



The Canberra Bridge Club Inc.

President Stephen Fischer
Secretary Ruth Gallagher
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Manager Molly O'Donohue/Philip Thompson

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MINUTES

Monday 14 November 2011 at 5.30pm

Attendance:

Stephen Fischer (President), Dorothy Jesner (Vice-President), Ruth Gallagher (Secretary), Andrew Kettle (Treasurer), Niek Van Vucht, Peter Giles, Rowan Bergin, Sue Welbourn, Val Holbrook, Liz Van Der Hor and Molly O'Donohue (Manager).

Apologies: Tony Marker, Stephen Mendick

1. PREVIOUS MINUTES

MOTION: That the Minutes of 10 October 2011 be accepted as a true record of the meeting. **MOVED** Val Holbrook **SECONDED** Sue Welbourn

CARRIED

2. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

2.1 Nil.

3. MANAGERS' REPORT

Molly said they had rearranged the furniture in the Barry Turner Room. Bridgemates had been changed to scan mode which enables the players to input their relevant section and table numbers. She reported that the table numbers were much better right across the board. Dorothy said that Earl Dudley had provided her with table number charts for the past several years. Molly noted that Earl's charts did not include the supervised players and there were some difference in the numbers between those kept by the Office and Earl's data. Molly will ask Philip to print out a set of the numbers kept by the Office.

Action Item 1: Provide a print out of the table numbers for recent months as kept by the Office for the December meeting. (The Managers)

The issue of Friday night was raised. Molly said that while the numbers were better they were still not as good as for other sessions. She also said that currently Philip and herself had been playing on Friday night and providing supper but they did not want to always be committed to doing this. The Committee discussed options for Friday night and social activities which might increase numbers. It was agreed that Membership and Promotion sub-committee would give some thought to social activities for Friday night with a view to increasing table numbers.

Action Item 2: Look at possible social activities for Friday night and report back to the

December Committee meeting. (Dorothy Jesner, Val Holbrook and Peter Giles).

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

There was nothing to report

5. SUB COMMITTEES

5.1 House

5.11 Sue provided a list of House sub-committee's work achievements over the past two financial year and a list of likely expenditure for the next three years. (See Attachment 1). She pointed out the additional item at the bottom of the list which was for rendering of the wall of the Barry Turner Room with a product she considered excellent for this purpose. The render could be done in a colour of the Club's choosing and no painting would be required. The quote was for \$15,525 including GST. She strongly recommended undertaking this work to brighten and improve the look of the playing room. The Committee discussed this and the availability of funds and financial constraints. The list of proposed expenditures was considered noting the financial constraints. Stephen pointed out that if table numbers could be increased and maintained at the higher level it would allow a higher level of expenditure. The Committee also looked at whether there were options for fund raising to undertake maintenance/improvement expenditures and the availability of Government Grants.

One item questioned was the need to purchase a new photocopier and the quoted price of \$7,000. This item had been referred from the old Committee for consideration by the new Committee. Molly explained that the reason for purchasing a new photocopier was that while the old one was working reasonably well it was costing more per sheet as the contract with the supplier had expired. She had obtained 3 quotes for a new machine including a contract for maintenance. The Committee questioned the amount and what the Club requirements were in relation to a photocopier.

Action Item 3: Prepare a statement of requirements for the Club's photocopier and possible options for purchase for the December Committee meeting. (Andrew Kettle and Molly O'Donohue).

Action Item 4: Prepare a list of options for fund raising activities and options for raising awareness about the Club and possible ways of support for December Committee meeting. (Rowan Bergin, Peter Giles and Sue Welbourn)

Action Item 5: Undertake research on possible ACT government grants available for meeting some nominated Club expenditure. Interim report by February Committee meeting. (Val Holbrook)

5.12 Stephen said he had prepared a spreadsheet with the list of expenditures proposed for the next three years plus costs and he will circulate this to Committee members. He asked that all Committee members look at the spreadsheet and list their priorities and provide any comments in the columns provided. He will then collate the responses and the resulting

report will be discussed at the next meeting.

