



New Zealand Bridge

NEW ZEALAND BRIDGE REGIONAL COMMITTEE CONFERENCE
Held at the Jet Park Hotel Auckland Saturday Feb 6th and Sunday
February 7th 2010

PRESENT Board: Kay Nicholas (Chair), Norm Silcock, Alan Turner, Patsy Walters, Graham Wakefield, Michael Ware & Murray Wiggins. Chief Director Arie Geursen, Secretary Alister Stuck, Bridge Development Officer Richard Solomon.

Regional Representatives: John Mitchell, Lynne Fegan (Otago/Southland), Joan Small, Judith Calder, John Hay (Canterbury), Margie Michael, Paula Jenner (Wellington), Wayne Burrows, Ann Hill (Central Districts), Max Lewis, Jenny Millington (Waikato Bays), Trevor Robb (Saturday only) Tony Morcom Angela Royle Sunday only) (Auckland)

Presenters: Jo Clark - Chairperson NZ Bridge Foundation
Noel Woodhall - NZ Bridge National Recorder

1 WELCOME

Kay welcomed all to the meeting and referred every one to the Conference Agenda which had been previously circulated.

2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES- July 26th 2009 - Christchurch

It was moved that the minutes of the July 2009 Conference were a true and correct record of the meeting.

CARRIED

3 REGIONAL REPORTS

Waikato

Regional membership drive with advertising in community Newspapers and a letter box drop. The Committee are setting up a regional database with the view to being able to do targeted mail outs to members.. Two more “Jones day out” sessions in April and June and a directors session in Feb and have committed to supporting the PABF.

Otago Southland

Tournament schedule review to more evenly spread events throughout the year. Queenstown Congress has been reviewed. New Match Committee established to ensure that this event runs smoothly. Region will have a new website up and running next month

Canterbury

Transitioning to smaller region midyear with the establishment of Top of the South. The region is supporting Chch Club with the move of its 5A Pairs & Teams over Easter. Bridge promotion in Shopping malls. The private Clubs are doing very well with membership drives.

Wellington

Region is promoting directors lessons managed by Alan Joseph who along with Dinnie Hall have set up a directors group in the region. Wellington Interclub event very strong and well supported. Regional Congress in July planning underway. Also looking to review roles of NPC's and the IP Trials.

Central Districts

Application in for a regional event in New Plymouth over Taranaki anniversary Weekend is before NZ Bridge. Two clubs are rescheduling events to be held over one weekend to save travel.

Auckland

Easter event for Seniors and looking to adopt the Intermediate points Prize over the course of the year. Region has a new Website up and running.

Bridge Development Update Richard Solomon

Richard spoke of the need for collaboration between the National Body and the regions to promote bridge and the role of Regional Development Officers. Need to explore opportunities to get in the print media.

Linking to the new Website "Grown-ups" will give people access to NZB site and details of the Clubs in their area.

Bridge for the future seminar held in Auckland last year will be repeated in the Waikato Region during 2010. Richard is polling the Auckland Clubs following up on their actions that were agreed at the seminar. Posters for NZB Magazine sent to Clubs. Alister to post on NZB Website.

Richard will host another youth weekend 6-8 August 2010 this time at the Christchurch Bridge Club.

PABF 2010

Richard reported on the planning of the PABF event. To date expressions of interest have been very light. The Organizers are meeting in Hamilton Sunday Feb 8th. They intend chasing those countries who have not responded. Still looking for volunteers. Press release has been issued but to date no response. Keen to get some traction with the media and would appreciate details of any useful media contacts that people may have.

Finance

Alan Turner spoke to his report that has been circulated to the Delegates. He outlined the progress made in achieving the audit of the 2009 Accounts. Alan also went through the list of requirements that the Auditor has stipulated for the management of groups finances. A number of errors from the draft accounts have been corrected and the Audit of the March 2009 GST return is underway.

Delegation of Authority Review and Annual Performance Evaluation All delegates were supportive of this suggestion. The group worked through the discussion paper that had been circulated. Roles and responsibilities of the Board and the Regions either individual or collective were discussed. The S & DA for the Regions will be amended to include the specific criteria that the Auditor has outlined for the management of the Groups finances. The Regions are required to prepare a business Plan and associated Budgets and this process will be subject to review at both Regional and Board level. It was agreed that NZ Bridge would make Website space available to post Regional Committee Minutes.

