

NEWCASTLE BRIDGE CLUB

Committee Meeting Agenda

Date/Time of Meeting: Wednesday 5th August 2015 to start at 0830 hrs.

Agenda Items:

- 1 Apologies.
- 2 Minutes of previous committee meeting dated 8th July 2015.
- 3 Carry-over Issues:
 - 3.1 Telephone wiring update TW
 - 3.2 Non-playing director evaluation TW
 - 3.3 Storm damage - fence repair TW
 - 3.4 NSW <100Masterpoint event JH
 - 3.5 Sessions for single players review JH
 - 3.6 Individual event GR
 - 3.7 Bench seat JH
- 4 Sub-committee Reports:
 - 4.1 Strategic Plan
 - 4.2 Teaching
 - 4.3 Social activities
 - 4.4 Congress
 - 4.5 Publicity
 - 4.6 Maintenance
- 5 Correspondence
- 6 Treasurer's Reports
- 7 General Business:
 - 7.1 Name badges;
 - 7.2 AGM
 - 7.3
- 8 Date for the next committee meeting

COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Date: 5 August 2015 **Time:** 8:30 am

In attendance: R Broughton, J Biddlecombe, J Hill, P Robinson, G Rummey, E Sellers, A Stiller, T Wagstaff and K Wilks.

Apologies: A Morris, P Peterson

Agenda Item: Minutes 8 July 2015 **Presenter:** G Rummey
Discussion: Ken moved and Anita seconded that the minutes be accepted. The motion was carried unanimously. Tony signed the minutes as being a true record of the previous committee meeting.

Carry Over Items:

Agenda Item: Telephone Wiring Update **Presenter:** T Wagstaff
Discussion: The work had been completed.
Conclusions: Completed.

Agenda Item: Non-playing Director evaluation **Presenter:** T Wagstaff
Discussion: Tony tabled a submission to employ a Non-playing Director (NPD) for Tuesday and Friday sessions - copy attached. Submissions on the topic from Peter Peterson, Alison Morris and Roy Hardy were noted. Initially, Anita proposed a motion to the effect that the Club employ an NPD for bridge sessions as and when required. That motion was seconded by Janet and unanimously approved. Discussion followed as to when the NPD would be required. The support provided to Tuesday sessions was sufficiently beneficial for the NPD to be employed at those sessions. That decision was accepted by committee. The status quo at sessions on Monday afternoon (no) and on Friday (yes) would stand but use of an NPD at those sessions could be reconsidered in the future.
Conclusions: Completed.

Agenda Item: Storm damage **Presenter:** T Wagstaff
Discussion: Covered under Sub-committee reports - maintenance.
Conclusions: As an agenda topic consider completed.

Agenda Item: NSW <100 Masterpoint Event (UHMP) **Presenter:** J Hill
Discussion: Janet had attempted to raise interest in this and the Country Carnival events without success. Eileen expressed that there may be some members prepared to play at Club Macquarie, the host club for the Country Carnival event. Janet would recheck interest based upon Tuesday session results. Subsequently to this meeting, Janet confirmed that members from the Club were not prepared to enter.
Conclusions: Completed.

Agenda Item: Sessions for un-partnered players **Presenter:** J Hill
Discussion: Janet reported that up to 20 members had expressed interest in promoting the concept of being available to play with un-partnered players at nominated sessions. She felt that number was insufficient to run with the concept.
Conclusions: Hold item open for further consideration by next year's committee.

Agenda Item: Individual Event **Presenter:** G Rummey
Discussion: This item had been misreported as the request was for an 'Invitation Event', not for an 'Individual Event'. The invitation event had been in past programmes but had been discontinued due to a general lack of interest from players with established partnerships.
Conclusions: Invitation events would not be re-introduced.

Agenda Item: Bench seat **Presenter:** J Hill
Discussion: Janet did not intend to pursue her proposal to acquire a bench seat.
Conclusions: Completed.

Sub-committee Reports

Agenda Item: Strategic Plan **Presenter:** T Wagstaff
Discussion: No report.

Agenda Item: Teaching **Presenter:** J Hill
Discussion: Janet reported that there were 12 attendees at the current set of lessons. That number was considered not many. Future lessons would need more active promotion. Wednesday evening supervised sessions were well attended. Participants were providing positive feedback for the effort being put in by directors of those sessions.

Agenda Item: Social Events **Presenter:** A Morris
Discussion: No report.

Agenda Item: Congress **Presenter:** E Sellers
Discussion: The dates for the 2016 Congress would be 18 & 19 June. Matthew McManus had confirmed his availability for that week-end.
Conclusions: Completed.

Agenda Item: Publicity **Presenter:** T Wagstaff
Discussion: No report.

