



Canberra Bridge Club

President Margaret Kyburz
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MINUTES Monday 7 December 2020, 1.30pm

Attendance: Margaret Kyburz, Liz Van Der Hor, Lyn Turner, Deb Milner, Ian Robinson, Pam Crichton, Sally Barber, Michele Grant, John Hempenstall, Patricia McDonald, West Savery, Mary Tough, Jennifer Yeats

Apologies: Tim Mather

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF 9 NOVEMBER 2020

MOTION: That the minutes of 9 November 2020 be accepted as a true record of the meeting.

Moved: Pam Crichton

Seconded: Liz Van Der Hor

CARRIED

2. NOTING OF BY-EMAIL DECISION OF 19-22 NOVEMBER 2020

The Committee noted its by-email decision of 19-22 November 2020:

- That the Committee gives a strong commitment that the pre-COVID Wednesday evening session will return to the clubrooms in Spring 2021.
- That there will be a two-week RealBridge Swiss Pairs event on Wednesday 2 and 9 December 2020.
- That the current Tuesday evening BBO Imps session closes from 1 December 2020, and moves to RealBridge on Wednesday evenings from 16 December 2020.
- That the current Wednesday evening BBO session undertake a three-week RealBridge trial on 9, 16 and 23 December 2020, so we can (i) monitor the impact of the changes on participant numbers, especially in the matchpoint game, and (ii) gather feedback from the matchpoint Wednesday evening players (to be coordinated by Deb). Given (i) and (ii), arrangements from 30 December 2020 to then be determined.

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MEETING OF 9 NOVEMBER 2020

Action items from the meeting of 9 November 2020 have been completed or are in progress:

- Jennifer offered to deliver CBC's donated presents and vouchers to Barnardos after 21 December 2020.
- The COVID-19 Sub-Committee met on 14 November 2020, and the COVID documents were updated (see new versions on website dated 23 November 2020).
- Margaret will repeat the newsletter request for volunteers to wash the Chux cleaning cloths, mentioning Liz is coordinating the roster.

- Stephen Fischer and Jodi Tutty do not wish to continue as recorders. We need two recorders. Margaret will consider other appropriate individuals, to be discussed at the Committee's January meeting. The role of the recorder is outlined in clause 2.7 of the CBC By-laws, and there are guidelines on the ABF website. Stephen has also resigned as a director.
- Sally has agreed to join the Membership and Promotion Sub-Committee; Jodi Tutty and Perelle Scales have agreed to join the Education Sub-Committee.
- Margaret has mentioned in the newsletter the need for polite behaviour, and will send a Pianola message at a later date given the recent flurry of Pianola messages to members.
- Ian Thomson does not wish to continue on the Barry Turner Fund Sub-Committee. Ian will draft words for the newsletter seeking expressions of interest from members.
- Patricia has made phone calls to 40 CBC members who haven't played bridge since March. Members appreciated getting the phone calls. Many are waiting before they return to the club (eg, for a vaccine); in some cases their partner is reluctant to play.

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Margaret noted that the announcements about RealBridge have resulted in both happy and unhappy members. There have also been two emails about the previous Committee's decision about eating at the bridge table, to be discussed at item 12.

5. MANAGERS' REPORT

The Managers' Report was tabled. The Committee noted that table numbers are much reduced compared with 2019. Ian expressed concern about table numbers at the Thursday morning session in particular.

John reported on the leaking roof. Regular clearing of leaves etc from the roof is required.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

Lyn tabled the Profit and Loss Statement and Balance Sheet for December 2020. Total trading income is much reduced compared with previous years.

Lyn noted that CBC may not qualify for JobKeeper for January to March 2021, it will depend on income in December.

7. REALBRIDGE UPDATE

Ian provided an update on RealBridge:

- The first week of the Swiss Pairs event, held on RealBridge, attracted five tables.
- The Wednesday evening duplicate trial of RealBridge starts on 9 December 2020.
- CBC's taster sessions are underway.
- RealBridge offers financial benefits to CBC compared with BBO. CBC would get a share only of a higher BBO fee, so CBC would need to charge players a lot more than BBO\$3 to be equivalent to \$10 table money. BBO has been a temporary and inexpensive option for members, but is not sustainable especially once JobKeeper ends.
- Sally suggested that South Canberra Bridge Club may be interested in joining CBC's RealBridge trial. Ian will follow up.
- RealBridge players will be encouraged to keep their camera on as much as possible.

The camera can be turned off for play, then turned back on for pre/post round conversations.

- The Committee discussed emails from two members about the advertised \$10 table money for the RealBridge trial.
- Some members are preferring Stepbridge to BBO or RealBridge as Stepbridge is based in Australia. However, playing in CBC sessions is the best way to support an Australian - and very local - bridge business.

MOTION: That table money for the RealBridge three-week trial will be \$10, \$9 concession, and \$5 for students under 26 years of age and not in full-time employment. A Sub-Committee comprising Lyn and others will consider the appropriate RealBridge table money rates in the long term and provide a recommendation to the Committee.

Moved: Pam Crichton

Seconded: West Savery

CARRIED

Ian will draft a reply to one of the members who emailed, and send it to Margaret for her consideration. Margaret will contact the second member.

