

**Queenstown Bridge Club
2023 Annual General Meeting
Queenstown Events Centre
Tuesday 24 October 2023
Minutes**

Meeting commenced at 7:10pm

1. Present:

Georgia Mahoney, Hamish McDonald, Jos van Hees, Owen Williams, Mary Christensen, Sue Wilson, Anna Elms, Jon Bitcheno, Robyn Bitcheno, Maria Arhanic, Lynnette McLennan, Vicki Buckham, Diana Hubbard, Chris Wood, Alistair Mcilwrick, Viv Cournane, Geoff Moffatt, Pam Cassells, Kathy McKenzie, Hamish McKenzie, Viv Todd, Ann Henry, Peter Henry, Karen Blackler, Betty Turnbull, Jo Booker, Karen Wood, Shirley Palmer, Helen Henderson, Elaine Wells, Louie Cameron, John McGillivray, Jo Neep, Gillian MacLeod, Ernie Sutton, Lesley Muir, Vicki Buckham, Sarah Pearson, Bruce Tunnicliffe, Wendy Paterson, Leone Ward, Marge Ritchie, Lois Caldwell, Robbie Caldwell, Daniel McLennan, Heather Pinckney, June Hamilton, Janice McLeod, Lorraine Welch, Jonty Norton, Vicki Buckham

2. Apologies:

Zeta Burgess, Jane Gunn-Lewis, Lynda Baker, Jill Edgerton, Phil Wilson, Wilma Nehoff, Gaye Bartlett, Trish Hamilton, Russell Hamilton, Ana McDonald, Eleanor Fallow, Vonnie Symes, Anne McGregor, Lisa Cassels, Libby Bennett, Maree Aoake.

Apologies accepted:

Moved: Chris Wood Seconded: Kathy MacKenzie Carried

3. Minutes of last meeting

Minutes accepted.

Moved: Lynnette McLennan Seconded: Sue Wilson Carried

4. Matters arising from the Minutes

We have good supplies of existing concession cards to use up before deciding on next system.

Robbie reviewed the financial statements last year, and gave good ideas, and so we asked him to review this year's minutes. Thanks Robbie.

5. President's Report

Hamish McDonald presented the President's Report. Full report copied below.

Key Items noted:

Hamish thanked Wendy Paterson for her 20-year contribution to the club as chief dealer. He presented Wendy with flowers to say thank you.

Hamish thanked all who contributed to the club, including committee, teaching, directing, scoring, dealing, bar and teams coordinator.

Queenstown won both the four-club Hamilton Plate, and the Ryan Challenge between Winton and Queenstown clubs this year. Will host both events next year.

President's Report Accepted.

Moved: Jon Bitcheno Seconded: Kathy MacKenzie Carried

6. Finance Report

Presented by Hamish. Income \$51,600 compared to \$29,000 last year. A big increase. Interest up from \$3000 to \$11,600. Last year breakeven, this year \$9000 profit.

Voucher system implemented, and well supported but a system with more traceability for accounting purposes is considered necessary and will be reviewed for future.

Liability for unused cards estimated to be around \$1300. As amount likely to remain same level year on year, no liability provision has been made in current financial statement.

Financial Report accepted:

Moved: Gillian McLeod Seconded: Lesley Muir Carried

7 Election of Officers

Nominations received:

President: Hamish McDonald

Treasurer: Anna Elms

Secretary: Georgia Mahoney

Committee Members:

Sue Wilson

Owen Williams

Mary Christensen

Peter Henry

Lee Asher-Simpson

Karen Wood

As there were no nominations from the floor, all current committee members were unanimously re-elected to the committee.

8. Annual Subscriptions and Fees

Suggested subscription increases by \$10 to \$60.

Suggested table money stays the same at \$5.

Suggested drinks go to \$7 and become a cash-only bar. This would add \$2,100, getting bar back to break even.

Interest will go up to \$16,000 due to current favourable rates.

Decision. Increases to subscriptions and no change to table money approved. Decision on drinks to be referred back to committee to decide.

Moved: John McGillivray Seconded: Robbie Caldwell Carried

9. General Business

Proposed that members who have been members at least ten years, and are over 90 be given a free subscription. Currently, would affect four members. Suggested super senior be added as a new membership category.

Moved: Lynnette McLennan Seconded Gillian Carried Louie voting against.

John Bitcheno reminded meeting that changes to the incorporated societies act mean all incorporated societies must re-register by April 2026. Noted for action.

No other matters in General Business were raised.

Diana extended a vote of thanks to all committee members.

President closed the meeting at 7.45pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Hamish McDonald, President

QBC AGM President's Report 2023

In this being my first Presidents report I am pleased to note that we have had a full year's bridge without Government mandated restrictions. Its not until we have experienced restrictions, on what would otherwise be regarded as our basic rights, do we appreciate how good we normally have it.

The Committee

Once again as a club we have been blessed with a wonderful committee who have come together as a great team to make sure the club functions for the benefit of us all. To the committee, your diligent work I know is very much appreciated by all members and especially by me.

I thought it would be good to run through the various roles the different committee members take on.

Georgia as club secretary, makes sure all the meetings, tournaments and events are planned for in advance and function with precision. Basically, she makes sure I look to be on top of things. Thanks.