Agenda Item: Maintenance **Presenter:** G Rummey
Discussion: Graham tabled a submission prepared by Rosalie regarding the maintenance status - copy attached. Rosalie explained the problem of having a Maintenance Manager (MM) and not accepting the quotations prepared by his sub-contractors. If committee accepted the concept of using a MM then it should not quibble about prices for projects. There were ways of handling discontent with performance. Rosalie put the motion that single quotes from the MM would be accepted. Graham seconded that motion and committee unanimously agreed.
Conclusions: Graham to accept the electrical quotation and proceed with concepts for other work.

Agenda Item: Correspondence **Presenter:** G Rummey
Discussion: Correspondence register not generated. Ken alerted committee to a request from Central Coast Bridge Club for email addresses of club members regarding its Novice Congress. The request would not be acted upon and a response sent to that effect.
Conclusions: Follow-up action on item.
Responsibility: G Rummey **Deadline:** asap

Treasurer's Reports

Agenda Item: Performance Report - copy attached **Presenter:** J Biddlecombe
Discussion: Jeff presented the performance report to the end of July. He commented that table fees were generally down but that no other points could be drawn from the first report of the year. The report was showing a surplus of \$759.

Agenda Item: Finance Report - copy attached **Presenter:** J Biddlecombe
Discussion: Cash on hand noted as \$119,053.
Conclusions: The reports were accepted on the motion of Graham seconded by Anita.
Action: Nil

General Business:

Agenda Item: Name badges **Presenter:** A Stiller
Discussion: Anita confirmed she would not be on committee next year and proposed that the administration of members applying for name badges be passed to Ken. That proposal was accepted and the function would become part of Ken's duties.
Conclusions: Completed.

Agenda Item: 2015 AGM **Presenter:** G Rummey
Discussion: A reminder to current committee members that nominations would be required for the next committee. Tony advised that he would not be standing for president. He thanked the present committee for its support during his tenancy of the position. He further thanked those committee members who were standing down for their efforts.
Conclusions: Completed.

Agenda Item: Psych Bids **Presenter:** A Stiller
Discussion: Anita enquired what action the Club took regarding players making psych bids. Ken tabled an article prepared for the NSWBA concerning the issue - copy attached. The Club had a policy, a Recorder and a Psych Register but that information may not be common knowledge as reference to the policy was so infrequently required. An article for general publication concerning psych bids would be prepared for publication to the web.
Conclusions: Publish article.
Responsibility: G Rummey **Deadline:** 9 September

Agenda Item: Hunter InterClub **Presenter:** E Sellers
Discussion: Eileen confirmed that the Spring HIC session would be co-hosted by Newcastle BC with Charlestown BC on 18 October.
Conclusions: Completed.

The tentative date for next committee meeting to be 9 September at 8:30 am.
Meeting concluded at 9:45 am.
Confirmed to be a true record of the meeting.

Roy Hardy
7th September 2015

Submission to continue to employ a Non Playing Director for Tuesday and Friday sessions

Background

The Non Playing Director was introduced for the following reasons:

- 1 To solve rostering issues for sessions that have historically been unable to attract sufficient directors to play at these sessions. The Friday session in particular was becoming a ‘bad look’ whereby we had two sessions within one month where the rostered director did not arrive, did not arrange a substitute and there was no other director present. One session could not be scored. There was one Tuesday session within this period where again the rostered director did not arrive.
- 2 To enhance our beginner pathway by having a NPD available at specific sessions to foster these newer players – some assistance during play & post-session review if required. Essentially this is the third and final step in introducing new players to regular sessions, the first step being lessons and the second step being the structured supervised play session that has been implemented on Wednesday evenings.
- 3 Build up numbers at Friday through attracting newer players to take advantage of what the NPD concept has to offer them. It is hoped that newer players will be attracted to the Friday session in preference to the Tuesday session.

Results of the Trial Period

There have been no director issues for either of the sessions for which the NPD is engaged.

There has been only limited appearance at Friday sessions of newer players as the proposals in item two above were not implemented during the trial period. The recent changes to the supervised play session will enhance our ‘contact’ with the new players and better enable them to be pushed towards Friday in particular. Tuesday is a different situation where player numbers are already at a good level and have increased. It appears the Tuesday players are enjoying the benefits of having a NPD.

Numbers for Friday appear to be at the same level as they had been, but we were at risk of players leaving this session given the problems experienced earlier this year.

Director Availability per Session

Following is a list of the number of playing Directors available per session

Day	Weekly	Fortnightly or less	Prefers not to Direct
Monday Afternoon	2		1
Monday Evening	6		
Tuesday	1		
Wednesday	8		1
Thursday	8	1	
Friday	3	1	2
Saturday	4	2	1

If a Director states that they prefer not to direct then we should not be asking them, they are not going to enjoy it or their bridge.

