

Queenstown Bridge Club

2022 Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 18 October 2022

QEC: Meeting commenced at 7.04pm

Minutes

	<p>Present:</p> <p>Chris Wood, Karen Wood, Georgia Mahoney, Hamish McDonald, Anastasia McDonald, Jos Van Hees, Bill McDonald, Ross Sherwood, Ernie Sutton, Bev Coburn, Wilma Nehoff, Margaret Giller, David Smith, Jim Davies, Vonnie Syme, Lesley Muir, Mae Young, Des Baird, Kathy McKenzie, Hamish McKenzie, Lynnette McLennan, Hamish Ryan, John MacGillivray, Wendy Paterson, Alistair McIlwrick, Shirley Palmer, Helen Henderson, Viv Cournane, Eleanor Fallow, Louis Cameron, Sue Wilson, Mary Christensen, Gillian MacLeod, Jim Salinger</p>	
1	<p>Apologies:</p> <p>Vivian Todd, Jo Neep, Sarah Pearson, Owen Williams, Trish Hamilton, Russell Hamilton, Kerri Sherwood, Jill Egerton, Ian McPherson, Jenny McPherson, Jean-Oliver Begouin, Maree Aoake, Lisa Cassels, Elaine McDonald, Diana Hubbard, Yvonne Key, Jon Bitcheno, Robyn Bitcheno, Gay Bartlett, Betty Turnbull, Marge Ritchie, Anna Elms, Margo Hutchison, Annette Fea, Nicki Bellow, Anne McGregor, Phil Hensman, Joy Baird, Lis Smith, Lois Caldwell, Peter Henry, Anne Henry</p> <p>Apologies accepted: 1st Hamish McDonald; 2nd Mary Christensen</p>	
2	<p>Minutes of last meeting</p> <p>Minutes accepted: 1st Vonnie Symes 2nd Des Baird</p>	

3	<p>Matters arising from the Minutes</p> <p>Chris Wood spoke to the need to have the financial report reviewed by a club member outside of the committee.</p> <p>The need for an alternate system for prepaying was raised to be discussed further with the financial report.</p>	All
4	<p>President's Report</p> <p>Chris Wood presented the President's Report.</p> <p><u>Key Items noted:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Events and outstanding individuals' contributions worthy of mention: Covid, accommodation, work of the outgoing committee, new committee members, teaching of new players, dealers, organiser of teams event, directors, scorers, website developer. 2. BBO and Realbridge 3. Tournaments - Ryan challenge and Hamilton plate 4. New Grand Master - Ernie Sutton 5. Implications of the development of smaller community groups outside QBC. 6. New president welcomed 7. Thanks to all club members for their participation and support. <p>President's Report Received:</p> <p>1st Mae Young 2nd Gillian Macleod</p>	Chris Wood
5	<p>Finance Report</p> <p>Voucher system implemented and well supported but a system with more traceability for accounting purposes such as a voucher is considered necessary and will be reviewed by the committee in 2023.</p> <p>Liability for unused cards estimated to be in the order of \$1300. As this number is likely to remain at this level year on year, no liability provision has been made in the current financial statement.</p> <p>Report accepted subject to review: 1st Robbie Caldwell 2nd Lynette McLennan</p>	Sue Wilson

6	<p>Election of Officers</p> <p>President: One nomination - Hamish McDonald Treasurer: One nomination - Anna Elms Secretary: One nomination - Georgia Mahoney</p> <p>- Carried unanimously</p>	All
7	<p>Election of Committee</p> <p>There are six committee positions, and six nominations had been received. There were no new nominations from the floor.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lee Asher-Simpson - Owen Williams - Sue Wilson - Mary Christensen - Karen Wood - Peter Henry <p>All committee nominees were unanimously elected to the committee.</p> <p>Presidential duties were handed over to Hamish MacDonald who chaired the remainder of the meeting.</p> <p>Hamish MacDonald thanked the outgoing President for his notable contribution over a difficult time during which he demonstrated outstanding leadership skills.</p>	All

QBC AGM 18 October 2022

President's Report

You will recall that I began my last two President's report with the words "Well what a tumultuous year it has been". I'm sure you are tired of hearing it.

