



# The Canberra Bridge Club Inc.

*President* Gordon Henderson  
*Secretary* Ruth Gallagher  
*Treasurer* Andrew Kettle  
*Manager* Molly O'Donohue/Philip Thompson

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## MINUTES

Monday 11 October 2010 at 5.30pm

### Attendance:

Gordon Henderson (President) (Chair), Val Carmody (Vice President and Acting Secretary), David Hoffman (Immediate Past President), Peter Giles, Sue Welbourn, Val Brockwell, Niek Van Vucht, Tony Marker, Molly O'Donohue and Philip Thompson.

**Apologies:** Ruth Gallagher, Andrew Kettle

### 1. WELCOME TO THE NEW COMMITTEE

Gordon welcomed the members of the Committee elected at the AGM on 26 September. He noted that the committee was smaller than last year but felt that it would be better to retain a smaller committee and co-opt CBC members to help with specific workloads.

### 2. PREVIOUS MINUTES

**MOTION:** That the Minutes of 6 September 2010 be accepted as a true record of the meeting. **MOVED** Val Carmody **SECONDED** Niek Van Vucht  
**CARRIED**

### 3. BUSINESS ARISING

3.1 **Microphone** – The Managers would like to purchase a wireless microphone but it was agreed to stay with the current new microphone for the moment.

3.2 **Rental – Olive Lott Room.** As agreed at the last meeting the Treasurer, Managers and Vice-President reviewed the charge out rate for the Olive Lott room. It was agreed to an increase to \$125 (incl. GST) per session for regular users and \$150 (incl. GST) for ad hoc users, effective 1 January 2011. The rate of \$125 (incl. GST) should be reviewed at the end of the 2011 calendar year with a view of increasing the rate to \$130 (incl. GST) per session from 1 January 2012.

3.3 **Outside lighting.** It was noted that the excellent new outside lighting is occasionally staying on overnight. Molly advised that this was being attended to.

3.4 **Honour Boards.** Val Brockwell advised that BFACT felt this issue had not

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been resolved. David said that CBC is happy to hang the BFACT honour boards and that BFACT needs to provide details of the form of the honour boards (BFACT Presidents and ANC winning teams) so that the CBC can decide where to hang them. BFACT is responsible for the maintenance of the honour boards. If the CBC Manager updates the honour boards she is entitled to charge BFACT for this task.

### **4. OUT OF SESSION MEETING**

4.1 The committee held an out-of-session meeting to consider the request for a nomination to be put forward for Julia Hoffman to be considered for Honorary Life Membership at the Annual General Meeting. The matter was considered via email and 8 members of the Committee agreed to the nomination. Further detail of the request and the Committee Members who supported the nomination are at Appendix A.

The formal nomination and summary of Julia Hoffman's 40-year involvement with and contribution to Bridge in the ACT is at Appendix B.

4.2 Peter Giles said there should be a regular review of possible candidates for Honorary Life Membership et al and requested that nominations be provided well in advance of the AGM – preferably in February/March of the relevant year.

MOTION: That nominations for Honorary Life Membership be put on the agenda for the March 2011 meeting. **MOVED** Tony Marker **SECONDED** Val Brockwell **CARRIED**

### **5. AGM**

5.1 The draft Minutes from the AGM of 26 September were provisionally agreed.

### **6. MANAGERS' REPORT**

6.1 The Managers requested a couple of volunteers have their names put down to answer calls from the security firm when the alarm in the club has not been set by 1 am. David Hoffman and Val Carmody agreed to be the initial volunteers, on the basis that others would take on this responsibility on rotating basis. It was also agreed that the Director on Tuesday and Thursday nights be requested to nominate a CBC member to be responsible for securing the premises prior to completing their duties on these nights.

6.2 A computer has been placed in the Library for member use, with Jack and Bridge Baron software installed.

### **7. TREASURER'S REPORT**

The Treasurer provided the follow report via email:

"Total table money for July to September is much the same as last year. Expenses are up slightly, particularly cleaning. Compared to last year we have an additional cleaning charge for Tuesdays and "other time", which seems to be recurring. Our cleaning contract will cost about \$16,500 this year."

## 8. COMMITTEE

### 8.1 House

8.11 David commented on how good the new carpet is in the upstairs room. He requested that the House Committee should now look at improving the foyer areas. There was discussion on rules for the use of the upstairs room.

8.12 **Sue Welbourn** has accepted the position of Chair of this Committee.

