

## Queenstown Bridge Club

### 2020 Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 20 October 2020 QEC:

Meeting commenced at 7.06pm

### Minutes

	<p><b>Present</b> – Chris &amp; Karen Wood, Kristin Guthrie, Mary Christensen, Alistair McIlwrick, Lynnette McLennan, Ross Sherwood, Bryanna Whitaker, Ernie Sutton, Pam Cassels, Gaye Bartlett, Phillip Hensman, Zeta Burgess, Louie Cameron, Annette Fea, Anne McGregor, Elaine Wells, Vonnie Syme, Peter Henry, Viv Cournane, Mae Young, Georgia Mahoney, Marge Ritchie, Hamish and Kathie MacKenzie, Des Baird, Sue Wilson, Wendy Paterson, Bill and Elaine MacDonald, Lisa Cassels, Jane Gunn-Lewis, Lynn Darnill, Margaret Giller, Viv Todd, Lois and Robbie Caldwell, Ann Henry Libby Bennett, Maree Aoake, Lesley Muir, Archie Crawford, Jan Josh (new member)</p>	
1	<p><b>Apologies</b> Jo Fitzharris, Vicky Buckham, Heather Pinckney, Bev Coburn, Karen Jameson, Margot Hutchison, Owen Williams, Maria Archanic, David &amp; Elizabeth Smith, Wilma Nehoff, Diana Hubbard, Shirley Palmer, Eleanor Fallow, Helen Henderson, Karen Blackler, Gillian and Noel Flahive, Deb and Craig Allan, Hamis Ryan, Phil Wilson, Jo Neep, Betty Turnball, Kerri Sherwood, Joy Baird, Bruce and Vicki Tunnicliffe, Jos Van Hees, Hamish MacDonald 1<sup>st</sup> Chris Wood; 2<sup>nd</sup> Kathie Mackenzie</p>	
2	<p><b>Minutes of last meeting</b> Ross Sherwood was present but not in the list Ernie noted that the finish time should have been 7:13pm Both errors accepted 1<sup>st</sup> Lesley Muir 2<sup>nd</sup> Phil Hensman</p>	

3	<p><b>Matters arising from the Minutes</b></p> <p>Phil Hensman spoke to progress on timing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Going well but slowing down when only playing</li> </ul>	All
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>one board per table</li> <li>- Shifting between tables is taking time</li> <li>- Returning cards to board and shifting boards as fast as possible</li> <li>- Suggestion that if the board is not started 5 minutes into the next round that a 50% board be awarded to both pairs – but this is upto the director on the night</li> </ul> <p>Archie commented that this was penalising the effect not the actual cause</p> <p>Phil continue that at the moment the board is just ignored by the scoring system – i.e. results based on less no. of boards</p> <p>Annette Fea commented that the introducing of the timing was to reduce the amount of yelling the directors were doing of an evening and this change has achieved this</p> <p>Chris Wood commented on the approval financial assistance to representatives for travel to competitions and the \$200 towards this</p> <p>Comment was made that the 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph of the presidents report had not been achieved <i>Much time, thought, care, consideration and discussion has gone into our attempts to ensure we have a fair system where 50% of all those qualifying for the championship pairs competition are allocated to each division.</i></p>	
4	<p><b>Acting President's Report</b></p> <p>Attached at end of the minutes</p>	Chris Wood
5	<p><b>Finance Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Current interest received on investments is 2.6% from Westpac</li> <li>- Due to timing the expense of the 2019 AGM dinner is in this year's accounts</li> </ul> <p>1<sup>st</sup> Phil Hensman 2<sup>nd</sup> Gaye Bartlett</p>	Sue Wilson

6	<p><b>Election of Officers</b></p> <p>Chris Wood – constitution allows for three officers – President, Vice President and Treasurer</p> <p>Constitution also states that nominations should be in 14 days before the AGM, this may have been missed but meeting should accept this. Also nominations from the floor can be accepted:</p> <p>President</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- One nomination – Chris Wood</li> <li>- Carried unanimously</li> </ul> <p>Vice President</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No nominations</li> </ul> <p>Treasurer</p>	All
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- One nomination – Sue Wilson</li> <li>- Carried unanimously</li> </ul>	
7	<p><b>Election of Committee</b></p> <p>Given that there was no VP elected 7 spots were available.</p> <p>One nomination from the floor</p> <p>Georgia Mahoney 1<sup>st</sup> Lois Caldwell 2<sup>nd</sup> Elaine MacDonald</p> <p>Total nominations received - 10</p> <p>Wendy Paterson and Bryanna Whitaker were nominated scrutineers and the voting sheets were issued.</p>	All

