



Newsletter No: 3

28 February 2018

Last week Alister, Murray and I (whilst we were on the Gold Coast) attended the annual meeting of Zone 7 Council.

Zone 7 is part of the World Bridge Federation (WBF) and is the Zone that we, Australia and other Pacific Island affiliated members belong to.

We were fortunate to have in attendance Rona Gianarrigo, President of the WBF, who provided some insight into administering a global game and some of the challenges the sport is facing.

Historically, at international competition, we have seen a focus on the Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup. Whilst these will continue we will see more emphasis on mixed team participation.

At the meeting Ben Thompson (Australia) was elected (with effect from October 2018) as Zone 7 President and member of the WBF Executive Council. Ben replaces John Wignall who will be retiring after 32 years of outstanding service to the WBF. Alister will continue as Secretary/Treasurer for the Zone 7 Council.

The South Island Teams was played in Christchurch just before the Gold Coast. Congratulations to Grant Jarvis, Kathy and Ken Yule and, Jan Alabaster who won the event ahead of 37 other teams.

Whilst every player wants to do better we (New Zealand) had some notable successes at the Gold Coast.

Winners Matthew Brown (Bobby Richman Pairs Championship).
Barry and Jody Whale (Bobby Richman Restricted Pairs Championship)
Michael Courtney (adopted kiwi) (Ivy Dahler Swiss Pairs)

Runners Up Kinga Hajmasi, Andrew Michl, Jody and Barry Whale (Intermediate teams)
Bill Humphrey and Paul Carson (Weekend Matchpoint 0-500 Swiss Pairs)

In addition there were a number of other notable performances.

Interestingly over the week at the Gold Coast Congress there were over 2600 players and on the Wednesday more than 560 tables in play.

The increase in the number of players is from those in the novice, restricted and intermediate events. You might be interested to hear there were 269 New Zealanders playing the Gold Coast. 14 players were from Kerikeri and 20 players were from Napier/Taradale alone. This is fantastic and I know everyone had a great time.



We would like to see more and more intermediate, and novices playing tournaments here and of course our National Congress.

Nominations for the Board closed on 13 February. As to who serves on the Board is now in the hands of the Clubs, who have until 13 March to exercise their vote(s).

We are very fortunate to have four outstanding candidates whom I am sure will contribute in their own way to the success of NZ Bridge.

Interestingly the other day I was asked what does NZ Bridge do. At first I was a bit taken back by the question and then realised we have many new players who may know little about the organisation. For many the overarching structure has little relevance as they are only interested in playing club bridge.

It would be easy to say we are responsible for the governance and administration of the game in New Zealand. In practice it goes much deeper. So what do we do and how do we contribute:

At the Club level

- We certify directors who are responsible for your club session.
- We administer "C" points, grades and ranks.
- We have developed an education programme for beginners and are developing an improvers' programme.
- We are responsible for the rules and oversight of the game.
- We have initiated a "Regional Bridge Mates" programme to help clubs develop and grow.
- We administer the New Zealand Wide Pairs on behalf on the New Zealand Bridge Foundation.

At the Tournament level

- We are responsible for the tournament schedule.
- We organise, promote and administer a number of national events including the inter provincials.
- We organise, promote and administer our National Congress
- We are responsible for the administration of Masterpoints.

At an International level

- We are responsible for selection of teams to represent New Zealand.
- We are responsible for ensuring our teams are well prepared to do the best they can.
- We are responsible for the conduct of players.

Then not surprisingly there is a whole raft of administration, support and communications that we provide.

Best wishes
Allan Morris