



New Zealand Bridge

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF NEW ZEALAND BRIDGE INCORPORATED Held at 10 am on Sunday, 28 September 2008 In the Kingsgate Hotel Hamilton

PRESENT **NZ Bridge Board** - Kay Nicholas (Chair), Murat Genc, Michael Ware, Murray Wiggins, Patsy Walters, Jim Murray
Secretary of NZ Bridge – Trish Scott
Authorised Delegates
Tony Morcom (Akarana), Russell Watt (Auckland), Susan Edwards (Christchurch), John Mitchell (Cromwell), Trevor Robb (Franklin), Lorraine Helson (Gisborne), Joan Hager (Hamilton), Ken Barnett (Hutt), Marilyn Jackson (Invercargill), Allan Joseph (Kairangi) Linda Rigler (Karori), Robyn Young (Marlborough and Westport), Steve Gray (Motueka and Richmond), Alistair Buchanan (Napier), Jeremy Kennard (Otago), Wayne Burrows (Palmerston North), Frank Graton (Taieri), Karen Martelletti (Tauranga), Alan Barclay (Thames), Michael Johnstone (Timaru), Valerie Gardiner (Wanganui), Dinnie Hall (Wellington), Margie Michaels (South Wairarapa)
Observers – Members from various Affiliated Clubs

1 WELCOME

The Chairperson, Kay Nicholas, welcomed all those present at the 2008 Annual General Meeting of New Zealand Bridge Incorporated, including the new Board members, authorised Club Delegates (or Alternates) and Observers. A roll call was taken of those present.

2 APOLOGY

Norm Silcock (Board Member), Waipukurau Bridge Club and Arie Geurson, Chief Director
Moved that the apologies be accepted **CARRIED**

3 MINUTES of the 2007 AGM

Moved that the minutes as previously circulated be taken as read **CARRIED**

4 ANNUAL REPORT for year ended 31 March 2008

The Chair indicated that as the Annual Report was lengthy she proposed it be taken as read so she would have time to speak to it and then invite discussion from the floor. **CARRIED**

Chairperson's Comment on Specifics from Annual Report

- **Constitutional Change**

The Constitutional change proposed and endorsed at the 2007 AGM of the Council of NZCBA is the most significant in the organisation's management history since its

foundation in 1936. I wish to record my thanks to all members of the Board for the significant collective contribution that was required to develop a proposed new organisational Constitution and then lead and manage the complex process of extensive consultation with Clubs and Centres. Special thanks must go to Graham Wakefield and Arie Geursen who lead the project.

It has taken courage, professional skill and consultative expertise to achieve this Constitutional change which now clearly and legally mandates NZ Bridge Incorporated with governance control over the game in New Zealand. There are various points of difference resulting from the change that will enable more cohesive management of the organisation and the more major of these are details in the Report for your information.

- **International**

The Report covered only to 31 March 2008 and so did not cover the latter part of this year in which the following Teams competed successfully in the recent PABF held in Queensland, Australia.

Open Peter Newell, Martin Reid, Malcolm Mayer, Tom Jacob, Scott Smith and David Ackerley reached the semi final playoffs but lost to China

Womens Stephanie Jacob, Jan Cormack, Tania Lloyd, Kathy Boardman and Deb Smith beat their Australian opponents to make the final of this event, they were however, beaten in the final by China

Seniors Tony Thomson, John Cormack, Brian Cleaver, Peter Benham, Robyn Freeman Greene and Tony Lenart lost to Australia in the semi final playoffs

Youth Fraser Rew, John Whyte, Susan Humphries, Michael Whibley, Liam Milne and Nick Jacob beat Philippines / Singapore in the semi finals but lost to China in the final. These results were very pleasing, congratulations to all these players and best wishes to the five teams who will be travelling to Beijing in early October to compete in the 1st World Mind Sports Games.

- **PABF 2010** This major event is being hosted by NZ in Hamilton in May 2010 – planning for this major event is well in hand.

- **Sponsorship**

In today's pressured financial environment it is timely to again thank our generous sponsors who have continued to support us over the past year, Jardine Lloyd & Thompson / NZ Pairs Sponsors; Babich Wines / NZ Wide Pairs; Anisia Shami / Top Youth Pair at National Congress; Jan Cormack / Top Womens Team in NZ Teams at Congress; Datacom – Tom Jacob / Team Uniform sponsorship; Dorchester Pacific for its sponsorship during the past year.

