



Top of the South Regional Club Conference

Summary of the Top of the South Conference

INVITATION: Was issued to all NZ Bridge affiliated Bridge Clubs in the Top of the South Region.

Date: Sunday 23rd June 2019 Location: Richmond Club

Theme: “Top of the South Bridge & Continuous improvement”

9:30 Welcome Chris Marshall: Chairman Top of the South region

Introductions by Attendees:

Phil Rutherford: Westport

Ray Curnow: Westport and Regional Bridge Bate of NZ Bridge for TOPS

*Plus, liaison with new affiliated club Greymouth, and liaison with club Hokitika

Bev Gay: Top of the South Regional committee and Director

Vicki Russell: Richmond Club: President

Gary Brunton: Richmond club

Fran Wilkinson: Marlborough Club

Dianne Horton: Marlborough Club

Carolyn Wood: Marlborough Club

Robin Young: Marlborough club – Past Secretary Top of the South committee

Helen Robinson: Top of the South Regional committee: Nelson Club

Pam Whitehead: Kaikoura Club

Top of the South Regional committee: Treasurer

Jenny Cooper: Golden Bay

Top of the South Regional committee: Secretary

Guest Speaker: John Skipper: NZ Bridge

Christchurch Bridge Club, NZ Bridge Board member, and New Zealand representative player



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9:45 Jenny Cooper: Presented a paper for discussion to set the Theme for the conference: “continuous Improvement through Player engagement and Leadership: Bridge Clubs and Bridge Player “engagement”. See attached paper

With a follow-up short video presentation by Gilbert Enoka: ASB Business on Motivation.

Key points:

- **Communication:** talk with the entire club.
- **Training:** A small investment in training can show people that they have value to the club; it can re-energise them; as well as creating organisational harmony.
- **Coaching:** Player development. Mentoring. Competitive play
- **Participation:** When reorganising club: Social, competitive, representative Bridge work, talk to the club members.
- Use the **team's knowledge**, skills, methods & ideas for improvements.
- **Negotiation:** Where there are certain things that you are required by your club to achieve, negotiate with the team. Good compromise or trade-offs can allow necessary change to be accepted, as well as building trust. The elements of participation present in negotiation can remind the team that the organisational goals must be met in order to meet their own needs.
- **Support:** & Encouragement: Through a mentor “buddy system”, improve lessons”, Social bridge

Key Factors in motivation drawn from Gilbert Enoka’s Video Presentation:

[Gilbert Enoka – Sports Psychologist: NZ All Blacks Mentor coach]

- In a “Performance” you need to prepare to gain a skill set to perform.



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- Pressure to Train and improve your skill set. When under stress or pressure use it a motivation as a friend not a foe. Under pressure great things can happen.
- Pressure can be uncomfortable and can make a player vulnerable. Walk towards it.
- If not sure about a play or a way forward to improve you game. Don't be afraid to ask.
- As a Team complacency can set in. Challenge yourself. Reflect on where you are at... and is this good enough. What can you do to improve your personal performance?
- Learn where you fail and address the failures and work out a positive solution.
- Challenge yourself.
- Listen to players that are performing better and or more experienced players at the club.

A discussion was held after the Paper on Player engagement and the Video presentation on Motivation.

Youth Bridge in Top of the South region:

Helen Robinson and Ray Curnow in association with a Paul Nestor [new player/Teacher], at Waimea college have collaborated to initiate some Youth Bridge activities in Top of the South school: Waimea, with possible interest from Nayland, and 3 youth players joining the Nelson club lessons in 2019.

With support from Nelson and Richmond Club cards, and boards have been provided 8 high school students at Waimea have started Bridge lessons.

Jo Price has agreed that she maybe able to offer teacher support to Waimea.

Funding for Jo Price time would be appreciated. Tops regional committee to review in committee.



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The issues identified:

We need a coach/ Director/teacher within high schools to activate and mentor Bridge club lessons and eventually inter-collegiate competitions.

Grand parents and great grand parents who are Bridge players need to engage the family in card play.

The schools are Time poor... lunchtime is only 40 minutes.

The enthusiasm is there... But there needs to be players outside of "Teachers" as they are Time poor themselves.

Garry Brunton had previously submitted an email to the committee on youth Bridge... and suggested an inter collegiate competition.

Chris Marshall advised that the TOPS committee had previously raised the idea of taking Bridge to an NZQA level. This was actioned by Richard Solomon, but not accepted as an initiative by NZQA.

Ray Curnow: His Thoughts are promoting Bridge through PPTA news to get the Teachers enthusiastic. It takes one person as a facilitator, and motivator.

New Technology...and fun bridge activities and NZ Bridge slogan"

"Bridge a game for life".

Phil Rutherford: There are bridge influencers" – enthusiastic with inter-generational Bridge connections.

Night classes:

Refer to the **Rural Educational program**: Night class from an educational Institutional Branding rather than a club may give greater "validity" and "value" to the lessons/study for the development of a great "bridge cause" -A game for life.



