



Canberra Bridge Club

Canberra Bridge Club Committee Meeting

Minutes

28 November 2024, 16:00

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1 MEETING OPEN AND ATTENDANCE

1.1 MEETING OPEN

Mary Tough opened the meeting at 16:04.

1.2 ATTENDANCE

Mary Tough (President), Jenny Bergin (Treasurer), Liam Minogue (Secretary), Ian Robinson, Malcolm Carter, Stephen Fischer, Vanessa Brown, William Jenner-O'Shea

1.3 APOLOGIES

Barbara Bialowas, Alison Russell-French (Vice President), John Brockwell (Tournament Secretary)

2 PURPOSE OF SUPPLEMENTARY MEETING

This is a Supplementary Meeting of the CBC Committee to discuss:

- (a) the proposed new Education Program for 2025; and
- (b) amend motions from the CBC Committee Meeting 14 November 2024 regarding the payment of subsidies from the Barry Turner fund.

3 EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR 2025

3.1 BACKGROUND

William Jenner-O'Shea joined the meeting to answer the Committee's questions.

Key members of the Club's teaching and education infrastructure have designed a new Education Program for 2025. The beginner/newer player experience was discussed at this meeting, where the proposed structure was:

- (a) 6-week beginner course based on Derrick Browne's textbook covering the basics of bidding and play, like the existing beginner's course;
- (b) 8-week consolidation course based on an original booklet written by William Jenner-O'Shea covering: Doubles, Overcalls, Stayman, Pre-Empts, Week Two's, Strong 2C Opening, Transfers, Duplicate Etiquette, Bridge Mates, Scoring and revision; and
- (c) Ongoing Supervised Duplicate with more targeted lessons, including some random hands.

Historically, there has been a drop off of new player interest after the beginner lessons in the transition to supervised play – it is hoped that these more structured lessons will encourage longer term players.

The proposed program will result in a net loss of \$300 more than 2023-2024. Beginner lessons are seen as a loss leader service for the Club and are often revenue positive if we recruit one or two life-long players.

3.2 OBJECTIONS DISCUSSED

- (a) Timing of Payment
 - (i) Beginner Course (6 weeks) will be paid up-front (no change); and
 - (ii) Consolidation Course (8 weeks) can be paid up-front or week-to-week.



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- (b) Effect on the Existing Supervised Sessions (i.e., additional eight weeks until new beginners join the session, topping up numbers);
 - (i) the Beginner/Consolidation courses will be run more closely together in the 2025 calendar meaning that there will actually be a shorter gap between new beginners joining the session;
 - (ii) there will be three beginner intakes in 2025; and
 - (iii) new beginners joining the supervised session after having completed the combined 14-weeks beginner/consolidation courses will be more competent/engaged, which is believed to result in less decay from the session.

William Jenner-O'Shea left the meeting.

MOTION: The Committee approves the Education Framework for 2025 as presented by the Education Sub-Committee. Continuation beyond 2025 is subject to an evaluation of the 2025 program, in particular impacts on membership retention rates and participant satisfaction.

Moved: Jenny Bergin

Seconded: Vanessa Brown

CARRIED.

3.3 PRICING OF BEGINNER LESSONS 2025

MOTION: That the pricing of Beginner Course 2025 will be \$90.00 including GST for the full 6-weeks. Participants under the age of 26 years on 1 January 2025 will be charged \$45.00 including GST for the full 6-weeks.

Moved: Jenny Bergin

Seconded: Liam Minogue

CARRIED.

3.4 TEACHER'S WAGES 2025

Vanessa Brown left the meeting due to her conflict of interest.

There was some discussion regarding teacher's wages in 2025, but there was insufficient information at the time to make a decision. The Contract and Employment Sub-Committee will meet and give a recommendation to the Committee.

4 PAYMENTS FROM THE BARRY TURNER FUND

Vanessa Brown re-joined the meeting.

At the 14 November 2024 Meeting the Committee approved a payment of \$1,200 to Ian Thomson from the Barry Turner Fund in his role as Non-Playing Captain. This amount is incorrect. The subsidy amount was intended to be the same as the amount paid to Jodi Tutty which was \$1,000.

MOTION: Due to an error in the payment amount, the Committee rescinds the motion of 14 November 2024 regarding the travel subsidy to be paid to the Non-Playing Captain of an Australian Representative Team at the World Bridge Games and, in accordance with the Barry Turner Fund Policy approves a payment to Ian Thomson of \$1,000. This payment is made on the basis of a precedent of paying Non-Playing Captains but does not continue



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that precedent, as a review and clarification of the Barry Turner Fund Policy will be forthcoming by the Governance and Ethics Sub-Committee.

Moved: Liam Minogue

Seconded: Jenny Bergin

CARRIED.

5 OTHER BUSINESS

5.1 MEMBERSHIP FEES PAID VIA MYABF

MyABF has a membership module which is being investigated by the Treasurer for use in the payment of future membership fees to the Club. There are some concerns regarding the “auto-renew” function’s legality in the ACT, which will be reviewed.

For the 2025 membership fees, they will be withdrawn using the “auto-pay” function in MyABF on 1 January 2025, for members who have given their consent to the Club. Members who have not consented or who have insufficient funds at the time of withdrawal will be sent an invoice for their membership. Details will be provided in the CBC Newsletter.

5.2 CBC CALENDAR 2025

Pending final changes and submission to the CBC Committee.

6 ACTION ITEMS

No table of figures entries found.

7 NEXT MEETING AND MEETING CLOSE

7.1 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held 23 January 2024 at 16:00.

7.2 MEETING CLOSE

Mary Tough closed the meeting at 17:47.