Moved that the Annual Report be adopted

CARRIED

5 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

The annual accounts had been previously circulated to the meeting. A copy of the budget up to 2011 was circulated to the meeting.

Michael Ware thanked Tony Lenart for his work as Treasurer and also through the transition period. Michael acknowledged to the meeting, as he had done at the Regional Conference, that the setting up of the bank accounts, etc. for the Regional Committees had not gone as smoothly as he had hoped and he was working on solutions for these issues, which should be finalised by the end of October. General discussion followed regarding specific Banks and

whether sponsorship could be available, as it was through the ANZ recently for Wellington and Marlborough. Michael is to approach Pat O'Neill regarding this issue.

Moved that the Annual Accounts as presented be adopted

CARRIED

6 REMITS

These Remits were presented and carried at the Regional Conference and the Chair now proposes that the following remits be confirmed by the AGM.

Some background information which led to the remits was presented, e.g. timeframes / logistics involved in administering the various Rules within the Constitution. At the 2007 AGM, Waikato presented a remit regarding the date used for membership numbers and an undertaking was given to re-visit this when the new Board was in place. The remits as previously circulated were then put to the meeting :

That Rule 25.2 be amended from 10 working days to "No later than 7 days" **CARRIED**

That Rule 19.1 be amended from during November to "No later than 7th day of February in each year" **CARRIED**

That Rule 3 be amended from 31st day of October to "31st day of December" **CARRIED**

That Rule 19.2 (c) 31st day of October be amended to "31st day of December" **CARRIED**

That Rule 19.2 (d) 31st day of October be amended to "31st day of December" **CARRIED**

Allan Barclay (Waikato) thanked the Board for acknowledging the previous Remit from Waikato and moving to change the date of the Annual Return at which annual membership is taken.

7 GENERAL BUSINESS

Appointment of Auditor

Moved that David Macdonald be appointed as Auditor for the 2008/09 year

CARRIED

Constitution

A Regional Conference forum has to be held at least twice a year whereby Clubs or members or regions bring matters of concern or remits. Remits must come to the AGM. Reasons for AGM include: receive Annual Report; receive Financial Statements; appoint an Auditor, and consider any general business. Attendance at the AGM apart from members of the Board, are authorised delegates from each affiliated Club who have the right to speak, although any affiliated player can attend. The Chair had explored the question of receiving the names of Club delegates prior to the AGM with Graham Wakefield.

Discussion regarding the issue of quorum at the AGM, as in the Constitution – the Chair undertook to discuss the matter with Graham Wakefield and advise Clubs and Regional Committees.

The number of Regions is currently six. There is a possibility this could increase up to seven or eight, although this is not able to be amended until after 31 March 2009 - this would give

Regional Committees the balance of power, e.g. eight Regional representatives and a total of six Board members plus the Chair.

Funding of International Teams

Robin Young said the Clubs he represented believed that when self-funding teams represent New Zealand at International Events their Registration / Entry fees should be paid by NZ Bridge. Trevor Robb was in agreement with this and it was acknowledged that representation was required by New Zealand teams this year in order to qualify for next year's events. Comments regarding this issue were noted by the Secretary on behalf of the Board - the previous International Committee had to take responsibility for what has happened in the past and the Chair acknowledged that this year's International Programme had been a debacle. Kay Nicholas as the Chair, said that we cannot change what has happened in the past but gave her undertaking to the players that there will be a review on the return of teams from Beijing. She informed the meeting that the current International Committee is working on a four year International Programme, which had to manage the players' expectations as it was obvious that NZ Bridge cannot continue to fund an International Programme to the levels it has been funded in previous years. The annual income that NZ Bridge receives has to be used in an equitable manner for the benefit of all members, across a spectrum that includes international players through to the grass roots players. Future financial planning may include a budget that allocates a specific percentage of annual income for international and other commitments. It was acknowledged that the Board has to achieve improved future outcomes and as Chair, Kay gave an undertaking that the matter would be worked through using a widely consultative process.

There being no other formal business the Chair invited informal discussion and input from those in attendance.

