



Newsletter No: 4

July 10th 2017

The year seems to be rushing by! It is only 12 weeks until the start of National Congress, which hardly seems possible. There is a lot happening with New Zealand Bridge so I wanted to update everyone on key events of the past six weeks or so.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

The National Conference was held on 10 June. This is the constitutionally required annual meeting of the National Board and representatives of the Regional Committees. It was a very pleasant meeting, conducted in the very best of spirit.

- A couple of remits were passed for consideration at the AGM. One sought to expand the right of Clubs to bring remits to the AGM, and the other to remove the right of the Board to block the National Conference from forwarding remits. All very technical stuff, but important in terms of upholding confidence in the governing structure of our game.
- The Board's proposed new Draft Strategic Plan was approved as was a Regional Bridge Development Officer proposal. The former will soon go out to Clubs for consultation. If approved, and I hope it is, it should provide much-needed support to struggling Clubs. There's bound to be debate around how it is paid for, and I look forward to that too.
- Karen Martelletti's report on progress with the new website developments and Masterpoints automation was favorably received, and she expects it be in a position to go "live" later this month or early next. Great work Karen; you deserve a medal!

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

I attended my first meeting of the International Committee, held shortly after the teams' return from Seoul where they had performed with distinction. They both fell away a bit over the last couple of days, but a very creditable performance. No doubt we were all particularly pleased with the Open team's victories over the old foe Australia.

WORLD BRIDGE FEDERATION RULE CHANGES

Our Chief Director, Murray Wiggins has embarked upon a tour of the major centres to explain the World Bridge Federation's new rule changes.

BOARD MEETING

We had a Board meeting in Mt Maunganui on the 4th July. A couple of easy, "quick fix" changes to the constitution were adopted for forwarding to the AGM. They are pretty technical really (details in the Minutes); and major work on the constitution is progressing under Alan Turner's leadership.

With Allan Morris being appointed to the Board, we had to appoint a new Chairman of the Bridge Foundation, the charitable arm of New Zealand Bridge. I am pleased to say that that John Wignall, one



of the greats of bridge in NZ, has agreed to accept the position; and we shall consider one or two new appointments next month. And please, if anyone is thinking of making a bequest to support bridge development, particularly of Youth Bridge; do consider including the Foundation in your will.

This being the first meeting of the Board following upon our having a full complement, we were finally able to allocate some portfolio responsibilities as follows:

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| • Employment, Admin & Operations | Clare Coles |
| • Finance & Strategy | Greg Whitten & Clare Coles |
| • Relationship Management & Communications | Allan Morris & Karen Martelletti |
| • Education | Alan Turner |
| • Bridge Development | Jane Stearns |
| • International & National Events | Alan Turner |
| • Regulations | Murray Wiggins |

TAURANGA BRIDGE CLUB CELEBRATES ITS DIAMOND JUBILEE

The Tauranga Bridge Club celebrated its 60th birthday at a wonderful party held in its clubrooms on 24th June. I was delighted to be invited, together with my beautiful Charmian. A great time was had by all, and congratulations to President Pat Ware and Club Captain Karen Martelletti on organising such a successful function. The warmth and camaraderie was a pleasure to experience. The excitement of the club member who won a session with Alan Turner in the prize draw was a special moment. Michael Ware, one of the stars of our international team, was the guest speaker. (Keen followers of the game will remember that Michael was in the team that made the last eight at the 2016 World Championships.) He told many self-effacing stories of his disasters at the table; and we all felt so much better realising that even the experts make silly mistakes sometimes. Best wishes to you Michael, and the rest of the team, when you once again take on the world's best in Lyon, France, next month

A VISIT TO THE EXCELLENT ROYLE EPSOM CLUB

Charmian and I visited the Royle Epsom Bridge Club early last month. What an amazing success Angela Royle has made of her Club, one of just two privately owned bridge clubs in NZ (They are very common in the rest of the world). Her premises are about two miles along the road from the Auckland Bridge Club, on the first floor of a shopping centre. She has built it up to 430 members, 8 of whom are Open, 60 Intermediates and the rest Juniors and Novices. Sessions are very well attended, there were 15 tables playing the night we were there. She runs seven duplicate sessions per week. Angela greets everyone by their first name as they arrive. Coffee and toasted sandwiches are continuously available. There is a wonderfully friendly atmosphere. A great success story and It just shows what can be achieved if one does everything right!

I'll be in touch again with further news after the next round of meetings and activities.

Onwards and upwards!!

Alan Dormer
NZB Chair