



Canberra Bridge Club

CANBERRA BRIDGE CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

29 OCTOBER 2024, 5:30 PM
5-7 DUFF PL, DEAKIN, ACT 2600

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1 MEETING OPEN AND ATTENDANCE

1.1 MEETING OPEN

Mary Tough opened the meeting at 17:30

1.2 ATTENDANCE

(in order written on the Attendance Sheet)

Mary Tough, Jenny Bergin, Liam Minogue, John Brockwell, Lyn Turner, Will Jenner-O'Shea, Vanessa Brown, Steve Geddes, Barbara Bialowas, Jennifer Yeats, Chris Tough, Joyanne Gough, Michele Grant, Pam Crichton, Miklos Tifan, Niek Van Vucht, Deborah Milner, Janet Kahler, Ian Robinson, Alison Russell-French, David Hoffman, Julia Hoffman, Brett Yeats, Karen Kranz, Stephen Fischer, Laurelle Besgrove, Andrew Kettle, Zara Chowdhury, Lyn Carter, Malcolm Carter, Maxwell Ashurst.

1.3 APOLOGIES

Lesley Gunson, Keith Mitchell, Tamara Cutcliffe, Sally Vardy, David Wawn, Simon Grant, Peter Grant, Val Carmody.

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF PROXY APPOINTMENTS

Subject to Clause 29(2) of the CBC Constitution, no member may hold more than one proxy vote.

The following members have been appointed as proxies:

- (a) Steve Geddes **for** Elizabeth Yoo;
- (b) Mary Tough **for** Sally Vardy;
- (c) Ian Robinson **for** John Donovan;
- (d) Michele Grant **for** Simon Grant; and
- (e) Jenny Bergin **for** Jenny Bell.

3 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 2023 AGM

Minor correction in the spelling of one attendee's name.

MOTION: That the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 5 October 2023 be accepted as a true record of that meeting.

Moved: Alison Russell-French

Seconded: Niek Van Vucht

CARRIED.

4 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 2023 AGM

No matters arising from the minutes of the 2023 AGM.

5 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mary Tough presented the President's Report. A summary of the key points is included below:

(a) Thanks

- (i) Managers of the Club – Elizabeth, Amik and Steve;
- (ii) Directors of the Club – Jodi Tutty and her team

(b) Building Updates

- (i) new heating and cooling systems in the Barry Turner Room, Manager's Office and Foyer;



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- (ii) new custom built side tables; and
- (iii) updated Bridge Mates;
- (c) **Intermediate Sessions** – introduced after significant member feedback with an A/B Grading system in CBC sessions where there are more than one section;
- (d) **Beginner Lessons** – beginner lessons continue to be a success, thanks to Barb Toohey, Morag Lokan and Joshua Schwartz – the Club is showing record numbers of new members. The challenge moving forward will be retaining these new members – there is an ongoing project to introduce a new education program at the Club;
- (e) **Youth**
 - (i) we value the continued commitment and contribution of Will Jenner-O'Shea to supporting and teaching youth bridge players in the ACT;
 - (ii) Zara Chowdhury and Diya Shah competed in the Transnational Youth Championships as a part of the Australian Under 26 Women's Team Wroclaw, Poland;
 - (iii) Maxwell Ashurst, Dev Shah, Alexis Wilsmore, and Jade Wilkinson who represented the Youth Team at the ANC in Orange, NSW;
- (f) **Social** – spearheaded by Barbara Bialowas and a team of volunteers including a Melbourne Cup event, Christmas Party, Cancer Council morning tea and various other drink and food offerings throughout the year;
- (g) **Working Bees** – help keep the Club clean and tidy, with special thanks to John Kelly and his team of volunteers that contribute to the success and cleanliness of the Club;
- (h) **Website** – Chris Lokan and Sebastian Yuen were largely involved in updated the new Canberra Bridge Club Website;
- (i) **Governance** – there were concerns of governance identified by the Committee regarding the development of the CBC premises and some financial matters; on 2 March 2024 the then President Tim Mather stepped down from the Committee – we recognise that Tim is an enthusiastic supporter of the Club and thank him for his work as President.
- (j) **CBC Constitution** – a review of the CBC Constitution was triggered by the release of the new Model Rules issued by the ACT Government. Special thanks to Jenny Bergin, Deb Milner, Jennifer Yeats, Alison Russell-French, John Brockwell and Ian Robinson for their substantial input into the review process;
- (k) **Outgoing Committee Member Thanks**
 - (i) Jennifer Yeats for her contribution as Treasurer;
 - (ii) David Wawn for ensuring events and sessions ran smoothly as Tournament Secretary;
 - (iii) Bruce Chapman for his expert advice on numerous issues; and
 - (iv) Nicole Finn for her assistance with the Club's contracts.
- (l) **Conclusion** – the Club is in a great position and we look forward to seeing the Club grow in 2024-2025 and beyond.



