



30th May 2017

Well, here we are with a third report on things over the last month or so.

The Board met last Saturday, the 27th May, with Clare Coles participating by Skype from England where she's visiting her Mum.

I am delighted to advise that Greg Whitten of Martinborough and Allan Morris of Auckland were selected by the Board to fill the two vacancies; so for the first time in almost a year we now have a full complement.

Allan will be familiar to many around the country as a co-author of a report which he submitted to the former Board early this year. He has served on the Committee of the Auckland Bridge Club for over 10 years and was its President 2010-2011. Following upon an illustrious business career, Allan has recently assumed the Chair of the Bridge Foundation, which does a worthy job of attracting charitable donations to bridge in NZ.

Greg will bring a wealth of commercial experience and financial analysis skills to the Board. Prior to retiring Greg was a leading investment manager, and has represented NZ at meeting of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. He is a member of the Wellington Regional Committee, and his wife Sue is the Immediate past President of the South Wairarapa Bridge Club. I look forward to working with them both, and would send my thanks to those other fine folk who put their names forward.

The Board also adopted a draft strategy to guide the development of the game over the next 5 years, supported a plan for the appointment of Regional Bridge Development Officers which had been developed by Jane Stearns, and nearly completed its budget for the year. As part of the Board's commitment to better communication and involvement, each of these documents will be circulated to Clubs and Regions, so that we can get some good feedback at the National Conference on the 10th June.

We've also had the first meeting of the Constitution Review Group, and Alan Turner will be preparing a report for discussion at the Conference.

Our Chief Director, Murray Wiggins is right now attending a meeting of Australasian Directors in Sydney to discuss the World Bridge Federation's recent changes to the rules of our game. Over the next few weeks he will be holding meetings in each of the main centres to explain all about them.



On the lighter side of things Richard Solomon and I attended the *General Assembly* of the NZ Olympic Committee on the 4th May. It would be great if bridge could gain full membership of same; but due to their defining "sport" as a physical activity I'm not holding my breath.

Julian Foster, the Chairman of the NSW Bridge Association passed through Auckland early in May, and I was ever so pleased to have the opportunity to share a lunch with him. It's reassuring to hear that they are facing the same sorts of challenges as us here in NZ; and I look forward to a continuing and fruitful liaison with him over the times to come.

Last week I completed the long hearing that was taking me to Blenheim every week. My thanks go to all the lovely people who made me so welcome at the Marlborough Bridge Club, though I do wish that they had been a bit kinder at the table. One of the utterly delightful players with whom I was partnered was Chris Beattie. I was told that she was 93; but when I put that to her, she replied in a strong voice and a twinkle in her eye, "Not yet!" I understand that she may recently have celebrated her birthday. Many Hobbies Chris, and thanks for a lovely evening.

Congrats are also due to Pam Whitehead and Stuart Grant, intermediate members of the Kaikoura Club. They were the first ever from their club to contest the Top of The South trials for the Inter-Provincial Teams. Thanks to the recent earthquakes they had a 7 and a half hour drive to make it to the trials. It's just reward for their efforts that they will now be representing their region!!!

Onwards and Upwards

Alan Dormer

NZB Chair