

CAMBRIDGE CONTRACT BRIDGE CLUB (INC)

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 27 June, 2024 at the Clubrooms, 14 Fort Street, Cambridge

Present: Paul Phillips (Chair), Nandi Costa, Kevin Whyte, Bill Bailey, Anna Singlewood, Michael Neels, Ian Moore, Sam McLean, Sue Keating

Apologies: Kim Grounds

1. Welcome - Paul welcomed those present at the meeting.

2. Confirmation of Minutes – Minutes of Meeting held on 30 May, having previously been circulated, were taken as read and confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.
Proposed : Mikayla - Seconded: Bill

3. Matters Arising

- Toilet Upgrade - no progress to report. Bill and Paul to address in the coming days.
- Clubroom Lease - following further telephone contact with Waipa District Council, a counter-signed copy of the Lease Extension document was finally received on 11 June. Lease extension, dated by Council on 10 June, is for a period of 10 years, on terms unchanged on those set out in the original 2002 Lease document.
- Ryman Sponsorship - External Signage. Having reviewed the Clubrooms Lease, Bill confirmed that there were no conditions precluding the erection of advertising signage on the external walls.
- Math Verhaegh Sponsorship Offer - Kevin reported that Math was still keen to proceed with his offer of event sponsorship. A sum of \$1,000 had been mentioned. Noted that some Members have questioned the appropriateness of the Club continuing with Memorial-type events, given that, as time goes on, fewer and fewer Members have any knowledge or memory of the person in whose name the event is being staged. At the very least, such events need to be time-limited. Agreed that Matt's offer be accepted on the understanding that any events staged in his / Saty's honour continue for a maximum period of 10 years. Kevin to progress with Math.

4. Treasurer's Report

Kevin presented his financial report for the period ended 31 May, 2024.

Key points:

- YTD surplus of \$7,211, compared \$6,279 for the corresponding period last year
- Expenditure of \$25,549 (19% ahead of last year)
- Table-money receipts (\$13,608) virtually unchanged YOY
- Subs (\$10,440 net) - including \$2,560 from Learners - up 58% YOY

- Sponsorship of \$60 still unpaid and likely to be written off
- Insurance renewal completed on 20 May. 11% increase YOY to \$1,574
- Kevin advised that the signature of all 12 persons listed in the CCBC return to the Charities Commission will be required before the Westpac Term Deposit account can be established. Kevin to circulate the appropriate Westpac form.
- Noted that a portion of expenses associated with the recently concluded Learners' programme are able to be recovered from Waikato Bays

Kevin proposed that the financial report for period ended 31 May, 2024 be received – Seconded Nandi - **CARRIED**

5. Maintenance Report

Bil to check with NZ Post whether physical mail deliveries to the Club's street address are possible. If so, a postbox will be installed and the Club can move to cancel the P.O. Box rental.

6. Health and Safety

No issues to report

7. Club Captain's Report

- Bidding Boxes - Ian advised that the Playing Committee is unanimously of the view that the Bidding Box trial should be abandoned and that the Club continue to operate exclusively with the paper-based system. Michael expressed his disappointment with the decision as, in his view, the option had not been adequately trialed across the wider membership. Paul acknowledged Michael's concerns but expressed the view that the Committee needed to have good reason to reject any recommendation from the Playing Committee. The matter was put to a formal vote with the Committee agreeing - with a majority of 5 to 4 - to accept the recommendation of the Playing Committee
- Fairlands Trophy - this year's event took place on 16 June, with Te Awamutu eventually fielding 8 pairs, supplemented by 3 additional pairs from the Waitomo Club. While Te Awamutu had clearly struggled with numbers this year, there was a perception that they wanted this annual event to continue. Accordingly, decided we should leave it to Te Awamutu to initiate any discussion as to the future of the competition.
- Waikato Teams Competition - 23 June - while the decision to host this year's club competition was vindicated by excellent support from regional clubs and an otherwise successful tournament, floor space was at a premium with 21 tables in play, and noise was also a factor with the three sections concluding each round at different times. While Cambridge would be keen to run this tournament in the future, we should look at incorporating the neighbouring St John's or Senior Citizen facilities to relieve the space pressures and the noise factor.

- Monday Evening Session - noted the imbalance that now exists in numbers attending the respective Monday and Wednesday evening sessions, with a significant drop-off in Monday attendance. Ian was of the view that there are a number of Junior and Intermediate level players attending the Wednesday session who would be able to cope quite adequately with the generally higher standard of play on a Monday night. An effort would be made to invite Junior members to participate in the Maxigesic Pairs series, commencing 5 August, as partners to some of the established Monday evening players. Bill welcomed this initiative and suggested that the Club should consider designating at least 2-3 Monday evening sessions each year as Restricted events, thereby further encouraging participation by a wider cross section of the membership.
- 2024 Learners - Supervised Sessions. Ian advised that the ongoing Thursday AM supervised sessions were still being very well supported. A vote of thanks was extended to Pam and Ian Moore for their generosity and commitment in running these sessions.
- Waikato Area Pairs (4) - Cambridge to host this event on 21 July, having swapped dates with Morrinsville.

8. Inwards Correspondence

- NZB WhatsApp Directors' Group established
- NZB Online Supervised Session for Learners - Sessions on Real Bridge taking place on Sunday afternoons. Committee welcomed this initiative and urged that it be promoted with the latest intake of Learners
- Bridge "toolkit" for Clubs being developed by NZB

9. Other Business

- Donation - Richard Solomon - Ian to attend a benefit night, on 2 July, being arranged by the Te Aroha Club, to raise funds towards Richard's costs in attending the forthcoming Senior World Championships, in Argentina. Committee approved a donation of \$100.
- Club Website - Nandi sought views on the style and content of the Club's website. There was a general view that while the site was somewhat "clunky" and dated, it served its purpose reasonably well in terms of functionality and as a platform for communication / results etc. The recently added "Bridge Over Troubled Waters" had been well received by Members and should continue.
- Friday "Happy Hour" Bridge - Nandi questioned whether it would be appropriate to offer attendees a glass of wine to accompany the pizza at these Friday sessions. Committee agreed to trial this for a period.
- Nandi suggested that the Club consider a weekly supervised-play / discussion

session - possibly on a Thursday evening - aimed at Junior and Intermediate level players, with an interest in tournament play. There was little support for this idea on the basis that the relatively low numbers of Members participating in external tournament play are already sufficiently “engaged”, and not in need of further encouragement. There was also the concern that a Thursday evening session may impact numbers currently playing on Thursday afternoons.

There being no further business, meeting concluded at 8.52pm

Next meeting scheduled for 7.00pm*, Thursday 25 July

*meeting time subsequently brought forward to 4.30pm