



Brisbane Pickleball Club (BPC) Annual General Meeting

Date: 17/11/2019

Time: 4pm (AEST)

Venue: Queensland State Netball Centre
590 Mains Rd, Nathan, 4111

Meeting Minutes

1. Opening and Welcome

2. Apologies

Christopher Warner, Helen O'Brien

3. Attendance

Quorum was achieved.

Committee members: Lorraine Christiansen, Jen Ramamurthy, Graham Barnes

Members: Stephanie Boydell, Bob Christiansen, Ian Daniels, Geoff Doueal, Marie Foy, Mark Jagger, Sue Pollock, Stephen Rae, Milika Rae, Steve Rogerson, Kerry Strange, Paul Strange, Raye Weinthal

Proxies: James Sharley (Milika Rae)

4. Minutes of 2018 AGM

- I. Nil as the club was only established in August 2018, this is the inaugural AGM.

5. Receipt and Adoption of the President's Annual Report

- I. Overview of the year was given see attached report for details.
- II. Moved Lorraine Christiansen & seconded Ian Daniels

6. Receipt and Adoption of the Annual Financial Statement & Treasurer's Report

- I. Overview of the expenses provided and the club is in a healthy position with a bank balance of \$8076.31. Highlighted was the need to continue to attract more players for the club to grow. And develop a system for effective monitoring of equipment.
- II. Moved Graham Barnes & seconded Stephanie Boydell

7. Election of Officers & Management Committee

All present committee members stood down to vacate positions.

New committee members are as follows:

- I. President – James Sharley (Stood unopposed)
Nominated by Milika Rae, seconded Ian Daniels
- II. Secretary – Milika Rae (Stood unopposed)
Nominated by Margaret Phillips, seconded Elizabeth Battle
- III. Treasurer – Graham Barnes
Nominated Jen Ramamurthy, seconded Stephanie Boydell

Milika Rae appointed as chair for the rest of the meeting in the absence of new president James Sharley.

- IV. General Committee Members 1 – 4 (all elected unopposed)
Faye Johns
Nominated by Orleena Moo, seconded Margaret Philips
Marie Foy
Nominated by Faye Johns, seconded Sue Hemsley



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Christopher Warner

Nominated by Ron Jackson, seconded

Helen Waller

Nominated by

V. Signatory Changes

Motion: That the new signatories of the bank account be Graham Barnes, James Sharley and Faye Johns

Moved Ian Daniels, seconded Stephanie Boydell – All in favour

Signatures and internet access to remain from 2018/2019

Graham Barnes PO Box 241
Wilston, 4051

Email: gbarnesis@gmail.com

Ph: 0419511950

Signatures and internet access to be removed

Lorraine Christiansen 21/6 Methyr Rd.,
New Farm, 4005

Email: lfxtiansen@gmail.com

Ph: 0417773904

Jennifer Ramamurthy 55 McCaul St.,
Taringa 4068

Email: jenramamurthy@gmail.com

Ph: 0400452624

Signatures and internet access to be added for 2019/2020

James Sharley 73 Maynard
Woolangabba, 4102

Email: james.sharley@gmail.com

Ph: 0416269532

Faye Johns 118 Ness Rd.,
Salisbury, 4017

Email: shriner@tpg.com.au

0411249087

8. Setting of Fees for 2020/2021 Membership Year

Motion: That the membership for 2020/2021 financial year be \$60.

Moved Ian Daniels, seconded Raye Weinthal - For 2/ Against 15

Motion failed



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Membership fee decision is delayed until committee has more information regarding the costs for the next financial year. An SGM to be held by May next year to ratify the decision.

9. Date of next AGM – July 2020, date to be determined.

10. Close – Meeting closed 5pm

This is a true and accurate record of the Brisbane Pickleball Club 2019 AGM

President: Lorraine Christiansen _____

Treasurer: Graham Barnes _____



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2019 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Good afternoon everyone, and welcome.

It's exciting to see you all here supporting our Brisbane Pickleball Club at its first AGM. I am Lorraine Christiansen and I am very proud to have been the first president of the club. I would also like to recognise our Secretary, Jen Ramamurthy and Treasurer, Graham Barnes.