Action Item 6: Prepare a spreadsheet with expenditures proposed for the next three years and circulate to members to list priorities and comment. Stephen to provide a collated paper for discussion at December meeting. (Stephen Fischer)

5.13 Stephen thanked Sue for organising the successful working bee held on Saturday 12 November. Molly has organised for painters to do the doors so no additional working bees were now required.

5.2 Membership and Promotion

5.21 Dorothy reported on the sub-committee's ideas for promoting the Club and increasing membership. She said she had attended the last of Sean's beginners' classes for this year and was impressed with how they were proceeding. She noted that there needed to be more people to help Sean conduct the classes, especially from those who know something about teaching bridge, and to welcome beginners to the Club. She then spoke about some of the ideas the sub-committee had discussed. This included: providing a coffee machine, teams of 3, playing with an expert, offering partners for people, mentoring of new players and vouchers for introducing new members.

5.22 Dorothy said that she does bridge seminars for U3A and suggested the Club should offer to host the seminars. One issue is that the seminars are free to U3A and they would be looking to use the Clubrooms for free. However, this was one way to introduce people to the Club with the possibility of playing there in the future. Two points were raised in discussions. Firstly it was noted that the issue of U3A using the Clubrooms had been raised previously and rejected by the Committee. Sean's contract specifies that he is the bridge lesson teacher for the Club and letting other lessons being conducted free of charge might be in contravention of his contract. Secondly, would the Club wish to charge for the use of the room. Stephen said he would talk to Sean about U3A teaching at the Club and how he felt about this. This will be considered further at the next meeting along with recommended actions for promoting the Club.

5.23 Dorothy also spoke about the advertising for the Club's lessons including what was contained on the website. She felt that the Committee needed to relook at this as it did not compare well with other bridge lesson advertising conducted by other Clubs especially Grand Slam.

5.24 The Committee felt that there were many ideas contained in Dorothy's report and asked that the sub-committee put together some specific actions which the Committee can consider at the next meeting.

Action Item 7: Put together a list of specific actions for promoting and attracting new members to the Club for December Committee meeting. (Membership and Promotion sub-committee).

5.3 Tournament & Calendar

5.31 Niek said the 2012 Calendar had been finalised and he was now in the process of getting quotes for printing.

5.32 On the issue of Honour Boards Stephen referred to the decision made

at the June 2011 Committee meeting and said the Committee would go ahead with what had previously been agreed. There was no reason to revisit the issue. (See *Attachment 2, Status of Honour Boards*)

5.33 Monday daytime Bridge

The question of Monday daytime bridge which was raised at the AGM was considered by the Committee. Niek had prepared a proposal which recommended stopping the Butler scored session on Monday daytime and returning to matchpoint pairs scoring instead. This follows considerable unfavourable comment from regular Monday daytime players and no strong advocates for retaining Butler scoring.

MOTION: That the trial of the Butler scoring system being used for Monday daytime bridge finish and that the session returns to using matchpoint pairs scoring instead, to be effective immediately. This follows considerable negative feedback on its use and little support.

MOVED Val Holbrook SECONDED Niek Van Vucht
AGREED

5.34 Niek also looked at the current CBC policy of not allowing “Brown Sticker” bidding conventions for daytime bridge sessions. The Committee has received requests to allow “Brown Sticker” conventions during some daytime sessions. Players are seeking to practise bidding systems that are allowed in country congresses. If this were to be allowed in daytime sessions then it would be important to also have the concept of “protected pairs” and players who are nominated by the Director as “protected pairs” would require players playing against them to use a green system. The Committee considered this noting that the Club did not wish to frighten newer players or less experienced players with players using complex systems against them. However, amongst the stronger daytime sessions such as Monday and Thursday morning it was felt this would not pose a problem.