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It was requested that the President's Report be circulated on the CBC Website and Newsletter.

1 The Committee will circulate the President's Report on the CBC Website and Newsletter.

MOTION: That the President's Report be accepted.

Moved: Stephen Fischer

Seconded: David Hoffman

CARRIED.

6

TREASURER'S REPORT

Jennifer Yeats presented the Treasurer's Report, as summary of the key points is presented below:

- (a) at the end of FY24 the Club made a profit of approx. \$26.5 thousand;
- (b) at the end of FY24 the Club had net assets of approx. \$1.2 million which is largely comprised of term deposits;
- (c) the Club has significant cash reserves, which may seem high, but are important as the building itself is aging and will need significant investment in the future;
- (d) while the Club building itself has significant value, there value is not accessible to the Club as it is used under a special purpose lease (e.g., it cannot be sold);
- (e) the primary source of income for the Club is table fees;
- (f) there are no changes to subscription fees for this year;
- (g) the Club pays affiliation and capitation fees to BFACT and the ABF, which are increasing on an annual basis – this means that table money and subscription fees will need to be increased in the future;
- (h) the Club rents out space to various organisations in Canberra, which help keep the table fees low, these organisations include:
 - (i) the Antique and Classic Car Club;
 - (ii) Canberra Games Society; and
 - (iii) Deakin Residents Association;
- (i) The Club is generous sponsored by many organisations including:
 - (i) Double Shot Deakin;
 - (ii) Colour World;
 - (iii) Travel Associates;
 - (iv) Ord Minnet;
 - (v) Battery World;
 - (vi) TBIB Insurance Brokers; and
 - (vii) The Grange;
- (j) Special thanks to Elizabeth Yoo and Steve Geddes for their help in managing the finances of the Club.

MOTION: That the financial statements of the Canberra Bridge Club Inc. as tabled be adopted



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Moved: Zara Chowdhury

Seconded: Laurelle Besgrove

CARRIED.

In addition to this report, the meeting offered thanks to Jennifer for her hard work in one of the most difficult positions on the CBC Committee, with significant applause from the room.

7 APPOINTMENT OF AN AUDITOR

The current auditor of the Club will not continue. A recommendation from Alison Russell-French from another organisation she is involved with has been taken as the new proposed auditor for the Club.

MOTION: That Anthony Wilson of Accountability be appointed the Auditor for the Canberra Bridge Club Inc. for 2024-2025

Moved: Jennifer Yeats

Seconded: Alison Russell-French

CARRIED.

8 TOURNAMENT SECRETARY'S REPORT

David Wawn was unable to attend the meeting, Mary Tough presented the Tournament Secretary's Report on his behalf. A summary of the key points include:

- (a) focus on scheduling a variety of events at the Club which meet the needs of members;
- (b) an ongoing challenge has been attracting strong bridge players to attend the Club's competition nights, which were moved to Tuesday from Thursday to accommodate some members' schedules;
- (c) increasing the variety of Restricted/Novice/Rookie events to encourage participation in competition bridge;
- (d) RealBridge remains a contentious issue, there is a balancing to be found between supporting both face to face and Real Bridge such that members needs are met;
- (e) I (David Wawn) will not be continuing as Tournament Secretary, but I will remain part of the Tournament Sub-Committee – I also am training to become a director to continue to support the Club.

MOTION: That the Tournament Secretary's Report be accepted.

Moved: Mary Tough

Seconded: Stephen Fischer

CARRIED.

9 JOINING FEE

The Joining fee is a one-off fee paid by new members only.

