



Canberra Bridge Club

Canberra Bridge Club Committee Meeting

Minutes

19 March 2026 at 6.00pm

1 HOUSEKEEPING (Chair)

The Vice President opened the meeting at 6.10pm.

1.2 Attendance & apologies

Attendees: Alison Russell-French (Vice President), CJ McKenzie (Secretary), Jenny Bergin (Treasurer), Kate Latimer, Stephen Fischer, Lucy Stevenson

Apologies: Nicole Finn, Rob Hurst, and Mary Tough

1.3 Conflicts of interest

No new conflicts declared.

1.4 Confirmation of the previous minutes.

- Jenny Bergin requested surnames are included in the minutes for completeness.
- January and February solvency motions to be noted.
- February minutes: delete the sentence that starts “but will have limitations ...”.

Motion: That both sets of minutes accepted with the above amendments. Proposed Alison Russell-French, Seconded Jenny Bergin. Passed.

1.5 Acceptance of new and returning members to the CBC

- Kate Latimer introduced a discussion about how the club can best support members or beginners with different access needs and what reasonable accommodations we can leverage.
- Kate Latimer noted that a new member has enrolled in the beginners course several times, and the Committee agrees to offer a 50% discount on beginner's fees as a one off case if she chooses to enroll in the course again.

Action: Kate Latimer to investigate number of courses attended for individuals with Elizabeth Yoo and report back.

Motion: The Committee accepts the applications for membership as outlined in the Manager's report. Proposed Alison Russell-French, Seconded CJ McKenzie. Passed.

2 PAPERS

2.1 Where is the future home of the CBC? (Treasurer)

Discussion:

- Jenny Bergin highlighted the need to think strategically about the future of the club, including to introduce new revenue streams.
- Alison Russell-French suggested we set a workshop date and prepare the required information in June.
- Kate Latimer suggested we need to have more information about the potential costs of upgrades, for example.



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- CJ McKenzie raised that we need information to facilitate a strategic conversation, such as a building report, financial advice, and that different people feel they need different information to have a well-informed conversation.
- Alison Russell-French suggested Jenny Bergin is the central point for the Committee's questions and inputs and she is happy to do so.
- Jenny Bergin asked the question: what is this building supposed to offer members or the club? What do we think a bridge club is for?
- Looking to hold a workshop in the middle of the year.

Action: Committee to send Jenny Bergin what information they think is needed to enable a productive workshop.

2.2 Access protocol proposal 12 March (Kate Latimer)

Discussion:

- Kate Latimer stressed the need for a practical solution to accommodate simultaneous beginners, fundamentals, and a typical session.
- Kate Latimer has investigated thoroughly possible solutions and interim options.
- As an accessibility measure, we may be able to use budget set aside.

Action: Kate Latimer to get a quote for partitions and circulate.

Motion: That the Committee commits to practical, immediate solutions to access issues in the Club.
Withdrawn.

Motion: That the Committee convenes to discuss the strategic direction of the Club's premises.
Withdrawn.

2.3 Meeting protocol proposal 12 March

Motion: That the Committee convenes every six weeks. Proposed Kate Latimer, seconded Alison Russell-French. Approved in principle, subject to endorsement by the Committee.

- Treasurer suggested an approach to help keep meetings to time (see Motion below).

Motion: That items for noting are flagged at meeting commencement if a Committee member wishes to raise a question or concern, otherwise they are noted at the start of the meeting. Proposed: Jenny Bergin, Seconded CJ McKenzie. Passed.

3 OUTSTANDING ACTION ITEMS (Secretary)

Updates noted in Action Log.

4 SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS (Chair)

4.1 Promotion and Social

Report noted by the Committee.

Discussion:

- Vice President noted that new mugs were purchased and/or donated a few years ago and may be in storage.
- Vice President noted the need to raise expenditure with the Treasurer to confirm budget prior to bringing to the Committee.



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- Treasurer confirmed she is happy with expenditure up to \$500 within her delegation as Treasurer, following Kate Latimer confirming what mugs are available and how many are needed.

Motion: That the Committee approves the purchase of 100 cups for members' use to the cost of \$750.
Withdrawn.

4.2 Education

Report noted by the Committee.

