



**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF
NEW ZEALAND BRIDGE INCORPORATED
Held at 10 am on Saturday, 29 Sept 2012
In the Kingsgate Hotel Hamilton**

PRESENT **NZ Bridge Board** - Kay Nicholas (Chair), Alan Turner, Graham Wakefield, Jenny Wilkinson & Patsy Walters.

Secretary of NZ Bridge – Alister Stuck

Bridge Development Officer – Richard Solomon

Chief Director - Arie Geursen

Auditor for NZ Bridge – David Macdonald FCA

Authorised Delegates

Allan Joseph (Kairangi) , Alan Morris (Auckland), Tammy Lynch (Palmerston North), Phil Rutherford (Westport), Ruth Brucker (Wellington) Susan Edwards (Christchurch), Dot Rapley (Golden Bay), Jim Jessep (Marlborough), Karen Martelletti (Tauranga), Marilyn Jackson (Invercargill), Peter Bowyer (Howick), Lynne Geursen (Franklin), Brett Glass (Huntly), Heather Jared (Hutt), Chris Marshall (Picton), Steve Gray (Richmond), Judith Bishop (Thames), Lindsay Reid (Hamilton), Rona Driscoll (Taupo), Nina Hewitt (Otago), Jan Whyte (Hokowhitu), Chris Bolland (Karori), Dianne Esler (Temuka)

Proxy Votes

Peter Bowyer (Royle Epsom), Kay Nicholas (Geraldine), Michael Johnstone (Rangiora)

Observers – Jan Spaans, Keith Nicholas, Sharon Simiona, Susan Humphries & Tony Morcom.

WELCOME

The Chairperson, Kay Nicholas, welcomed all those present at the 2012 Annual General Meeting of New Zealand Bridge Incorporated, Board members, authorised Club Delegates (or Alternates) and Observers. A roll call was taken of those present.

APOLOGIES

Allan Barclay, Lynne Fegan, Angela Royle, Tony Thomson, Milton & Pahiatua Bridge Clubs.

Moved that the apologies be accepted.

CARRIED

MINUTES of the 2011 AGM

Moved that the minutes as previously circulated be taken as read.

CARRIED

MATTERS ARISING 2011 AGM

Nil

ANNUAL REPORT for year ended 31 March 2012

The Chair indicated that as the Annual Report was lengthy she proposed it be taken as read so she would have time to speak to it and then invite discussion from the floor.

Moved that the Annual Report be adopted.

CARRIED

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

Alan Turner led this segment of the Agenda firstly summarising the Audited Financial Statements the results against budget and concluded with a vote of thanks to the Regional Treasurers for the work undertaken during the year and for the timely completion of the Regional Accounts.

Moved that the Annual Accounts as presented be adopted.

CARRIED

GENERAL BUSINESS

▪ Appointment of Auditor

Moved that David Macdonald be appointed as Auditor for the 2012/2013 year.

CARRIED

The Chairperson moved a vote of thanks for David Macdonald for the excellent work he did in the capacity as Honorary Auditor.

- **Remit from the Board of New Zealand Bridge**

Graham Wakefield presented this segment and outlined the rationale behind the changes that the Board was seeking.

Following some debate the Chair allowed a minor change to the wording of point three replacing the bracketed reference (together with GST) with (plus GST). This did not change the intent of the remit but rather, as was the strong view of some delegates that the change made the intended position clearer.

Moved that the Constitution of New Zealand Bridge Incorporated be amended as follows:-

(1) **Clause 19.1** – be deleted and replaced with:-

"No later than 7th day of May in each year every Affiliated Club shall submit to the Chief Executive and / or Secretary an Annual Return signed by the president or chairperson or secretary of such club. The purpose of the Annual Return is for Statistical, Marketing and general record purposes but not for the striking of the membership for levy purposes."

(2) **Clause 19.2** amended by:-

(a) Deleting the dates "31st day of December" where the same appear in subclauses (c) and (d) and substituting the dates "31st day of March" in lieu, and

(b) Deleting subclause (g).

