



MINUTES OF NEW ZEALAND BRIDGE BOARD MEETING

**Held Friday 7th December 2012 at 37 Whau Valley Road
Whangarei commencing at 5.00pm**

PARTICIPATING: Kay Nicholas (Chair), Lynne Fegan, Patsy Walters, Graham Wakefield, Jenny Wilkinson & Allan Barclay

In Attendance: Alister Stuck Secretary, Richard Solomon Bridge Development Officer & Arie Geursen Chief Director

Apologies: Alan Turner

1. WELCOME

Kay welcomed all to the meeting and thanked Pasty for hosting the meeting.

2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Copies of the following minutes were circulated prior to the meeting.

- Board Meeting – 14 November 2012

Moved confirmation of the Minutes of the Board Meetings held 14 November 2012 subject to Resolution 101/2012 being rescinded.

CARRIED 102/2012

3. CORRESPONDENCE

The list of inward and outward Correspondence was circulated prior to the meeting.

Moved that the Report summarising the Inward & Outwards Correspondence be received.

CARRIED 103/2012

The following items of Correspondence were then discussed:-

Bob & Evelyn Hurley- Top Club Competition

An email was received concerning the integrity of the Top Club event which has not been fully supported by all Regions, with two not participating in 2011 and 2012.

The Board is cognisant of the significant travel costs that the Southern Clubs face to attend the final in Hamilton.

While sympathetic to the points raised the Board saw little option but to run with the status quo and not make participation mandatory given funding constraints. Other than consider an increased entry fee so as to boost the pool available for travel equalisation or move the event away from Congress and rotate amongst the Regions. Alister to respond advising of the Board's decision.

Jan Spaans- Alignment of Scorer with Bridgemates

Jan sought a progress report regarding the alignment of the NZ Bridge Scorer with Bridgemates table top Scorers. This is a work in progress. The Board still has to reach agreement on the apportioning of any development and implementation costs, finalise terms and a completion date with BridgeNZ.

Alister to respond to Jan accordingly.

Hastings Bridge Club – Response to Letter from NZ Bridge of 25 Sept 2012

The Hastings Clubs letter of 12 November in response to an offer from the Board in a letter of 25 September 2012 to publish a statement in subsequent minutes regarding the impasse between the two parties was discussed.

The Hastings Bridge Club accepted the Board's offer to publish a statement but requested that this be by way of a separate Bulletin to all Clubs and Regional Committees. Given the wide circulation of its Minutes the Board declined this request and has as offered has included the following statement in these minutes:-

1. *The Board has exchanged correspondence with the Hastings Bridge Club in relation to the way that the Club and the Board managed recent issues about the past suspension of one of its members from Tournament Play*
2. *The Board can clarify as follows:-*
 - (a) *The Hastings Club had sought legal advice in relation to what it should do when a member of their Club suspended from Tournament Play by NZ Bridge sought to play in one of the Club's Tournaments*
 - (b) *The Hastings Club actions were consistent with the legal advice it received on the matter*
 - (c) *NZ Bridge was aware of the legal advice given to the Hastings Club as it had been provided with a copy*
 - (d) *While NZ Bridge might not agree with the legal advice the Hastings Club received it acknowledges it was not inappropriate for the Club to follow that advice*

3. *If any criticism of the Hastings Club and its Committee was implied in the NZ Bridge Bulletin 13th July 2012 it was not intended.*

Alister to inform the Hastings Bridge Club of the Board's actions.

Palmerston North Bridge Club – Certificates for Top Club Winners

The Palmerston North Club suggested that the Board consider providing Certificates or Plaques to the National winners as a permanent memento. This is in addition to any medals given to the players. The Board fully supported this request and will provide appropriate Certificates to the winning Clubs since the inception of the event. Kay will have the Certificates designed and printed upon confirmation of all previous winners from Richard. Alister to inform the Palmerston North Bridge Club of this outcome.

Nestle Group - Sponsorship for 2013

The Board noted that Richard had successfully renegotiated a sponsorship package with the Nestle group for 2013. Kay thanked Richard for securing this deal on the Boards behalf.

