



The Newcastle Bridge Club Incorporated ABN 16 405 302 022

# **COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**For meeting held Tuesday 11/04/2023**



# NEWCASTLEBRIDGE

The Newcastle Bridge Club Incorporated ABN 16 405 302 022

## Committee Meeting Agenda

<b>Location:</b>	NBC	<b>Date:</b>	Tuesday 11/04/2023
<b>Chair:</b>	Jeff Biddlecombe	<b>Time:</b>	1:30 pm
<b>AGENDA</b>			
1. <b>Apologies:</b> Angela Jeffs			
2. <b>Minutes of previous meeting dated 14<sup>th</sup> March 2023</b>			
3. <b>Correspondence</b> 3.1. Email from Sia Parsanejad re Beginners' Course and workshop (circulated) 3.2. Email from Paul McCosker re website (circulated) 3.3. Communique No 4 (John McIlraith) (circulated)			
4. <b>Financials (Les)</b> 4.1. P & L 4.2. Treasurer's Report 4.3. Investments 4.4. Energy supplier			
5. <b>Business arising from correspondence and previous minutes.</b> 5.1. Australia-wide Novice Pairs (25-31 May) ( <b>Ken</b> ) 5.2. Novice/Restricted Congress ( <b>Vincia</b> ) (refer to documents circulated) 5.3. Lessons: Program, website, online registration ( <b>Jeff</b> ) 5.4. Socials, Christmas in July ( <b>Jeff</b> ) 5.5. Unused furniture in the shed / BBQ installation ( <b>Rosalie</b> ) 5.6. June Congress ( <b>Vincia</b> ) 5.7. Vinyl tablecloth trial ( <b>Rosalie</b> ) 5.8. Bridge rules, etiquette ( <b>Peter</b> ) (refer to document circulated) 5.9. Directors' seminar ( <b>Peter</b> )			
6. <b>New Business</b> 6.1. Suggestion box contents ( <b>Vincia</b> ) 6.2. Date for June meeting ( <b>Julie</b> ) 6.3. Membership status ( <b>Ken</b> ) (refer to document circulated) 6.4. MYABF ( <b>Ken</b> ) (refer to document circulated)			
7. <b>General Business</b>			
8. <b>Notes for future meeting agendas</b> 8.1. State Wide Pairs 01 – 07 August (June meeting agenda) 8.2. Replacement of chairs (AGM)			
9. <b>Next Meeting:</b> Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> May at 1:30pm (Angela is an apology)			

**COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES: April 2023**

<b>Location:</b>	Newcastle Bridge Club	<b>Date:</b>	11/04/2023
<b>Chair:</b>	Jeff Biddlecombe	<b>Time:</b>	1:20 pm
<b>Attendees:</b>	Jeff Biddlecombe, Les Brien, Rosalie Broughton, Julie Butel (minute taker), Caroline Carey, Ailsa Kearney, Vincia Martin, Peter Peterson, Ken Wilks		

**AGENDA ITEM**
**1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

Jeff opened the meeting at 1:25 pm.

Apologies: Angela Jeffs

**2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (14/03/2023)**

Vincia moved that the minutes of the previous meeting be accepted, and Ailsa seconded the motion, which was supported by all. Jeff then signed the minutes as a true record of the meeting.

**3. CORRESPONDENCE**
**3.1. Email from Sia Parsanejad re Beginners' Course and workshop.**

Noted. The course will be run in 8 sessions in Sydney. No follow up reaction required.

**3.2. Email from Paul McCosker (Maitland Bridge Club member and webmaster) re our website.**

The details in Paul's email were discussed. Questions such as the pros and cons of Bridgewebs, what would we gain by changing, would we really save money, etc. were raised.

***Action: It was agreed to do nothing until we have at least investigated MyABF (ref 6.4). Julie to advise Paul via email.***

**3.3. Communique No 4 (Hunter Central Coast Zone - John McIlraith)**

The newsletter included a request to advertise the new website (<https://huntercentralcoastbridgezone.com>).

***Action: Julie to email members with the link***

The newsletter also included information re ABF Teacher Accreditation – no interest was shown in pursuing this.



## AGENDA ITEM

### 4. Financials (Les)

#### 4.1. P & L / Treasurer's Report / Investments (see attached)

Les circulated the **Profit and Loss Report** for the 9 months ending March 2023, which showed a loss of \$763. It was noted that an amount of \$4548.85 was paid in April for ABF Capitation and this will appear in the April P & L).

