

Minutes for Central Coast Bridge Club 13 January 2023

Call to Order

A meeting of Central Coast Bridge Club was held on 13 January 2023 at the Central Coast Bridge Club. It began at 1:07 p.m.; Louise Lewis presided, and Steph Mathews served as secretary.

Attendees

Voting members in attendance included Phil Thomas, John Redfearn, Rod Shellshear, Norm Berger, Graham Williamson, Matt Raj Mal, and Colin Kleinig

Apologies

Graham Steel, Jill Wildey

Objectives

1. Approve minutes of 9 December 2022 meeting
2. Deal with any business arising
3. Receive update on incoming and outgoing correspondence
4. Deal with any business arising
5. Decide whether to approve applications for membership
6. Receive update on action items
7. Receive reports from MP secretary, treasurer, tournament secretary, chief director and COVID coordinator
8. Receive update from BUS and deal with any business arising
9. Decide whether to keep large bridge tables
10. Decide remaining substantive issues re constitution
11. Decide timing of next steps re constitution
12. Receive update on membership renewals
13. Decide how to solve problem with hand records and pianola
14. Decide whether to allow members to charge EVs at club
15. Decide whether to change website platform
16. Decide whether to offer free games if fewer than 3 tables
17. Decide how to proceed with John' ideas for 2023
18. Decide how to use Notice Board effectively
19. Discuss New Era contract
20. Decide whether to limit who can win M/T afternoon free game raffle
21. Decide whether to change supervised play sessions
22. Decide whether to offer free games on Fridays
23. Discuss Tuesday morning players' progression
24. Discuss committee members' session attendance

1. Call to order

Louise called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes of Previous meeting

Steph moved and Norm seconded that the committee approve the minutes of the 9 December 2022 meeting; the motion carried with eight (8) votes in favour and one abstention.

3. Business arising from the minutes

Steph reported that she has now received copies of the club's insurance policies and that they are on file in the office.

4. Correspondence

Incoming

5 December email from David Purkiss transmitting the Fire Safety Statement to council and the fire service

11 December letter from the Council acknowledging receipt of the annual Fire Safety Statement.

12 December email from Dawn Thomas re website cost

12 January email from Gary Heyting with various suggestions

11 January email from Gary Heyting re committee member playing at another club

12 January email from Gary Heyting re January and February events

Outgoing

19 December email transmitting information for honour board updates to Lost Art Signs.

5. Business arising from Correspondence

Steph moved for approval of each of Gary's suggestions in his 12 January email; see motions below for outcome. Regarding the concerns Gary expressed re the website, John will work with Shan to publicize lesson topics for Wednesday and Friday lessons and Steph can now post upcoming events on the calendar.

Regarding Gary's 12 January email re January and February events, Steph advised that sign up is now available online and that the 2023 program is now available for collection Norm and Matt advised that they made every effort to schedule events so they did not conflict with other club's major events after receiving information from BWBC, CCLCBC and CBC

Regarding Gary's complaint about a committee member playing at another club, the committee agreed that all club members are free to play at any venue and that the committee has no authority to restrict that choice.

6. Membership applications

Steph moved and John seconded that Denise Skipper's application for home club membership be approved; the motion carried unanimously. John moved and Steph seconded that Stewart Duxbury's application for home club membership be approved; the motion carried with eight (8) in favour and one (1) abstention.

7. Action items update

Procedural manual is in progress.

Add Fire Inspection procedure and scoring/directing Real Bridge to procedural manual – in progress

Revise bylaws is in progress and should be complete by February meeting

Secretary and treasurer bylaws revision is complete

Covid Coordinator bylaw may no longer be necessary

Disabled spaces on driveway is in progress

Follow up with Marland re smoke detectors and evacuation plan is in progress

Consult with Shan as IT contact for sign is in progress

Arrange sign training is in progress
 Confer with Marilyn Scott re My ABF is in progress
 Stay in touch with ABF re loan is ongoing
 Follow up with Fair Trading re financial reporting is in progress
 Investigate and report on (-)\$505.00 expense for Coast shelter on October P & L -done (Phil reported it was paid out but not yet banked)
 Coordinate with Shan re promotion of events on main webpage as well as coming events
 Investigate switching from Milan to Peter Bush website design is ongoing
 Finalize constitution nearly done
 Submit constitution to solicitors for final review is nearly done
 Integrate all amended bylaws into one document is nearly done
 Discuss changes to club COVID policy is done

8. Masterpoints Secretary's Repot

Colin reported that Masterpoints are up to date.

