



NEWCASTLEBRIDGE

The Newcastle Bridge Club Incorporated ABN 16 405 302 022

COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

For meeting held Tuesday 09/04/2024



The Newcastle Bridge Club Incorporated ABN 16 405 302 022

COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Location:	Newcastle Bridge Club	Date:	09 April 2024
Chair:	Jeff Biddlecombe	Time:	1:30pm

1. Apologies: Ken Wilks

2. Minutes of previous meeting dated 05 March 2024

3. Correspondence

- 3.1. Central Coast Bridge Club – NBC team 3rd place in Novice Teams event in their Super Congress in March
- 3.2. Australia Wide Novice Pairs 25-31 May
- 3.3. NSW Online Pairs League

4. Financials

- 4.1. Treasurer's report
- 4.2. P & L to end of February 2024) and notes; P&L to end of March and notes
- 4.3. Treasurer's note for April meeting (refer document previously circulated)

5. Business arising from correspondence and previous minutes

- 5.1. Catering roster for the year (Ailsa)
- 5.2. Honour boards update – status (Vincia)
- 5.3. Novice / Restricted Congress (Vincia)
- 5.4. Potluck Partners (Vincia)
- 5.5. AED update

6. New Business

- 6.1. Suggestion box contents
- 6.2. Meeting with John McIlrath

7. General Business

- 7.1.

8. Notes for future meeting agendas

- 8.1.

9. Next meeting: Tuesday, 14th May at 1:30pm



The Newcastle Bridge Club Incorporated ABN 16 405 302 022

COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES: April 2024

Location:	Newcastle Bridge Club	Date:	09/04/2024
Chair:	Jeff Biddlecombe	Time:	1:30 pm
Attendees:	Jeff Biddlecombe, Les Brien, Julie Butel (minute taker), Caroline Carey, Christine Chandler, Angela Jeffs, Ailsa Kearney, Vincia Martin, Peter Peterson.		

AGENDA ITEM

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Jeff opened the meeting at 1:35 pm.

Apology: Ken Wilks.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (05/03/2024)

Vincia moved that the minutes of the previous meeting be accepted and Ailsa seconded the motion. Jeff then signed the minutes as a true record of the meeting.

3. CORRESPONDENCE:

3.1. Email from Central Coast Bridge Club: NBC Team 3rd place in Novice Teams event in their Super Congress in March

Congratulations to Peter Pockney, Amanda Falconer, Craig Roberts-Thomson, Jenny Bissett!

3.2. Email from ABF re Australia Wide Novice Pairs 25-31 May

Ken Wilks to decide if we will participate this year. Cost to enter is \$5 per player (additional to table fees).

3.3. Email from NSWBA re Online Pairs League

Registrations for the Autumn event which commenced 9/4 closed 5/4. A reminder email was sent to members.

4. FINANCIALS (Les)

4.1. P & L (to end of February and notes, and to end of March and notes) – see attached

Les tabled the P & L's for the periods ending February 2024 (not available in time for the March meeting) and March 2024.

Table numbers have been strong in recent months despite a decline in membership.

Based on the results for April – June last year, it is possible that we will achieve a break even result for year end.

4.2. Treasurer's note for April meeting (attached)

Les circulated a document that summarized the history of the Club's finances based on limited available information, in an effort to understand how the Club got to its current financial position.

Prior to COVID, the Club's finances were healthy thanks to donations by members of money, labour, etc in its early days, and high membership and participation levels.

AGENDA ITEM

Thanks to Government support during COVID, the financial position remained healthy despite the lengthy shutdowns.

Table numbers and total membership have both declined since the end of the pandemic and a breakeven result is now considered to be a good outcome given the Club is in a sound financial position.

12 Young Road is within the designated area of the "Broadmeadow Place Strategy", with a Discussion Paper due to be issued by the NSW Planning Department within the next few months. As the impact on our property is unknown at this stage, it was agreed to await the discussion paper before considering options for the future.

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE / PREVIOUS MINUTES

5.1. Catering Roster for Weekend Events(Ailsa)

The roster is a Work in Progress. No need to include in future meetings.

The Tablecloth Roster will be reviewed for the period commencing July.

5.2. Honour Boards update (Vincia)

It was agreed to update the Honour Boards at the end of the year when all the Club events have been run (Club Teams 26/05, Club Pairs 3/11).

5.3. Novice / Restricted Congress (Vincia)

Entries have been slow this year. Currently 13 teams have registered and it is hoped we will end up with 16 teams. Entries close April 21.