Included in the P & L was an overview of **Table Fees**. There has been a slight increase in the weekly average since last month, but the numbers are still well below the averages to October / November 2022.

#### **Funds on hand:**

Cheque account: \$13,710

Online saver: \$5,309

Term deposit: \$70,000 (Greater Bank, 12 months at 4%)

Investments: \$88,116 current market value (ref spreadsheet)

Les proposed that at the May meeting we should give serious consideration to disposing of the **investments** and placing the funds in a term deposit.

**Les reported that the Valuer General has updated the valuation of the property** from \$681,000 at 1/07/2019 to \$977,000 at 1/07/2022. This will have some impact on council rate charges.

Les advised that he has changed our **electricity supplier** from Energy Australia to Origin Energy, effective 5/04/2023. The process involved the use of a government website to compare providers using our historical usage information. Based on this, Origin Energy was the best option.

Ken moved that the reports be accepted and Rosalie seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

### 5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE / PREVIOUS MINUTES

#### 5.1. Australia-wide Novice Pairs (25-31 May)

To date only 5 pairs have registered an interest in the event (insufficient).

***Action: Wait until closer to the closing date before making a decision (Ken)***

#### 5.2. Novice/Restricted Congress

22 teams (the maximum) have now registered, an encouraging result.

Vincia advised that some members had agreed to be on standby in case of last minute cancellations.

A decision was made not to proceed with a Team game on a Tuesday night, but a handout has been prepared to assist those who have not previously played in a Team game.

## AGENDA ITEM

Rosalie advised that sufficient members have volunteered to make **slices**, and requested they be compensated with a voucher for ingredients. This was agreed.

Three different prize money allocations were put forward and there was majority support for one of the proposals.

Ken proposed that the **scoring booklets** be printed and collated onsite (a long arm stapler would need to be purchased). This was agreed and Ken will coordinate.

### 5.3. Lessons: Program, website, online registration

- Vincia has collated the information provided by members who have recently been involved in providing lessons.
- Beginners' lessons will finish on 4<sup>th</sup> May
- The yearly calendar is still WIP
- For **improvement lessons**, night lessons will probably be more popular than day time. Topics planned include strong bids, pre-empts, takeout doubles, negative doubles. A decision on who will do this is still to be made but it will likely involve a number of teachers.

#### ***Action: Vincia to finalize***

- Ken is working on lessons for slam bidding, simple and extended stayman, and responses to 1 of a major. A timeframe is yet to be determined.
- Ken is yet to investigate the possibility of **online registration** for lessons.
- **Website information re lessons:** Caroline and Jeff to finalize the wording so that Ken can update the website

### 5.4. Socials including Christmas in July

Jeff advised that he has handed this over to Angela.

Indicative costings have been obtained for a Christmas in July event – approx. \$1800 for 40 people (spit roast, serving, dessert). The final cost is likely to be \$3000 or thereabouts.

### 5.5. Unused Furniture in the Shed / BBQ Installation

Rosalie reported that all the unwanted furniture has now been disposed of via street collection. The BBQ is now operational, but the gas line is yet to be installed.

### 5.6. June Congress

To date there has only been one registration for each of the events.

Vincia advised that there will be more focus on the congress once the Novice/Restricted Congress is over. However, the numbers are not expected to be as strong as for the Novice/Restricted event, based on the recent experiences of other clubs.



## AGENDA ITEM

### 5.7. Vinyl Tablecloth Trial

Rosalie reported that the pale coloured vinyl showed up biro marks, but this issue aside, the trial was not received well due to the feel of the vinyl.

The comment was made that there may be more members interested in helping to launder the cloth tablecloths as a result of the trial, so we may get to a situation where each volunteer is only rostered once / year.

**Action: Review volunteers available and reissue the roster (Julie)**

### 5.8. Bridge Rules / Etiquette (see attached)

Peter had prepared a draft document for review and comment. It was agreed that there is a need for more focus on this issue, including post mortems after a board. Ken suggested that a section on **dummy** be included.

**Action: Peter to revise the document to include a section on dummy, then circulate to directors. It was suggested that the document be posted on the website as well as being included as an attachment to the Minutes.**

### 5.9. Directors' Seminar

Peter advised that he had circulated the email re the seminar but had received no response. **(Note: The seminar has since been cancelled).**

## 6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1. **Suggestion box:** No contributions received since the last meeting.