When Mark Jagger & I introduced pickleball to Brisbane 3 years ago, we had no idea how quickly it would take off. We had both learnt to play overseas and instantly became hooked on the game. Our initial intention was to just find other people we could play with, but by the middle of 2018, there were signs of pickleball fever in Brisbane and I knew it was time to get a club organised.

The Brisbane Pickleball Club was only formed in June 2018 and became an official not-for-profit organization in August of that year. Our purpose was to foster the growth of pickleball in the Brisbane area with the support of the national body – the PAA.

In our first 12 months as a club it was a steep learning curve for all of us. I don't think we fully understood the complexity of starting a new sport from scratch. But the tenacity of particular members shone through and by the end of the year, we had 49 members who were playing at 5 regular locations, Albion, E Brisbane, Coorparoo, Chandler and Thorneside, with club-organised play available 7 days a week. The club purchased nets, paddle and balls to support all player sessions.

We also benefitted by having a team of 10 members who were IPTPA officially certified Level 1 coaches and Introductory Clinics were available monthly with equipment provided. Skill development sessions were also offered to our members at our Albion location. We used Facebook, Email, Instagram and a Meetup site as our main forms of promotion and communication and created marketing material which was posted at our venues. An interview broadcast on ABC radio on pickleball also helped to boost our exposure.

Initially our biggest challenge was setting up a workable membership system, especially as we needed our members to also belong to the PAA for insurance purposes, and the PAA needed to work out their system first. By the time memberships needed to be renewed, we were able to offer a number of benefits to our members for the \$50/pa including an early bird discount rate, reduced rates at some facilities, insurance, a newsletter with details of past and future events, and player development discounts to name a few. With the growth of player numbers in the 100s, our aim was to encourage more players to join and support the club. We've had a number of major events and noticeable achievements during our financial year and I would like to briefly mention these.

In October 2018, 18 BPC members made up a large contingent attending the Inaugural Australian National Championships in Sydney, taking home an almost embarrassing number of medals. Congratulations to all participants, it was a fun event.



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The following month, the BPC opened the first dedicated pickleball courts in Australia at the Albion Indoor Sport Centre. We must recognise an exceptional effort by many in this endeavour, but in particular Mark Jagger, Graham Barnes and Nick Cooper who helped make this become a reality.

On the social side we enjoyed an end of year play day at David Turbayne Tennis Centre, E Brisbane early in November with visiting members from other local clubs joining in.

I am proud to say a number of our members were able to support the Bribie Pickleball Club with their open day early in December and the club there is continuing to grow.

In February 2019, with initiation from Alison Barlow and David Hume, a doubles league was organised at the Ashgrove Marist indoor sports centre. This was a new format of competitive pickleball play for a set number of weeks and proved good practice for running future tournaments as well as for members wanting to play a more serious game.

In the same month, the Brisbane Pickleball Club was awarded the opportunity to run the Nationals in October. Congratulations Jen on an impressive proposal!

We were invited by Mike Newell the Director of Tennis at Club Beenleigh to be part of their Grand Opening Pickleball Showcase in February and this was the beginning of a strong relationship with Mike and pickleball growth in general in that area.

BPC members once again supported new interest in the game the following month when they helped introduce pickleball to the residents of the Palm Lake Resort – an over 50's lifestyle resort – in Caloundra.

April saw a new facility for pickleball open up in the Bay area when Ron Jackson and an Doran started play sessions on 3 tennis courts at Thorneside. Good local press saw numbers increase quickly and the BPC supported their efforts by purchasing nets, paddles and balls as well as running some coaching sessions.

Members once again went further afield in May to assist the development of a new club in Warwick started by one of our original members, Helen O'Brien.

Congratulations to five of our members who were voted onto the PAA committee in May. Jen Ramamurthy, Graham Barnes, Nick Cooper, Mark Jagger, and James Sharley, thank-you for your extended interest in promoting pickleball nationally.