Vincia mentioned that based on feedback the date is not ideal and that an alternative time might be considered for next year.

Still to be finalized: Prizes (depends on the number of entries), catering, scoring booklets. It was agreed that an extra clean prior to the event is not needed.

An email will be sent to all registrants in the week prior to the event reminding them to bring their lunch.

5.4. Potluck Partners (Vincia) – refer document attached

It was agreed to kick off the event in July and run it as proposed by Vincia.

5.5. Automated External Defibrillator (AED) (Ailsa)

The defibrillator has been installed in the front lobby area and is now operational.

There is an instructional booklet at the front desk.

An email will be sent to members with the details including a link to the video on how to use the device.

The battery is due for replacement in December 2027.

Thank you Ailsa for organizing the acquisition of the AED!

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1. Suggestion box:

Nothing received since the last meeting.

6.2. Meeting with John McIlrath

Shortly after the March Committee meeting, John McIlrath contacted the Club requesting a meeting regarding the NSWBA / Bridge NSW separation, which was approved at the NSWBA AGM on 28/2/2024. A consultation period regarding the proposed Constitution and By Laws of BNSW commenced on 29/2 and closed 31/3.

The purpose of the meeting with John was to ensure we knew what was happening and encourage the Club and members to participate in the survey (an email was sent to all

AGENDA ITEM

members with an explanation and link to the proposed Constitution and By Laws and survey).

The survey was completed on behalf of the Club after the meeting with John.

A key concern for NBC is clause 13(3) of the draft Constitution:

"It is a condition of membership of or affiliation to BNSW that Member Clubs and Associated Clubs:

- a) Recoup any affiliation, capitation or similar fees paid to BNSW or the ABF from their members separately from other member fees payable by the member; and
- b) Do not otherwise create a financial incentive for members to nominate the club as their Home Club."

7. GENERAL BUSINESS:

7.1. Club Teams

The Club Teams Championship is scheduled for Sunday May 26.

Peter advised that he will be away then so will not be available to direct the event.

An email will be sent to all members shortly..

7.2. Link to Newcastle Bridge Club Website

Caroline advised that she recently shared a link to some documents on our website ("Behaviour at the Bridge Table" and "Improve Your Bridge") to the Lake Macquarie Bridge Club, which were appreciated.

7.3. Protocol for Informing Bridgemate Scores

Christine requested that a protocol re how the Bridgemate score is communicated at the end of a hand be agreed and communicated. After discussion, it was agreed that it should be announced by the person accepting the entry in the order N/S, E/W.

Discussion regarding the result should however be discouraged. It was also agreed that the appropriate time to communicate the protocol would be at the beginning of a session.

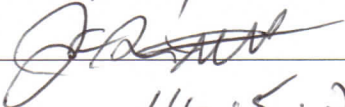
7.4. Chris Dibley Lessons

Chris has now completed his Wednesday lessons. These were for Intermediate players and covered strong and weak no-trump openings and Defence conventions including Brozel and Modified Cappelletti, as well as the Lebensohl Convention for bidding over 1 NT and Weak 2's. The lessons were quite well attended and much appreciated. The Committee thanks Chris for helping members improve their Bridge Skills.

8. NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 14/05 at 1:30pm

9. MEETING CLOSE: The meeting concluded at 3.10 pm

CONFIRMED TO BE A TRUE RECORD OF THE MEETING

Moved by:	V. Martin
Seconded by:	A. Kavanagh
Signed by:	
Date:	14.5.24

Treasurer's Notes

1. For P & L to February 2024

Loss of \$4003 similar to last year \$3317. NB Interest will be received of \$3825 on 30/6/24.

Income

Subs up \$390

Table fees up by \$5738. See the table below the P&L - the table fees could be up on last year but importantly what will the membership numbers be?

Interest income up - Term deposit matured January and Investment income down as investments sold last year.

Expenses

Variations for cleaning, insurance, socials, affiliation, rates and website mentioned last month.

R&M building up \$1041 - kitchen window lock, side door & men's' toilet.

2. For P & L to March 2024

Loss of \$391 compared to profit of \$483 last year.
NB interest income of \$3825 to be received on 30/6/24.

Income

Subs up \$410

Table fees up \$5678, See the table below the P&L - the table fees could be up on last year but importantly, what will the membership numbers be?

Interest income up because term deposit matured January and Investment income down because investments sold last year.

Expenses

Variations for cleaning, insurance, socials, affiliation, R & M building, rates and website mentioned in January and February reports.

