

NZB Bridge

NEW ZEALAND BRIDGE NATIONAL CONFERENCE
Held at the Miramar Golf Club commencing at 10.00am
Sunday 29th June 2014

PRESENT Board: Graham Wakefield, Shirley Newton, Murray Wiggins, Alan Turner & Alan Joseph

Secretary Alister Stuck, Bridge Development Officer Richard Solomon & NZ Bridge Marketing Portfolio Member Tony Lenart

Regional Representatives: Fiona Temple, Michael Johnstone, (Canterbury), Chris Marshall, (Top of the South), Karen Martelletti & Brett Glass (Waikato Bays), Susan Humphries (Auckland Northland), Dinnie Hall, Vivienne Cannell, Tony Sutich (Wellington), & Les Gould,(Central Districts)

Apologies: Arie Geursen Paula Jenner & Alan Grant

1 WELCOME

Alan Turner opened the conference, welcomed the delegates and outlined the programme for the day.

2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

It was moved that the minutes of the Regional Conference held in Christchurch on 6th February 2014 were a true and correct record of the meeting.

CARRIED

3 MATTERS ARISING

Costings Interprovincials

Alan Turner advised that not all Regions have provided the requested summary of their actual income and expenses incurred with respect to the 2013 Interprovincials. Alan will contact those Regions direct.

Costings 15A &20A Tournaments

Fiona Temple advised that not all Regions had responded to her request for a summary of income and expenditure incurred with respect to the hosting of such Tournaments. All delegates to follow-up and ensure that this information is provided ASAP.

4 PROPOSED CONSTITUTION AMENDMENTS – NATIONAL & REGIONAL CONFERENCES

Alister introduced this segment by first outlining the Boards plans for the future direction of Conferences. It is the Board intention to move to an annual Conference (to be known as a National Conference) with all Regions to host a an annual gathering of Clubs (to be known as a Regional Conference). This is to be in addition to any Regional Teachers workshop which from 2015 will be held every two years.

Appropriate amendments to clauses 16 & 17 of the Constitution will be proposed by the Board for consideration at the Annual General Meeting so as to encompass this plan.

5 MARKETING PACKAGE LAUNCH

Shirley then presented the Marketing Package which had been prepared by the Marketing, Membership and Media Project Team comprising the “Marketing, Membership & Media Resources Kit- a helping hand for bridge clubs in NZ” and a booklet titled “Growing the Sport –a way forward.

Shirley took the opportunity to thank Karen Martelletti who formatted the material.

It is intended that the material will be available electronically and will be presented to the Clubs by way of a Regional Conference in each Region before the end of 2014. Board members will be available to attend the 7 local launches.

Shirley then presented the draft Strategic Plan document that the MMM group had drafted. The delegates broke into groups to consider the goals and objectives in the draft and to provide input into the final document. Alan Turner compiled the groups’ findings and will collate and circulate in due course.

6 GENERAL BUSINESS

Interprovincial Trials 2016

Karen Martelletti raised this issue on behalf of Rona Driscoll the National Tournament schedule coordinator. In the interests of minimising the impact on the Tournament Calender it was suggested that a single weekend be reserved for Regions to hold selection trials for their Interprovincial Teams. Rona had sought feedback from the Regions and the consensus was that this was a good idea. It was agreed that this be adopted for 2016 and beyond with a weekend during May reserved for this purpose.

Interprovincials – Survey conducted by Canterbury

Fiona Temple presented this segment and referred the delegates to the survey findings which had been circulated prior to the Conference. Key findings were highlighted including a desire by the participants that the Interprovincials continue and a willingness to cover more of the costs to attend personally.

Issues with Quarterly Levy Invoicing

Alister introduced this topic and expressed his disappointment with the treatment he had received from some Clubs following the move to quarterly invoicing. A number of instances where Clubs sought a revised invoice and in some cases short paid the invoice because they had not advised membership changes prior to the advertised cut off date.

Graham Wakefield circulated two emails from the Paraparaumu Club which were examples of inappropriate responses received. It was the view of all delegates that the onus on keeping the records reconciled was the responsibility of each individual Club. It was agreed that the Regional Committees would assist Alister dealing with non compliant Clubs in the future. Graham advised that he would respond to the emails from Paraparaumu.

Enhanced Website Functionality

Alan Turner outlined the Boards position regarding the ongoing enhancement of the Website to ensure that any improvements make the site more user friendly and easier to navigate around. The task of managing this has been delegated to members of the MMM Portfolio and a review of the existing site had already begun.

Restricted Entry 3A Pairs Tournament

Susan Humphries presented this item and thanked the Board for their support enabling a restricted entry 3A Pairs event to be trialed by the Howick Club on Sunday 30th November 2014. The event will be aimed at “Low Open” players with entry restricted to those players with fewer than 50 A Points as at 1 Jan 2014. The Host Club and Region will be responsible for ensuring that the entry criteria is met and will provide the Board with a report, including player feedback, after the event is held. It was agreed that while there was an opportunity to provide a further suite of tournaments for players in this band, this had to be managed within an already congested tournament calendar.

Tournament Structure Review

Allan Joseph led this segment and worked through a bullet point document that had been circulated prior to the Conference. The delegates discussed areas that worked well and listed a number of areas where improvements could be made or opportunities investigated.

It is likely that the Board will establish a work group to further review the whole area of tournaments bearing in mind that we have a very congested Tournament calendar and that the existing events are a major source of income for NZ Bridge via the Masterpoint Scheme.

Discussion Item- Huntly Bridge Club –Change to Masterpoint Scheme

Brett Glass spoke to this and advised that the Club hoped to present as a formal remit to a future AGM.

It was the Clubs view that where low table numbers are involved in a Club session that the Cpoints offered should be scaled back. It was also their view that C points should not convert to B Points and that Club session Masterpoints be excluded for the proposes of setting a players Tournament grade.

While there was much discussion there was no clear consensus on the issue or the changes outlined. Alister advised that it was his experience that there are more players who want to amass Masterpoints and move up the Ranks and Grades than those who don't. When the afore mentioned Tournament workgroup is formed this topic can considered in conjunction with their review.

Administration Items

Alister took the opportunity to brief the delegates on 3 points:

- a. The Coaching Grant programme will continue for 2014/2015 and he requested that all Regions furnish their returns for the year to 31 March 2014.
- b. With a number of new Regional Secretaries to be appointed for the new term of office which commences 1 July 2014 a one day seminar for Regional Secretaries would be held in Wellington before the end of the year. Further information will be provided ASAP with sufficient notice so that cost effective travel plans can be made.
- c. The trial adopted last year whereby one B point could be awarded to the highest placed Intermediate and Junior Pairs in an 8B tournament had concluded. Alister advised that the uptake had been minimal and he would be recommending to the Board that this be discontinued.

7 REGIONAL REPORTS

Written Reports from Auckland Northland, Waikato Bays, Central Districts, Wellington, TOTS, Canterbury and Otago Southland were circulated prior to the Conference. (Copies attached to these Minutes). With limited remaining time available before delegates had to commence return travel it was agreed that the Regional reports as circulated be received.

Richard Solomon took the opportunity to highlight an item reported by the Top of the South Region and congratulated the Westport Club where 13 youth

Players had joined the Club and will all be attending the next Youth Weekend in Auckland.

THE CONFERENCE CLOSED AT 3.50pm.

Next National Conference

The next National Conference will convened between the months of March and June inclusive 2015.