9. Treasurer's Report

Phil presented the November and December profit and loss statements and reported that the \$50,000 from Greater has now been moved to a term deposit at Westpac, resulting in \$70,000 in 6-month term deposits at Westpac. Total available funds now is \$201,000. Phil moved his report be accepted, Matt seconded, and the motion carried unopposed.

10. Tournament Secretary's Report

Matt reported that the 2023 program has been printed and is available for distribution. After receiving input from BWBC, CCLCBC, and CBC, he made every effort to avoid clashes with other clubs' major events.

11. Chief Director's Report

John plans to post information on the screen at each session about what should happen at the table to ensure players call the director when appropriate.

12. COVID update

Norm, Steph and Colin reported their recommendations to reflect current statewide requirements and maintain some level of protection for our members.

- Eliminate vaccination requirement

- Players should stay home if they have COVID or flu symptoms

- If a player has tested positive for COVID, stay home for at least 5 days

- If a household member or other close contact has tested positive, we strongly recommend the player does not come to the club for at least 5 days

See Motions below. Steph to advise Shan to update website.

13. BUS Report and business arising

Norm reported that the Council representative came for a brief site visit and told Norm to expect the DA to be approved by the end of February. Norm, Jenny, Louise, and Steph to meet to discuss reporting requirements in accordance with the BUS delegation of authority.

GENERAL BUSINESS

14. Bridge tables

Louise reported that players have expressed strong feelings about table size, both for and against the large tables. Norm advised that the building plans were based on a 1 square meter tables and that Rod can cut down the 1.2 square meter tables to 1 square meter. Normal card tables are 800 mm square. See motions below.

15. Constitution sections 2.9.4 and 4.14

Steph and Louise reported some clarifications necessary in their final review of the amended constitution. Section 2.9.4 concerns committee service as a criteria for life membership; section 4.13 concerns the advance notice required for matters to be placed on the agenda for a general meeting. See motions below.

16. Constitution timing

Louise reported that the final edits on the amended constitution are nearly finished and that she should be able to send it to the solicitors within a week or two. Steph and Louise to then meet with solicitors for their final approval. Steph to write up procedures for life membership nominations to be included in the bylaws.

17. Membership renewal update

Steph reported that more than half of the current members have renewed. Steph to send follow up emails to those who have not renews.

18. Handrecords and Pianola

Steph asked what more she could do to enable John and Norm to upload handrecords and post results and hand records to pianola. Matt advised that the Altosoft website platform would make the process much easier. John and Norm advised the current procedure is cumbersome and asked the committee to investigate a change in the website platform. Steph to ask Shan to investigate further to ensure that a change to Altosoft would make it easier and not diminish the club website. BWBC reportedly uses Altosoft.

19. Charging EVs at club

Steph advised that a member recently charged his electric vehicle using the club's switchboard in the entry way and asked if the committee needed to announce a policy re same. Rod advised that charging units use a lot of power and that there may be safety issues if a cord is on the ground between the club and the vehicle. The committee decided to defer a decision on the matter unless it becomes a recurring problem.

20. Website

Matt recommended the club switch from Milan to Altosoft (Peter Bush's platform) because in his opinion it would make uploading hand records much easier and it is somewhat less expensive (about \$63/year). Phil added that Milan is in England and difficult to pay and get help from. Matt reported that BWBC uses Altosoft. Steph to ask Shan to investigate the differences to see if it would be beneficial to change; Phil to find out when our current contract with Milan expires..

21. No charge if fewer than 3 tables

This is a carryover item from the last meeting to ensure the treasurer had input to any decision. See Motions below.

22. 2023 Ideas

John had previously provided the committee with a list of ideas for 2023; no decisions made.

