

REDCLIFFE BRIDGE CLUB INC
MINUTES OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
Held on Thursday 19 October 2023, at 1.08 pm.

1. **Attendance:** Sue Kennard (Chairperson), Maurice Sanders, Wayne Parker, Melva Leal, Barbara Wales, Tracey Langton, and Ted Morriss. Guests – Sandra Routley and Max Kershaw, Tournament Organisers.
Apologies: Linda Almond, Di McColl, and Elizabeth Gibson.
2. **Welcome:** Sue welcomed everyone to the meeting and outlined the purpose of the meeting which was to discuss the Monday and Friday novice sessions for the 2024 calendar year.

The system is very divisive at the moment creating an ‘us and them situation’, so Sue proposed that **commencing on 1 January 2024**, that the Monday and Friday sessions will have two sections, a Red and Blue section without masterpoint restrictions, and that the words novice be removed from the calendar and program book except for the explicit purpose of competition. Our members can play in either section on the day and under the Laws of Bridge, the Director will apportion the field so that there is not a sit-out in both sections. Sue asked the members present for their comments:

Ted Morriss agreed with the proposal and spoke about mentoring and assisted or supervised play. Ted offered to give up Fridays to run a short session of supervised play and offered to train as a Director.

Melva Leal had nothing further to add at this time.

Sandra Routley agreed with what most people said and stated that Supervised Play is a ‘Grade of Masterpoints’ where ‘Novice’ is a description of an event like a restricted event. Sandra would like everyone to come to bridge and have a good game and not be at odds with anyone else. Sandra also said that it was important that the Director will organise the session according to player numbers as it may be that there might just be one section on some occasions.

Max Kershaw just wished that the Committee would decide and get on with it. Max is very supportive of the rookies and beginners and wants them involved as they have much to add to the Club. Max wants to get the mentoring system back in place again by either mentoring ‘One-on-One’ or by mentoring players as a pair. We need more players coming to Clubs rather than going online and we need to encourage the education process and to stop any perceived division.

Maurice Sanders spoke about why the novice section was first introduced along with the mentoring system. He raised the question “why is it illegal to award masterpoints to mentors inside the novice section and where was it stated in the Masterpoint Manual”. Sandra replied that it is not shown in black and white but rather it falls under the category of a restricted session – players cannot play in a restricted session if they do not qualify. Maurice suggested that players with less than 50MPs play in the novice or red section and that players with mentors play in the blue section which is the current situation.

Barbara Wales disagreed with the discussion so far and said that ever since the novice section started some players have been trying to get rid of it. Barbara said that the novice section works very well and that the people there are very happy, and they feel safe. From her research, she said that every Club had a novice section and that she does not like the idea that the whole room would join together again in one section. Barbara said that we have had the best retention of new players ever in the last couple of years and this was reflective of how they are treated in the novice section.

Tracey Langton saw a number of issues including the harmony of the Club, the comments, and rumours about getting rid of the novice section and shutting down the novice section so that all players have to play in one section. We need to stop that division and talk in the Club so that everyone can enjoy the game. Some players feel uncomfortable and intimidated when they play the more experienced players in the blue section, Sandra said that people who feel uncomfortable have access to the Director in the first instance or to the Club Recorder and this needs to be promoted in the newsletter – Tracey agreed that an ongoing

section in the newsletter would be a good idea including the Code of Conduct. Tracey said that we need more education, mentoring is one element and questions why we would remove the novice section when it already works.

Wayne Parker also agreed with the proposal, and he wanted to confirm that the mentoring system has always been available to rookie and novice players, however, not many players took up the opportunity and that was possibly a fault of the Committee for not advertising the mentoring system enough.

After a good discussion on this issue:

1. **Maurice Sanders moved** “that we retain a red section with a masterpoint limit of 50 and that we introduce mentoring next season which will be done in the blue section”, **seconded by Barbara Wales**. A short discussion took place, and the motion was **LOST**.
2. **Sue Kennard moved** “that the Monday and Friday sessions be continued in two sections, Blue and Red, and dropping the word novice and the points stipulation on the understanding that the more experienced players will be on the blue side and all other players can play wherever they feel comfortable for as long as they wish, this comes with the understanding that the Director may be required to move players to avoid both sides having a sit-out”, **seconded by Tracey Langton**.

After further discussion: **Wayne Parker moved an amendment** to the motion “that the Monday and Friday sessions be continued in two sections, Blue and Red, dispensing with the masterpoint stipulation where the more experienced players are encouraged to sit on the blue side and all other players can play wherever they feel comfortable for as long as they wish”, **seconded by Sue Kennard** and the motion was **CARRIED**.

The amendment now became the motion and was put to the Committee.

CARRIED

During discussion on these motions, Sandra Routley and Max Kershaw took no part in the voting on these matters.

3. **Summary:** This arrangement will commence from the 1st of January 2024. The Monday and Friday sessions will comprise of two sections Red and Blue where the more experienced players will play in the blue section and all other players can play wherever they feel comfortable for as long as they wish.

Max Kershaw raised some other issues from the meeting about mentoring and breaking down the barriers. The Committee needs to do a lot more work in this area as well as promoting roles and issues in the newsletter. Some thoughts were:

- ◆ Playing more team competitions and getting to know our new members in the Club
- ◆ Putting rookie players East-West one session and advertising it in the program book (so that they can decide in advance if they want to play or not)
- ◆ Playing a team where an experienced pair teams up with a rookie pair
- ◆ Playing teams of 3
- ◆ Create a list of mentors and put that on the noticeboard
- ◆ All mentors to be given free games
- ◆ No limit to number of mentored games
- ◆ Mentors can play in either section
- ◆ Supervised Play sessions on Friday mornings – 15 boards for 4weeks to go in program book

4. General Business

- Wine on table for Christmas Party – Moreton Bay Boat Club unable to supply
- Meeting closed – 2.15pm
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_____ Sue Kennard (President)

_____ Wayne Parker (Secretary) 19/10/2023