MOTION: That the 2024-2025 joining fee to the Canberra Bridge Club Inc. be \$10 (includes GST) except for concession and distance members who will pay \$5 (includes GST) and that there will be no joining fee for anyone under twenty-six (26) years.

Moved: Jennifer Yeats

Seconded: Mary Tough

CARRIED.

Note: the above motion represents NIL change to the joining fee in the 2023-2024 period.

10 ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Motion amended "31 September" -> "30 September".

Approx. 15% of members are non-Home Club members.



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MOTION:

That the 2025 annual subscription to the Canberra Bridge Club Inc. be \$80 per annum (includes GST) except for:

- (a) concession members (e.g., disability support or aged pensioners);
- (b) distance members (e.g., persons who reside permanently more than eighty (80) kilometres from the Canberra General Post Office); and
- (c) at the discretion of the Committee, other persons experiencing hardship;

Who will pay \$40 per annum (includes GST); and

- (d) persons who join after 30 June 2025 and before 1 October 2025, who, if paying the full rate, will pay \$40 and, if paying the concession rate, will pay \$30;
- (e) persons who join after 30 September 2025, who will pay the full relevant annual subscription but whose membership will be valid until 31 December 2026;
- (f) persons joining as non-home club members will be entitled to an additional deduction representing the affiliation fees to the ABF and to BFACT; and
- (g) persons under the age of 26 years at 1 January 2025 will receive free membership.

Moved: Jennifer Yeats

Seconded: Pam Crichton

CARRIED.

Note: this represents NIL change from the subscription fees in the 2023-2024 period.

11 **SPECIAL RESOLUTION 1: CHANGE TO THE OBJECTS OF THE ASSOCIATION**

This Special Resolution will require a 75% majority to pass.

The objects of the Club are proposed to be changed after member feedback requesting the Club focus on all skill levels, not just competitive bridge players. Six remain unchanged, one was amended to reflect the tax status of the Club and the remainder have been consolidated.

Motion amended "of" -> "or".

MOTION: That the Objects of the Canberra Bridge Club Inc. be changed **FROM:**

- (a) to promote the game of Contract Bridge;
- (b) to promote the interests of the members of the club;
- (c) to provide facilities for the playing of Contract Bridge;
- (d) to organise, foster and promote club championships, and other bridge tournaments and competitions;
- (e) to organise, foster and promote and participate in bridge tournaments and competitions with or against other bridge clubs;
- (f) to provide tuition in the playing of Contract Bridge;



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- (g) to arrange social and sporting functions and gathering of members and, where appropriate, visitors;
- (h) to affiliate with, and maintain affiliation with the Federation;
- (i) to represent on the Federation the interests of members;
- (j) to cooperate with and assist other persons and clubs having identical or similar objects in matters of common interest; and
- (k) to do all such things, including the raising of funds, as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of all or any of the above objects.

TO the following:

- (a) to promote, encourage and support participation in the game of bridge irrespective of the skill level of players and in a friendly, harmonious and sociable environment;
- (b) to provide opportunities for people to learn to play and enjoy bridge and develop their skills;
- (c) to provide and maintain suitable premises and amenities for the activities of the Association and the enjoyment of its members;
- (d) to promote the collective interests of the members of the Association;
- (e) to organise, foster and promote Association championships, and other bridge tournaments and competitions;
- (f) to arrange social functions and gathering of members and, where appropriate, visitors;
- (g) to affiliate with, and maintain affiliation with, the Federation;
- (h) to represent on the Federation the interests of members;
- (i) to cooperate with and assist other persons and bridge clubs having identical or similar objects in matters of common interest; and
- (j) to do all such things, including the raising of funds, as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of all or any of the above objects.

Moved: David Hoffman

Seconded: Mary Tough

CARRIED.

12 **SPECIAL RESOLUTION 2: ADOPTION OF A NEW CONSTITUTION**

This Special Resolution will require at 75% majority to pass.

The rationale for updating the Constitution is:

- (a) Access Canberra requested that all associations review their Constitution, in line with the new Model Rules; and
- (b) the new Model Rules are easier for readers to link relevant documents including the relevant Act in the ACT.

Supplementary Paper A outlines the proposed changes has been included as an Appendix to these minutes and details the full changes to the constitution.