Motion: *That the Committee approves the engagement of Sally Vardy as a new teacher starting in June 2026. Proposed Alison Russell-French, seconded Kate Latimer. Passed.*

4.3 Tournaments

For information

Master points for Thursday Butler Pairs

ABF rules allow us to load an additional 50% masterpoints onto club sessions with a median ranking of Grand Master and above. The only session that this applies to is the Thursday Butler Pairs. This change will be applied in the near future. Rob to draft an article for the newsletter. As part of this change, we are hoping to raise the standards for system cards, pre-alerting etc for the Thursday Butler Pairs. This is a somewhat sensitive issue and we are hoping to encourage players to maintain these standards without too much grief.

Gold point GNOT events

We will be running one of these for the Thursday Butler Session and one for the Thursday B Grade Session for the month of June. The top 2 pairs from these sessions (best 3 of 4) will receive free entry into the Gala Pairs selection event for the ACT 2 Team and the ACT Regional Team events respectively.

Youth Practice Sessions.

The club has agreed to fund a monthly Friday evening youth practice session on real bridge. This will be run by volunteer directors (Tamara and Will have volunteered and Adam will shadow them with the intent of being a playing director for the session). Cost to the CBC is approximately \$8 per month. The session will be open to youth club members and pre-approved mentors. We are in discussion with the Youth Co-ordinator to run a red point youth event on a 6 monthly basis (we will charge for this).

ANC - Country Teams Championship

The ANC has offered the club the opportunity to enter a team into the Country Teams Championship. We will be running a selection event on 18th April to select 3 pairs to form this team. This will be the best 3 pairs with <300 masterpoints per player. The Country Teams Cup will be a 3-day event with an entry fee of \$960 (see below for proposed team sponsorship motion)

For Decision

The club will be selecting a team to play in the Country Teams Cup.



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Motion: That the club sponsors the team for 50% of the entry fee at a minimum (\$480) if we have a minimum of 10 contending pairs and that we sponsor the team for the full amount if there are more than 24 pairs participating in the qualifying event. Proposed Stephen Fischer, seconded Lucy Stevenson. Passed.

Action: Rob Hurst to publicise this on the MyABF page for this event.

4.4 Youth

Youth report and fundraising calendar noted by the Committee.

- Discussion about youth activities and funding, including increased costs of Youthish bridge nights and individuals making up the difference themselves.
- Treasurer noted there have been discussions between the Youth Coordinator and the Treasurer. Potential to use the trailing commission from Travel Associates towards youth.

Motion: 1. That the Committee endorse the Scongress event as proposed and 2. That the Committee endorses in principle a further fundraising activity, to be detailed. Expenditure of funds raised to be brought back to Committee. Proposed by Alison Russell-French, seconded by CJ McKenzie. Passed.

Action: Youth Coordinator to bring an expenditure proposal for the CBC youth budget to the Committee.

5 PRESIDENT'S UPDATE (Chair)

President's report (provided by Mary prior to her period of leave commencing) noted by the Committee.

- Jennifer Yates to provide a quote to the Committee for removal of the cotoneaster by the carpark.

Action: Membership records need to be updated by the 31st March for capitation for ABF fees. Jenny Bergin to talk to Steve Geddes.

6 TREASURER'S UPDATE (Treasurer)

- Treasurer noted there was an issue with the reports, and will recirculate once the Xero issue is resolved.

Action: Treasurer to send around new financial statements and points for noting.

7 MANAGERS REPORT (Manager / Vice President)

The Manager's report was noted.

- Note: The screens will be taken away by mid-April.

8 CORRESPONDENCE (Secretary)

9 OTHER BUSINESS (Secretary)

- For discussion and agreement: proposed meeting schedule below.



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Action: Secretary to circulate two options for new dates which account for known leave periods and the in-principle agreement to 6-weekly meetings.

Note: President has proposed Thursday 16 April as an alternative for the April meeting.

Note: Kate Latimer has suggested 6-weekly meetings may be more appropriate.

April	Friday 17 April at 4.30pm
May	Friday 15 May at 4.30pm
June	Friday 19 June at 4.30pm
July	Friday 17 July at 4.30pm
August	Friday 21 August at 4.30pm
September	Friday 18 September at 4.30pm

- Treasurer will be on leave 21 May – 22 June.
- Secretary confirmed that Dementia Australia have passed on the donation request to the right team within the organisation.

10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING AND MEETING CLOSE (Chair)

Next meeting: April 24th at 4.30pm.

Meeting closed at 8.20pm.