



NEW ZEALAND BRIDGE REGIONAL CONFERENCE
Held at the Miramar Golf Club commencing at 10.00am
Sunday 25th August 2013

PRESENT Board: Graham Wakefield, Shirley Newton, Murray Wiggins Patsy Walters, Allan Barclay & Alan Turner.

Secretary Alister Stuck, Bridge Development Officer Richard Solomon, Chief Director Arie Geursen.

Regional Representatives: Kristen Collins,(Otago/Southland), Fiona Temple (Canterbury), Chris Marshall, (Top of the South), Karen Martelletti (Waikato Bays), Peter Bowyer (Auckland Northland), Dinnie Hall, Tony Sutich, Allan Joseph, Joan Waldvogel & Paula Jenner (Wellington), & Don Nightingale,(Central Districts)

Apologies: Kay Nicholas

1 WELCOME

Alister opened the conference and relayed Kay's apology and best wishes for a productive and successful meeting.

2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

It was moved that the minutes of the Regional Conference held in Wellington on 6th February 2013 were a true and correct record of the meeting. **CARRIED**

Tony Sutich that the Kairangi Bridge Club did not have any fresh problems as a result of the recent series of earthquakes.

3 REGIONAL REPORTS

Written Reports from Auckland Northland, Central Districts, Wellington, TOTS, Canterbury and Otago Southland were circulated prior to the Conference. (Copies attached to these Minutes)

4 GENERAL BUSINESS

Financial Position and Budget.

Alan Turner presented the new NZ Bridge Budget which indicated an Operating Deficit of \$42,200 for the year ending 31st March 2014. The Board aimed to eliminate deficits in future years. It was important that clubs paid affiliation fees for all members. New Board initiatives had to be funded. Approaches for increasing Board funding were:

Introduction of quarterly charging of levies.

The concept of quarterly charging starting 1st April 2014 was endorsed by all Regions. Graham Wakefield pointed out that such a change would require a change to Rule 20 of the Constitution. This would need a Special General Meeting or a remit to an Annual General Meeting. The Meeting felt this should happen at the next AGM with a written explanation given to all Clubs and Regional Committees.

Dollar Rise in Levy.

Alan Turner proposed a \$4 increase in the Levy rate. Other than a GST adjustment, there had not been an increase for several years. Such an increase can be passed by the Board without the need of being passed by an AGM. Delegates understood the need for and were supportive of such an increase.

Increase in Master-point Levies.

Delegates accepted the concept of increasing the Tournament Participation Levy \$0.25 and the Tournament Master-point Levy by \$0.50. It was fair to increase these levies as tournament players got the most benefit from Board initiatives.

Alan Turner summarised by saying the Board needed to show what savings in costs were being made and what benefits were there for grass-roots players. It was important to show comparative figures to support levy increases.

2015 Tournament Calendar

Alister sought feedback from the Regions regarding the possible introduction of more Swiss Pairs tournaments at level 10A in 2015. It is acknowledged however that the Tournament Calendar is already congested.

Inter-Provincials- Otago-Southland

Kristin Collins queried why Youth Interprovincial players were not able to be eligible for the other categories later in the year.

Graham Wakefield responded that the Interprovincials were a principled event and that taking part in two categories should not be permitted. This rule would be part of the overall review of the Interprovincials before the 2014 format was announced.

Delegates discussed the decision by the Board to revert to holding the Youth Interprovincials at the National Congress. It was felt by a number that this was not a good move as the support of the other Teams from the Regions was lost. Further the delegates raised concerns that in some case School aged participants would be going to the Interprovincials without adequate adult supervision.

Masterpoint Participation- Otago Southland

Kristin Collins referred to the excellent letter written by their Regional Secretary to clubs in their region which confirmed to clubs that all scored sessions required master-points to be awarded and subsequently returned and paid for. The point was made of how little masterpoints do actually cost. Kristin asked Alister if it was possible to determine which Otago-Southland clubs held sessions for which masterpoints were not awarded. Alister would try to provide this information.

Interprovincials Proposal - Waikato Bays

Karen Martelletti spoke to the tabled proposal from her region. She felt that the event needed to become again a premier event and felt the proposal which involved returning the event to its pre Congress position would be a way to achieve this.

After discussion, delegates agreed that the survey of Interprovincial players should be conducted “sooner rather than later” and should be an on-line survey to include those who opted not to participate in this year’s event or the trials for it.

The Board should compare the costs of a pre-Congress event with one held at a separate venue. Fiona Temple felt that in the Canterbury Region, travel costs could be partially subsidised by an equalisation charge to those who entered the trials. Both the Canterbury and Otago-Southland delegates felt their regions were happy with the Interprovincials being separate from Congress.

The format will be reviewed by the Board after the results of the survey are known and after this year’s event. The 2014 format needs to be announced in good time for Regions to plan for Trials and the 2014 event itself.

Following a query from Don Nightingale, it seems that the eligible travelling spouses of Regional Chef de Missions and players would be eligible to act as substitutes for their region in the case of need. This will be covered in the specific arrangements for the event.

Governance Considerations - Waikato Bays

Karen Martelletti raised the Region's concerns about Regions not having voting rights at AGM's of NZ Bridge and the inability for binding decision to be made through a majority vote of the delegates at a Regional Conference.

Arie Geursen responded that the Governance structure of NZ Bridge is that Clubs as the key stakeholders of the organisation elect the Board. It is the Board which has responsibility for setting the strategy for the organisation and for overall performance of the organisation. The Committees of the Board, including the Regional Committees, are responsible for developing the plans to deliver on the strategic goals.

In addition, the Regional Committees play a pivotal role as a conduit between the Clubs in their region and the Board (or vice versa) through the biannual Regional Conference and administering the game in their Regions on behalf of the Board.

Marketing Workshop. "Growing the Sport"

Shirley Newton and Allan Barclay lead this segment. Delegates prioritised the Marketing Goals of NZ Bridge and then identified what the Board, Regional Committees and Clubs can do to achieve these goals. The end product will be a Marketing Package which will be available and sent to all Affiliated Clubs.

This Regional Conference started this process. It will continue in two way communication between delegates and Allan Barclay.

Targeting "500" players

Graham Wakefield highlighted "500" players as a target market for NZ Bridge. Regions can aim to run a "500" tournament duplicate bridge style at a bridge club with the aim of encouraging these players to learn bridge. He commented that such players have card sense and would be relatively easy to attract to bridge.

Murray Wiggins concluded the Conference with a statement about the importance of such a day and of the importance of communication between the Board and Regional Committees and between Regional Committees. Such communication needs to be two way. It was also important to disseminate information to the clubs.

THE CONFERENCE CLOSED AT 4.15pm.

Next Regional Conference

6th February 2014 Christchurch