### 6.2. Date for June Meeting

Julie requested that the June meeting be held a week earlier (6<sup>th</sup> June) or if not, that someone else would need to be responsible for the minutes. It was agreed to hold the meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> June.

### 6.3. Membership Status (see attached)

Ken circulated a document re membership as at 7/04/2023

In summary, the total loss of membership since last year is 43. Assuming each loss played once/week, the loss is equivalent to 11 tables per week.

Reasons for the loss include mobility issues, no longer playing Bridge, death, transfer.

### 6.4. MyABF

Ken circulated a document prior to the meeting based on a recent MyABF update. In summary, there are a number of reported benefits for clubs and members, including cashless Bridge (pilot scheme underway).

Ken advised that he had contacted Julian Foster (MyABF Project Manager) who is now waiting for Ken's go ahead to set NBC up on the testing site.

**Action: Ken to liaise with Julian Foster re next steps**

AGENDA ITEM
<b>7. <u>GENERAL BUSINESS</u></b> There were no items raised.
<b>8. <u>NEXT MEETING</u></b> Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> May commencing at 1:20 pm
<b>9. <u>FOR FUTURE MEETING AGENDAS</u></b> 9.1. State Wide Pairs (for June meeting) 9.2. Replacement of Chairs (AGM discussion)
<b>10. <u>MEETING CLOSE:</u></b> The meeting concluded 2:55 pm

**CONFIRMED TO BE A TRUE RECORD OF THE MEETING**

<b>Moved by:</b>	Ken Wicks
<b>Seconded by:</b>	Wanda Martin
<b>Signed by:</b>	J. Bolduan
<b>Date:</b>	9.5.23



## Newcastle Bridge Club – Treasurer's Report for April meeting

**P & L** for 9 months to March 2023 shows a result of \$763 (loss). See excel file P&L months of 23 year, sheet MAR 23.

Note that the ABF Capitation payment of \$4548.85 was paid on 6<sup>th</sup> April and will appear in the April P & L. An estimate has been made for depreciation at the rate of \$600 per month. The actual amount will be processed by the Accountants at year end.

Also see **Table Fees** exercise showing table fees to end of recent months; a weekly average; and an estimate for the year. Fees fell away during December and January due to the free week in December and holidays. There has been a slight uptick in the weekly average to the end of March, but well under the averages to October and November 2022 . Table fees of \$90000 plus would be good.

**Funds** at end of March – cheque account \$ 13710    Online saver account \$5309    Greater Bank Deposit \$70000 for 12 months at 4.00%pa.

**Investments** – see spreadsheet Market value \$88116. Emails sent to Vanguard regarding next distribution from VGB but no response. Distributions from the other investments expected in latter part of April 2023. At the May meeting we should give serious consideration to disposing of these investments and placing the funds in a term deposit.

The Valuer General updated the **valuation of the property** from \$681000 at 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019 to \$977000 at 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022; a 43% increase. The council rates will probably increase , but not necessarily by that % increase. Note that next year the interest on the Greater term deposit of \$2800 will be received. Electricity – the new provider from 5<sup>th</sup> April 2023 is Origin Energy.



**The Newcastle Bridge Club Inc**  
12 Young Road Broadmeadow 2292  
**Profit & Loss [With Last Year]**  
July 2022 To March 2023

