

AMENDED MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE GAUTENG BRIDGE UNION  
\_Held on SATURDAY 11<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at THE LINKS

***Present***

Deirdre Ingersent GBU Chairman  
James Grant GBU Secretary  
Tor Meyer GBU Treasurer  
Bernard Donde GBU member  
Peta Feinstein The Links  
Val Bloom JBC  
Devan Chetty Benoni Northerns

***Apologies***

Jackie Solovei GBU  
Betty Ravenscroft Northerns  
Jocelyn Morris Rivonia  
Delene Spencer

***Floor***

Neville Eber  
Di Balkin  
Duncan Craggs

***Welcome***

Deirdre welcomed everyone to the meeting

***Matters Arising***

There were no matters arising

***Chairman's Report***

Deirdre thanked the members of her committee for their support during the past year. She firmly believed along with the rest of her committee that the real future of bridge in this country lay in face-to-face bridge and to this end live major tournaments have been heavily subsidized by the GBU jointly with the JBC towards the end of last year and more recently with the Links. Both these tournaments were major successes and hopefully encouraged players who had not until then returned to a club to do so. Deirdre went on to congratulate our local clubs in the efforts they were making to re-open as was the case of the Wednesday afternoon club and the Tuesday morning club, and the welcome steady growth of the Links numbers and those of Betty Ravenscroft's t Ferndale club. Benoni had now attained the numbers it enjoyed in the pre COVID days. Especially pleasing was the Links initiative in opening a teaching class every Thursday morning which was proving a very successful venture.

Deirdre went on to congratulate our players who had qualified in the Open and Ladies teams.

With the help of a young lady in Stellenbosch she had also been successful in publishing a regular GBU bulletin

Not everything in the last year has been a success story. Our website has not been regularly updated and this needs to be addressed; Deirdre has requested the help of Devan in this area. Bridge was not happening in the schools not even appearing on the extra curriculum studies as it does overseas. There was no indication that this situation would change anytime soon.

### ***Treasurer's Report***

Tor stated that we had a surplus for the year of just over R43,000. This was largely due to a windfall insurance claim for stolen bridgemates where we were reimbursed R77,000. With the reduction of live club memberships we have so far no need to replace these

#### **Income**

Subscriptions received	3920
Teams events	1780
Pairs events	7600
Insurance settlement	77070
Total income	90370

#### **Expenses**

Website	6094
Newsletter	7400
Media costs	2833
Bank charges	1616
Meetings	865
Pairs event catering	23413
Pairs event prizes	4600
Total expenses	46821
Surplus for the year	43548

### ***Election of Office Bearers***

Those on the committee were happy to continue to serve for the coming year but in addition Joel Harris and Devin Chetty were proposed and accepted

Bernard pointed out that according to the constitution the clubs should submit proposed members to the committee at least 3 weeks before the actual AGM each club having voting rights based on the number of members. He went on to state that it was unacceptable that certain clubs were absent from the meeting; each affiliated club should have at least one delegate present.

## **General**

Val congratulated Deirdre on her bulletin.

Di reminded the committee that nominations for the SABF committee had to be submitted one month before the SABF agm to which Bernard replied that this year was not an election year. She also queried whether there was a way of determining whether she had paid her annual sabf subscription to which James replied that this was available by logging on to our database.

Duncan queried the methods used to rate the ability of bridge players as this seemed to discriminate against new payers? Di replied that as an accumulation of masterpoints was not considered an accurate method, some years ago a calculation called Performance Indicator was introduced. James added that the bottom line was that if a new player showed promise then this always took precedence over the more traditional methods.

James said that they now had a database of over 200 beginners countrywide who had been taught by amongst others Jeff Sapire and Carol Stanton. Our challenge was to get these beginners to join a club and he was hoping that the Thursday morning classes might prove to be a possibility. After some discussion it was decided that this wasn't an ideal solution but no further proposal was made.

James went on to explain the difficulties virtual clubs faced in collecting sabf subs from members. Peta said that those who were approached and failed to pay were blacklisted. In the case of Gauteng it was agreed that this was a difficult job for only one person and offers were made to help.

There being no further matters arising the meeting was closed