When this year began, I had hoped that the worst of interruptions to our favourite game were behind us. And to some extent, that is true. We started the year with masks absolutely mandated, and I acknowledge that decision was not universally popular across the membership. I had more than one member voice their displeasure directly to me, and I was quite happy to receive those comments. Numbers of members coming to the club did drop, sometimes substantially. I am not sure whether it was simply caution as COVID ran rampant, whether it was the mask mandate, or probably a bit of both.

However, in hindsight, I am confident that the committee's mask-mandate decision was the right one at that time. I am happy to note that no QBC session became a master spreader event.

Later in the year, we lifted the mask mandate and masks became voluntary. Most members now happily relinquish the mask and play and the associated community connection has resumed almost as normal. Numbers have returned to pre-COVID levels, which is very pleasing.

Accommodation

Last year, I reported that there was some doubt around certainty of tenure here in the QEC. This arose in part from the total omission of any mention of the QBC in the QEC long term plan, and also the seeming proclivity of the QEC management to toss us out whenever another event arose that clashed with one of our Tuesday sessions.

Alistair McIlwrick and I had meetings with Jim Boulton late last year, where Jim suggested a development in Ladies Mile might be a possible future location for the QBC. However, this social venue, now completed, does not have the space and is not an option.

Since the start of this year, however, we have been treated much more kindly by QEC management. We have not been asked to vacate the premises at late notice, and they have worked to accommodate us when we have made other requests for a venue outside the normal schedule.

Our secretary, Georgia, a couple of months ago locked in the entire 2023 calendar year, and apart from two days when the room isn't available, we have those dates confirmed. Other accommodation has been arranged for those days.

The Committee

I once again want to thank the Committee as a whole, who have all done outstanding work throughout the year. Much of the work they do goes unnoticed, but without them, the club would not function.

Sue Wilson has for another year run the club's finances. She has reported every month to the committee on the club's financial progress, ensuring the committee has an eye on how we are progressing.

Peter Henry picked up the bar duties, and once COVID allowed, ensured the bar ran smoothly and was well-stocked.

Anna Elms took the minutes on our sometimes-rambling conversations and ensured a proper record of the meetings was taken. While these minutes have not been readily available as we changed the QBC web site, they are now in the process of being up-loaded to the new website by Lee, who has very kindly agreed to help us with this.

Assuming the Committee as nominated is elected at this meeting, Anna has agreed to take over the financial responsibilities from Sue, but I am also so pleased Sue is staying on the committee. Her

experience and historical knowledge of all matters bridge-club is invaluable.

Georgia has done an amazing job as secretary, getting ahead of upcoming events and ensuring we kept on top of things. I thank Lynnette for helping with a managed hand-over of the role to Georgia at the start of her term, and I am delighted Georgia has agreed to stay on as secretary in 2023.

Jos and Hamish picked up all the myriad other tasks that didn't fall easily to the other prescribed roles, and always brought their wisdom and clear thinking to the table as we grappled with issues.

Karen supported me every day behind the scenes, and also re-wrote the QBC Health and Safety plan.

Finally, it is testimony to each of you, the committee, that with the exception of myself and Jos, you have each put up your hand to continue serving the club in 2023. The members will be grateful to you all for your continued contribution.

Assuming the members here endorse the proposed committee, I welcome the three new members who have agreed to be nominated – Mary Christensen to bring a director's perspective to the committee decision-making, Lee Asher-Simpson and Owen Williams. Thank you both. With the combined experience of existing committee members, and the new perspective that you three will bring to the table, this will ensure the club is well-served by its 2023 committee.

Lessons

I want to extend a very special thanks to Lynnette McLennan who, along with her helpers, has organised, marketed and run a number of outstanding teaching programmes to generally younger prospective members. You have done an amazing job, injecting your unbridled enthusiasm for the game. Without the new talent coming into the club, we would experience a declining membership. Well done, Lynette.

