

Committee Meeting Summary

8th July 2015

NBC Congress

Eileen tabled her very comprehensive Congress Report to the meeting. Committee was impressed and complimentary with the manner in which Eileen had undertaken the challenge of running a congress for the first time. Eileen had been supported by past congress convenors but she felt that the task could have been less onerous if there had been more positive guidelines to follow.

Her report identified shortcomings that need to be considered before next year's congress. The next committee should heed that advice. Otherwise, Eileen, thank you for a job well done.

Clubhouse Maintenance

A tender has been accepted for replacement of the doors between the foyer and the main playing area. The double doors will be replaced using the same framing by a single wide door which will be more effective than the double doors and generally enhance the ambience of the premises.

That work should commence soon once materials have been purchased and programming worked out. Tenders for renewing the electrical wiring throughout the building have also been called and that important safety issue should be resolved soon.

Fence Repair

Tenders for replacement of the storm damaged fence have been called and once a price has been agreed with the neighbours that work may also proceed.

Competitions

Member's response was not very encouraging to the Club holding qualifying sessions from which members could qualify to play in the NSWBA <100 Masterpoint event (UHMP). Committee will continue to promote the UHMP as it does provide a good opportunity for members to compete against players of similar standing and thereby increase their masterpoint ranking.

The reason members play bridge may be purely for the social outlet and earning masterpoints to them is not a high priority. Committee accepts that this may be the case with a lot of members but is honour bound to offer those members that are chasing points the opportunity to do so.

The Hunter Interclub Teams competition is another opportunity for improving member's ranking but support from Newcastle members at those sessions is dwindling and unless a more enthusiastic attitude is adopted then the event may well fall off the calendar.

Floater

Here is another example of a poor response by members. Janet's request for members to be available on an infrequent basis and play with single attendees at sessions, if required, met with little support. Other clubs evidently use this approach quite successfully but not Newcastle Bridge Club.

If you are still amenable to the idea and have not already given your name to Janet, then please do so. There are members who may through circumstances beyond their control find themselves without their regular partner, or even find themselves with spare time and would like a game of bridge but cannot easily find a partner. As a Club, Committee would like it to be possible for members in those or similar circumstances to be assured of getting a game.

Supervised Play

Supervised play sessions for new players on a Wednesday evening are about to become a little more structured. The aim is to play 15 boards at nine minutes per board and to have the results masterpointed. Cheat sheets will be permitted until players become more confident with their system and a roaming supervisor will provide advice when called. The sessions will provide a

forerunner of what happens at a normal club session and they are provided to encourage newer players to make that transition into general play.

The roaming supervisors will be Janet, Ken, Eileen and Graham. Anita has decided not to continue in that role but thanks are due to her for the effort put in over two years to establish the evening in its initial format.

Lessons in future will be run on Tuesday evenings to avoid clashing with supervised sessions.

2015 Annual General Meeting

Members to be made aware that the date for this year's AGM will be Saturday 5th September and not the 12th September as appears in the programme. The meeting will start at 11:00am and will be followed by a sausage sizzle before the normal afternoon session.

Nominations are called for from any members who wish to stand for committee. The Constitution states that the committee shall comprise of a president, a vice-president, a treasurer, a secretary and between 3 to 5 ordinary members. The Tournament Director, Peter Peterson and the Masterpoints Secretary, Ken Wilks are ex officii members of that committee.

Nomination forms may be obtained from Graham Rummey.