



## New Zealand Bridge

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### **MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT of NEW ZEALAND BRIDGE MEETING**

**Held Saturday 29 at 10.30 am and Sunday 30 November 2008 at 10.00 am  
At the Christchurch Bridge Club**

**Present** Kay Nicholas (Chair), Norm Silcock, Michael Ware, Patsy Walters  
(Sunday) , Murray Wiggins, Jim Murray  
**In Attendance** Arie Geursen, Chief Director and Trish Scott, Secretary

**Apologies** Murat Genc

#### **1 WELCOME**

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting, and in particular Jim who had been hospitalised since the last meeting.

#### **2 CONFIRMATION OF AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER MINUTES**

**54/2008** It was moved that the minutes of both the August meeting and Conference Call meeting in September were true and correct records of meetings. **CARRIED**

#### **3 ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS**

- Tony Lenart joining the meeting on Sunday morning together with Peter O'Boyle for a handover of the financial issues and joining the Board members over lunch.
- Kris Wooles, Chair of the Complaints, Conduct, Discipline Committee and appointee to the Chef de Mission role for 2009 to join the meeting at lunch time on Sunday to meet Board members.

#### **4 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

<b>Bridge Teachers' Assn</b>	Chair to follow issue up with Bridge Development Officer
<b>NZ Bridge Foundation</b>	Chair to follow up urgently with Graham Wakefield
<b>Masterpoint Prog.</b>	On Agenda
<b>Strategic Plan</b>	Ongoing – Plan to be prepared before next Board meeting
<b>Venue Congress 2010</b>	Venue yet to be finalised
<b>Bank – Regional Com.</b>	On Agenda
<b>Committee – Roles &amp; Objectives</b>	All Board Committees to have roles and objectives written down, to be reviewed annually, by next Board meeting

**Overseas Gradings**

Information to be prepared for NZ Bridge Office re gradings for e.g. England, South Africa, Canada and USA so a formula is known in relation to NZ gradings

**5 CORRESPONDENCE**

**55/2008** That the correspondence as tabled be accepted

**CARRIED**

Discussion – letter to WBF be formulated from known facts which cover aspects of the Beijing Mind Games which were experienced by New Zealand, e.g. confusion when information not notified to the official organisation, but only available from the web, withdrawal of free accommodation and food, the tax on air tickets (whether includes fuel surcharge) , clarification re non-attendance at Olympiad and inability to play at future events, lack of interpreters etc.

**6 REPORTS**

**Administration Committee** Report received.

**Masterpoint Programme** Johnny Lenart, Honorary Lawyer and Kay Nicholas, Chair met with three members from Treshna regarding the current situation over the masterpoint programme which followed receiving a letter from Treshna in September. Due to Congress and the Treshna Director on leave, the meeting was not held until November. The meeting covered the difference in perceptions, especially around the issue of specifications. A letter from Johnny Lenart was tabled and read to the meeting. Discussions held regarding the three objectives as he saw them. The Board agreed that David Stephen and John Kruinger be requested to approach Treshna on our behalf to gain an understanding of the work which has already been achieved and give a recommendation as to the way forward. It is clear that any projects entered into by the Board need to be clearly written down as to expectations and signed off by one member of the Board who takes ongoing responsibility for that project to ensure that it delivers what has been agreed to.

**Manuals**

The NZ Bridge Manual and the Masterpoint Manual are to be amalgamated. The manual will now be available after 1 April which allows time for any regulation amendments arising from meetings attended by the Chief Director in Australia in January and February to be included. Clubs are to be informed of this amendment.

**Tournament Schedule**

The schedule is updated at the end of each month according to any amendments notified. Work is progressing towards preparing the skeleton for the 2010 year which will go out early next year, also towards having the Google Calendar available with physical addresses of clubs and on line entry.

Discussion regarding requiring the Grade of players, as well as their rating points to be entered for tournaments, as players with sufficient A points so as to be a higher grade than their rating, can cause confusion for clubs.