Anna has taken over the treasurer's role from Sue and has been involved in implementing a couple of changes. Firstly, the collection of table money at the door, which helps gain a more accurate record of concession cards used. Secondly keeping the committee up to date with where we are at financially using the new Xero accounting system we have now implemented.

Sue with all her club background knowledge helped Anna through the treasurer transitioning process and provides valuable insights when we are looking at various scenarios as well as keeping the computer systems up to date.

Lee has taken over responsibility for Website maintenance and improvements. Our website is now being looked at by other clubs, who are wanting some help in improving their Website's. Once again, I thank Robbie and the Tauranga bridge club for their past work getting us to where we are today.

Peter has continued his role as bar manager and has renewed our license after navigating a long council process.

Mary has picked up the task of recording our monthly meetings which sometimes isn't the easiest of tasks. The monthly minutes are then posted on the Website once approved.

Mary also provides us with regular input from the directors.

Karen has picked up various roles for us and has agreed to be our health and safety advisor.

Owen has also picked up various roles when required including capably managing the Hamish Ryan memorial event which unfortunately I could not attend.

The committee have collaborated well as a team and have all volunteered for another years' service to the club which I hope you will endorse.

Lessons and integration into the club.

Lynnette McLennan has run another year of lessons which as usual are well organized and well received by the participants. It is great to see some of these students now participating in our Tuesday and Friday bridge sessions but I still think it is a major issue encouraging more people to make the step into regularly playing. Whilst this is a general problem worldwide, I think we all need to do our bit in helping solve the Queenstown club's problem. Playing a series with a new player and/or maybe mentoring someone for a year is something all the experienced members should be considering. This is one area next

years' committee needs to explore further with any ideas from any club members gratefully accepted.

Dealing

Each night we come to bridge and the pre-dealt boards keep flowing out. This does not happen magically it is the team lead by Wendy Patterson with Trish Hamilton and Karen Wood who carry out this task for us. Wendy quite rightfully has decided after approximately 20 years dedication to the job to retire from this at the end of the year. Thanks Wendy, for your many years' service to the club in this role.

X Files

Next year we are planning to join the 20-30 clubs around the country who on Tuesday nights all play the same pre-dealt hands. Scoring and results will be viewed as per usual but players that choose to, can go onto the site and compare their results with a much larger field. This gives opportunities to compare results and maybe see how they could improve their bridge.

Directors

Thanks to our team of volunteers who organize our bridge sessions and help sort things out when there has been a rule infringement at the table. This is all done while they themselves are trying to play and enjoy their own evenings bridge.

This year's team of Mary, Vivian, Phil, Jane and Gillian are in contact with each other during the week continually upskilling on the rules and decisions made to try and provide consistent, fair decisions when called upon. That's a big commitment. There will be two new directors added to the roster next year being Des and myself.

Mary over the last 18 months has spent many hours studying and training for exams and is now a qualified Tournament director which is an outstanding achievement and will help strengthen the club.

Scorers

Scorers are yet another team that each bridge session get the computer set up and do the scoring after play. This team comprises of Sue, Maria, Leslie, Jo Booker, Lynette, Vivian, Jane Mary and Lee. Thanks for all your efforts, and dealing with those occasional glitches that can happen, in the calm manner you portray.

Teams

Thanks, Lynda, for your work in trying to keep the teams session happening.

Teams bridge is another format of bridge which is fun to play both at club and tournament level. We do sometimes struggle to get enough people to run a viable competition which is disappointing. This is another area for the new committee to look into, which once again will include listening to the members' thoughts.

Tournaments

With this year being the first one for a while where tournaments have been able to be run face to face a lot of people were anxious to see how our first 5A Tournament would go. We need not have worried, as the attendance level from players throughout the SI and our own members was great and the days organization and help by many people ensured it was a success and hopefully provided a great platform for the future.

We also hosted and ran the Otago/Southland 10A Teams/Pairs which once again was a success beyond the expectations we were given by the regional exec, due to the organization and help from many people within the club.

We also had our members attending other tournaments in the region and further afield, which is great showing support to those other clubs which hopefully gets reciprocated. We had 10 members attend the national congress in Tauranga with 7 members of the contingent gaining places in various events. This was a magnificent achievement which reflects positively on the club.

Ryan Cup and Hamilton Plate

We ventured down to Winton for the annual Ryan Cup challenge which we won by a whisker, but a win's a win. This was the first time in the cups history that the travelling team has succeeded.

Next challenge was the Hamilton Plate which is a teams event run between the Wanaka, Cromwell, Alexandra and Queenstown clubs. After a few near misses in recent years this year we prevailed. Both events will be hosted in Queenstown next year so here's hoping we can help use home advantage to continue holding these trophies.

Summary

We have had our first year back to normal bridge for a while which has been great to see. We have had our successes as a club which reflects well on us all.

We still have our challenges though as our membership numbers remain static at best despite new members moving into the area and a few feeding-through from lessons. As club members we always need to be on the lookout for new opportunities and bring them forward. We also need to make sure we always provide a welcoming happy environment so new members want to join our club and become enthused like we are in this challenging, sometime frustrating but overall fun game.

I, along with the rest of the committee, have been nominated to serve for another year, which if you choose to endorse us, will give you an experienced team to tackle some of these challenges, to keep moving this club forward. Thanks for all your support.

Hamish McDonald