Newcastle Bridge Club
12 Young Road Broadmeadow 2292
Profit & Loss [With Last Year]
July 2023 To February 2024

	This Year	Last Year	TY - LY
	TY	LY	
Income			
Competitions			
Congress	\$33.60	\$0.00	33.60
Weekend Club Events	\$1,012.00	\$454.00	558.00
Hosting Events	\$1,652.00	\$1,164.59	487.41
Memberships			
Subscriptions	\$9,340.00	\$8,950.00	390.00
Table Fees			
Monday Supervised Play	\$4,230.00	\$2,986.00	1244.00
Monday Afternoon	\$7,350.00	\$7,268.00	82.00
Tuesday Morning	\$15,016.00	\$13,650.00	1366.00
Tuesday Night	\$4,792.00	\$5,482.00	-690.00
Wednesday	\$3,284.00	\$3,832.00	-548.00
Thursday Supervised Play	\$410.00	\$0.00	410.00
Thursday Morning	\$13,124.00	\$10,980.00	2144.00
Friday	\$7,758.00	\$6,674.00	1084.00
Saturday	\$4,904.00	\$4,258.00	646.00
Total Table Fees	\$60,868.00	\$55,130.00	5738.00
Board Dealing	\$1,293.00	\$1,472.40	-179.40
Hall Hire	\$60.00	\$60.00	0.00
Lessons	\$110.85	(\$72.60)	183.45
Sundry Receipts	\$20.00	\$0.00	20.00
Gain on Disposal of Assets	\$10.00	\$0.00	10.00
Total Income	\$74,399.45	\$67,158.39	7241.06
Expenses			
Accounting Fees	\$2,200.00	\$2,200.00	0.00
Card Dealing	\$969.00	\$720.00	249.00
Cleaning	\$10,651.00	\$9,955.00	696.00
Consumables	\$4,006.21	\$3,191.04	815.17
Insurance	\$6,797.00	\$5,292.00	1505.00
General Expense	\$296.00	\$54.95	241.05
Printing, Stationery & Postage	\$3,827.76	\$3,471.04	356.72
Prize Money	\$2,738.00	\$3,006.00	-268.00
Refreshments	\$2,897.69	\$2,067.60	830.09
Socials	\$2,832.50	\$582.13	2250.37
Subscriptions / Membership	\$0.00	\$50.00	-50.00
Competitions			
Congress	\$104.00	\$100.78	3.22
Other Competitions	\$2,171.61	\$1,645.35	526.26
Employment Expenses			
Wages			
Office Staff	\$6,625.15	\$6,392.14	233.01
Superannuation	\$843.94	\$1,032.07	-188.13
Non Playing Director	\$6,860.00	\$7,210.00	-350.00
Fees & Levies			
Affiliation (NSWBA)	\$5,200.00	\$2,850.00	2350.00
Capitation (ABF)	\$46.20	\$93.60	-47.40
Masterpoints	\$1,265.05	\$1,113.09	151.96

Newcastle Bridge Club 12 Young Road Broadmeadow 2292 Profit & Loss [With Last Year] July 2023 To February 2024				
	This Year		Last Year	TY - LY
	TY		LY	
Repairs & Mtce				
R&M Air Conditioning	\$360.00		\$180.00	180.00
R&M Building	\$1,490.47		\$449.45	1041.02
R&M Equipment	\$1,328.15		\$1,398.54	-70.39
R&M Grounds	\$330.00		\$330.00	0.00
Utilities				
Electricity	\$1,780.14		\$1,445.27	334.87
Rates - Land / Water	\$8,794.28		\$9,633.31	-839.03
Telecommunications	\$1,913.04		\$1,896.18	16.86
Computer Systems				
Events Calendar	\$271.83		\$170.50	101.33
MYOB Eentials	\$77.50		\$80.00	-2.50
Pianola	\$600.00		\$600.00	0.00
Web Site	\$0.00		\$744.83	-744.83
Depreciation	\$4,000.00		\$3,700.00	300.00
Total Expenses	\$81,276.52		\$71,654.87	9621.65
Operating (Loss) /Profit	\$6,877.07		\$4,496.48	-2380.59
Other Income				
Interest Income	\$2,864.24		\$168.21	2696.03
Investment Income	\$10.31		\$1,011.36	-1001.05
Total Other Income	\$2,874.55		\$1,179.57	1694.98
Net Profit/(Loss)	(\$4,002.52)		(\$3,316.91)	-685.61