To have a sustainable roster we believe you need at least 4 directors available for any given session, meaning each Director directs one session per month and it allows for illness and absenteeism. It is most unwise to continue trying to conduct a session with a shortage of playing directors. It is clear from the table above where we have shortages. For over three years numerous attempts have been made to have regular players complete the Directors' course, the majority asked refused. Three players agreed to attempt the course, Peter Peterson gave a lot of his time to instruct and assist these members, however, only one completed and passed the exam. There have been problems getting Tuesday and Friday players willing to score.

The Committee needs to look at the long term and complete situation going forward. We have an ageing membership and for the club to survive we must bring in new players. The retention rate of players from the lessons can be improved. It should be a high priority of this Committee to develop and implement a new approach to retain and transition new players from lessons to supervised play and ultimately into our regular sessions. This has started with formalizing supervised play on Wednesday evening.

Strategies already implemented to retain new players

- Beginner lessons have moved to Tuesday Evening as previously discussed
- Supervised sessions are now conducted similar to a regular session
- Bridgemates are used with a proper movement
- Master points awarded
- A cheat sheet, reflecting Wayne Morgan's teachings has been developed and is available for players at Supervised sessions
- Bidding help available at Supervised sessions

As the trial of the NPD occurred during the last set of beginner lessons, Ken as the Appointed NPD, attended and assisted Wayne so that the beginners would have a 'familiar face' to turn to in supervised play and ultimately at the Tuesday and/or Friday sessions.

Further strategies that should be considered for retention of new players

- Have a permanent NPD for Tuesday & Friday sessions who becomes the 'familiar face' and helps encourage transition from Supervised Play to Tuesday and/or Friday Sessions
- To be available to new players, during session time, to occasionally help with a bid
- Facilitate a floater roster for 'walk in' players for Tuesday & Friday sessions
- Stay back after play to discuss hands

To implement all of the above successfully it requires the NPD to be the one person and not a rostered position. Ken Wilks has carried out the NPD role for the trial period. Transition from the trial period to permanency needs to take place. There may be other persons interested in fulfilling this role. The Committee needs to decide whether to invite applications or to simply reappoint Ken.

Further advantages that would enhance sessions

- Run an occasional Barometer movement
- Run an individual movement

Tony Wagstaff and Rosalie Broughton
August 2nd, 2015

Maintenance Sub Committee Report

A selection of historical photos has been stored on the Club's Office Computer with the intention of them being uploaded to the webpage.

Installation of the new door and repair to the toilet roll holder in the disabled toilet is scheduled for Thursday, 6th August.

For ongoing maintenance of the premises it was decided to ask James Blenkey from 'Jimmy the Chippy' to be the Maintenance Manager. James has tradespeople, plasterers, electricians, plumbers, etc., that he regularly calls upon depending on the nature of the work involved. You can all appreciate the age of our building and the fact that a lot of repairs are somewhat a nuisance value to a tradesman. If our repair is urgent he will attend promptly.

If James is to be our Maintenance Manager and do the job efficiently we have to accept that he will use his tradespeople rather than waste time trying to source second quotes. The Committee has to decide to either trust James to do the right thing ethically by us and for his reputation in the district else we do not continue with him as Maintenance Manager, and we obtain quotes and source tradespeople ourselves.

We are waiting on various quotes regarding the side awning and windows but due to the workload of all tradespeople since the storm damage in May the quotes have been delayed. James sincerely apologises for this delay.

James has been trying for over four weeks to obtain a second quote for the electrical rewiring. This is proving more than frustrating for all involved. Each time an appointment was made the electrician did not arrive. The quote we have already received is from the electrician that James always uses. Whilst it is the policy of the Committee to obtain two quotes I think we need to face what happens in reality. To obtain a second quote James or a committee member has to select an electrician from the phone book and then be prepared to sit at the premises in the hope they arrive when scheduled. The rewiring needs to be completed and I believe we should proceed, as a matter of urgency, using the electrician recommended by James.

Rosalie Broughton/Graham Rummey
2-Aug-15

Performance to Budget for year to date

Jul-15

	Note	Actual	Budget	Prior Year	Full Year	
					Budget	
Income						
Monday day		1296				
Monday night		791				
Tuesday day		2069				
Wednesday day		1479				
Thursday night		516				
Friday day		1311				
Saturday day		1299				
Wednesday night + Thursday support		430				
<i>Table Fees Sub-total</i>		9191				
Congress		0				
Weekend Club Events		0				
Joining Fees		0				
Subscriptions		0				
Country Teams (Net)						
GNP Regional finals		0				
Board Dealing		247				
Lessons						
Other Income		0				
Total Income		9438				
Expenses						
Accounting		0				
Advertising		0				
Capitation		0				
State affiliation		0				
Directors		0				
Bank Charges		0				
Congress		810				
Computer expenses		105				
Consumables		105				
Depreciation		0				
Donations		0				
Electricity						
General		-41				
Insurance		3400				
Lessons		0				
Office Equipment		0				
Postage		0				
Printing and Stationery		198				
Prizes		144				
Rates		2319				
Refreshments		279				
Repairs and Maintenance		0				
Subscriptions/Membership		0				
Social		0				
Masterpoints		0				
State/National comps		-100				
Telephone		92				
Wages - Office	C	647				
Cleaner		748				
Total Expenses		8706				

