

Westside Duplicate Bridge Club
Annual General Meeting
November 21, 2024

The President, Marty Kelly, called the meeting to order at 11:18 a.m. Secretary Judy Cass confirmed that a quorum was present, with 17 members in attendance.

Wendy Mohamed moved to accept the agenda as presented. Seconded by Janet Billon. Motion carried.

Moved by Lynda Marshall and seconded by Elaine Hansen-Hill that the 2023 AGM minutes be accepted as submitted. Motion carried.

The President gave her report, reviewing our Club history and some of the challenges we have had this past year. Although our contract with the Lion's Community Centre is very favorable, we have had to move during the summer months as well as at other times, due to conflicting scheduling. Our attendance remains quite low, despite our club encouraging novice and returning players by introducing a 0-199 game. Nonetheless, we have maintained a positive spirit and the President commended our directors for their assistance, especially Ashok Sil who also maintains our website. She also thanked the volunteers who set up, bring sweets and the other members of the board for their commitment to our Club.

Moved by Elaine Hansen-Hill and seconded by Verle Anderson-Lee that the president's report be accepted as submitted. Motion carried.

Our Treasurer, Mary Ann McKenzie reported regarding our financial situation and proposed budget for 2025. She explained we are running at a loss currently because of our low attendance and membership. She presented a hand-out to the members, detailing our options going forward and concluded by proposing we increase our fees by one dollar per session to help sustain our bank account.

Moved by Wendy Mohamed and seconded by Bob Hill that we accept the financial report and proposed budget as submitted. Discussion. Motion carried.

The President continued the discussion by adding her thoughts regarding raising our fees and noted we have not had an increase in many years.

Questions from the floor concerned running "special games" which traditionally bring in more revenue. Elaine Hansen-Hill, Club Manager, addressed this, saying that our club is no longer large enough to hold these games. Even though they are attractive to players for their gold, silver and red points, we need a minimum of five tables and we have not consistently achieved that level. In fact, the ACBL has been offering a subsidy to our club due to our decreased membership.

Moved by Janet Billon and seconded by Wendy Mohamed that the club accept the proposal put forward by the Treasurer of increasing our game fee by one dollar per session. Discussion. Motion carried.

Elaine Hansen-Hill presented the Club Manager's report.

She reported the following:

- membership is up
- our Tuesday game is enjoying a better attendance since we changed it to a novice level
- Marianne Whitehead has finished her studies and is now certified as a director
- Wendy Mohamed, is offering free "mini" tutorials prior to the Tuesday game,

She was happy to announce Jackie Stokes would stand for election as Club Manager in the next term and concluded with her thanks to all who are helping our club, including other Board members, and our regular directors, Lynda Marshall and Ashok Sil.

Moved by Verle Anderson-Lee and seconded by Vivian Carnahan that the Club Manager's report be accepted as submitted. Discussion. Motion carried.

The President asked for questions from the floor.

Wendy Mohamed opened discussion about the Unit game being held at the Lion's Centre and our support of the "Let's Play Bridge" Club through our loan of bridgemates and bidding boxes. Apparently some informal conversation had ensued at other bridge clubs, and there appeared to be cross information that was confusing.

Both Marty Kelly and Elaine Hansen-Hill replied that the club had received and responded to the representatives of "Let's Play Bridge" using the proper Club protocol and lines of communication and the issue had been resolved with all parties satisfied.

President Marty Kelly announced a slate of candidates who had agreed to stand for nomination for the Board for 2024-2025. They are: Janet Billon, Lynda Marshall, Mary Ann McKenzie, Jackie Stokes and Bill Holland. She asked for any further nominations from the floor. As none were forthcoming, she moved the nominations be accepted as presented. Seconded by Marianne Whitehead. Motion carried.

The president asked for any further business. Discussion about when to raise our game fees followed. Moved by Vivian Carnahan and seconded by Marianne Whitehead that the game fee increase be effective immediately. Motion carried

As there was no further business, moved by Vivian Carnahan and seconded by Janet Billon that the meeting adjourn at 12:10 p.m.. Motion Carried.