Sponsorship / Profile / Publicity

Chris Bollard raised the issue of using a professional fund raiser to try and raise funds. This was noted, although already NZ Bridge has achieved two grants this year from the Charitable Funding Trusts for Bridge boards / cards and Bridgepads. David Macdonald was aware of the names of professional fund raisers and offered to give these names to Michael Ware. The Bridge Development Officer noted that the Charity Organisations did not fund international travel. He also was seeking ways in which to raise the profile of Bridge in New Zealand. Currently we have overseas teams competing in Beijing but he noted that publicity was hard to achieve in the National Newspapers. Publicity is much more likely to be achieved through local newspapers, some areas having regular notices / comments printed. NZ Bridge is intending to develop the current website to increase the ability to communicate with Clubs.

Ministry of Education

At the 2007 AGM Canterbury proposed a remit that the Ministry of Education be approached in order to achieve paid leave for teachers who represent New Zealand. The Bridge Development Officer originally followed this up but received a response that as were not a member of SPARC we did not qualify. Information has now been received that the Mind Games at Beijing have been acknowledged by the Ministry of Education as qualifying for paid leave. NZ Bridge will pursue this further in an endeavour to get further recognition for other events and also present this information to SPARC to gain their recognition. Players are asked to remind their Members of Parliament that Bridge is a sport.

Bridge Development

Jim Jessep (Marlborough) raised the issue of bridge development, e.g. especially the fact that a lot of effort is being put into youth. He thought the best way to attract people to Bridge is to target those approaching retirement or those who have just retired as they are the life blood of Clubs. His comments were noted for the Board. Jeremy Kennard (Otago) responded that there is an impression amongst non Bridge players that it is 'an old persons game' and if we concentrate our efforts in recruiting players from the older population this image will continue. Jeremy thought the approach was short sighted if we wished to increase playing members in New Zealand. Currently there are many players who commence playing Bridge at University and who are still playing. Focus on recruiting youth and the middle-aged was important. In conclusion it was agreed that NZ Bridge should be looking at the short, mid and long term planning of recruiting players from a variety of areas, to meet the long term objective of increasing membership.

Scoring Programme

The issue of the withdrawal of NZ Bridge from the business of providing a scoring package was discussed at the Regional Conference. Clubs originally purchased the scoring package in approximately 1999 for \$100, following which 'bugs' were found and upgrades provided. As NZ Bridge no longer wished to be in the business of providing software an Agreement between Martin Oyston (the new Scoring Package Provider) was signed on 14 March 2008, having been previously approved at the February 2008 Board meeting. NZ Bridge continues to remain the owner of the Source Code. The work done on the BridgePads for the Interprovincials was commissioned and paid for by NZ Bridge and so Clubs will benefit from that development at no extra expense. If Clubs wish to upgrade or have a programme written for them in particular, that is an agreement between the Club and the Provider. The potential for this development to be sold to other Clubs and so achieve a better cost sharing is also a matter for the Club and the Provider. The matter of Bridge NZ indicating it would require an annual subscription from individual Clubs to achieve ongoing helpdesk service, maintenance, etc. was raised. This matter is between Clubs and Bridge NZ and does not involve NZ Bridge. Clubs can make arrangements with whoever they like – Bridge NZ is offering a subscription and it is up to individual Clubs to decide to accept or reject the offer. The meeting noted that the subscription worked out at approximately \$4.00 a week. NZ Bridge has a right to review the Licence Agreement but the circumstances governing such action would have to be exceptional.

Issue of blurring of boundaries was raised around the fact that if Bridge NZ is upgrading the source code for New Zealand Bridge, isn't this going to the Clubs anyway. This is not so as the updated Source Code is retained by NZ Bridge but no other action follows its receipt.

Masterpoint Programme

New Zealand Bridge is looking to upgrade its Masterpoint Programme. As currently not all Clubs are using NZCBA Scorer, when the new programme is introduced Clubs will have to ensure their existing Scoring Programmes are able to feed into the new programme. Discussion regarding the Scoring Programme / Bridge NZ brought to a close.

New Zealand Wide Pairs

Richard Solomon, Bridge Development Officer reminded the meeting about the New Zealand Wide Pairs being held on 7 November. Clubs need a minimum of four tables to run a local heat of this event. Please advise Richard if your Club is intending to play in this event.

There being no further business Kay Nicholas, the Chair, thanked the delegates for their contribution to the formal business of the meeting. Kay also thanked the other attendees for their input into the informal discussion that had followed the formal part of the meeting. She noted that the forum had provided an opportunity for Clubs and individuals to express their views and opinions to the Board and she asked that all present consider what talents they were prepared to offer to help Bridge to 'move forward' at a national, regional and local level.

The Chair closed the meeting at 11.40 am