

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING 17 August 2021, following Tuesday afternoon Bridge

Present: Jo Hayes – Co-President (Chair)

Alison Lott, Shona Richards, Trish Patterson, Carol Fraser, Garth Lawrence, Noel Chambers, Cecily Harrow, Jenny Peters, Maggie Reddington, Phyllida Isles, Margaret Hall, Viv Pinkham, Alison Williamson, Mike Williamson, Jo Schinkel, Linda Smith, Joyce Chapman, Jan Davis, Diana Lees, Yvonne Whittle, Ash Fitchett, Jan Stansfield, Janice Willoughby, Ruth Spittle, Lesley Holland, Anne Dempsey, Jim Brown, Lyn Bowcock, Brian Boxall, Lavinia Hart, Sue Lambourn, Ron Humphreys, Margaret O’Leary, Debbie Gibson, Dave Halliday, Mary Burney, Julie Haslett, Alan Haslett, Sue Fenwick, Ngaire Billington, Sheryn Thomsen, Peter Lambourn

Apologies:

Alison Hucker, Annette Hagan, Annelies Van der Linden, Gus Van der Linden

Jo Hayes delivered the items below for amendment and the rationale behind these.

Questions from the floor:

Alison Lott – regarding the removal of the word audit – does this affect our charitable Status? Response – No.

Linda Smith – does this affect our obtaining grants? Response – this is not required unless it says so in the rules.

Motions

Remove the word audit and change to a statement of accounts

Moved – Jo Hayes Seconded – Jan Davis

Remove the word cheque and replace with payment.

Moved – Jo Hayes Seconded – Trish Patterson

Remove the bylaws statement.

Moved – Jo Hayes Seconded – Peter Lambourn

We have realised that there is a clause in our Rules (Constitution) that needs altering before our AGM in November. Clause 14 (d) currently reads:

The Treasurer shall keep true records of all monies received and expended and shall at the Annual General Meeting and whenever called upon to do so by the committee, produce an audited statement of accounts. The Treasurer shall pay all monies received by him/her on behalf of the club to the credit of the Club’s account at a bank to be selected from time to time by the committee and shall not disburse any money exceeding the amount laid down by the current By-Laws without the authority of the committee. The Club’s monies in such bank account may be drawn upon by a cheque signed by the Treasurer and one of the other members of the committee authorised by the committee for the purpose.

The committee wants to change this clause to read:

The Treasurer shall keep true records of all monies received and expended and shall at the Annual General Meeting and whenever called upon to do so by the committee, produce a statement of accounts. The Treasurer shall pay all monies received by him/her on behalf of the club to the credit of the Club's account at a bank to be selected from time to time by the committee. The Club's monies in such bank account may be drawn upon by a payment authorised by the Treasurer and one of the other members of the committee authorised by the committee for the purpose.

Rationale: The word audit would have been differently interpreted when the constitution was written. These days the word audit has a very specific meaning. I don't think our accounts have ever been audited in the true sense of the word. More recently we have had them reviewed by a qualified reviewer.

We have good systems in place to monitor income and expenditure.

We will be using Gary Bernsten Accountancy Services to prepare our financial statements which is an external scrutiny of the finances.

An audit would cost several thousand dollars. A review is at least \$2000

At the last AGM members approved a motion to not require the accounts to be reviewed or audited, with this requirement reviewed at each AGM. The members' wish was that this be reviewed at each AGM will stand.

The part of the sentence *and shall not disburse any money exceeding the amount laid down by the current By-Laws without the authority of the committee* has been removed because we cannot find any By-Laws referring to this.

As cheques can no longer be used all payments are made via internet banking. The change recognises this.