



Canberra Bridge Club

CANBERRA BRIDGE CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

14 OCTOBER 2025, 17:30 PM
5-7 DUFF PL, DEAKIN, ACT 2600

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1 MEETING OPEN AND ATTENDANCE

1.1 MEETING OPEN

Mary Tough opened the meeting at 17:30

1.2 ATTENDANCE

(in order written on the Attendance Sheet)

Mary Tough, Liam Minogue (minuter), Jenny Bergin, Steve Geddes, John Brockwell, Deborah Milner, Rob Hurst, William Jenner-O'Shea, Vanessa Brown, Jayne Francis, Lesley Gunson, Keith Mitchell, Stephen Fischer, Chris Tough, Jodi Tutty, Bill Tutty, Sue Taylor, Janet Kahler, Sue Game, Joyanne Gough, Niek Van Vucht, Lyn Turner, Wendy Boxall, Val Carmody, Nicole Finn, Marianne Bookallil, David Hoffman, Julia Hoffman, Kerry Holmes, Liz Van Der Hor, Kate Latimer, Lyndall Kennedy, Chris Wawn, Michele Grant, Sally Vardy, Andrew Kettle, Ian Thomson, Alison Russell-French, Sue Samarcq, Barbara Bialowas, Elizabeth Yoo, Susan Johnston.

1.3 APOLOGIES

Peter Grant, Morag Lokan. No other apologies were received from the floor.

All members who had assigned proxies were also considered as having given an apology. The full list of apologies is in the following section.

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF PROXY APPOINTMENTS

Subject to Clause 64(2) of the CBC Constitution, no member may hold more than five proxy votes.

The following members have been appointed as proxies:

- (a) Liam Minogue **for** Alexander Robinson and Zara Chowdhury;
- (b) William Jenner-O'Shea **for** Craig Beconsall and Anita Delorenzo;
- (c) Steve Geddes **for** Elizabeth Voveris, Johanna Thomas, Nick Vonthethoff, Caitlyn McKenize and Kate Ward;
- (d) Elizabeth Yoo **for** Geoff Hutchins, Ian Robinson, Bricet Kloren, Jenny Walpole and Robyn Carrol;
- (e) Julia Hoffman **for** Pam Crichton;
- (f) Stephen Fischer **for** Lucy Stevenson and John Kay;
- (g) Mary Tough **for** Steve Kyburz, Kerry Butcher, Chris Stead, Peter Hoskin, Rick Nehmy;
- (h) Lesley Gunson **for** Christine Perelle Scales, Di Hawke and George Zuber;
- (i) Jenny Bergin **for** Helen Eggins and Julie McPhail;
- (j) Christine Wawn **for** Lenore Lawson, Susanne Townsend, Kathryn Cole, Terrie Gleeson and Shan Trethewey;
- (k) Rob Hurst **for** Lynne Tomati and Kim Whiteman;
- (l) Jayne Francis **for** Margaret Lee, Wendy Edwards, Robyn Stanhope, Irma Ficarra and Helen Little;
- (m) Deborah Milner **for** Jennifer Yeats;
- (n) Val Carmody **for** Brett Yeats; and



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(o) Sally Vardy **for** Catriona Bruce.

This represents a total of forty-two (42) proxies.

3 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 2024 AGM

Minor correction in the spelling of one attendee's name.

MOTION: That the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 29 October 2024 be accepted as a true record of that meeting.

Moved: Janet Kahler

Seconded: John Brockwell

CARRIED.

4 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 2024 AGM

4.1 CIRCULATION OF PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Committee was requested to circulate a written copy of the President's Report from the 2024 AGM. This was done following the meeting, and for this AGM (and future AGM's) the President's Report will be supplied in a written format *before* the AGM in the Notice of AGM announcement.

4.2 SUBMISSION OF NEW CONSTITUTION TO ACCESS CANBERRA

The Committee was required to submit the then newly approved Constitution of the Club to Access Canberra. This was completed after the meeting and the new Constitution has been in effect for 12-months now.

5 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mary Tough presented an abridged version of the President's Report. The full report can be read in full as an attachment to these minutes. There were no questions or comments to the President's Report.

MOTION: That the President's Report be accepted.

Moved: Alison Russell-French

Seconded: Ian Thomson

CARRIED.

6 TREASURER'S REPORT

Jenny Bergin presented the Treasurer's Report with supporting power point presentation which made reference to key areas of interest in the audited financial statements. In previous years the Treasurer's commentary was included in the audited financial statements, however at the request of the current auditor of the Canberra Bridge Club they have been separated.

