



Newsletter No: 3 for 2019

17th May 2019

Hello Fellow Bridge Players

The Board met on Tuesday to consider and/or sign off on a number of pieces of work.

The Board received the final draft version of the new constitution. Many thanks to the committee led by John Skipper who have devoted a considerable amount of time to ensure the document is modern, relevant, and compliant and meets proposed changes to the Incorporated Societies Act, and meets the requirements of Inland Revenue. The document will be released to Clubs and Regional Committees for review and input.

The draft will be discussed at the forthcoming National Conference and hopefully following that we will have a document that will be ready to present to the AGM in late September.

The second piece of work considered was a review of the RBM project. We are pleased to report that the project has delivered on and exceeded all milestones. Many thanks to Jane Steans as designer and leader of this project, the RBMs who have done a marvellous job working with Clubs, and to the Regions who have got behind this project. The Board is now considering the future of the project and how it can be embedded into the future operations of the Board.

We received the Financial Statements for the year ending 31 March. These have now been referred to the auditor.

The Board also received a draft of changes to the manual dealing with regulations. Changes are designed to ensure we are aligned to the new regulations governing the game. Subject to review the draft will be circulated for input from interested parties.

On the 8th June the organisation holds its National Conference with delegates from all regional committees.

Other business transacted included:-

We have agreed that the New Zealand Bridge Foundation will be the recipient of the New Zealand Wide Pairs. Proceeds from this event will be used to support the development and implementation of a five year youth strategy. Jan France, who has extensive experience with youth programmes will along



with Richard be leading this initiative. Whilst we are working hard to grow membership and participation it is important that we also build and provide an environment for the next generation. There will be a slight increase in cost this year for the New Zealand Pairs. We hope players will get behind this initiative and look at the increase, to \$10 per person, as money well spent. We also hope Clubs will promote the event and be willing not to charge anything additional for the night. Masterpoints will continue be awarded with no charge from New Zealand Bridge.

New Zealand Bridge and the New Zealand Bridge Foundation are investigating ways where we can collectively help grow the game. Clearly education will be part of this initiative.

Next month we have four teams going to the Asia Pacific Championships in Singapore. They have been practising hard. Please get behind them and watch their progress.

Finally, over the preceding months there has been some speculation about an event that happened at an overseas tournament. The matter was referred to the Conduct, Complaints and Discipline Committee. This is an independent committee, which has jurisdiction to investigate, determine whether there is a case to answer and impose penalties. In the incident under consideration the committee determined there was insufficient independent evidence and as a result there was no case to answer.

It does not matter what we think. We must have confidence in the independence of the Conduct, Complaints and Discipline Committee to do its work.

What the case once again has highlighted is that inappropriate behaviour at the table and away from the table can have a detrimental impact on the game and on players.

If this happens to a player early on in their bridge career, that player is often lost to the game forever. If it happens later on in a player's career then it has the potential to cause disharmony, friction and maybe more. None of these are good for the game. We should have an expectation that our elite and seasoned players act professionally, ethically and beyond reproach at all times.

However from time to time things happen and it is important should a situation arise that we as players immediately report the matter to the director and to the recorder.

If events are not immediately reported it can be very hard to retrospectively investigate any allegation. It often becomes one person's version versus another. If there is a case to answer, we will act accordingly and will have no hesitation in imposing fines and/or banning players.

The lesson is whilst we have an independent Conduct, Complaints and Discipline Committee the best course of action is to behave correctly and appropriately at the table and to ensure your conduct away from the table is exemplary. Simply treat everyone in the same manner as you would like to be treated.

The next update will follow the National Conference.

Cheers Allan