



NEW ZEALAND BRIDGE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Held at the Otago Bridge Club Dunedin

Saturday February 12 2011

PRESENT Board: Kay Nicholas (Chair), Graham Wakefield, Michael Ware, Jenny Wilkinson & Patsy Walters.
Chief Director Arie Geursen, Secretary Alister Stuck, Bridge Development Officer Richard Solomon.

Regional Representatives: John Mitchell, Lynne Fegan (Otago/Southland), Michael Johnstone, (Canterbury), Steve Gray (Top of the South), Dinnie Hall (Wellington), Wayne Burrows, (Central Districts), Richard Hooper (Waikato Bays), Peter Bowyer (Auckland) Marilyn Jackson, Frank Gradon, Frances Sheehy, Keith Nicholas (Observers)

Apology: Alan Turner, Julie Atkinson

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 Auckland on August 22nd 2010 were a true and correct record of the meeting.

CARRIED

3 REGIONAL REPORTS

Written Reports from Auckland, Waikato, Wellington, TOTS and Otago Southland were circulated prior to the Conference. The Delegates from Canterbury and Central Districts gave verbal Reports during the session. Key points from the discussions that ensued are summarised below.

Auckland

The Auckland Region suggestion that consideration be given to either the introduction of a 4th Tournament Grade between Intermediate & Open or a

change to the entry criteria for Restricted Tournaments to enable two players at the lower end of Open Grade to play together was discussed. This matter had also been considered by the Board at its meeting during the previous evening. It was decided to refer the matter to the "Tournament Taskforce" Group for consideration given programming complexities.

The Region also sought further clarification around the policy relating to the appointment of Directors for the 15A Tournaments. Arie responded to this and provided some background to the policy and outlined the process for the appointments.

Waikato Bays

Richard Hooper gave a short presentation about the Regions successful 'Strive for excellence' programme that was developed a couple of years ago and aimed at the regions Intermediate & Junior Players. A decision had recently been made to make the Programme available to other Regions with information available via the NZ Bridge Website.

Central Districts

The Region will not hold Trials to select its Interprovincial Teams this year. The teams will be formed via selection. In the future Trials will be held in the even numbered years. The Region is also planning an interclub Teams Tournament to be contested on BBO.

Wellington

Dinnie Hall asked for a review of the location and timing of the Interprovincial Championships. It is the Wellington Regions view that players find the programme tiring and it involves significant annual leave to contest this event and stay on for the Congress. Arie & Richard responded and outlined a number of hurdles that would have to be considered should this event be separated from Congress.

The Regional Committee has targeted the Clubs in the Kapiti Coast area to encourage their involvement in Regional events.

Top of the South

Steve Gray advised that the Region welcomed the opportunity to host the 15A Swiss pairs Tournament in 2012 but would have preferred some consultation in the lead up. Alister & Michael outlined the rationale for this decision being made which enabled NZ Bridge to allocate a 15A event to each of the 7 Regions.

Otago Southland

The Region reported that the Mossburn Club, while staying affiliated, would be going into recess until at least July 2011 while they look at ways to boost their numbers. Alister and Richard were to meet with the OS Delegates during the lunch break to consider ways to support the Club.

John Mitchell advised that a Club had recently been established in Palmerston with 43 Members. It was agreed that Kay would work with the Region and arrange to contact the Club to outline the benefits of affiliation.

Frances Sheehy briefed the Delegates about the very successful 'Bridge in Schools' programme that is running at 3 Schools (Weston, Totara & Hampden) in the Oamaru area. The programme was started after one of the Principals attended Learners Classes, and is run during class time as part of the Maths programme or as a Sport Module. In excess of 120 Children are participating.

8 GENERAL BUSINESS

Teaching Resource Project

Kay gave a PowerPoint presentation outlining the background to the project that was initiated in October 2010. Jenny Wilkinson presented one of the items that will be included in the resource kit "Nurturing new Players". Wayne Burrows gave a presentation and provided a sample of the teaching Modules that will be available. The project is taking longer than originally anticipated but it was agreed that the aim is to produce a quality product for released to the Clubs and Regions. It is expected that the Resource Kits will be rolled out towards the end of 2011. Alister will email copies of the presentation material to the delegates.

Tournament Taskforce

Michael Ware led this segment and gave a PowerPoint presentation outlining the work completed to date. The group is reviewing the Tournament Calendar as a whole including the potential rebranding of the Island events and a 2nd Congress. It was noted that the Group would present their findings and make recommendations at the April Board Meeting. Alister will circulate the PowerPoint presentation to the Delegates.

Workshop- Induction for new Regional Committee Personnel

The Delegates broke into 4 groups to consider this topic and to come up with some ideas and initiatives that would be of benefit to people considering or who have recently been appointed to a Regional Committee. The groups reported back and the ideas listed. Alister is to circulate.

Coaching Grant Administration - Otago Southland

Lynne Fegan spoke to this subject and sought some guidance regarding the administration of the Coaching Grant funds at a Regional level. It was noted that this task is delegated to the Region who are free to distribute the funds in terms of the policy in place.

The Region suggested that a course evaluation form be developed and used to gauge the effectiveness of the project supported by the Coaching Grant. The Region will develop a form and make this available to the other Regions. It was noted that the Coaching Grant Policy is due to be reviewed in April 2011 and any feedback or suggestions are to be forwarded to the National Secretary.

Finance

A Report by Alan Turner had been circulated prior to the Conference. Alister spoke on his behalf and reminded the delegates about the timetable for producing Audited Accounts for the March 2011 year and for the completion of the 2012 budgets.

Constitution Review

Graham advised that any proposals to amend the Constitution should be submitted to the National Secretary in time for them to be considered at the Board Meeting of April 17th 2011.

Regional Recorders

Graham outlined the policy approved by the Board authorising the Chief Director to appoint a National Recorder, and a Regional Recorder for each of the 7 Regions for a 2 year term effective from 1 April 2011 by notice or notices in writing to the Board, for publication on the Website.

Membership- Annual Returns

Alister gave an update regarding the Annual Return process and the striking of the Membership numbers for the Levy. At this point only a few Clubs have yet to furnish their Annual Returns. Of those who have responded there are several instances where the Membership numbers vary significantly. Alister is contacting the Clubs concerned.

NZ Bridge Foundation

Alister reported that Keith Nicholas has assisted the Trustees with the drafting of some Application forms that will be used by applications seeking the assistance of the Foundation. The Trustees will meet in March or April to finalise and to formulate and adopt a Marketing Plan.

Promotion of Major Tournaments

Alister reminded the Delegates that there is an opportunity to promote 10A, 15A and Regional Congress events via the NZ Bridge Website. Tournament Flyers can be featured on the home page as can links to any results pages during the event. Alister reported that there is significant interest in the results and where possible they should be available online after each session.

NZ Bridge Manual

Alister reported that work was underway with the updating of the Bridge Manual. There is still a lot to work through particularly with the Masterpoints section. Accordingly the Manual will not be released by the target date of April 1st 2011 and the existing Manual will remain in-force.

Lodging of Meeting Papers

It was agreed that for future Regional Congress's all Agenda Items and Reports are to be lodged with the National Secretary at least seven days prior to the meeting. This was in line with policy adopted by the Board for Board and Committee Meetings.

Appointment of National Secretary

Prior to closing the Conference Kay announced to the Delegates that the Board had endorsed the Appointment of Alister Stuck to the Position of National Secretary for a 5 year term commencing 1 April 2011.

The meeting closed at 3.30pm

Next Regional Conference

Saturday August 6th 2011 Victoria Bridge Club Wellington