



New Zealand Bridge

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**MINUTES OF THE NEW ZEALAND BRIDGE BOARD  
PHONE CONFERENCE  
Held on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm**

**PARTICIPATING** Kay Nicholas (Chair), Norm Silcock, Patsy Walters, Graham Wakefield, Alan Turner, Murray Wiggins

**In Attendance** Alister Stuck Secretary, Scott Smith Honorary Solicitor, Kris Wooles Chef de Mission, Arie Geursen CTD

Noted that in view of the matters to be discussed and to avoid any actual or perceived conflict of interest Michael Ware did not participate in the Conference call.

**1 WELCOME**

Kay welcomed all to the meeting which had been scheduled to deal with items of correspondence received following the recent National Trials and the subsequent selection of the National Teams for the PABF.

**2 CORRESPONDENCE**

***Item 1 – Email addressed to the Human Rights Commission***

The Board noted that one participant in the Trials, Michael Gibson, had expressed concern to the Human Rights Commission that an act of discrimination had occurred involving another participating pair contesting the Women's Trial, and sought help from the Commission to formulate a formal complaint. No communication has currently been received from the Commission and, while the Board believes the allegation to be wholly unsubstantiated, the Board agreed to defer any action meantime.

***Item 2- Letter from Gillespie Young Watson – Solicitors Wellington***

A letter was received March 26<sup>th</sup> from the Firm who is acting for Michael Gibson. Concerns were raised around the selection process of the NZ Seniors Team including qualification to enter the Trials and alleging errors in judgement.

It was agreed that Scott would draft a response and would include copies of the Trials Regulations and the various Bulletins released in the build up to the trials in which the selection process and the decisions regarding the acceptance of entries were made abundantly clear.

***Items 3-5 - Emails from Michael Ware, Patrick Carter, & Grant Jarvis***

Emails were received from the above expressing concerns over the 3<sup>rd</sup> pair selection for the NZ Open Team. After discussion it was agreed that a suitable and brief response be made in each case by Kay on behalf of the Board, including annexing a copy of the reply made to Gillespie Young Watson and the related attachments.

***Items 6-7 Emails from Janet Woodfield and Wellington Bridge Club***

Emails were received from the above expressing concerns over the 3<sup>rd</sup> pair selection for the NZ Women's Team. After discussion it was agreed that a suitable and brief response be made in each case by Kay on behalf of the Board, including annexing a copy of the reply made to Gillespie Young Watson and the related attachments.

**3 GENERAL BUSINESS**

***International Committee - Annual Review***

Graham suggested that in view of the discretionary selection element in Representative Team composition that the next annual review undertaken by the Boards' International Committee consider requiring pairs entering the Trials to include with their entry a comprehensive summary of their partnership bridge results in pre-specified major Tournaments.

Kay thanked those participating for their contribution and reminded them that although the decisions arising were minuted, the discussion must remain confidential and subject to legal privilege.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm