



**Canterbury Regional Committee of New Zealand Bridge Inc.**

**Minutes**

Canterbury Regional Conference held on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2016 at 10.00am at the Ashburton Clubrooms

1. Present:

**Regional Committee:** Michael Johnstone (Chair), Fiona Temple (Secretary), Peter van Leeuwen, Giles Hancock, Laura Stephen, and Tony Biddington.

**Board:** Phil Rutherford

**Akaroa:** None

**Ashburton:** Trish Small (President), Mary Buckland (Vice President)

**Christchurch:** Theo Smits (President), Madge Baker (Committee)

**Crockfords:** Jill Crossland (Committee), Barbara Ryan (Committee)

**Geraldine:** Helen Rinaldi (President), Stan Rinaldi (Treasurer), Leslie Graybill (Committee)

**Rangiora:** None

**Temuka:** None

**Timaru:** Paula Gregory (President)

**Waimate:** None

**United:** None

2. Apologies: Alister Stuck, Judith Calder, Dawn Simpson, Akaroa Bridge Club

3. Welcome – Michael Johnstone

Part One -

- Introductions –
- NZBridge website changes? What are they? A run through of the NZBridge and Canterbury websites. Phil ran through a presentation of the NZBridge website and all the new functionality of the site. He also showed the things to come which will make it in to a one stop shop for all NZ clubs, including the upcoming automating of the Masterpoints system. Delegates gave some feedback on the new site. Fiona also ran through the Canterbury Regional website and what it has to offer and what information can be found there.
- 2017 teacher's conference. What would you like covered? Delegates felt it would be good to: go over the new improvers lessons, make sure everyone is aware of what is on the NZBridge website and other on line resources, share teaching tips such as flash cards that Giles uses. Felt the best time for the Conference was in February or March
- Canterbury directors Facebook page for support and discussion. Delegates thought this was a good idea and were keen for Laura to implement this. Clubs need to forward the names of directors and others who might be interested to the CRC so they can join the forum. Clubs would like to see the Board provide the names of experts in various scoring systems who can be called upon to train new and existing directors.

- Mentoring programme Laura outlined the value of mentoring for up and coming players and ask clubs for feedback on how they might see a mentoring programme working and whether it would be of value. Ideas were gathered and the CRC will review to see what it can come up with.
- Funding – outline of what funding is available and the CRC priorities for funding. Fiona reminded clubs of the funding opportunities available to clubs from the CRC and encouraged clubs to apply for funding especially for new initiatives or joint activities or joint promotion.
- CRC Masterpoints booklet – Fiona gave out the new CRC ABC booklet to clubs to help explain and educate new players as to the way NZBridge is run and hopefully encourage interest in Masterpoints and tournaments. Further copies can be printed off the Canterbury Regional Bridge website.
- Questions for the Board.  
Phil was asked to speak to the concerns raised by clubs. These concerns included: What is the Boards vision for the changes? When will consultation with staff that may be affected take place? What will be the cost to clubs? Will the Board need to use any consultancy firms? Will the Board consult with clubs before making a decision? Why did the Boards financial officer vote against the resolution? Will there be a CEO? Will Regional Committees be removed? Concerns were also voiced surrounding the lack of information coming from the Board.  
Phil responses were: That too much is currently spent on the administration of the game and while such strategies as automating the Masterpoints system will help cut costs the Board is tasked with being pro active and creating a structure that moves the game forward to grow the game. Any decisions the Board makes may have flow on effects to existing staff and until consultation has taken place with these staff nothing further can be disclosed to clubs due to employment related issues. This consultation hasn't happened yet because the Board has not identified the scope of changes yet (having a CEO is only one of many models the Board is considering), however consultation should begin within the month. He did not believe outside consultants would be necessary in the early stages of discussions with staff but nothing had been decided yet. The Board has no intention of increasing costs to clubs and any decisions made will be cost neutral at worst. He did not know why the Boards financial officer voted against the resolution as no strategy has been decided upon and therefore no cost analysis can be confirmed. Phil indicated that once the Board had decided on a preferred strategy, and staff had been consulted with, the Board would talk to clubs. The Board has no intention of removing regional committees and their money. Phil assured those present that the Board is acting responsibly and is required to look at how its revenue is being used in the best interest of the members and what form that will take will be known before the end of the year.
- Volunteering succession plans. A general discussion was had on the importance of having a succession plan, especially for club management roles. Ideas to help facilitate this included: limited term for each role, have members list their skills and what they can help with, make the jobs smaller so the time and responsibility are not so onerous. Shoulder tapping still the most effective method for filling positions.

Part Two – What works? How to make bridge more fun and ways to stimulate bridge in our region.

Delegates broke in to three groups to have general discussion then the findings were reported back to the group.

- Getting NZ international players to give a talk at a social get together. Clubs thought this would be a good idea.
- It was very pleasing to hear that all clubs are now taking great care of their learners and are carefully bringing them into general play and supporting them all the way. This is a vast improvement on recent years.
- Have nights using the 'fun bridge' ideas in place of regular bridge. There was real interest in running 'individual' events so people got to mix it up and play with different people.
- Celebrate the achievements of all players better. Everyone agreed this could be done more and needed to start with club results being read out from the previous week at the beginning of play. Everyone felt no-one listens to notices at the beginning of play so clubs needed to find different ways for giving the notices such as on line or on TVs playing in clubs during play.
- Hi-low bridge events – juniors playing with seniors
- Clubs could get experts to write up some club night hands on how the hand should have been bid or played and have on line for members.
- Could make up packs to give away to youth groups or similar that contained a pack of cards and the mini bridge booklet.
- Clubs need to have a youth membership fee so students can afford to join.
- Clubs are aware of the need to have regular social events and the CRC would like to see a club holding a Cambridge Sixes type event.
- When clubs are short of directors the one law per player flash cards can be used. Here one person has a card with one law on it and they are the director for that law for the night. This shares the duties and generates interest in directing. Ashburton and Timaru to share cards they use.

Michael then thanked the Ashburton bridge club for hosting the conference and thanked Phil for attending and answering our questions.