(3) **Clause 20.1** – current clause be deleted and replaced with:-

"Each Affiliated Club shall be liable to pay to NZ Bridge an annual subscription levy ("the subscription levy") per Player member designating that Affiliated Club as his / her Home Club and appearing on the masterpoint database maintained by NZ Bridge as at the 31st day of March in that year, being such sum (plus GST) as shall have been fixed for that purpose from time to time by resolution of the Board."

CARRIED

- **Rating Points and Tournament Grades – Howick Bridge Club**

Peter Bowyer presented this item on behalf of the Howick Bridge Club. The Club asked that the Board give consideration to reducing the depreciation rate applied to Masterpoints for Rating Point purposes from 20% to 10% annually.

It was their view that this change would reduce the number of players who are on the cusp of a trigger point and move in and out of grades annually.

Graham Wakefield responded and presented the Membership statistics broken down by Grade which were tabled at the recent Regional Conference. It was agreed that there was a bottleneck of Players with the rank of Local Master and that this should be addressed.

Graham undertook to review the current policy with the view to have any amendments ratified by the Board so as to be implemented for the 2013 playing year.

Alister agreed to make the membership presentation available on the Website.

- **Strategic Plan - Auckland Bridge Club**

Allan Morris of the Auckland Bridge Club presented this item and the 4 that follow.

It was the Auckland Club's view that that Board should prepare and adopt a 5 year plan covering finance and resource needs.

Alan Turner responded and outlined the Board current approach to forward planning and strategy. It was noted that given the changing membership it was a difficult task to work to a 5 year plan. As an example the International Committee which until recently operated on a 4 year cycle and Budget and this delegation had been trimmed back by the Board to 12 months.

Alan outlined the outcomes that arose following the Boards recent Strategy weekend and advised that this exercise would be repeated in the future.

- **Inclusive IT Strategy – Auckland Bridge Club**

The Auckland Club asked that the Board investigate the potential of single Website Platform from which Clubs could hang off giving a uniform consistent approach.

Alister responded and advised the meeting that this point was considered late in 2011 by the working party appointed to scope the requirements for a new Website for NZ Bridge. It was the unanimous view of the members of that working party that it was not appropriate for the Board to make pages on its own Website available to Clubs for their use. The Board did not wish to face a situation where it had little control over content on such pages. The Board remains committed to provide links to Clubs Websites but would not look to host them.

Graham Wakefield supported this view and also outlined opportunities for Clubs to obtain reasonably priced Websites from the likes of ClubHub Ltd who presented at the recent Regional Conference.

- **Quality of Board Minutes – Auckland Bridge Club**

Allan voiced the concerns of the Auckland Club as to the content of the Boards minutes and suggested a need for greater transparency in this regard.

Alister outlined the process used for the compilation of the Boards minutes which in his view were both robust and transparent.

A full year's set of Minutes were tabled by the Chair for Delegates to peruse and identify issues however the opportunity to do so was not taken by any Delegate.

Without any specific suggestions for improvement to the Boards minutes, discussion on this topic was concluded.

- **Sponsorship & Purchasing– Auckland Bridge Club**

The Auckland Club asked that the Board investigate opportunities for group schemes from which members could benefit and cited Insurance as an example. Alan Turner advised that the Board was already party to a group insurance scheme offered to Clubs via Insurance Brokers Jardine Lloyd. It was agreed that this concept could be explored further by the Marketing Committee to which Allan Morris was a recent appointee.

- **Governance– Auckland Bridge Club**

Allan asked that the Board investigate what it can do to help Clubs with Governance and Management. There was some debate as to where this responsibility lay and the likely resource requirement should the Board make this a priority.

Kay closed this discussion by referring to the Club Manual that was being drafted by the Administration Committee and that once available would be of use to Clubs where roles are transitioned between members.

There being no further business Kay Nicholas, thanked the Delegates and Observers for their contribution to the meeting.

The Chair closed the meeting at 12.00 pm