**Coaching Grants** Information in from Gore who have not had a response regarding a request for assistance (sent to Otago/Southland Centre) with lessons earlier in the year. As the allocated grants to the Regional Committees have yet to be finalised, approval given for payment to Gore.

## **Finance & Strategy Committee**

**Current Accounts** as previously circulated discussed. Levies in and refunds have been sent to Regional Committees

### **Expenses**

**Ticket Taxes** Payment to be arranged to cover the taxes on the youth tickets to Beijing – query regarding whether this included fuel tax – Michael to organise. Money will be collected from youth players.

**Chair** Discretionary expenses for Chair – Michael to organise

**Open Team** As the open team to Beijing finished up in top third of their group they are to be reimbursed 12% of costs. Michael / Kay to arrange cheques and letters.

**Regional Committee Accounts** The current situation is not satisfactory. Investigations are being carried out with SBS and ANZ as to what they are able to offer to NZ Bridge and the Regional Committees around, current accounts, mailing out of statements, cheque books, telebanking facilities, investment accounts, sponsorship, signatories, transaction fees. ANZ stated able to offer each region a number which is linked to NZ Bridge, has range of saving / investment accounts, would consider sponsorship (currently do in Wellington and Marlborough).

NZ Bridge should support the Bank which supports Bridge. Final decision to be discussed with Peter O'Boyle and then progressed.

**56/2008** That \$25,000 be transferred into the account set up for the 2010 PABF **CARRIED**

**Budget** Letter from the Marlborough Bridge Club regarding the draft budget which was distributed at the AGM.

**Committees - Budget** Each Board Committee should record/minute meetings, prepare a budget, e.g. the International Committee \$100,000 for the year, the CCD Committee could require money for travel etc. Finance Committee to discuss with each Committee what they believe is a realistic budget – each Committee identify what they need money for and put forward a proposal.

**Strategy** - Jim to prepare and have available to circulate to Board within next two weeks.

## **Marketing, Development & Communication Committee**

Report received and circulated

**Web** Investigations have been carried out regarding the updating of the NZ Bridge website which would have capacity for links from clubs, for information re clubs which do not have websites, for the masterpoint link, and how this site would be managed, e.g. by a web master. Discussion regarding proposal that a new website be arranged.

Jim given authority to proceed with preparing written agreement giving full details of what would be provided and costs involved and after the Board has agreed that the project can proceed the Contract to be sent to our Legal Advisor John Lenart for his final signoff.

**Bridge Magazine** Discussions regarding the costs involved in producing the magazine, the number of players who purchase, contributions to content, time involved in preparation, whether this should be self funding, prepared in a different format and/or available on the web. The Strategy Committee to promulgate a strategy looking at the alternatives and present to the Board at the next meeting.

**Bridge Teachers' Weekend** Jim to follow up with Bridge Development Officer the date and venue for the next Bridge Teachers weekend.

**Bridge Development** How to attract more players, particularly in the 30 – 35 age group. Discussion regarding whether to advertise in Older and Bolder magazine, if so, would need to move now to achieve the deadline of mid January. Jim to work with the Bridge Development Officer on a development budget. New Minister for Sport, Murray McCully – more work required towards getting Bridge recognised as a sport given that R in SPARC stands for Recreation.

## **International Committee**

**Reports** In from NPCs, Stan Abrahams, Alan Turner, Annette Henry & Michael Ware

**Youth** Chair to write to Annette thanking her for report. Board recommends to the International Committee that Annette be offered to continue the role for 2009. As Michael was at the Board meeting – thanked for his report.

**Open** Comprehensive report – Chair to write to Alan thanking him for report and for representing New Zealand at the Delegate's meeting

**Women / Senior and Chef de Mission 2008** - Chair to acknowledge and thank him for reports and services. Michael to follow up regarding the financial issues.

**Insurance** Discussion how insurance is dealt with for our international teams

**Chef de Mission 2009** Appointment discussed, as were the roles and responsibilities of Coach, Chef de Mission, Chief Director, NPCs

**WBF Rules** - Secretary to write acknowledging the information regarding the change of Rule – no particular response from NZ Bridge.