	This Year	Last Year	TY - LY
	TY	LY	
<b>Income</b>			
<b>Competitions</b>			
Weekend Club Events	\$454.00	\$0.00	\$454.00
Hosting Events	\$1,164.59	\$0.00	\$1,164.59
<b>Memberships</b>			
Subscriptions	\$9,305.00	\$9,650.00	\$345.00
<b>Table Fees</b>			
Monday Supervised Play	\$3,558.00	\$1,520.00	\$2,038.00
Monday Afternoon	\$8,436.00	\$7,848.00	\$588.00
Tuesday Morning	\$15,882.00	\$11,670.00	\$4,212.00
Tuesday Afternoon	\$0.00	\$552.00	\$552.00
Tuesday Supervised Play	\$6,342.00	\$3,690.00	\$2,652.00
Wednesday	\$4,440.00	\$4,246.00	\$194.00
Thursday Morning	\$12,940.00	\$9,542.00	\$3,398.00
Friday	\$7,796.00	\$6,558.00	\$1,238.00
Saturday	\$4,754.00	\$3,208.00	\$1,546.00
HBA Table Fees	\$0.00	\$170.00	\$170.00
Total Table Fees	\$64,148.00	\$49,004.00	\$15,144.00
Board Dealing	\$1,691.40	\$807.50	\$883.90
Hall Hire	\$60.00	\$175.00	\$115.00
Lessons	\$977.40	\$120.00	\$857.40
Sundry Receipts	\$20.00	\$0.00	\$20.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$77,820.39</b>	<b>\$59,756.50</b>	<b>\$18,063.89</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Accounting Fees	\$2,200.00	\$2,200.00	\$0.00
Card Dealing	\$832.00	\$512.00	\$320.00
Cleaning	\$11,110.00	\$8,387.50	\$2,722.50
Consumables	\$3,492.22	\$3,708.40	\$216.18
Insurance	\$5,292.00	\$3,120.00	\$2,172.00
General Expense	\$54.95	\$0.00	\$54.95
Printing, Stationery & Postage	\$4,661.82	\$1,628.34	\$3,033.48
Prize Money	\$3,486.00	\$2,651.98	\$834.02
Refreshments	\$2,391.86	\$1,168.32	\$1,223.54
Socials	\$582.13	\$674.30	\$92.17
Subscriptions / Membership	\$50.00	\$133.00	\$83.00
<b>Competitions</b>			
Congress	\$100.78	\$0.00	\$100.78
Other Competitions	\$1,645.35	\$620.00	\$1,025.35
<b>Employment Expenses</b>			
<b>Wages</b>			
Office Staff	\$7,353.39	\$6,730.90	\$622.49
Superannuation	\$1,032.07	\$823.01	\$209.06
Non Playing Director	\$8,120.00	\$6,580.00	\$1,540.00
<b>Fees &amp; Levies</b>			
Affiliation (NSWBA)	\$2,850.00	\$2,850.00	\$0.00
Capitation (ABF)	\$93.60	\$4,239.40	\$4,145.80
Masterpoints	\$1,113.09	\$1,211.28	\$98.19
<b>Repairs &amp; Maintenance</b>			
R&M Air Conditioning	\$180.00	\$913.40	\$733.40
R&M Building	\$449.45	\$452.83	\$3.38
R&M Equipment	\$1,607.09	\$248.00	\$1,359.09
R&M Grounds	\$393.00	\$1,071.31	\$678.31
<b>Utilities</b>			
Electricity	\$1,445.27	\$1,417.18	\$28.09
Rates - Land / Water	\$10,082.92	\$10,020.40	\$62.52
Telecommunications	\$2,006.18	\$2,417.21	\$411.03
<b>Computer Systems</b>			
Events Calendar	\$170.50	\$154.00	\$16.50
Microsoft 365	\$129.00	\$129.00	\$0.00
MYOB Essentials	\$90.00	\$89.99	\$0.01
Pianola	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$0.00
Web Site	\$744.83	\$247.50	\$497.33
Depreciation	\$5,400.00	\$5,082.75	\$317.25
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$79,759.50</b>	<b>\$70,082.00</b>	<b>\$9,677.50</b>
Operating Profit/(Loss)	<b>(\$1,939.11)</b>	<b>(\$10,325.50)</b>	<b>\$8,386.39</b>
<b>Other Income</b>			
Interest Income	\$164.35	\$5.56	\$158.79
Investment Income	\$1,011.36	\$2,013.35	\$1,001.99
Covid 19 Government Support	\$0.00	\$15,500.00	\$15,500.00
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>\$1,175.71</b>	<b>\$17,518.91</b>	<b>(\$16,343.20)</b>
<b>Net Profit/(Loss)</b>	<b>\$763.40</b>	<b>\$7,193.41</b>	<b>\$7,956.81</b>

Table fees to -	Weeks to	Wkly Ave	Est for Yr
October	30046	17	1767
November	38984	22	1772
December	42438	26	1632
January	48256	30	1609
February	55132	34	1622
March	64148	39	1645

Newcastle Bridge Club

Investments Schedule

Name	units	Total Cost	Current MV/ unit	Total MV	P&L	P&L %	YTDI (1)	% on MV
IAF	215	24787.20	103.38	22226.70	-2560.50	-10.33%	212.01	0.95%
VAP	110	10186.15	76.43	8407.30	-1778.85	-17.46%	308.19	3.67%
VDCO	720	40021.98	49.16	35395.20	-4626.78	-11.56%	491.16	1.39%
VGB	465	24928.14	47.5	22087.50	-2840.64	-11.40%	0	0.00%
		99923.47		88116.70	-11806.77	-11.82%	1011.36	1.15%
check totals					-11806.77	-11.82%		

