



NEW ZEALAND BRIDGE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Held at the Victoria Bridge Club Wellington

Saturday August 6 2011

PRESENT Board: Kay Nicholas (Chair), Graham Wakefield, Lynne Fegan, Patsy Walters & Allan Barclay

Secretary Alister Stuck, Bridge Development Officer Richard Solomon, Honorary Archivist Evelyn Hurley

Regional Representatives: John Mitchell, (Otago/Southland), Michael Johnstone & Trish Scott, (Canterbury), Chris Marshall (Top of the South), Judith Bishop (Waikato Bays), Rosaleen Koch (Auckland) Dinnie Hall, Paula Jenner, Tony Sutich, Allan Joseph, Heather Jared & Joan Waldvogel (Wellington)

Apologies: Alan Turner, Jenny Wilkinson & Arie Geursen

1 WELCOME

Kay welcomed all to the meeting and referred every one to the Conference Agenda which had been previously circulated.

2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

It was moved that the minutes of the Regional Conference held in Dunedin on February 12th 2011 were a true and correct record of the meeting.

CARRIED

3 REGIONAL REPORTS

Written Reports from Auckland, Waikato, Wellington, TOTS, Canterbury and Otago Southland were circulated prior to the Conference. Copies are attached.

4 GENERAL BUSINESS

Archiving Project

Evelyn Hurley gave a presentation outlining the archiving project's achievements to date and details of a PowerPoint show intended to be displayed at the National Congress. It was disappointing that the display at Congress did not eventuate and Patsy Walters agreed to table this at the Congress debrief meeting scheduled for the following day.

Evelyn also reported on a meeting she had with John Wignall in Christchurch and his account of the early years of Bridge in NZ. Evelyn is now looking to catalogue and archive details of the results of past 15A and 10A level tournaments. The Regional Committees are invited to supply any history details of such events to Evelyn.

While paper based items of significance can be saved and stored electronically there is an issue with the availability of space for larger items including Magazines, books and Trophy's. It was suggested that the Hocken Library be considered as a suitable place to store the originals. Heather Jared will also check with the Hutt Club as to the possibility of storing some items there.

Kay thanked Evelyn for her presentation and for the wonderful work done to date.

Magazine Readership Survey & Promotion

Allan Barclay led this segment and detailed the findings of the readers Survey conducted at Congress. Allan also outlined the Board initiative to increase the level of Magazine Subscriptions with the view to arresting the financial loss incurred. This promotion will involve the Clubs whereby they would retain \$15.00 for every new subscription that they secure by the end of October.

NZ Wide Pairs

Richard reaffirmed the Board's decision to invite non-affiliated Clubs to participate in the NZ Wide Pairs in November. It was agreed that the Regional Committees would assist by providing any contact details for such Clubs in their catchment. Kay and Richard to draft a suitable invitation.

Tournament Taskforce

Alister reported that this group had been disbanded and the review would become the responsibility of the Administration Committee. The first priority remains a review of the 15A events with any improvements to be agreed and implemented in time for the 2013 playing year.

Facts & Figures

Richard Solomon led this segment and presented a summary compiled from the information collected from the Annual Return forms. Alister is to circulate the summary to the Clubs and Regional Committees.

It was noted that the retention of new players and the conversion of learners to Club members remains a key issue. It was agreed that the Teaching Resource project would go some way to assisting Clubs in this regard.

Psychic Bids (NZ Bridge Manual D31) – Waikato Bay Region

The Waikato Bays Region sought some improvements to this section in the Manual so as to achieve a clearer explanation of what constitutes a legal psyche bid. It was agreed that Graham Wakefield review the present paging and provide any recommendation for consideration by the Regulations Committee.