Deb provided an update on the survey to gather feedback about RealBridge from trial participants. The survey will close on Boxing Day. Given absences etc after Christmas, the trial outcome will not be known until after 1 January 2021.

Accordingly, Margaret, Deb and Ian will talk after Week 1 of the trial to determine arrangements for Wednesday 30 December 2020, if an online session is to occur that evening. They will also consider the survey results after 1 January 2021 - If the result is clear, they will advise the Committee accordingly; otherwise a one-item Committee meeting will be scheduled.

At its January 2021 meeting, the Committee will consider whether to move to RealBridge for online daytime sessions. There will be no Realbridge imps event in January 2021.

8. PAYMENTS SYSTEM FOR CLUB ACTIVITIES

Ian proposed, and the Committee agreed, that a small working group (including Emily) will consider long-term options for a CBC payment system, both for online and face-to-face sessions, and provide advice to the full Committee.

In the short term, Ian, Jennifer and Emily are preparing an excel spreadsheet for managing RealBridge invoices.

9. DIRECTOR ISSUES

Ian noted that CBC has lost directors as a result of the COVID disruptions in 2020. Ian will look for possible new directors.

Christy Geroumboux has offered to direct a Wednesday evening face-to-face session for no payment to her. Margaret will thank Christy for her generous offer, but explain that CBC must pay its employees for work undertaken.

10. COVID CHANGES

On 26 November 2020, the ACT Government announced that businesses can apply a one person per two square metres of usable indoor space rule (rather than four square metres) provided they use the Check In CBR app to collect patron contact details. The COVID Sub-Committee will meet on 10 December 2020 to consider whether CBC should register for the app, and report back to the Committee.

11. POTENTIAL CLOSURE OF GRAND SLAM

Pam will ring Anne Weber about equipment (eg, cards) or furniture that may be available when Grand Slam closes. Further discussion to occur at the Committee's January meeting.

The Committee agreed that Grand Slam members who play at CBC as visitors may pay members' table money rates until 1 March 2021. Margaret will mention this in the newsletter, and Ian will ask Emily to tell the directors.

12. EATING BAN – EMAILS RECEIVED

Following concern expressed by a CBC member, Pam asked in the newsletter of 25 September 2020 that players not eat at the bridge table if possible, adding that it was better if players had a quick snack in the foyer and then washed/sanitised their hands. The (then) Committee agreed at its meeting of 1 October 2020 that "eating at the bridge table is not appropriate given the shared handling of cards, boards, etc and in light of COVID-19 considerations and hygiene concerns generally. If a player has a medical need to eat food at the table, eg, is diabetic, then this can be an exception".

The Committee discussed emails received from two members who are unhappy about this "eating ban".

MOTION: That with the easing of COVID restrictions by the ACT Government, players are now able to eat food at the table, but are to be reminded via the newsletter about the COVID and general hygiene need to sanitise their hands before and after eating.

Moved: Liz Van Der Hor

Seconded: Mary Tough

CARRIED

Liz and Margaret will advise the two members who sent emails, Margaret will also contact Judith Anderson.

13. SUB-COMMITTEE AND OTHER REPORTS IF NOT ALREADY COVERED

Further to discussion under earlier items, see 13.5, 13.6 and 13.7 below.

13.1 Membership and Promotions

13.2 Tournament and Calendar

13.3 Contract and Employment

13.4 House

13.5 Congress and Social – Mary gave an update about arrangements for the low-key Christmas celebrations occurring during sessions at the club from 8 to 14 December 2020.

13.6 Education - U3A beginners' lessons are scheduled for 10am on Fridays 19 & 26 March and 9, 16, 23 & 30 April 2021. Pam noted that the cost will be \$45 per person. Sally offered to be a volunteer teacher.

13.7 BFACT – Liz reported that BFACT is considering RealBridge for the Inter-club Teams.

13.8 Website

13.9 Finance

13.10 Barry Turner Fund

13.11 COVID-19

14. CORRESPONDENCE

As Margaret noted at item 4, the announcements about RealBridge have resulted in both happy and unhappy members, with some sending emails. There have also been two emails about the previous Committee's decision about eating at the bridge table.

Margaret has received an email from Peter Waight, President of Gungahlin Bridge Club (GBC), enquiring about hiring the Olive Lott Room for GBC sessions. It was agreed that the Executive will consider next steps once they have seen Peter's email.

Sally mentioned the bridge group who play at the Commonwealth Club. In the first instance, Ian will discuss further with Sally.

15. OTHER BUSINESS

Ian asked about teacher availability for supervised play sessions in January. Margaret will follow up. Sally offered to assist with supervised play in January if required.

16. NEXT MEETING, AND TENTATIVE DATES FOR COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN 2021

The Committee agreed that its next meeting will be held on Monday 11 January 2021 at 1.30pm. Michele may be an apology.

The Committee noted the tentative 2021 meeting dates shown on the agenda and based on the third Monday of the month to avoid public holidays. The Committee will continue to confirm the next meeting date at the end of each meeting.

Meeting closed 3.50pm
