

Peninsula Bridge Club Inc.

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INFORMATION MEETING RE PROPOSED CHANGES TO PENINSULA BRIDGE CLUB OPERATIONS. JUNE 3rd 2017

The President thanked all those in attendance for their interest in the operations of the Club.

The President outlined the changes impacting the club and the proposed response to these changes. She clarified that nearly all aspects of the Club's operation remain unchanged. The Club continues to be a not-for-profit organisation, run by the volunteer Committee and the many volunteer helpers.

The President acknowledged the valued contribution made by the previous members who have managed the club's finances as volunteers in the past and particularly thanked Nora Bird, Rosemary Murray and Lyn Hamill.

The purpose of the meeting was to inform members of the reasons for the proposed changes and to take questions from the membership.

The following questions and suggestions had either been received during the week or were raised at the meeting.

1. **WHY DO WE NEED AN ANNUAL OPERATING SURPLUS?**
The club has always run a small surplus which has been invested to secure its future, due to the uncertainty in relation to its premises.
2. **WHO ALERTED THE CLUB TO THE NEED TO PAY GST?**
The Treasurer, following discussions with similar sized not for profit clubs (Canberra and Waverley VIC)
3. **WHY NOT LOWER PRICES AND LIMIT MEMBERSHIP SO THAT WE DON'T PASS THE GST THRESHOLD?**
The club is already \$30,000 over the threshold (2015-16) and its constitution expressly nominates the support and encouragement of bridge as its purpose.
4. **WHY DON'T WE SPEND THE CASH RESERVE BEFORE PUTTING UP PRICES?**
SEE ANSWER TO Q1

5. **WHY NOT RAISE TABLE MONEY TO \$6 RATHER THAN \$7?**
This was considered but the revenue raised would not cover revenue lost to the GST and compliance costs.
6. **DOESN'T THE CONSTITUTION STATE THAT FEES CAN ONLY GO UP BY 25%?**
This was checked with the NSWBA lawyers and they confirmed that this applied to annual subscriptions, not table money.
7. **SEVERAL QUESTIONS IN RELATION TO VOUCHERS FOR VISITORS WERE RAISED.**
The committee agreed to explore the possibility of a discounted PPV system for visitors in general as well as those who play at the Club for a number of weeks or months each year.
8. **HARDSHIP CONCESSIONS WERE PROPOSED**
The committee agreed to consider a discretionary system to subsidise fees for members experiencing significant financial hardship.
9. **HOW WOULD PAID STAFF WORK WITH A VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE?**
As yet no decisions have been made. However, it is likely the person/persons would report to the Treasurer and duties would involve banking, capturing invoices to ensure we claim back GST paid on purchases, membership database and assisting members with queries.
10. **DO WE NEED AN OFFICIAL OUTSIDE AUDITOR AS A RESULT OF THE CHANGES?**
No, a formal audit is not required until we make an annual profit of \$250,000. The members moved a special thanks to the Treasurer, Bob Whiddon, his working group and the Committee for the work done and for the consultation and transparency involved.
Members also recognised the work of Bridge Education in ensuring the growth of the club and contributing to its social environment.

Any further questions arising should be directed to Bob Whiddon.