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Ray Curnow as RBM to champion the Youth strategy... Helen Robinson to Facilitate support to Waimea high school. Plus, assist Ray Curnow as Tops committee representative.

John Skipper: Board Member NZ Bridge:

Presented the Power point presentation at 8th June,
"NZ Bridge Regional National conference":

Key points:

- New constitution review. To be Presented at AGM at Congress 2019.
- Regional Bridge mater review: Ongoing roles for Regional Bridge mates [RBM]
- See attached letter from Allan Morris. RBM: Review of performance nationally
- Handicap system review: Presented by Rona Driscoll
- Club culture... How to retain members after lessons.
- Tournament attendance: Increasing in Top of the South.
- IP Trials: More intermediates Trialling at I. P's.
- Lessons: "Summer camp "condensed lessons for Time poor players.
- [Aside Marcia from Marlborough club, hosted some this year in Blenheim.]
- Director Training: Changes occurring in Director exam
- Proposal: Otago University working on researching Bridge for enhancing Brain function and capacity for elder people. E.g. Delay onset Alzheimer's.
- Radio: PR: Bridge zone Radio show. Westport radio sports – Bridge report.
- Documents: Club handbooks for succession development. Roles and responsibilities in a Bridge club.

Then John explained the World bridge Federation, and the structure for our NZ, in the world, being zone 7: Oceania which included NZ and Australia. [Player # 4th highest player numbers]

The zone 6 Tournament in Singapore Tournament played in June was by invitation. The men's team won a Silver medal. Congratulations!



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NZ Bridge affiliated to World Bridge Federation.

Phil Rutherford raised the National Handicapping system and what is the status of the review? There is a call for a national Handicap system.

John advised It is still under evaluation: Options reviewed: UK? compass, X Clubs, Compuscore.

General Business:

Growth and retention: Ray Curnow

Most people attracted to bridge are generally carded wise... can be shoulder tapped...

Do some in the communities know "Bridge is a thing" ... a game for life.

Kaikoura is a leading light in TOPS for engaging with the community and raising the profile of the game and the club in that area. It takes an enthusiastic champion to inspire and motivate.

Westport: Radio show... now on air for 16 years!

Bumper stickers

Letterbox drop of an invitation to lessons.

Look at existing membership and inspire Bridge players to bring and should Tap their mates.

"Bridge is a great deal"

Experience is pleasurable...it is a social connection and can be competitive and fun!

- Introducing New learners to club play: This varies with success around the region:
- Welcome
- Induct the players to your club.
- Allow them to access their learner system card.
- Introduce a stop card... to be used to stop a club member or partner from offering too much advice!
- Have a membership secretary: who pairs new members up with buddies, and other club members.



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- Social Friday: Bring lunch before play.
- Have a short lesson before play commences.
- Look at your session times: For youth... Late nights might not suit the youth timetable... think of a 3.45-5.30 16 hand session?
- Change the session times:
 - 2-4: 16 boards
 - 4-6: 16 boards
 - 6-8: 16 boards

Players Can join at any session.

Wine ok

Sunday afternoon sessions.

Geo-Tesivoll: Mentoring and improving Bridge player skill set: It was to be Available for Open emerging improving Intermediate player: It was asked what had happened to this proposal from TOPS committee.

Outcome: Chris Marshall to raise at next Regional committee meeting.

We will ask again for calls for players to attend sessions. It will be some personal \$ investment. and identify the players already who expressed interest, and how much? Investment from Tops R.C? and \$ commitment from players? And when? Plus, how is it to be presented and how the follow-up works?

Garry Brunton we should employ Tony Hinkley for Further training. Use local Talent.

Robin Young Hot tips:

- Read a lot
- "Play, play and play ... and choose players who are better than yourself to play against."
- Find a mentor.



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- Training opportunities for improvers in TOP OF THE SOUTH:
- Improver LESSONS AT CLUBS.
- Prior to Tournaments... or a day after a Tournament.
- Pam Whitehead-Kaikoura asked Tops players if they could join Canterbury region for Training day events? John didn't think it would be a problem. We just must communicate when the training is. Plus, the cost of the day.
- Picton and Blenheim clubs consults and review to collaborate on club programmes as many players play in both clubs.
- Tournament Instructions: TOPS Policy is being worked on. The committee has identified they want a website for keeping the Policy document in one place accessible to all clubs.
- Keeping the document up to date and relevant is key.
- Scorer: Chris Marshall has offered to deliver a Scorer training lesson. He will consult regarding the date for this event.

Clubs: Tournaments: Administration:

1. Scorer: TOPS committee have asked clubs to have a separate scorer at an event other than the director to support the Director on the day.
2. Scorer role is to also to check check and double check the results, and prizes given...matched to an accurate reading of the results! Please. We have had some human error in the last couple of months in the Tops region.
3. Please put the Ranking of the players at the Tournament...in their respective grades, post on the wall prior to the start of the Tournament.

Meeting Closed: 1.45pm