Jenny Bergin made a note of special thanks to Jennier Yeats, Miklos Tifan, Steve Geddes and Elizabeth Yoo for their support and help in the financial management of the Club throughout the year.

Jenny Bergin also noted that the auditor for this year (and proposed for next year) was very easy to work with.

The Treasurer's Report and supporting power point presentation can be read in full as an attachment to these minutes. There were no questions or comments to the Treasurer's Report.

MOTION: That the financial statements of the Canberra Bridge Club Inc. as tabled be adopted



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Moved: Alison Russell-French

Seconded: Vanessa Brown

CARRIED.

7 APPOINTMENT OF AN AUDITOR

The Club had a change of auditor in 2024-2025 (last year's AGM). It is often difficult to articulate the nuances of the Club's finances to new auditors, however Anthony Wilson from Accountability was extremely easy to work with and made the process very smooth.

Anthony Wilson came by recommendation of Alison Russell-French last year, who had engaged him previously in another organisation she is involved with.

It should be noted that this auditors fees are fixed for a three year period (we have just been through year one).

MOTION: That Anthony Wilson of Accountability be appointed the Auditor for the Canberra Bridge Club Inc. for 2025-2026

Moved: Wendy Boxall

Seconded: Rob Hurst

CARRIED.

8 TOURNAMENT SECRETARY'S REPORT

John Brockwell presented the Tournament Secretary's Report. There were no questions or comments to the Tournament Secretary's Report.

MOTION: That the Tournament Secretary's Report be accepted.

Moved: Mary Tough

Seconded: Stephen Fischer

CARRIED.

9 JOINING FEE

The Joining fee is a one-off fee paid by new members only.

MOTION: That from 1 January 2026, the Joining Fee of the Canberra Bridge Club Inc. be \$15 (including GST) except for concession and distance members who will pay \$5 (including GST) and that there will be no joining fee for anyone under twenty-six (26) years of age.

Moved: Jenny Bergin

Seconded: Val Carmody

CARRIED.

10 ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

MOTION:

That the 2026 annual subscription to the Canberra Bridge Club Inc. be \$90 per annum (including GST) except for:

- (a) concession members (e.g., disability support or aged pensioners);
- (b) distance members (e.g., persons who reside permanently more than eighty (80) kilometres from the Canberra General Post Office); and
- (c) at the discretion of the Committee, other persons experiencing hardship;

Who will pay \$44 per annum (includes GST); and

- (d) persons who join after 30 June 2026 and before 1 October 2026, who, if paying the full rate, will pay \$44 and, if paying the concession rate, will pay \$33;



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- (e) persons who join after 30 September 2026, who will pay the full relevant annual subscription but whose membership will be valid until 31 December 2027;
- (f) Persons joining as non-home club members will be entitled to an additional deduction representing the affiliation fees to the ABF and to BFACT; and

Persons under the age of 26 years at 1 January 2026 will receive free membership.

Moved: Jenny Bergin

Seconded: Liz Van Der Hor

CARRIED.

The meeting gave thanks to Jenny Bergin for all her hard work on the financial business of the Club.

11 ELECTION OF OFFICE-BEARERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The existing CBC Committee was dissolved and all positions were declared vacant. Deborah Milner served as returning officer with Joyanne Gough and Julia Hoffman acting as scrutineers. Michele Grant assisted with the distribution and collection of ballot papers.

11.2 PRESIDENT

There was one (1) candidate for President:

- (a) Mary Tough – Proposed: Stephen Fishcer; Seconded: Jacques Cherbuin

Mary Tough was elected as the President of the Canberra Bridge Club 2025-2026.

11.1 VICE PRESIDENT

There was one (1) candidate for Vice President:

- (a) Alison Russell-French – Proposed: Vanessa Brown; Seconded: Elizabeth Yoo

Alison Russell-French was elected as the Vice President of the Canberra Bridge Club 2025-2026.

11.1 TREASURER

There were two (2) candidates for Treasurer:

- (a) Jenny Bergin – Proposed: Lynne Tomati; Seconded: Pamela Mathie
- (b) Stephen Fishcer – Proposed: Pam Crichton; Seconded: Peter Grant

Jenny Bergin was elected as the Treasurer of the Canberra Bridge Club 2025-2026.

11.1 SECRETARY

There was one (1) candidate for Secretary:

- (a) Caitlyn Jane McKenzie – Proposed: Zara Chowdhury; Seconded: Mary Tough

Caitlyn Jane McKenzie was elected as the Secretary of the Canberra Bridge Club 2025-2026.