**WBF** – copy of questions and responses from the English Union / WBF regarding issues around Beijing – New Zealand to add send letter as indicated earlier.

**Women** As the Women's team did not finish in the top half of the pool at Beijing, discussion held as to whether a spot in Zone 7 would be lost for the Bowl / Venice Cup. Chief Director to ascertain from John Wignall as to whether or not a spot has been lost – clarification re whether playoff between Australia and New Zealand is required.

**Teams Trials** To be held in Christchurch over Easter weekend. Declaration of Availability and Code of Conduct available on the web.

**International Programme** The four year cycle programme to be completed and available before the end of the year. Norm thanked Alan and Arie for work done in his absence when he was overseas.

### **Regional Committee Reports**

Reports in from Auckland, Waikato / Bays, Central Districts, Wellington and Canterbury. Apology from Otago / Southland – on leave at time of request. Some regions re-visiting the format of the I P trials. Financial issues remain as regions await the outcome of the investigations regarding suitable banking facilities.

The Board meeting programme for 2009 needs to be advised to regions to assist in timely reporting.

**At 5.20 pm the meeting adjourned until 10 am Sunday morning**

## **Sunday**

**Congress** Attendance at Congress meetings raised – Patsy is on each Committee – Murray requested, as a member of the Events Committee, that he be informed of when meetings are to take place and be sent a copy of the agenda. The Chair, as ex officio is attending the next meeting early in December. The issue of whether the National Congress should generate a profit or not discussed as were the equalisation payments (Regions given money for IPs), prize money, equipment. Numbers down this year for the entire Congress but partial registrations up, especially for the Intermediate area. Suggestion that attempts should be made to obtain grants in preparation for the PABF in 2010.

A review is undertaken each year as to whether or not there should be two congresses. Letter from Alan Turner had been received and tabled at this meeting – Congress Committee to look at proposal and how to address issues which have been raised. Any comments on this from Board members to come back to the Chair. Any second congress should not detract from the National Congress, but should have a different 'brand'.

**PABF Venue** The Board went 'into committee' to discuss background information regarding venue for 2010.

## **Remuneration Committee**

**Employment Contract** Michael and Jim as Committee members to re-visit the contract covering the role of the Secretary.

## **Tony Lenart / Peter O'Boyle**

Tony and Peter joined the meeting for an official handover of the accounts of NZ Bridge.

The accounts had been completed up until 21 November with the exclusion of the International area. Levies have been paid to Regional Committees as have the

masterpoint refunds for June and September quarters. Discussion regarding the necessity to re-organise the Regional Committee accounts, given the current dissatisfaction. GST to 30 September has been paid although there is a query regarding the Regional Committees and GST which may need to be adjusted within the next GST return.

Tony thanked for his time as Treasurer of NZCBA and then NZ Bridge and presentation made. Tony expressed his thanks and talked of his good experiences over the last few years including his contribution in obtaining sponsorship, and membership of the NZ Olympic Committee.

## **7 GENERAL BUSINESS**

**Yeh Bros Cup** There was not yet sufficient interest being shown to have a team represent New Zealand at this event, prior to the Gold Coast Congress. If this remains the situation, invitation to be clarified with the organisers and John Wignall to be informed.

**CCD Committee Budget** Discussion regarding an appropriate amount to be allocated as a possible budget for this Committee, e.g. \$10,000, recognising that this may not be utilised in some years.

Kris Wooles arrived at the meeting and was introduced to Board members, which gave an opportunity for informal discussion

## **8 Secretariat**

The current Secretary has given her resignation. The hours of work involved in the position were discussed and it was recognised that there were more hours required than currently offered, e.g. 25 hours a week. Position to be advertised as full time for a two year term.

## **NEXT MEETING**

**5.30 pm on Friday 30 January and 9.30 am Saturday 31 January 2009**  
**Regional Conference to commence at 10.30 am Saturday 31 January 2009**