MOTION: That the policy of the Canberra Bridge Club be changed to allow the use of bridge systems compatible with those allowed at country congresses ie red, blue and brown systems, providing the Director can advise of who has protected pair status.

MOVED Niek Van Vucht SECONDED Peter Giles
AGREED

Directors are to be advised of this change and implement the policy accordingly.

5.4 Employment & Contracts

5.41 Nil.

5.5 Congress and Social

5.51 Peter said the Melbourne Cup function went well and the lists were now up for the Christmas parties

5.6 BFACT Representative.

There was nothing to report.

5.7 Finance

5.71 Nil.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

In: Correspondence from Peter Hughes (27 October 2011) re the repeated failure of Bridgemates on Wednesday mornings.

Out: .

7. OTHER BUSINESS

7.1 Nil

8. NEXT MEETING

Monday 12 December, 2011 at 5.30pm in the Clubrooms.

Meeting closed at 6.59 pm.

ACTION ITEMS and Members responsible

Action Item 1: Provide a print out of the table numbers for recent months as kept by the Office for the December meeting. (The Managers)

Action Item 2: Look at possible social activities for Friday night and report back to the December Committee meeting. (Dorothy Jesner, Val Holbrook and Peter Giles).

Action Item 3: Prepare a statement of requirements for the Club's photocopier and possible options for purchase for the December Committee meeting. (Andrew Kettle and Molly O'Donohue).

Action Item 4: Prepare a list of options for fund raising activities and options for raising awareness about the Club and possible ways of support for December Committee meeting. (Rowan Bergin, Peter Giles and Sue Welbourn)

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Action Item 6: Prepare a spreadsheet with expenditures proposed for the next three years and circulate to members to list priorities and comment. Stephen to provide a collated paper for discussion at December meeting. (Stephen Fischer)

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Attachment 1

Hi Committee members

I'm giving you item 5.11 from the agenda for the 'house' sub committee meeting on 14 November now so that its content can be absorbed and thought about before the meeting. This item is 'Three year plan for major expenditure (Action Item 1).

First, I'd like you to be aware of what has generally been achieved by 'house' over the last two years. It is as below:

Work achieved by house sub-committee 2009-2011

Carpet to Olive Lott room

Flood lights for car park

Repairs to boom gate and signage

Graffiti removal

Set new bridge tablecloths

Additional purchase of material for 2nd set tablecloths

Set new side tables and rubber mat inserts

Safety mats for top kitchen floor

David Hoffman purchased a new fridge for the top kitchen

Minor maintenance:

- repairs to ceramic tiles in toilets
- external kickplates to NW timber entry fire doors to extend their life

This above list gives you an idea of the small number of improvements/maintenance that we can achieve financially in a 2 year period. The majority of the above achievements were driven by necessity. Many other jobs were quoted for and been unable to be taken any further due to financial restraints. I see this as being the problem that will arise every year and it will be impossible for us to move ahead and 'improve' the interior of the building unless we do some fund raising.

Below are the items that were on our 'wish list' last year and the next 2 years and were unable to be taken any further due to financial constraints. This now becomes our 'wish list' for this next 3 years plus one addition.

BUILDING INTERNALS AND EQUIPMENT:

A. Olive Lott Room

5. New sunscreen blinds to west wall plus one blind to south wall (\$1446 +south single blind \$157 + removal of old \$150)
6. Upgrade internal entrance door to match Barry Turner auto door. ?Apply for grant

B. Barry Turner Room

6. New sunscreen blinds to north and west walls, also to east wall if sun subsequently dictates (north + west \$2605 + east \$1430 + removal old \$250)
7. Replace 12 orange bridge chairs (not slide back – possible injury) with 2nd hand chair frames to match existing. When all 12 purchased reupholster them to match existing (per chair <\$80 + per

chair upholstery \$180)
Update: x1 chair purchased \$30 (presently held by Ex-Govt Furniture) – purchase of
 these 12 chairs has been approved to go ahead with