Other Tasks

There is another task that is not performed by the committee, but without it, we wouldn't be playing bridge. I want to again thank Wendy Patterson and Trish Hamilton for the dealing task they perform behind the scenes. Whenever we come to bridge, the boards are there, but to prepare them, along with the travellers and summary sheets, considerable time is spent by them generating the deals, running the dealing machine, loading the hands into the boards and inserting the travellers. On behalf of all members, I thank you both – your contribution is so much appreciated. Wendy is now teaching Karen W how to run things, and this will hopefully help spread the dealing workload going forward.

Teams

Another member who continues to contribute so much to the club is Ernie Sutton, who continues to run the monthly Teams sessions. Whenever a team has a member who can't play, it is often Ernie who rings around on behalf of that team to find a stand-in volunteer. Thank you so much for your ongoing contribution, Ernie – very much appreciated.

Directors

I also want to again thank those who have volunteered to become directors. It is a sometimes thankless, but always essential, task in any bridge club. Because we have playing directors, their evening play is often interrupted by calls to resolve issues. I urge members to remember that a director is called to resolve an involuntary infraction. They are not punitive – there is a set way to resolve a mistake made by a player, and if someone disagrees with a ruling, there is an appeal process after play to resolve any disagreement.

Thanks to Phil, Mary, Gillian, Jane and Viv who all have taken turns at the role. And as I mentioned last year, the Directors have been meeting during the year to go over issues that may have arisen, and Mary has put her hand up to bring the directors' perspective to the decision-making of the committee.

Scorers

I again want to thank the scorers who arrive early to get the computer ready and remain behind afterwards to sort out the results.

As always, thanks to Sue, Leslie, Viv and Jo Booker who have all undertaken this task. And I sincerely apologise if I have missed someone else out. Thanks to you all.

Website

I also want to acknowledge the amazing job Robbie has done re-designing the QBC website. Thank you again, Robbie. You have done a sterling job, and I encourage any of you who haven't visited the website to go and have a look. It is our primary on-line face of the club.

Real Bridge

When COVID first broke and interrupted our playing sessions, I arranged a number of on-line BBO tournaments. For those who took part, they were a fun way to keep playing together. But technology moves on, and BBO has very much been supplanted by RealBridge.

RealBridge is a much more sophisticated way to play on-line bridge, with face-to-face sessions/conversations with the other players at the table. We have had inter-cub tournament with the Auckland club - which QBC won! Those of you that have picked RealBridge up have made new bridge friends around the country and have found it a reasonable substitute for at-table play.

Ryan Challenge and Hamilton Plate

While our primary tournament was cancelled this year, we did play in both the Ryan Challenge and the Hamilton Plate. We had a solid win in the Ryan Challenge but came second in the Hamilton Plate. That second place just gives us something more to achieve next year.

We have our second Grand Master this year, with Ernie earning that title earlier this year. Well done, Ernie. You are a credit to the club.

Outlook

The face of bridge in Queenstown is changing, with the emergence of smaller groups of players at various locations throughout Queenstown.

It is great that the game's presence is growing – the more people who see it being played, the more that may be tempted to learn to play, and some of these groups are more “visible” to the public than the QBC up in the QEC.

It remains to be seen what impact these changes may have on club membership. Some players in these groups do belong to our club, some have left the club to join these groups and others see no need to join our club at all, and are enjoying the casual sociability of these smaller groups. That is all great – we can't be all things to all people, but we need to be on the look-out for opportunities to take the game to a wider circle. We have had preliminary discussions with the Queenstown Country Club with a view to taking the game into that community. That is something for the new committee to consider.

Finally

So here I am now at the end of my third term as President – well, I exaggerate a little - 2¼ actually – but I leave the Presidency with what I am confident is a club in good heart, with a new President who will be outstanding, and a committee second to none to face the challenges ahead.

I want to close by thanking you all – the members of the club, without whom we have nothing – for all your support throughout my tenure. It has been a real pleasure to serve my time, thanks to you all.

