



New Zealand Bridge

NEW ZEALAND BRIDGE MEETING WITH REGIONAL SECRETARIES AND TREASURERS

Held at the Jet Park Hotel Auckland Sunday Feb 8th 2010

PRESENT Board: Norm Silcock, Alan Turner, Graham Wakefield, Secretary Alister Stuck.

Regional Representatives: John Mitchell, Lynne Fegan (Otago/Southland), Judith Calder, John Hay (Canterbury), Margie Michael, Paula Jenner (Wellington), Wayne Burrows, Ann Hill (Central Districts), Max Lewis, Jenny Millington (Waikato Bays), Angela Royle Tony Morcom (Auckland).

Presenter: Noel Woodhall - Chairperson NZ Bridge Foundation

WELCOME

Alan Turner chaired this segment which commenced after lunch on Sunday.

PRESENTATION Noel Woodhall

Noel Woodhall joined the meeting and gave a presentation on the role of a Recorder. Noel also outlined his role as the National Recorder and the process he will use. A copy of the presentation will be available to Clubs and it was agreed that Noel would work with Arie to put some guidelines together to support Recorders at Club and Regional level.

It was also agreed that the names of the Regional Recorders be forwarded to the Secretary so that they can be published on the Website.

“XERO” ACCOUNTING PACKAGE

Alister gave a presentation on the “Xero” Accounting Package and the process for coding transactions for GST purposes. In the interim the Regions are to maintain their own P & L accounts and code transactions. Alister will continue to request transaction details on a monthly basis for the Groups GST return. It is envisaged that the Regional Treasurers will be give access to their record in Xero some time in the future.

ARCHIVING PROJECT

Alister outlined the good work achieved by Evelyn Hurley to date with around 6000 paper items scanned into PDF format. Evelyn is looking a suitable cataloguing software programme and will look to include files from the Regions in the future.

Those Region's holding historical documents relating to the Centres may look to include these in the archives as well.

COMMUNICATION

The meeting discussed the Communication flow between from NZ Bridge, the Regions, and the Clubs. It was agreed that there had been significant improvement particularly with the frequency of updates to the Website. It was agreed that any mailouts sent to the Clubs would be copied to the Regional Secretaries.

REGIONAL COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

Alister reminded the delegates that the biannual election of Regional Committees were due to be held between 1 March and 30 April this year. Graham also reminded the delegates that they were required to hold a meeting of Club representatives if nominations exceed the vacancies and a ballot is required. Alister is to provide a template that the Regions can adapt and use as a nomination form.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Youth Subsidy Policy

John Mitchell sought feedback from the other Regions regarding their policy around reimbursing youth players for Tournament entry fees. This service is well utilised in the Otago Southland Region and at the current level is placing a drain on the Regions available funds. Usage in the other Regions varied with some making no payments at all.

It was agreed that the decision on the level of reimbursement (if any) rested with the Regions and the Otago Southland Region would review its policy for the coming year.

Scoring Programme

Concerns about the licensing arrangements for version 7.5 were aired. Alister advised the meeting that the License Holders had softened their stance wherein Clubs will still be able to use version 7.5 even if they elect not to renew their subscriptions at the end of the current licence period. It was noted that Martin Oyston had released a bulletin to the Clubs outlining the changes.

Coaching Grant Policy

A discussion was held regarding the Coaching Grant policy. The meeting was advised that the Regions were required to complete an annual return outlining how their \$1000 was allocated during the year.

It was agreed that the Coaching Grant policy document be reviewed to clarify the extent of the travel reimbursement.

Reimbursement of Committee Members Expenses

A discussion was held regarding the reimbursement of members meeting travel expenses. For some regions this was a significant cost over the course of the year. Some regions aligned their meetings to coincide with a Tournament in this case meeting delegates were reimbursed at half rates. The Central Districts Region is using a Skype facility for some of their meetings at a considerable saving.

Life Memberships (levies)

Ann Hill sought clarification regarding the collection of the levy from players who have multiple Club memberships including a life membership at one Club. The Players NZ Bridge Levy is collected from the Club that is classified as their home Club.

Life Memberships (Regional Committees)

Paula Jenner asked if it was possible to recognise the efforts of long serving Committee people with a life Membership as was the case when the Centres were in existence. Graham responded stating it was not possible for a Committee of the Board to have life members but that service to a Regional Committee was a form of service to NZ Bridge and there was nothing to prevent a Region making a nomination to the Board in future based upon an individuals overall contribution to Bridge in New Zealand including service regionally.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 4.30pm