23. Notice board

No decisions made re notice board.

24. New Era Printer contract

Norm and Rod expressed concern that a new contract was signed with New Era without consulting the committee; given the cost over 5 years, both maintain it required committee approval. Louise explained that the new contract was less expensive than the previous contract; both John and Steph added that New Era provided excellent and prompt service. As the contract has already been signed by Steph and Phil, it is now binding.

25. Monday/Thursday afternoon Raffle 2.0

Norm suggested that players who normally play in other sessions should not be eligible to win the free game. After discussion, the committee decided to leave the terms of this raffle as is: all Monday and Thursday afternoon players are eligible to win a free game at any other session.

26. Supervised play

John reported that he had spoken to a number of Thursday afternoon players regarding possible options for supervised sessions. Many of the options have been tried before with limited success. The remaining concern is that with very experienced players playing during those sessions, the less experienced players will never have a chance to win. After discussion, John suggested that on the last Monday/Thursday afternoon of each month the experienced players would play with a less experienced player during that session. The committee agreed. Steph and John to ask players at their supervised sessions if they would be interested with an eye toward starting the program the last Monday/Thursday afternoons in February.

27. Friday free games

The committee discussed whether free games on Fridays might be a way to increase numbers. No one moved to pursue this option.

28. Tuesday morning players' progression to other sessions

Norm asked how many of Steph's Tuesday morning players are playing at other sessions. Steph advised most have moved into her Fundamentals II course and several are playing at other times. Steph to report to next meeting on how many players play in other sessions.

29. Committee members' session attendance

Norm recommended that committee members should play at least twice a week at the club.

30. Miscellaneous

Louise advised that committee members need a more consistent way to communicate with Shan about what they want promoted on the website. Steph to consult with Shan. At a minimum, Shan needs to know what the event is, when it is, any conditions of entry, and where it should be posted. Steph advised that she can now put coming events on the calendar.

Motions

Steph moved that an additional raffle be held on Monday and Thursday afternoons to give away a free lesson of the winner's choice; the motion lapsed for want of a second.

Steph moved that there be no charge for play if there are fewer than 3 tables and that each attendee should receive a free game the following week; the motion lapsed for want of a second

Steph moved that John's Friday lessons be held in the morning and the play session be changed to the afternoon; the motion lapsed for want of a second.

Steph moved that directors and standby players receive an extra free game to be used with one week; the motion lapsed for want of a second.

Steph moved and Colin seconded that John Redfearn be exempt from paying to play given all the service he provides to the club; the motion carried unanimously; however, John declined to accept.

Steph moved that the club not charge visitors' fees; the motion lapsed for want of a second.

Steph moved that a visitor who comes to play with a member be exempt from table fees; the motion lapsed for want of a second.

Steph moved and Norm seconded that the following COVID policy be adopted:

1. Effective Monday, 16 January 2023, there will be no COVID vaccination requirement for play at the club.
2. If you have any of the following symptoms, we ask that you not come to the club: fever ≥ 37.5 C, cough, sore throat, difficulty breathing, loss of sense of smell, loss of sense of taste, fatigue, runny nose, muscle pain, joint pain, nausea/vomiting, diarrhoea, loss of appetite or other flu symptoms.
3. If you have tested positive for COVID, do not come to the club for at least 5 days.
4. If someone in your household or other close contact has tested positive for COVID, we strongly recommend that you do not come to the club for at least 5 days.

The motion carried unanimously.

Norm moved and Matt seconded that the large bridge table tops be cut down to 1 square meter and that the committee revisit the table size issue in March; the motion carried unanimously.

Louise moved and Steph seconded that section 2.9.4 of the revised constitution be amended to require that a candidate for life membership has “effectively” served on the committee ;the motion carried unanimously.

Steph moved and Norm seconded that section 4.14 of the revised constitution be amended to require members to provide the secretary with agenda items 35 days before a general meeting; the motion carried unanimously.

Meeting Closure

The meeting objectives were met, and Louise adjourned the meeting at 3:40 p.m.

Next Meeting

10 February 2023; time TBA.

Stephanie Mathews, Secretary

Louise Lewis, President