8	<p><b>Other Business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appointment of Auditor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Continue with Crowe Howard <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 1<sup>st</sup> Phillip Hensman 2<sup>nd</sup> Hamish MacKenzie</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• QEC Master Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Spoke to the QEC Master Plan for the events centre – noting that the focus was on sports while recreation (QBC) did not get a mention <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Club started in 2003, QBC is a founding tenant, there is a memorandum of understanding (copy available), as at September 2019 there were 138 members</li> <li>○ Alistair has submitted an online submission, but has heard nothing back</li> <li>○ Jane Gunn-Lewis suggested that Clive Geddes (member) is happy to assist the club with these sorts of issues – AM to contact him</li> <li>○ Ernie Sutton commented that bridge is considered a ‘mindsport’ in most countries</li> <li>○ Jane Gunn-Lewis commented that the QBC is serving the demographic that is under representative by the other facility users</li> <li>○ Kathy Mackenzie suggested using some of the QBC building fund to assist with the claim</li> <li>○ Phil Hensman and Elaine Wells spoke of the history to date with respect the QBC rooms</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Visiting Players in Series <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Motion that Substitutes in a series must be a either a current financial member or a beginner of QBC to be eligible to win a series <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 1<sup>st</sup> Ross Sherwood 2<sup>nd</sup> Ernie Sutton –</li> <li>○ One dissenter – motion carried</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Other <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ross Sherwood advised that he now has a defibrillator fitted, and as such if a medical event happens – NO CPR to be administered,</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Sue Wilson</p> <p>Alistair McIlwrick</p> <p>Ross Sherwood</p> <p>All</p>
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	<p>after calling 111, wait for the defibrillator to activate, or use the defibrillator onsite</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Lisa Cassels reminded us of the importance of Covid hygiene <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Use hand sanitiser more often</li> <li>▪ Cough/sneeze into your elbow</li> <li>▪ Ensure to both wash and dry your hands after using the toilet</li> <li>▪ That the EC needs a better drying system or reinstate paper towels</li> <li>▪ Kathie MacKenzie – EC should have proper paper towel dispensers</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Archie Crawford <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Financials that the income from the investments plus subs equals expenses (approximately) and therefore we should look at increasing the subs</li> <li>▪ That he has visited a number of clubs and QBC is the most ill-mannered club that he has visited</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Chris Wood - that the subs remain the same <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 1<sup>st</sup> Phil Hensman 2<sup>nd</sup> Kathie Mackenzie - carried</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
	<p><b>Committee Members</b>  Elected Members are  Robbie Caldwell, Kristin Guthrie, Jos Van Hees, Hamish MacDonald, Lynnette McLennan, Ernie Sutton, Vivian Todd  Chris Wood welcomed them to the committee  Wendy Paterson moved that the voting papers be destroyed</p>	
	<p>Meeting Ended at 8.20pm</p>	

**QBC AGM 20 October 2020**

**(Acting) President's Report**

Well, what a tumultuous year it has been. While we listened to Hamish Ryan's President's Report this time last year, I am certain we were all looking forward to another busy bridge year, with our own tournament to hold, series to run and regional/national tournaments for our senior players to attend.

Then a little thing called a virus wreaked havoc around the world, causing illness for millions, and death for hundreds of thousands. Globally, economies shut down and many lost their livelihoods. It has been a tough year, and will probably continue to be so for the foreseeable future.

Here in New Zealand, our own Government grappled with how to contain the virus, and the “gofast/go-hard” approach saw New Zealand shut down in a way never seen before.

As we moved through the various lockdown phases, the Committee wrestled with go/no-go decisions several times. The eventual decisions were not always unanimous, reflecting the balancing act of wanting to continue with life as best we could, including maintaining social contact, with the need to look after the health of all our members. The second requirement predominated in the end in guiding our thinking. We were also guided by NZ Bridge who issued a number of “recommendations” through the lockdown phases, but making it clear they could not mandate what each club did.

While many of us certainly missed the social contact of face to face bridge, some were able to hone their bridge skills by playing on-line, either in several of our own BBO series, or finding other on-line tournaments to test themselves.

But in the end, on-line bridge is a poor substitute for sitting around a table with friends and acquaintances trying our best to sabotage other people’s endeavours. Funny what friendship is based on, sometimes. Personally, I am pleased the go fast/go hard approach has hastened our ability to re-convene, and while the rest of the world is grappling with breakout after breakout, here we are gathered together in close proximity without masks. May it last through 2021.

### **Contributions to the Club**

As with any Club, the running of the day to day sessions, as well as the plethora of other events, depends on people giving their time, and for some, that time is considerable.

I want to take time naming those on whom we all depend to ensure the ongoing running of the Club. And whoever is the President next year, he/she will be relying on many of them again.

First, I want to thank Bev, our President throughout this year. Very few realise how much time, much un-seen, the President has to give to the Club. I know Bev was dealing with many matters behind the scene which the Committee was unaware of. On behalf of myself personally, the Committee and all members of the club, our sincere thanks for your time and effort, Bev. We all appreciated it.

To my fellow Committee members, my heartfelt thanks to you all also. It hasn’t always been an easy year to be serving. To our departing Committee member, Vicki Buckham, thank you for your contribution. And to the other Committee members, who, against all the odds, have agreed to put themselves forward again, my special thanks also.

We have several new members who have put up their hands up for membership of the Committee in 2021 - Hamish McDonald, Robbie Caldwell and I believe Georgia Mahoney will be nominated from the floor. With the calibre of both existing Committee members, and the new ones coming on, I am confident the Club will be well supported by their Committee.