(1)Year to date income

Estimated income on market value (say \$85000) at 4.20% (1)

3570

(1) per Greater Bank for 12 months at 5th April 2023

Market Value at Ctee Mtgs

Oct-22	84891	Mar-23	86893
Nov-22	84255	Apr-23	88116
Dec-22	87074	May-23	
Jan-23	84517	Jun-23	
Feb-23	86881	Jul-23	



## Directors: Tips on Rules and Etiquette

### Background

The February meeting of the Bridge Club Committee asked me as Tournament Director “to prepare a series of tips to be delivered at the start of a Bridge session, at the discretion of the Director”, with the following aims:

- to improve etiquette
- to foster a better understanding of the rules, particularly among newer players.

Some of the following “tips” may appear to be targeted at novice players, but some quite senior players could benefit from reminders about etiquette in particular. And remember that there are novice players playing in many of our sessions during the week, not just Tuesday night and Thursday morning.

### Etiquette

1. Do not discuss the hand just played
  - Do not criticize partner’s bidding or play
  - Do not criticize opponents’ bidding or play
  - Do not discuss bidding problems
  - The only acceptable comments are along the lines of “Well played” or “Bad luck”, to partner or to opponents.
2. **Postmortems** should only be held after the set of boards has been completed, and only if there is time remaining. Otherwise wait until later. Any postmortems should be limited and quiet, so as not to convey information to neighbouring tables.
3. **Alerts** should be shown by circling the alertable bid AND saying clearly “Alert” The alert should be given immediately; if the alert is delayed until after the next player has bid, that player has the right to change his/her bid – **call the Director** to sort this out.
4. **Asking** about the meanings of bids. If you don’t understand what an opponent’s bid means, you are entitled to ask. But there are rules and etiquette associated with asking. The rules are that you may only ask when it is your turn to bid, or at the end of the auction before the opening lead. The etiquette is that you should only ask if you need to know, not just because you are curious. And if you are asking at the end of the auction, ask for an explanation of the whole auction, not just one specific bid.

### Rules

1. Do not comment on the bidding or the cards or the play during the bidding or play of a hand.
  - Do not say (or even indicate by body language) “I don’t know what I should bid”.
  - Do not indicate in any way that you don’t like your partner’s lead.

## 2. **Dummy.**

- If you are dummy, play the card indicated by Declarer without hesitation. If Declarer says to play from a suit without nominating which card, you must play the lowest card of that suit.
- If the Declarer calls for a card to be led from the table when it is not Dummy's turn to lead, Dummy must play the card, and **must not** draw attention to the error. (It is up to the defenders to object, if they want to.) Dummy may remind declarer which hand is on lead ("in your hand partner", "on table, partner") **but only before** Declarer has played or named a card.
- Remember that Dummy is in general silent. As Dummy you cannot draw attention to an infraction, and cannot initiate a call to the Director.

## 3. **Calling the Director.** The Director must be called if there is an infraction – i.e. the rules have been broken in any way – e.g. bid out of turn, insufficient bid, lead out of turn, revoke.

Calling the Director is not an implied accusation of wrongdoing, and it is not "impolite" or "aggressive" behaviour. It is simply the way of making sure that play is fair and equitable for all players, at your table and all other tables. It is **not OK** for any player to say, "Don't bother to call the Director; I know the rules."

## 4. **Hesitations.** If your partner "hesitates" – 'pauses for thought', takes an unusually long time to bid or pass – this may give you "unauthorized information" (simply, you know that your partner has some values in their hand that gave them grounds for considering action). This does not prevent you from bidding, but it does put an obligation on you to bid only on the values in your own hand (not using any assumptions about values in your partner's hand). **Do not be upset** if the opponents call the Director for guidance in this situation; it is the proper thing to do, and is **not** an accusation that you or your partner has done anything wrong.



**Membership as at 07.04.23**

Home Members	241
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<i>Active Life Members</i>	6
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<b>Total Home Members</b>	<b>247</b>
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Alternate Members	28
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<b>Total Membership</b>	<b>275</b>
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**Losses from 2022**

<i>Home Members cancelled</i>	35
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Home members to Alternate members	4
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Home members transferred	3
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<b>Total Loss Home Members</b>	<b>42</b>
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Home members Cancelled	35
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Home members transferred	3
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Alternate Members Cancelled	5
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<b>Total Membership Loss</b>	<b>43</b>
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