Table fees to -		Weeks to	Wkly Ave	Est for Yr
July	7,396.00	4	1849	96148
August	15752.00	9	1750	91012
September	22766.00	13	1751	91064
October	29354.00	17	1727	89789
November	38412.00	22	1746	90792
December	43952.00	26	1690	87904
January	52980.00	31	1709	88870
February	60868.00	35	1739	90432
March				
April				
May				
June				

Membership at	April 2024	April 2023	2022
Home members		247	253
Alternate members		28	?
Total		275	

Newcastle Bridge Club
12 Young Road Broadmeadow 2292

Profit & Loss [With Last Year]

July 2023 To March 2024

	This Year	Last Year	TY - LY
	TY	LY	
Income			
Competitions			
Congress	\$33.60	\$0.00	\$ 33.60
Weekend Club Events	\$1,012.00	\$454.00	\$ 558.00
Hosting Events	\$1,652.00	\$1,164.59	\$ 487.41
Memberships			
Subscriptions	\$9,715.00	\$9,305.00	\$ 410.00
Table Fees			
Monday Supervised Play	\$4,862.00	\$3,558.00	\$ 1,304.00
Monday Afternoon	\$8,492.00	\$8,436.00	\$ 56.00
Tuesday Morning	\$17,138.00	\$15,882.00	\$ 1,256.00
Tuesday Night	\$5,468.00	\$6,342.00	-\$ 874.00
Wednesday	\$3,930.00	\$4,440.00	-\$ 510.00
Thursday Supervised Play	\$410.00	\$0.00	\$ 410.00
Thursday Morning	\$14,970.00	\$12,940.00	\$ 2,030.00
Friday	\$8,702.00	\$7,796.00	\$ 906.00
Saturday	\$5,854.00	\$4,754.00	\$ 1,100.00
Total Table Fees	\$69,826.00	\$64,148.00	\$ 5,678.00
Board Dealing	\$1,446.00	\$1,691.40	-\$ 245.40
Hall Hire	\$140.00	\$60.00	\$ 80.00
Lessons	\$350.85	\$977.40	-\$ 626.55
Sundry Receipts	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$ -
Gain on Disposal of Assets	\$10.00	\$0.00	\$ 10.00
Total Income	\$84,205.45	\$77,820.39	\$ 6,385.06
Expenses			
Accounting Fees	\$2,200.00	\$2,200.00	\$ -
Card Dealing	\$1,089.00	\$832.00	\$ 257.00
Cleaning	\$12,094.75	\$11,110.00	\$ 984.75
Consumables	\$4,237.75	\$3,492.22	\$ 745.53
Insurance	\$6,797.00	\$5,292.00	\$ 1,505.00
General Expense	\$296.00	\$54.95	\$ 241.05
Printing, Stationery & Postage	\$3,850.30	\$4,661.82	-\$ 811.52
Prize Money	\$3,378.00	\$3,486.00	-\$ 108.00
Refreshments	\$3,177.88	\$2,391.86	\$ 786.02
Socials	\$2,832.50	\$582.13	\$ 2,250.37
Subscriptions / Membership	\$0.00	\$50.00	-\$ 50.00
Competitions			
Congress	\$104.00	\$100.78	\$ 3.22
Other Competitions	\$2,171.61	\$1,645.35	\$ 526.26
Employment Expenses			
Wages			
Office Staff	\$7,714.15	\$7,353.39	\$ 360.76
Superannuation	\$1,053.94	\$1,032.07	\$ 21.87
Non Playing Director	\$7,490.00	\$8,120.00	-\$ 630.00
Fees & Levies			
Affiliation (NSWBA)	\$5,200.00	\$2,850.00	\$ 2,350.00
Capitation (ABF)	\$46.20	\$93.60	-\$ 47.40
Masterpoints	\$1,265.05	\$1,113.09	\$ 151.96

Newcastle Bridge Club
12 Young Road Broadmeadow 2292

Profit & Loss [With Last Year]

