

NZB Bridge

NEW ZEALAND BRIDGE NATIONAL CONFERENCE
Held at the Conference Centre Wellington Airport commencing at
10.00am Sunday 15th July 2018

PRESENT Board: Allan Morris, John Skipper, Karen Martelletti, Jane Steans, Clare Coles & Greg Whitten

Alister Stuck, (National Secretary) Richard Solomon (Bridge Development Officer), Murray Wiggins (Chief Director) & Tony Thomson (Constitution Review Group)

Regional Representatives: Giles Hancock, (Canterbury), Chris Marshall, (Top of the South), Rona Driscoll (Waikato Bays), Sue Brown (Auckland Northland), Suzanne Duncan, (Wellington), Maria Godfrey, (Otago Southland & Mairi Fitzsimons,(Central Districts)

Observers: Bryan Green & Francey Rolls (Central Districts), Paul Heather Jared & Margot Davenport (Wellington), & Trevor Robb (Auckland Northland), Jan Spaans & Anna Kalma, (Waikato Bays)

Apologies: Nil

1 WELCOME

Allan Morris welcomed everyone to the meeting. All those present then introduced themselves and the conference got underway.

2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

It was moved that the minutes of the Conference held in Wellington on 10 June 2017 were a true and correct record of the meeting.

CARRIED

4 MATTERS ARISING

Rona asked if there were plans to hold a workshop for Regional Secretaries. Alister advise that he intended to do so before the end of the year.

It was suggested that for future Board election cycles that a summary of the "skills set" mix needed be included with the nomination forms. Alister has noted to updated the paperwork for 2019 accordingly.

5 GENERAL BUSINESS

Constitution Review

John Skipper and Tony Thomson presented this segment summarising the work completed to date by the working group. A series of questions and specific points earmarked for further consultation were outlined. It is likely that the completion of this project will be delayed until the AGM of 2019. The six key topics are understood and the path the sub-committee is suggesting has support. There were no contentious issues. The sub-committee and the Board have the mandate to get on with the drafting.

Regional Conference Frequencies

Alister asked the delegates to consider the relevance of the current requirement to hold an annual conference at Regional level. Regions to discuss and come back with any feedback so that any agreed change can be incorporated in the updated constitution document in particular rule 16.12.

Tournament Grading and Player Handicap Project

Jane led this topic and provided the delegates with a summary of the work undertaken by the task force and a brief outline of the proposed player Handicap system. Murray updated the group as to his contact with James Ward of Pionola a contender to develop this based on the existing programme used in the UK. While very early day's further information will be shared as it comes to hand. The meeting gave general approval to the direction of tournament grading and handicapping.

Feedback from Regions- Regional Bridge Development Officers

Jane introduced this topic and invited the delegates to give feedback regarding the RBM project and its effectiveness in their districts. In the main the trial has been well received and seen as a positive initiative on the part of NZ Bridge to grow the game. The Waikato Bays area expressed concerns as to where the role sat and saw a level of disconnect between role and the Regional Committee. Jane to meet with this Region to iron out such issues.

Review of the Interprovincials

Richard presented this topic firstly outlining the reasons to move the Interprovincials away from the National Congress. Richard presented a summary of costs incurred pre this decision and for each of the events hosted since. The delegates were invited to provide feedback to a number of points that Richard circulated earlier in the year. Options to revert to Congress and

for 6 person teams were discussed along with maintaining the status quo. There was no clear view either way with either option favoured by some regions.

Zoom Demonstration

Karen, Alister & Clare demonstrated the “Zoom’ online meeting facility. This is used by the Board and a number of committees to host their meetings. This has resulted in significant savings in meeting costs and travel. Regions are encouraged to try this facility for their meetings. Alister will assist with setting up as required.

Interprovincial 1st round draw

As has become a tradition the draw for the 1st round robin for the 2018 Interprovincials was conducted during the lunch break:

1. Auckland/Northland
2. TOTS
3. O/S
4. CD
5. Wellington
6. W/B
7. Canterbury

Congress 2020 & Beyond

Richard led a short session regarding the National Congress. In particular the delegates were asked to consider the location and timing of the event. It was agreed that any change would be a major undertaking and we would not be embarking on change simply for changes sake. A detailed electronic survey would be commissioned and available for completion at the end of Congress. This would be open to all players to participate in including those not attending congress this year.

Presentation- Documentation and Reporting

Karen opened this segment and presented a number of templates for the Regions to use. These included meeting agendas & minutes templates, A document for Board reports and a financial summary report. Alister to send electronic copies to each Region.

Discussion- BNZ Tactical Marketing Plan

Following receipt of the Boards plan earlier this year the Waikato Bays Region provided good feedback to the Board with a number of good suggestions. Anna Kalma from the Region was invited to lead a discussion on the subject.

Key points shared were the need for the Board to establish a Marketing Team to then develop and share Marketing plans for a National and Regional level. It was felt important to provide some clarity around the RBM and Regional Committees roles so as to avoid unnecessary duplication. The Board needs to lead this and revamp its current marketing committee if necessary. It is important that everyone including the Regions support and invest in this key area. The Board's most recent appointee was recruited with marketing as a key skill to drive this area.

Discussion- Non Affiliated Clubs

The conference the current practice where non-affiliated Clubs are promoted on our Website at no cost to the Clubs concerned. The fairness of this has been raised by affiliated clubs. It was agreed that this needs to be balanced carefully and that we should see it as an opportunity to make inroads with the non-affiliated Clubs to bring them on board. It was suggested that the Marketing Committee be requested to designed appropriate promotional material specific to non-affiliated Clubs outlining the benefits of affiliation.

2018 Financials & 2019 Budget

Alister shared extracts from the draft accounts for the year to 31 Mar 2018. A healthy surplus has been achieved subject to audit with a few minor changes likely. The Board budget for the year to 31 Mar 2019 was summarised. Again, a reasonable surplus for activities is anticipated due in part to a very light spend in the international area this year.

Youth Programme

Richard in conjunction with Jan France (Auckland Northland RBM) have prepared a 5 year strategy to further develop Youth Bridge. Richard outlined the plan and will provide further information as the strategy is rolled out in the coming months.

Recording of Information

Murray provided a brief outline as to the process for recording information and facilitating reports to the Regional and National Recorders. It was noted that the list of Recorders contact details had been removed from the Website. Alister noted to reinstate this.

Communication- Reaching Players

Allan led this segment and invited discussion and feedback from the delegates as we seek ways to improve the dissemination of information. It was noted that in a number of instances Clubs do not share information from NZ Bridge with their members. The Regions were asked to encourage all Clubs to set up Member emailing groups and to distribute information as it is received.

Agreement we would benefit from broader dissemination of information at a central and regional levels. Regional Committees agreed to discuss sharing of information/updates etc with clubs in their region. Ideal would be for clubs to email their members with information sourced from NZB or from the region. In addition it would be useful if reports etc are posted to Club and region websites.

5 REGIONAL REPORTS

Written reports all 7 Regions were circulated prior to the Conference. The delegates took the opportunity to share highlights and successes. A copy of the various reports will be posted on the website along with the conference minutes.

There being no further General Business Allan thanked everyone for their attendance and participation in a very successful day.

THE CONFERENCE CLOSED AT 4.00pm