

CAMBRIDGE CONTRACT BRIDGE CLUB (INC)

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 25 April, 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

Apologies : Kim Grounds, Sue Keating

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

2. **Confirmation of Minutes** – Minutes of Meeting held on 25 April, having previously been circulated, were taken as read and confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

Proposed Paul / Seconded Kevin - **CARRIED**

3. Matters Arising

Update on “Sixes” arrangements:

- Directors - availability of Murray & Caroline Wiggins yet to be confirmed;
- In the absence of a Floor Manager for this year’s tournament, Tournament Directors to supervise seating and Bridgemate movements;
- Club projector to be used on the day (in addition to the venue facility);
- Allison unable to procure travel posters so proposing to use flags of different countries as the basis for venue decoration;
- Caddies – Paul to put together a team nearer the time. Suggested we should endeavour to involve some of the newbies where possible.
- Paul to discuss catering budget with Allison. \$20 per head considered excessive.
- Kevin to develop an overall preliminary event budget for consideration;

4. Treasurer’s Report

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

Key points:

- YTD surplus of \$5,021, compared \$6,485 for the corresponding period last year
- Expenditure of \$18,282 (20% ahead of last year), largely due to increased promotional spend for the Learners’ programme;
- Session catering costs (\$1,556) up significantly on previous year

- Current account balance at 25 April - \$15,272;
- Subscription income \$7,875 up 20% YOY. Income from Learner graduates yet to come;
- Unpaid sponsorship accounts now down to \$180. One sponsor has withdrawn.
- Fee income totaling \$3,720 from the Learners' programme – compared estimated programme costs (promotional activity, materials etc) of \$2,071;
- Westpac change of signatory documentation has now been completed by Kim & Paul;
- Westpac also require other Committee members listed in our Charities Commission return to provide proof of identity and residential address. Tarsh Sayers of Westpac will contact members individually. Noted that the decision to place \$25,000 on Term Deposit cannot be actioned until these formalities have been completed.

Kevin also recommended that the Club P.O. Box subscription be cancelled. Rental costs have risen significantly in recent years (currently \$280 p.a.), and with the bulk of external communications now electronic, very little mail was being delivered via the postal system.

Bill to investigate practicality of installing a letter box, or postal slot, in the clubroom porch to provide for future postal deliveries.

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

5. **Playing Committee Report**

Ian spoke to the Playing Committee report which had previously been circulated.

Key points:

- Beginners' Lesson programme now nearing completion.
- Noted with appreciation that Pam Moore has stepped in to cover the remaining Tuesday evening lessons, following Kim's unfortunate Achilles rupture.
- The Committee also expressed appreciation for the notable contributions of Anne Blewden and Josie van Weerd, in assisting Kim and Pam with this year's highly successful Learners' programme;
- Newly-graduated learners, together with their allocated "buddies", to participate in a 3-week series of Club play, getting underway on Wednesday evening, 8 May (for the evening players), and the following Monday (13 May) for the daytime group.
- A further 6-week series of supervised 2-hour sessions, designed to assist the transition of the Beginner group into regular club play, has been arranged by Pam and will commence on 16 May;

- Bridgemates - reflecting ongoing concerns over lengthy discussion after each board by some Members, it was the recommendation of the Playing Committee that information accessible on the scoring machines be restricted to the hand record and makeable contracts. While acknowledging that there were issues in this area and that this was contributing to slow play, one member considered that removal of access to other players' scores would be a step too far, and that the educational benefit to less accomplished players – keen to see how they performed relative to the rest of the room – would be lost. Following discussion, the Committee accepted this view and it was decided that no further changes to the Bridgemate displays should be implemented at this point in time.

6. Club Captain's Report

Ian presented his report. Key points:

- Junior / Novice tournament, hosted on 20 April, was considered an outstanding success, with 18 tables competing and highly favourable feedback from visiting players;
- Fairlands Trophy event, versus Te Awamutu, now rescheduled for Sunday, 16 June. Sign-up sheet to be set up. Te Awamutu indicating approximately 12 pairs from their side. Director and Scorer to be appointed.
- Waikato-Bays Interclub – confirmed for 23 June, with Cambridge hosting. Ian to select and announce the Cambridge team for this event;

7. Maintenance Report

Ceiling Fan – noted that the ceiling fan was no longer wired into the power supply so unavailable as an alternative /complement to the three heat pumps;

Lawn Mowing – Bill reported that the neighbouring Stihl shop had interest in using the lawn area, to the rear of the Clubrooms, as a testing ground / demonstration area for their mowers.

8. Health & Safety

No issues to report

9. Inwards Correspondence

- Newsletter from Charities Services, dated 15 April received. Mainly covering compliance requirements arising from the recent changes to the Charities and Incorporated Societies legislation;
- NZ Bridge – email advice dated 15 April to the effect that – effective 1 April, 2025 - NZB

affiliation fees are to increase from the current \$24 per member p.a. to \$27.60. A further increase – to \$32.20 p.a. per member - will take effect from 1 April 2026.

- Email traffic – Michael undertook to take responsibility for monitoring / farming out incoming email messages for such time as Kim was out of action. There was concern that some communications were “falling through the cracks” and/or not reaching the intended recipients.

10. Other Business

- **Waikato-Bays 2025 Tournament Schedule** – Noted that tournaments traditionally hosted by Cambridge were currently listed in the 2025 schedule as TBC. Michael undertook to make contact with the W-B Secretary and confirm the events and dates provisionally allocated to the Club
- **Monday Evening Drinks** – Michael suggested we consider offering drinks at the conclusion of Monday evening play, each week. Committee supported this suggestion and left it to Michael to progress once the normal playing schedule resumes following the Intermediate Championship series.
- **Ryman Sponsorship** – Ian reported on preliminary discussions with Ryman Healthcare, who are keen to get involved in sponsoring the Club, following their move into Cambridge. Involvement with either (or both) the Sixes and the Waikato-Bays Intermediate tournament, in October, were amongst the possibilities discussed. Ian / Paul to develop discussions once AFT Pharmaceutical’s attitude to continuing - either as the sole or co-sponsor of this year’s event - has been established.
- **Year-end Social Event.** Paul asked that the Committee give thought to the idea of holding an end-of-year social event, possibly alongside the AGM, in November. To be further discussed at the May meeting.
- **Upgrade to Toilet Facilities.** Paul expressed an opinion that the clubroom toilet facilities were not of a particularly good standard, with no hot water and generally ageing amenities. With membership numbers again on the rise, and several hosted tournaments scheduled, perhaps the time had arrived to consider an upgrade? Agreed that Paul and Bill should pull together some preliminary ideas / cost indications as a basis for the Committee to give the matter further consideration.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 8.25pm.

Next meeting scheduled for 7.00pm, Thursday, 30 May, 2024