C. Upper and Lower Foyers, Stairs and Kitchens

1. New floor coverings anti-slip throughout – vinyl quotes Carpet Choice \$10,805 \$11,805 and \$13,120
2. OR replacement of carpet for top foyer \$1564
3. Replacement of cupboard curtain in lower foyer – suggestions?
4. Social committee request for new faster dishwasher top kitchen

D. Toilets (not costed)

2. Replace and upgrade style of urinals
3. Area of damp on south wall in ladies' toilets needs to be resolved but not until the urinals are replaced as it is behind the urinals that the problem is. The damp seems to be creeping at a snail's pace and there is no smell. Problem area has been present for many years.
4. Replace floor tiles and skirting to all toilet rooms (existing tiles have been made safe for the present) which necessitates replacement of toilet bowls (except handicapped toilet bowl)

E. Office Requirements

When security system 'dies' a replacement needed immediately \$1500+
 Photocopier – Molly suggests \$7000

BUILDING EXTERNALS AND EQUIPMENT:

1. Replacement or repair of timber garden seats x 2 (not yet OH&S problem)
2. Overcome potential graffiti problems common walkway wall
3. Bitumen repairs to parking area - patching as per yellow marking on bitumen \$15317.61 OR complete resurfacing at \$51,899.93

So that is last year's 3 year large list.

NEW ADDITIONAL ITEM

Now, there is one new item that is time and again brought up by members as being an item that is a 'must do' to improve the feeling of the room in which they are playing. The request seems to come mainly from the day players it seems. The item is the rendering of the brick walls in the Barry Turner room. I have just had a quote done for it so that we can discuss the possibility properly. It's a job that is feasible with carpet already in the room and we would need to be out of that room for approx. 7 days for the rendering to be carried out. It is a water-based render which is trowelled on the bricks without much mess, 3 coats, has excellent adhesion for our highly-glazed bricks and the flexibility of this product is the best I've come across in my building days. It is not a well-known product in Canberra but I've used it extensively in building in Adelaide both externally and internally. There is one applicator in Canberra and we have a quote from him. We choose the colour for the walls and that colour is incorporated in the render. Along with our quote we have chosen a colour and now have a sample of the exact product and colour selected. That colour can of course be changed. The product is Unitex and the quote is for \$15525.40 including protecting existing carpets and GST of \$1411.40. Do we wish to do fund-raising for this? It has been said that this improvement may bring in many additional players. I know that Peter Giles has some good thoughts about fund-raising which he has brought back from the Surfers Paradise Bridge Club.

Cheers

Sue Welbourn

ATTACHMENT 2

Status of Honour Boards

The honour boards currently on the walls of the Canberra Bridge Club are:

ACTBA Griffin Trophy
 ACTBA Individual (not being updated)
 ACTBC Hugh Hudson Open Pairs
 ACTBC Barry Turner Teams
 ACTBC Mixed Pairs
 CBC Beginners
 CBC Masterpoint Trophy (not being updated)
 Olive Lott Pairs
 CBC Mixed Pairs
 CBC Egon Larsen Pairs
 CBC Alan McArthur Teams
 ACTBA Open Teams
 ACTBA Open Pairs
 ACTBA Mixed Pairs
 CBC/ACTBC Presidents

The previous CBC committee considered the options and in June this year (2011), it was minuted:

“2.2 David prepared a paper on the existing Honor board arrangements in the Club rooms and the BFACT request for additional Honor Boards to cover events not currently recognised. This was considered by the Committee. It was agreed that all the results currently displayed on the boards be included on the CBC website. David would record all the names and details of events listed on the Honor Boards and these would then be stored on the website under “Honor Board Results”. It was also agreed that the existing Honor Boards would eventually be replaced and the names listed archived after twenty years. Existing Honor Boards will be replaced as they become full. New Boards will be in an acrylic material as these are less expensive and replaceable text will be used. CBC would coordinate with BFACT to ensure consistency. Molly was asked to undertake more research on the preferred boards plus costs.”

Niek Van Vucht