### 8.2 Teaching

8.21 **Gordon Henderson** has advised that he will take on the role of Chair of this Committee and will coordinate with Molly.

### 8.3 Tournament & Calendar

8.31 Alan Woods rating system. David advised that he has made contact with David McKinnon and Bruce Crossman. The CBC is in the process of going ahead with the Alan Woods rating system.

8.32 **David Hoffman** is looking after the Calendar for 2011.

8.33 **Niek Van Vucht** will continue his role as Tournament Director.

### 8.4 Employment & Contracts

8.41 Committee: Val Carmody (Chair), David Hoffman, Ruth Gallagher

### 8.5 Congress and Social

8.51 **Peter Giles** to remain as Chair of this Committee.

8.52 For the Melbourne Cup function it was agreed to charge \$25 for members and \$35 for non-members.

8.53 Christmas Parties (3). There are to be two day-time Christmas parties – on Monday 6 December and Wednesday 8 December. The evening Christmas party will be held on Friday evening, 10 December. The cost for each of these functions will be \$20.

### 8.6 BFACT Representative

8.61 Val Brockwell has been appointed the BFACT Secretary. **Gordon Henderson** has accepted the role as BFACT representative from the CBC.

8.62 The question between the BFACT and CBC Treasurers is “who should pay for the Knockout Teams event”? David advised that since the CBC forwards the masterpoint levy for this event to BFACT they should pay for this event.

### 8.7 Finance

8.71 **Andrew Kettle** remains as Chair of this Committee with the assistance of Val Carmody as required.

## 9. CORRESPONDENCE

In: Letter from Howard Carew re complaints about his bidding system.

6.1 Gordon to advise Howard that his system is OK for club events. It is not a

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highly unusual system.

### **10. OTHER BUSINESS**

### **11. NEXT MEETING**

Monday 8 November at 5.30pm in the Clubrooms.

Meeting closed at 7.00 pm.

**Nomination of Julia Hoffman for Honorary Life Membership of the Canberra Bridge Club**

Email dated 21 September 2010

**Committee Members**

At our last Committee meeting we agreed to a nomination to be made an Honorary Life Member to be put up to the AGM on 26 September for their consideration. In the process of canvassing support for this the view has been expressed that there are other Club members who are deserving of this and have made a great contribution to the Club over a longer period of time. Earl Dudley has said that he considers he was remiss in not putting Julia Hoffman's name up for Honorary Life Membership during his time as President. He now wishes to nominate Julia Hoffman and to have her name considered at the AGM on 26 September. He has provided supporting documentation below. He has also obtained supporting documentation from Tony Hancock and this is also set out below. The Committee needs to agree, prior to the AGM, that this nomination can proceed.

**Action Required:** Can you respond to the this email, copying in all members, agreeing or not agreeing to the following motion:

**MOTION: That the Canberra Bridge Club Committee supports the nomination of Julia Hoffman for Honorary Life Membership being made an agenda item at the AGM on 26 September 2010 for the consideration of members.**

Ruth Gallagher  
Secretary

**AGREED:** Via email - Niek Van Vucht, Peter Giles, Val Brockwell, Andrew Kettle, Tony Marker, Rhonda Thorpe, Val Carmody, Ruth Gallagher

Supporting documentation provided

Extract from the Constitution:

4A. Honorary life member

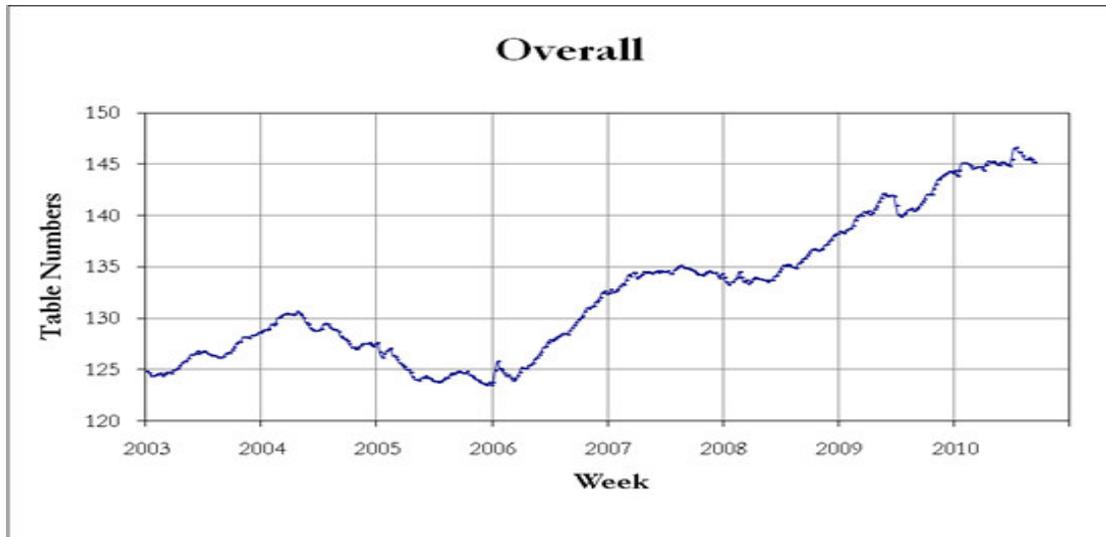
A person shall be admitted as an honorary life member if:

- (a) the person has made an outstanding contribution to Contract Bridge;
- (b) the committee determines that a nomination of the person be made to a general meeting; and
- (c) a general meeting approves the nomination by a two-thirds majority.

Earl Dudley's supporting documentation

I have had a chat to Tony Hancock who indicated that he would enthusiastically support Julia's nomination for Life Membership. The most significant contribution that Julia has made to the CBC was in the area of Club administration. Jon Hunt served as CBC President from 1994 to 2001. Andy Creet served as President for a brief period when Jon resigned in the middle of his last term and Julia became President in 2001 and served as President for 3 years. She, with significant help from Peter Grant, introduced reforms to the management of the Club that were critical to turning around a period of decline in the Club to a period of steady growth. The graph below illustrates this:

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Notes: The strong growth in the last half of 2007 is in part attributable to the relocation of Grand Slam to Fyshwick. The “blip” in mid- 2009 is attributable to CBC support for the Canberra ANC.

In the last year of her term, it became clear to Julia that the Club was in trouble and that there was an urgent need to review the management structure. She had the courage to enter into serious and difficult discussions with the manager/director of the Club. In the end, she came to the conclusion that the solution to the Club’s problems required a split in the manager and chief director roles. The new arrangements were introduced on 1 January 2005. It was not easy and only a person with Julia’s unique skills could have pulled it off.

In her period as President/Immediate Past President she introduced significant reforms to the Club’s teaching arrangements to focus on getting more beginners to make the transition to playing in the Club.

Over, the years, Julia has captained ANC teams and been a strong supporter of bridge in the CBC. She was one of a small group of women who sponsored the Women’s Teaching initiative a few years ago.

### Tony Hancock's supporting documentation

- Julia changed club management to great effect by strenuous personal effort (declining numbers stopped, improved atmosphere).
- Represented ACT with distinction many times at Interstate and International levels (as both player and captain).
- Was co-convener of ANC in Canberra (with Nola Church).
- Promoted bridge (particularly women's bridge) in ACT over 40+ years
- Organised and assisted in countless bridge social events over a long period.

**Appendix B**

We, the undersigned, wish to nominate Julia Hoffman for Honorary Life Membership of the Canberra Bridge Club.

In support of this nomination we present the main contributions of Julia over her 40 year involvement with bridge in the ACT. These include:

Australia Day Congress (now Summer Festival): 1971 – Congress secretary to convener (John Brockwell)

Library: 1970s – Establishment of the bridge club library and the availability for sale of bridge books, with Stella McLaughlin and Juliana Maher

ANC: 1979 – Secretary (with Pam Crichton) to convener (John Brockwell)

ACTBA: 1984 – Secretary

ANC: 1994 – NPC of ACT Women's Team at Australian Championships

Australian Women's Team: 1995 – NPC at PABF in Perth (placing 1st)  
- NPC at Venice Cup in Rhodes

Association of Accredited Clubs: 1996 – Chairman. This association was responsible for the formation of BFACT

Australian Women's Team: 2000 – NPC at Venice Cup in Bermuda

CBC: 2001-4: President

ANC: 2006 – NPC of ACT Women's Team at Australian Championships

Women's Training Squad: 2008 – Organised and conducted training sessions with Margaret Bourke and Janet Kahler

Julia has represented the ACT in 16 women's teams at the Australian Championships (3 wins), including mentoring many of the new representatives in these teams. As well she has represented Australia as a playing member of its Women's Team.

Julia's roles as Chair of the Association of Accredited Clubs and as CBC President were pivotal in introducing fundamental structural reforms to the organization of bridge in the ACT.

Earl Dudley

Tony Hancock