John Mitchell questioned the difference between the terms of office Board/Regions and suggested that the term of office for the RC be aligned with the Board on a 3 year term with retirement via rotation.

The level of Honoraria payments available to the Regional Committee personnel was discussed. Some delegates felt that the current limit should be reviewed given the amount of work done. Others were of the view that they took on the role as their contribution to Bridge and therefore did not deem an honoraria payment necessary. Alister advised that there was policy in place to enable Regions to make higher payments upon application to the Board but to date no Regions had

Kay undertook that the Board will give further consideration to the ambit of that policy, and in particular to the wording of clause 10 of the Scope and Delegation of Authority document, at its next meeting.

Congress 2010

Richard outlined the changes to the 2010 Interprovincials format to facilitate the additional teams. Registration Fees are to increase by \$30 for full registrations and \$15 for each of the shorter term packages.

The Rubber Bridge event will now comprise one pair from each of the 7 regions along with a 2nd pair from the Region who has the most pairs in its play-offs.

The Interprovincials will now start of the Wednesday night. The event will comprise a double round robin with a bye in each round. If the Youth section only has 6 teams this event will start on the Thursday morning or as an alternative a composite team may be selected to represent the Top of the South.

The format of the Clubs Teams Championship has been discussed by the Board and having regard to the limited time available within the Congress programme will be unchanged in 2010." Then you need to add in the wording of the actual decision from the Board minutes about the 2 teams

from Canterbury and Top of the South meeting to play off prior, and that the decision will be revisited in 2011. For those players travelling by air to the Interprovincials maximum reimbursement levels will be set and published. This year NPC's will be included in the mix for reimbursement.

Congress 2011

The dates for the 2011 Congress are confirmed as 16-23 July. It was noted that falls outside some of the university holidays period as the scheduled school and university holidays do not overlap on this occasion.

Masterpoints Charges

Trevor Robb suggested that the cost of A & C Points for Tournaments as a disincentive to Clubs running events. Those present felt that this was the fairest and most effective avenue for NZ Bridge to generate income and favoured the user pays principle.

Tournament Schedule Review

Schedule to be published 2 years in advance – 2011 Skeleton to be dispatched to regions as soon as the dates for the 10A & 15A events have been allocated. It was suggested that 15A Teams events be held over long weekends. The group discussed alternative events including Board a Match Teams Back to the Future Teams, Swiss Pairs and Swiss Pairs scored on Matchpoints.

Clubs at Risk

Alan Turner led this workshop. The delegates discussed the ongoing issue with declining memberships and retention rates with learners. It was agreed that the Regional Committees have a responsibility to support the smaller clubs and should be in contact with them regularly as a matter of course. A number of initiatives were discussed and the Regional representatives to share success stories with the Clubs in their regions.

Ann Hill moved a vote of thanks to the Chair Kay Nicholas who was unable to attend the Sunday sessions.

The meeting was adjourned at 5pm

The meeting resumed at 10am Sunday February 8th.

Investment Strategy

Alan addressed the group and outlined the offer to assist the Regions with deposit rates on the back of our collective bargaining power. The BNZ have offered premium rates to the Board and this is extended to the Regions and the Congress group who wish to take advantage of it. Those Regions wishing to take advantage of this offer are to contact the Secretary.

Charity Grants

Alan to fill in gaps here.

Jo Clark – NZ Bridge Foundation

Alan welcomed Jo Clark to the meeting. Graham opened the presentation outlining the registered status of the Foundation under the Charitable Trusts Act 1957 and the background to issues which had arisen in seeking the attribution subsequently of charitable status by the Charities Commission under the Charities Act 2005, and advised that the Foundation's Trust Deed objects clause would be amended slightly with a view to the application being accepted before the end of the current financial year. Jo spoke about the aims of the Foundation and outlined some opportunities for fund raising. In addition Jo indicated some of the applications or areas where Clubs may like to apply for funding.

Brochures and bequest forms are to be printed once the Charities Status is known.

The meeting closed at 11.45am