July 2023 To March 2024

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R&M Building	\$1,490.47	\$449.45	\$ 1,041.02
R&M Equipment	\$1,328.15	\$1,607.09	-\$ 278.94
R&M Grounds	\$396.00	\$393.00	\$ 3.00
Utilities			
Electricity	\$1,780.14	\$1,445.27	\$ 334.87
Rates - Land / Water	\$9,278.69	\$10,082.92	-\$ 804.23
Telecommunications	\$2,030.23	\$2,006.18	\$ 24.05
Computer Systems			
Events Calendar	\$271.83	\$170.50	\$ 101.33
Microsoft 365	\$139.00	\$129.00	\$ 10.00
MYOB Esentials	\$87.50	\$90.00	-\$ 2.50
Pianola	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$ -
Web Site	\$41.25	\$744.83	-\$ 703.58
Depreciation	\$4,500.00	\$4,162.50	\$ 337.50
Total Expenses	\$87,481.39	\$78,522.00	\$8,959.39
Operating Profit	(\$3,275.94)	(\$701.61)	(\$2,574.33)
Other Income			
Interest Income	\$2,874.20	\$173.50	\$ 2,700.70
Investment Income	\$10.31	\$1,011.36	-\$ 1,001.05
Total Other Income	\$2,884.51	\$1,184.86	\$1,699.65
Net Profit/(Loss)	(\$391.43)	\$483.25	-\$ 874.68

Table fees to -

Weeks to Wkly Avge Est for Yr

July	7,396.00	4	1849	96148
August	15752.00	9	1750	91012
September	22766.00	13	1751	91064
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March	69826.00	39	1790	93101
April				
May				
June				

Membership at	April 2024	April 2023	2022
Home members		247	253
Alternate members		28	?
Total		275	

Treasurer's notes for April 2024 committee meeting

Most of the information in these notes comes from the club's website "History"¹, minutes and financial statements of the Club.

The Club purchased a property in 1976 in Tighes Hill for \$22000 financed by a bank loan and member loans. This property was sold in 1979 and 12 Young Road was purchased for \$38000 (financed by a second bank loan and member loans). Major renovation works were undertaken up to 1992 (financed by another bank loan and member debentures/ donations - see Appendix II of "History"¹). All loans were repaid by March 1993 ("History"¹). Presumably the club was sufficiently profitable between 1976 and 1993 to be able to clear all borrowings.

I have accessed the financial statements from 2014 and the profit for that year was \$24009, and for 2015, \$16373. The average operating costs for those two years (excluding congress expenses) was approximately \$82900. Allowing for inflation (by using the CPI) the operating expenses for 2023 (excluding congress expenses and the loss on sale of the investments) was reasonably in line with what would be expected. The Club made a loss of \$ 5472 in 2016 (AGM minutes) because of major repairs of \$23638, but the subsequent years to 2019 were profitable.

At 30/6/2014 the Club's equity was \$405564 and at 30/6/2019 it was \$468885. COVID-19 occurred, and on 11th March 2020 a pandemic was declared, which resulted in the Club being closed for some time. By the committee minutes of 16th June 2020, the table fees were increased to \$8 from the resumption of operation. During the financial years 2020, 2021 and 2022, the Club received government support of \$65900, and at 30/6/20203 the club's equity was \$482992.

Table fees have been as follows (note that table fees were \$6 up to 2019 and \$8 in 2023):

FY	Table Fees \$	Av tables/week	Members
2014	85350	68	
2015	89311	71	
2017	99107	79	
2018	97650	78	350 (approx.) "History" ¹
2019	98042	78	
2023	87010	52	275

Competition from other clubs in the district is not considered to be a major issue (see survey previously emailed to committee members).

Summary and Issues

In my opinion, before COVID-19, the Club was as profitable as it was because there were more active members than there are now. Further, the membership is aging and, unless the Club attracts many new members, the average full tables per week will continue to decline.

¹ <https://newcastlebridge.org/documents/club-history>

Accordingly, it is imperative that members are encouraged to continue to play and if possible, to encourage people they know to try the game.

Fortunately, the club is in a sound financial position with no loans to be repaid, \$155000 in term deposits, and \$10000 in the Online saver account.

Another issue that we should consider is the "Broadmeadow Place Strategy" issue. The Club's property falls within the designated area and a Discussion Paper is to be issued by the NSW Planning Department within the next few months. In due course, the Club's property may be listed for compulsory acquisition which would mean that alternative accommodation would be required. The options are to do nothing (hoping that the property is not listed for compulsory acquisition) or start looking for alternative accommodation.

Potluck Partners

Background

Members often have difficulty finding a partner in many circumstances e.g. a partner gets sick or goes on holidays, or the partnership is no longer working well. Many players wish to play with someone who is more experienced than themselves so they can learn new conventions and techniques.

By providing a game where players could meet more people (so a slower paced, more sociable event) it is hoped that they might be more likely to identify compatible partners.

Aims

Provide a slower paced, social event

Introduce players to each other.

Help people to identify more possible partners by playing in a social setting.

Suggested program

A roughly monthly Sunday afternoon event avoiding months where there are already scheduled events.

Draw for partners.

Have a break for cup of tea etc

Other variations could be tried if there is sufficient interest.