I also thank Karen Jamieson for all her work on Friday bridge, and Sue Wilson and Mary who have stepped up in Karen’s recent absence. Friday bridge serves three important roles – an opportunity to get together for those who no longer wish to come to the more competitive Tuesday sessions, for newbies to the game, it is an easier pathway into club play, and for more senior players, an environment to practice bidding and play conventions before an important tournament.

COVID aside, I do believe we can each look forward to a “smoother” ride next year.

### **Directors**

We absolutely rely on our Directors for the smooth running of our sessions, and I want to pay special tribute to those who, again and again, put their hands up to fulfill the role. We have had Des and Ross contribute to that role during the year – thanks to them, but special mention to Phil Hensman as our “elder statesman” of directing, and Gillian MacLeod, who between them seem to see managing more than their share of nights.

Directing is not always an easy role, and I will be stressing the importance of accepting the Director’s decision on the night, and following the process for taking any objection to that decision to the Disputes Committee. And on the Disputes Committee, thanks to Hamish Ryan for his continued leadership in that role. I haven’t asked Hamish, yet, but I do hope he will continue. His knowledge of NZ Bridge rules, processes and procedures is probably second to none in this club.

And I am delighted to announce that three members have put up their hands to learn the role of Directing – Jane Gunn-Lewis, Ernie Sutton and Mary Christensen. Thanks to you guys – when you are comfortable coming on-stream, you will relieve the pressure on our other Directors. And I am certain you will always have the support of our senior Directors when you do stand in for the first time.

### **Dealers**

The boards we play don’t magically appear. There are several members who contribute significant amounts of time preparing the boards for us to play. I want to make special mention of Wendy Paterson who is the club’s stalwart of dealing. Wendy and her helpers, variously Lynn Darnill, Trish Hamilton, Bev, Gaye Bartlett, Karen W and Kathy McKenzie, have to try to find a time, often over a weekend, when they can gain access to the premises to prepare the deals we all play. Not always an easy task. Thank you to you all.

### **Scorers**

I also want to thank the scorers, who, each night, with the Director, set up the movement in the computer, link the deals to the session and issue the bridge pads to each table. Then they stay at the end of the night, working fast to get the results out to those of us who have been forced to stay around with a glass of wine to hear how we each did. Led by Sue Wilson, the team of Leslie, Libbie, Jane Gunn-Lewis and Viv Todd have sometimes grappled, under time pressure, with the vagaries of a sometimes-petulant software system that didn’t always respect the fact that there were 80 members waiting to start play. Thanks to you all.

### **Teams**

Thanks to Ernie for organising the Teams sessions. Sometime it seems he’s herding cats, trying to get everyone in the same room at the same time. Thanks, Ernie.

## **Teaching**

New members are the lifeblood of any club, and for this, we rely in large part on the provision of lessons to wannabe bridge players. We have to start, first and foremost, with thanking Betty, who has been providing lessons to legions of newbies in her own home for many years, Indeed, Karen and I started there, interchanging hands played with consuming Betty's legendary baking! Thank you, Betty. You have contributed so much to the club over many years. Long may it continue.

But lessons are becoming bigger business, and while Betty has done so much on her own, others have now stepped up to share the load. Lessons are now mostly held here at the QEC, and special mention to Lynn Darnill and Gaye Bartlett for setting up a lessons curriculum and they have already hosted several lessons here with a good turnout.

And on the matter of lessons, the Wakatipu High School has been approached with the idea of setting up a "Schools Academy" next year for any staff or students who may want to learn bridge during a school "clubs" period. We will see if that comes to anything.

## **Outstanding Achievements**

Despite the COVID chaos and the consequent cancellation of several regional, national and qualifying tournaments this year, there have been some outstanding achievements over the last 12 months that we need to recognise.

Last November, Ernie and Ross qualified to represent O/S in the Open Category and Hamish Ryan and Phil Hensman qualified in the Seniors Category of the Inter-Provincials in Christchurch. Hamish and Phil have also been selected for the same Category this year as the qualifying tournament could not be held due to lockdown. Well done, guys. It is the outstanding achievements by our senior players like this that raise the profile of the Club, and give something for the rest of us to aspire to. And if I have missed anyone else, my sincere apologies.

## **Wellness**

I want to acknowledge those members, or members who have partners, who have been dealing with sometimes significant health issues during 2020. Our thoughts are with you and yours, and we hope for better times for you all in 2021.

## **Outlook**

Bridge isn't just a card game. For many of us, it is an integral part of our social calendar, it stimulates our brains, and while sometimes a source of frustration (why did my partner trump my Ace??), it is also a great reason for getting out, catching up and swapping stories.

*"Just when you think you're playing your cards right, God shuffles the deck." - Mark Sheppard*

COVID still hangs over us and the operation of the club. It remains to be seen if we ever have to go back into some form of lockdown, but we will deal with that if or when it plays out.



I am looking forward to the return of normalcy, and seeing everyone around the table on a regular basis. Thanks to you all for your ongoing involvement with the club. I do believe the Club is in good heart.