



26th April, 2017

We had our second meeting on the 18th April, a telephone meeting, principally to clear up some loose ends from our previous meeting.

It was with sadness that the Board learnt of Noel Woodhall's decision, for personal reasons, to step down from the Board. Noel has given much in his time on the Board and his judgment and wisdom will be sorely missed.

A notice will be sent out in the next day or two calling for expressions of interest in filling the two vacancies.

The World Bridge Federation has promulgated some new rules. Our Chief Director, Murray Wiggins, tells me that there's nothing major in them, but as with many innovations the devil may well lie in the detail. Anyway, Murray will be attending a meeting of the Australian State Directors next month and is proposing to call a meeting of our National Directors upon his return. (He has pencilled in 11 June for that meeting). The new rules will come into force on 1 August, so that allows a little time for them to bed down before Congress.

A power point presentation is to be prepared, and made available to all Clubs and Regions. Each Club will also be provided with a complimentary copy of the new rule book once it has been printed.

Karen Martelletti has been appointed to the Congress Committee, and I'm sure her tireless energy will ensure an even more successful Congress than usual.

Jane Stearns has been appointed to lead the Tournament and Masterpoint Review Group. This is a huge task - best wishes Jane!

As part of our on-going administrative overhaul we're introducing a conflict of interest register for Board members, officials, staff and contractors. I'm happy to say that this is not because of any present or past infractions; but it is a sensible and cautious precaution. We've also formalised reporting procedures. Committee Chairs. Working Group Chairs, officials and staff will all now be expected to produce for each Board meeting a report on what's happened since the last meeting and what's in the pipeline etc.

At our next meeting, on the 27th May, we hope to discuss three major items: a Board Roles, Structure and Strategy document, a draft NZB strategic plan both being prepared by Clare Coles and a paper from Jane Stearns on nurturing clubs. These will also be refined following the National Conference of the Board and the Regional Committees in June, and then no doubt refined again after consultation with the Clubs.

On a personal note, I spent a delightful evening at the Marlborough Bridge Club in Blenheim last week. I am working there 3 days per week for the next few weeks, so I hope to visit again. Doesn't one meet such wonderful people playing bridge! (And lest anybody be wondering, my lovely Charmian and I came 5th out of nine E/W pairs). This Sunday I'll be attending the Central Districts Regional Conference in Palmerston North and hopefully meet some more wonderful people.

So, onwards and upwards.

Alan Dormer

NZB Chair