Treatment of GST – TOTS Region

Chris Marshall spoke to this topic having provided supporting material which was circulated prior to the meeting. The Region expressed concern regarding the GST position on some of their major outgoings as they did not directly benefit from any GST refund. Graham Wakefield responded and outlined the Boards position wherein no transaction is treated in isolation for GST purposes and confirmed that on the converse side the Board meets all GST obligations relating to all income across the group and does not seek to recover any such component from the Regions. A paper provided by Accountants BDO Manawatu supported this approach.

Interprovincial Travel Subsidies- TOTS Region

Chris Marshall asked that consideration be given to increasing the IP Travel subsidies so as to better reflect the actual cost incurred. A hearty discussion followed and while there was support for the proposal there are limited funds available each year in which to do so. Those Regions who select their teams early in the year, and make bookings soon after, do stand a better chance of securing discounted travel.

Chris had undertaken considerable work prior to the meeting researching the “Group Travel” facility being promoted by Air New Zealand. This information was tabled at the Board meeting during the previous evening. The Board had endorsed the proposal and agreed to establish a group travel booking facility with the Airline. This will be managed by Alister in conjunction with the Regional Committees.

Masterpoint Awards Multigrade Tournaments - TOTS Region

Chris Marshall presented this topic and solicited support for the introduction of Masterpoints for each grade of player contesting a multigrade event. The concept would see awards for the top placed Junior & Intermediate Pairs based on the 3B & 5B Scales irrespective of their overall finishing position in the Tournament. The rationale behind the suggestion was to encourage lower grade players to participate in these events and to have something other than grade based prizes to play for. The view of the meeting was mixed and it was suggested that perhaps more Intermediate & Junior Tournaments should be considered. Chris has undertaken to research this further and to collate some figures around actual participation and re-present the proposal at the next Conference.

Masterpoint Charges- Regional Events

Alister sought feedback from the delegates as to the process involved for the charging and/or recovery of Masterpoint Charges for events held by or hosted by Clubs on the Regions behalf. In some cases the event costs are charged direct to the Club and in others the Region recovers the costs from the host Club. While either method is acceptable it is important that the cost of the Masterpoints is recovered.

Membership- Annual Returns

Alister led a discussion regarding the ongoing problem with the completion of the Annual Returns and determining the Membership for the purpose of striking the Levy. It is disappointing that a number of Clubs did not furnish an Annual Return despite several requests to do so.

The information collected is important and a firmer approach will be adopted for the 2012 return. The Regional Committees will be asked to contact Clubs who miss the deadline.

Alister also outlined the ongoing issues with the striking of the membership levy and the difficulties encountered with those Clubs who dispute their membership figure. It was agreed that the existing policy remain whereby the memberships are struck early February and Clubs levied accordingly and Delegates were unanimous that this policy be strictly enforced in 2012.

Real Time Scoring

Heather Jared sought some clarification regarding the decision not to allow the display of progressive scores in a Pairs Tournament to be conducted by the Hutt Club. Allan Joseph, who was to direct the event in question, responded and outlined the reasons why this falls outside what is prescribed in the regulations.

Bridge Publicity Opportunities

Richard asked the delegates to consider approaching their local Newspaper with the view to having bridge related material published. Richard has arrangements with two papers in his area and would be happy to provide copy for other publications.

Feedback - National Congress

The meeting discussed the concerns tabled regarding the lack of up to date results on the Congress Website. This was particularly problematic towards the end of the week. Patsy and Richard undertook to raise this issue with the Organising Committee at the forthcoming debrief.

Announcement- Change of Name – Auckland Region

Kay reported that the Board had endorsed the request from the Auckland Region for a change of name to Auckland/Northland to better reflect their catchment, with immediate effect.

AGM Paperwork

Alister reported that it is intended that a suitable Form will be designed for Clubs to register delegates and register any General Business items for the AGM. This will be circulated to the Clubs next year.

The meeting closed at 3.30pm

Next Regional Conference

Wednesday April 25th 2012

Sunday August 26th 2012

Waikato Region

Palm Nth or Top of the South