Surplus/(deficit) from Bridge

732

Other Income

Interest Income

27

Total surplus (deficit)

759

NOTE

C Wages plus Super

FINANCE REPORT

Jul-15

Cash position

		Int Rate	Maturity
Cheque account	\$14,370		
Business Online Saver	\$23,867		
Term Deposit	\$80,816	1.85%	Sep-15
	\$119,053.00		

Game Tokens

	Qty	Value
Blue Tokens "in play"	1,000	\$6,000
Liability on Books (Pre Paid Table Fees-White)		?
Liability on Books (Pre Paid Table Fees-Blue)		?
Latest white token count shows a discrepancy of 8		
Latest blue token count shows no discrepancy		

	Jul-15	Jul-15	(No results for Jul-14)
Average Tables	65		
Token Use	73%		

PSYCHE KIT

What is the problem with psyches?

Why do players become upset when their opponents psych against them?

Even though genuine psyches are legal, and indeed sometimes backfire on the psyche, players who are the victims of a successful psyche often are upset by what they sometimes view as an unfair tactic. It doesn't help the situation any when the psycher chooses this time to gloat. Problems may arise where:

- Inexperienced players may be confused and discouraged by tactics they don't understand;
- Repeated psyches may establish undisclosed partnership understandings, and ultimately lead to unethical non-disclosure (bluntly, cheating);
- Also, once a psyching pattern becomes an understanding, it is subject to systems and alerting regulations eg. a practice of light openings in third seat non-vulnerable. Players need to make sure they follow the system regulations and alert/disclose everything they should.

What is a psych?

The Laws of Duplicate Bridge define a psychic call as "A deliberate and gross misstatement of honour strength or suit length". The key word is "gross".

If you forget the meaning of a call or make a call with 12 points when your partnership agreement calls for a maximum of 11, it is not a psych. If you are playing five-card majors and open the bidding with one spade on a four-card holding, it is not a psych. Laws of bridge specifically allow psyches.

Law 40 says:

C. Deviation from System and Psychic Action

- 1. A player may deviate from his side's announced understandings always provided that his partner has no more reason to be aware of the deviation than have the opponents. Repeated deviations lead to implicit understandings which then form part of the partnership's methods and must be disclosed in accordance with the regulations governing disclosure of system. If the Director judges there is undisclosed knowledge that has damaged the opponents he shall adjust the score and may award a procedural penalty.*
- 2. Other than the above, no player has any obligation to disclose to opponents that he has deviated from his announced methods.*

What can Clubs do about psyching problems?

Clubs may wish to provide mechanisms and support to ensure people who psyche do so within the rules and obligations of sportsmanship.

If psyching is a problem clubs may wish to provide:

- education for players;
- a mechanism for the recording of psyches to establish a pattern of behaviour so that further action against offenders can be taken; and
- counselling and other disciplinary measures for players who offend.

Education

Players need to be informed early in their bridge careers about the legal and social dangers of psyching. These warnings should be repeated from time to time. The best vehicles for this are bridge bulletins, regional newsletters and directors.

Suggested reporting requirements

For any action for psyching to be taken against any player it is important to establish a pattern of bad behaviour.

This may be done by means of a Psych Register. In general this would be held by the club manager or director.

In best practice, all psychs should be reported twice — once by the psycher and once by the side psyched against. Penalties should be assessed if the psycher fails to report a psych.

Policing can be organised through tournament organisers and club directors. Invite people psyched against (not psycher) to report and ask psychers to respond.

In practice directors etc may receive reports from victims of psyches and ask the psycher to fill in psyche report.

Sometimes it is clear that the partner of the psycher has bid in such a way as to allow for the possibility that partner has psyched — no other interpretation of the call seems to make much sense. Bidding to cover the possibility that your partner psyched indicates at least an implied understanding which is clearly in violation of the Laws. The director should make an adjustment to repair the damage, possibly give a procedural penalty, and deliver a stern warning to the offenders.

Counselling and other disciplinary actions

If it appears that a pattern of bad behaviour has been established, the club's managers or committees may need to raise the problem formally or informally with the offender. Before any formal action is taken it is vital that the pattern of behaviour is established so as to afford the psycher procedural fairness.

The club should then undertake counselling, and further action if this is not successful. Any formal action must be undertaken according to the Club's own Constitution, procedures and rules.