meeting saying we should all looking at "the bigger picture".

Barrie Russell - full member - was concerned that the meeting was being mishandled. He read out part of his letter he had written to the Committee. His suggestion at the AGM appeared to be mis-interpreted in that he thought it would be a good idea for the two Clubs to operate under the one roof - not necessarily amalgamate and that both Clubs needed to get around the table to discuss.

Linstead Castle-Allan – Associate Napier - suggested that the Clubs have a purpose build building currently used for Bridge.

Heather Bowmer - Full member - queried if Taradale had had any input.

Jo Hayes (Co President of the TBC and full member of NBC) responded advising they had received a letter form the NBC in January suggesting the Clubs dissolve to form a new Club. This was discussed at their February meeting and the Committee unanimously agreed it needed to concentrate on finding new premises. She went on to explain about the Club's application to Napier City Council (NCC) for land to build new Clubrooms and that they should know by early April whether they were successful or not. Jo then went on to say that members of the NBC had been to have discussions about land for its Club which she said may be derogatory to the TBC.

Alison Saville (Committee member) responded to Jo Hayes about the meeting she and Karen had had with NCC. They had gone there about the terms of the lease NBC has with the Council and under the terms of the lease can NBC sell - issue with vandalism etc. The land is zoned "recreational" so can only be sold to another recreational group. NCC may look at re-zoning. NCC brought up their talks with TBC and Deb Stewart from NCC said it would be a great opportunity to house both Clubs in one building at Park Island, however, this could be some 4 years away. She requested NBC submit a report to the NCC by 23rd March 2020 to put in with the Taradale application.

President Karen advised that Deb Stuart said if there is Agreement for NBC and TBC to join up it would greatly increase the TBC land application.

Annette Hagen - full member – stated she felt the committee needed to look at the structure of what is involved before we get to the end goal.

Barry George - full member – stated that the two Committees need to get together which President Karen said she was trying to arrange.

Lavina Hart and Phyllida Isles – Associate members - recorded their ire that the NBC should even consider going to NCC which could jeopardise the TBC application for land.

Sylvia Brown - full member - believed that now is the time to discuss the possibility of the 2 Clubs working together - not when the premises are built . Once the building is built it needs to accommodate 2 Clubs if that is the plan. There needs to be total communication between both Clubs. Napier had welcomed Taradale to its premises and we are all here to play Bridge.

Francey Rolls - Committee member- reconfirmed that we are all here for the love of Bridge.

Julian Herbert – Committee Member – stated he is a member of both Clubs and has no preference for either although is on the Napier Committee. He felt it was a "no brainer" that both Clubs should be under in one premises.

Maree Spiers – new Napier member- suggested we look to the future of the Clubs and the need for new members etc.

Ash Fitchett – Napier Associate Member – Taradale Member and on the Taradale Committee - Grateful that NBC has allowed TBC to use their premises. Then went on to advise about the process with the NCC and where they are at. Highlighted that both Clubs need to talk and felt Napier was not doing that.

Alison Saville (committee member) then read out excerpts from the TBC Newsletter and the TBC plan and application with NCC. There is mention made about other Clubs being approached by TBC to join them but no where is there any mention of NBC. Alison stated that NBC had not been approached at any time.

Jo Hayes (TBC co-President) responded that that was not part of the topic to be dealt with at this Meeting and they will speak to the NBC once they have the land.

Alison Saville (Committee member) then went on to advise that a few Committee members had met with Scott Smith this week. Scott is a person who is highly respected in the Bridge Community and a Solicitor. His view was very much that we invite Taradale to meet with us and perhaps have someone like Mark von Dadelszen also a Solicitor to be present as a neutral chair to discuss the possible amalgamation of the Clubs.

Barrie Russell (full member) exclaimed that Mark von Dadelszen would be very expensive and suggested that firstly the 2 Committees should talk to see what course the future held.

Alison Saville (committee member) responded to that claim and advised that Mark von Dadelszen was an honorary Solicitor for the Hastings Bridge Club so if any charge at all it should be a reasonable rate.

Francey Rolls (Committee member) mentioned that down the track Napier/Taradale/Hastings and Havelock North could amalgamate – Brian Boxall (full member) said that was confusing the issue.

Barry George (full member Napier and Taradale member) sees a positive outcome by combining the Clubs.

Paul Entwistle – Napier member – spoke about some people not liking change but in 90% of circumstances it is for the better and agreed with Julian that amalgamation was a "no brainer".

Brian Boxall – Full member - then suggested that the Committee leave the emotional baggage at the door.

Norman Knight – (full member Napier) pointed out that with the amalgamation of the two Clubs there would only be one sub to pay etc.

President Karen thanked everyone for coming and the meeting closed at 6.20pm.

Signed 

Karen Cowley

President