11.2 TOURNAMENT SECRETARY

There were two (2) candidates for Tournament Secretary:

- (a) John Brockwell – Proposed: Mary Tough; Seconded: Peter Giles
- (b) Rob Hurst – Proposed: Liam Minogue; Seconded: Elizabeth Yoo



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Rob Hurst was elected as the Tournament Secretary of the Canberra Bridge Club 2025-2026.

11.3 GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Due to candidacy for General Committee Member decisions contingent on the outcome of the elections for Office-Bearers there was a separate election held. Two candidates withdrew themselves from contention before the AGM.

There were seven (7) candidates for five (5) General Committee Member positions.

The following five (5) General Committee Members were elected (in no particular order):

- (a) Stephen Fishcer – Proposed: Mary Tough; Seconded: Vanessa Brown
- (b) Lucy Stevenson – Proposed: Caitlyn Jane McKenzie; Seconded: Mary Tough
- (c) Kate Latimer – Proposed: Jane Francis; Seconded: Kate Ward
- (d) Vanessa Brown – Proposed: Alison Russell-French; Seconded: Elizabeth Yoo
- (e) Nicole Finn – Proposed: Trish Sandling; Seconded: Wenda Brown

Congratulations to the new Committee members.

The meeting gave their thanks for the efforts of the Returning Officer and Scrutineers who had to sort through over eighty ballots!

It should also be noted that in the period where the meeting was waiting for the ballots to be delivered, David Hoffman, Wendy Boxall, and Janet Kahler entertained the room by sharing stories of their experiences with Earl Dudley, Barry Turner and Olive Lott. All present at the meeting were better off for having had these memories shared with them. For anyone interested in the history of Bridge in the ACT it is highly recommend you read *The History of Bridge in the ACT and Surrounding Regions* written by David Hoffman and John Brockwell.

12 OTHER BUSINESS

12.1 BFACT

Wendy Boxall, recently re-elected president of BFACT informed the room of the new BFACT Committee including:

- (a) Vice President – Cathy Nichols;
- (b) Secretary – Tamara Cutcliffe;
- (c) Treasurer – Roger Brake; and
- (d) Tournament Secretary – Niek Van Vucht.

Wendy also gave thanks to the CBC and it's membership which make up a large percentage of BFACT's membership and support.

There was discussion of the use of cash vs. MyABF credits as prizes for Canberra In Bloom this year. Cash options will be provided next year at the request of the winners.



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12.2 QUESTION FROM MORAG LOKAN

Morag Lokan submitted the following question to the Committee: *the Bridge Club's strategic plan defines key result areas for the club in delivering on its mission statement. I would like to understand how we are progressing in delivering on the key result areas. If there are challenges, what are they and what is the plan to address those relevant issues?*

Mary Tough read aloud the following pre-prepared response for the benefit of the Meeting:

Thank you, Morag, for your question. While the AGM is not designed for a detailed line-by-line review of the Strategic Plan, I can assure members that the Plan has guided much of the Committee's work over the past year, and we are making steady progress across several key result areas.

Governance and Culture:

One of our major strategic priorities has been strengthening governance, and we have made significant progress here by updating and publishing a comprehensive suite of Club policies all now available on the website. The By-Laws have been revised to better reflect current governance needs, and the Recorder procedure was streamlined to improve accessibility and reinforce ethical standards.

This work directly supports our goals of improving administration, enhancing transparency, accountability and ensuring a safe and respectful environment for all members.

Premises and Environment:

We have made solid progress in maintaining and enhancing the Deakin premises. Recent work includes roof repairs, painting of outdoor areas, upgrades to heating and cooling systems, and regular gardening bees to keep the surroundings inviting and well-maintained. These improvements reflect our commitment to providing a comfortable, accessible, and welcoming environment for all members, in line with our strategic goals. As the building continues to age, this highlights the importance of forward planning and proactive asset management. These ongoing needs are being considered as part of our strategic review, with a focus on prioritising further upgrades, particularly in areas such as disability access, kitchen facilities, and interior ambiance, as identified in the 2023 member survey.

Member Satisfaction and Engagement

We've listened to feedback and work is ongoing to continue diversifying playing and teaching programs, improving member communication and transparency, and supporting inclusiveness and participation.

Challenges and the Path Forward

There are no major barriers at present, but we are always mindful of volunteer capacity, budget constraints and the importance of pacing our work to ensure quality outcomes.

Progress on each key area is being driven by subcommittees and dedicated volunteers, and the Committee is committed to ongoing review and improvement. We intend to report back more formally on Strategic Plan progress over the coming year.

Thank you again for your question and for your interest in how the Club is tracking against its long-term goals.

13 MEETING CLOSE

Mary Tough closed the meeting at 18:59.