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The only amendment to the Constitution as tabled is a typo of “of” -> “or” in the Objects of the association, per Special Resolution 1.

MOTION: That the Canberra Bridge Club Inc. adopt the new Constitution, as amended in the AGM, as presented to replace the existing 2004 Constitution in its entirety.

Moved: Jenny Begin

Seconded: John Brockwell

CARRIED.

A comment was made that the number of members on the Committee historically was too large. Part of the changes to the Constitution will be reducing the number of members from thirteen (13) to ten (10).

Extreme thanks was noted for Jenny Bergin and Deb Milner for their work on the Constitution.

2 The new Constitution of the Canberra Bridge Club Inc. will be submitted to Access Canberra.

12.2 BY LAWS

The original plan for the review was to update the Constitution and the By-Laws in parallel, however given the scope of work required, only the Constitution has been completed. The Committee will be updating the By-Laws on an ongoing basis.

The Constitution is the Members' document, and the By-Laws are the Committee's document – setting out many of the responsibilities and delegations of the Committee. Given the success of the membership consultation during the Constitution review, a similar process will be undertaken for the By-Laws.

This review to date has included an updated Code of Conduct, which members can view on the Website.

13 ELECTION OF OFFICE-BEARERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The existing CBC Committee was dissolved and all existing members stepped down.

Joyanne Gough served as the Returning Officer. The meeting thanks her for her contribution.

13.2 PRESIDENT

There was one (1) candidate for President:

(a) Mary Tough – Proposed: Joyanne Gough, Seconded: Jill Davis

Mary Tough was elected as the President of the Canberra Bridge Club 2024-2024.

13.1 VICE PRESIDENT

There was one (1) candidate for Vice President:

(a) Alison Russell-French – Proposed: Jenny Bergin Seconded: Nicole Finn

Alison Russell-French was elected as the Vice President of the Canberra Bridge Club 2024-2024.

13.1 TREASURER

There was one (1) candidate for Treasurer:

(a) Jenny Bergin – Proposed: Barbara Bialowas, Seconded: Alison Russell-French

Jenny Bergin was elected as the Treasurer of the Canberra Bridge Club 2024-2024.



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13.1 SECRETARY

There was one (1) candidate for Secretary:

- (a) Liam Minogue – Proposed: Mary Tough, Seconded: Deb Milner

Liam Minogue was elected as the Secretary of the Canberra Bridge Club 2024-2024.

13.2 TOURNAMENT SECRETARY

There was one (1) candidate for Tournament Secretary:

- (a) John Brockwell – Proposed: Mary Tough, Seconded: Malcolm Carter

John Brockwell was elected as the Tournament Secretary of the Canberra Bridge Club 2024-2024.

13.3 GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

In the 2004 version of the CBC Constitution there are up to eight (8) General Committee Member positions; in the newly adopted (as at this meeting) there are only up to five (5) General Committee Member positions.

There was significant discussion regarding which constitution should be observed during this AGM. It was agreed that since a newly adopted constitution had just been agreed as the will of the meeting, it would be inappropriate to wait twelve (12) months for it to take effect (e.g., at the 2025 AGM). This is also consistent with the positions advertised in the lead up to the AGM.

As such, five General Committee Member positions were available at this AGM.

There were six (6) candidates for five (5) General Committee Member positions. A secret ballot was held where members were instructed to write down the name of the person who they least wanted to be elected as a General Committee Member (i.e., last preference vote).

The following five (5) General Committee Members were elected (in no particular order):

- (a) Malcolm Carter – Proposed: Lyn Carter, Seconded: Bill Tutty;
- (b) Vanessa Brown – Proposed: Liam Minogue, Seconded: Mary Tough;
- (c) Barbara Bialowas – Proposed: Jenny Bergin, Seconded: Alison Russell-French;
- (d) Ian Robinson – Proposed: Jenny Bergin, Seconded: Barbara Bialowas; and
- (e) Stephen Fischer – Proposed: Di Hawke, Seconded: Mary Tough.

Regrettably Miklos Tifan - Proposed: David Lee, Seconded: Gerdina Bryant was not elected.

The meeting thanked Joyanne Gough for her help as Returning Officer.

14 OTHER BUSINESS

No other business.

15 MEETING CLOSE

Mary Tough closed the meeting at 18:28.