June saw the first of our organised tournaments, the Brisbane Doubles Open which



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was held at the Sleeman Sports Complex. 65 participants from S E Qld played 195 matches over 12 hours culminating in amazing finals in all divisions. Jen, you should be proud of your effort and the support you received from Mark Jagger, Milika Rae, Sundar Ramamurthy and Sue Hemsley. The Spirit of Pickleball award was won by Jan Doran and her partner Dereck Wymer, for their great sportsmanship and assistance during the tournament.

Later in the month, Seymour Rifkin (Founder of the IPTPA) returned to Brisbane to train more coaches for our club. This time he brought with him the #2 singles player in the world, Joey Farias and together they trained several of our members, conducted coaching sessions and exhibition matches. The BPC supported these events as part of the BPC membership benefits. A special thank-you Sueme Raipal and Deb Rossi for generously hosting the visitors in their home and providing transport between venues, as well as Mark Jagger, and Milika Rae for organising the events. The club greatly appreciates Rif's generous donation of teaching materials which are now available to certified instructors wanting to help train others in the skills of pickleball. Stop and think - that's quite a set of achievements in 12 months! And I haven't even mentioned what we've achieved in the following 4 months, but I must remind you that my AGM report is only for the financial year of July 1st 2018 – 30th June 2019.

Due to the heavy commitment of planning for the Nationals which were held in Brisbane in October this year, the committee decided to delay holding the AGM until now.

All of this would not be possible without your BPC Committee and I would now like to thank them on your behalf. Firstly Jen, our Secretary, for your undying enthusiasm, for the hours you dedicated to getting the structure of the club together, all your dealings with the facilities where pickleball is being played, your encouragement as a coach and your insight into believing that the BPC, in its infancy, could run a Brisbane Doubles Tournament in May of this year and then take on organising the Nationals in October.

And Graham, thank-you for all the background work you did setting up the BPC as an official non-profit organisation, your work on the constitution, and your negotiations with the various pickleball facilities, just to name a few. You should also be commended for your firm control of the finances and today I am proud to be able to say we have a financially healthy club going forward. Graham will go into more details in his financial report.

Recognition should be given to our Venue Coordinators, Alison Barlow, Jan Doran, Drew Gaw, Sue Hemsley, Ron & Louise Jackson, Mark Jagger, Margaret Phillips, Margaret Lynch, Martin Quenault, Milika & Stephen Rae, James Sharley, Kari & Simon Taplin, Pauline Vincent, and Helen Waller as they have dedicated their time to help pickleball players get out there and have a good time on the courts.

There are two non-members who need special mention for their assistance in the early development of our club. Lee Mathers, was responsible initially for setting up



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the IT basis for our club gratis and then Rowan Ramamurthy (Jen's son) volunteered to do the follow-up work on our website. Mark Jagger has subsequently taken over the Media and Communications role and has been successful in putting the BPC in the social media eye. And we thank him for all his time on this. Milika Rae, we would like to recognise your role also in the BPC Video development area, and Pauline Vincent for her still camera work throughout our various events.

The BPC is in a unique situation in that I feel we have our very own pickleball equipment supply via the Pickleball Superstore here in Brisbane. Nick Cooper & his company has been particularly supportive in all our events and activities, donating equipment, loaning demo models of paddles for use before members purchase, and supporting the club in whatever way they can. What a difference his Superstore has made in easily getting equipment which once we had to order ourselves from overseas or wait until someone was travelling to the US to buy a new paddle or update balls. Thank-you for all your generosity over the year.

There were of course many volunteers who have supported this club throughout the year. I may not have mentioned you all by name but be assured you are recognised and I say a big thank you for what you have contributed.

As you know, the main aim of this AGM is to elect a new committee to run our club. All three of us, myself, Jen and Graham, have been involved in Brisbane pickleball for several years now, as well as the PAA, so it's time for others to take up the reign. I hope you will offer to be an integral part of this club by nominating for the open committee positions.

I believe the hard work has already been done; we have developed a financially healthy, active and growing club. In its next phase, we now need guidance and a refreshed input from a new committee to see the club grow to new heights. There are several interesting perspectives on the horizon for you to take hold of and I wish the new BPC committee well in their future endeavours.

Thank-you.

Lorraine Christiansen

Brisbane Pickleball Club President