Wayne Burrows- Request that the following Issues be discussed by the Board at its meeting 7th December, 2012

1. A problem with respect to an appeal from the 2012 National Congress.
2. Alleged unsatisfactory behaviour towards Wayne by another player.

The Board noted that there are ways in which complaints of a personal/minor nature can be addressed/resolved at or around the time they occur. It was agreed that in these particular instances the Board take no further action. Wayne to be advised accordingly and that no further discussion or correspondences will be entered into in this regard.

4. OUTSTANDING ITEMS

A revised list had been circulated prior to the meeting.

▪ ***Defunct Bridge Teachers Assn***

Lynne confirmed that the stakeholders in the defunct Bridge Teachers Association had agreed to remit their residual funds to the NZ Bridge Foundation with some codicils around how they would like the funds to be applied. This would be finalised before Christmas.

▪ ***Harmonised System Card with ABF***

Graham advised that he would look to progress this matter with ABF personnel while he is at the NOT in Canberra during January.

▪ ***Regulation Change- Announcing***

Graham advised that policy around the move towards the announcing of specific opening bids would be drafted and included in the next reprint of the Manual scheduled for release by 1 April 2013.

5. BOARD REPORTS

▪ International

Jenny spoke to the Report and Committee Meeting Minutes.

Moved that the International Committee Report and minutes of a meeting held 25 November 2012 as circulated, be received.

CARRIED 104/2012

The International Committee at its recent review discussed the Policy as it relates to Travel Insurance cover for International Team members and personnel.

The current Policy, requiring the person's entire time offshore to be covered by the NZ Bridge Travel Policy is proving cumbersome especially for those people who take extended leave at the end of the Bridge event or those who combine with work commitments overseas.

The International Committee recommended that the Policy be altered to provide for Team members and Personnel to be covered by the NZ Bridge Travel Policy for the duration of the overseas Bridge event that they are contesting and up to 7 days either side of the event for the purposes of travel. Travel Insurance cover for any travel or time off shore outside this period would be the responsibility of the person concerned.

Moved that recommendation be endorsed.

CARRIED 105/2012

It was agreed that Derek Evennett would include this information in the next Bulletin to Squad members and would liaise with Jardines to ensure that our Policy reflects this change.

▪ Bridge Development

Richard presented his Report which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Moved that the Bridge Development Report as circulated, be received.

CARRIED 106/2012

▪ Congress Organising Subcommittee

The meeting minutes had been circulated prior to the Board meeting. Richard summarised the key outcomes.

Firstly the Committee did not support the recommendations from the Board as detailed in the Board minutes of 14 November 2012. The Committee has decided to impose a \$10 levy per person attending the Congress Dinner. The attendees will be required to pay when they collect their tickets from the Congress Desk.

The Committee also sought a review of the Board Policy whereby cash transactions are not permitted. Richard outlined why the Policy had proved unworkable.

Moved that Cheques be used for all Congress Prizes for amounts of \$50 or more. Prizes for lesser amounts may be paid in cash.

CARRIED 107/2012

Richard is to amend the Committees Delegation of Authority and forward this to Alan Turner for sign-off.

Moved that the Congress Organising Subcommittee Minutes of the meeting held 27 October 2012 be received.

CARRIED 108/2012

Moved that Murray Wiggins be appointed to the Congress Organising Subcommittee.

CARRIED 109/2012

Richard to advise Murray.

▪ **Finance**

Alister presented the updated Profit & Loss Statements to 30 November 2012 in Alan's absence.

Moved that the Financial Report as circulated, be received.

CARRIED 110/2012

▪ **Operations**

Alister spoke to his Report which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Moved that the Operations Report be received

CARRIED 111/2012

6. REGIONAL REPORTS

Minutes from 4 Regions had been received and circulated prior to the Meeting.

Moved that the Minutes from Canterbury, Wellington, Waikato Bays and Otago Southland Regional Committees be received.

CARRIED 112/2012

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

- **Relocation of Interprovincial Championships**

Alister reported back to the meeting following his discussions with the Christchurch and Wellington Clubs regarding the opportunity for them to host a future Interprovincial Championship Event.

Moved that the Interprovincial Championships be moved away from the National Congress from 2013.

CARRIED 113/2012

It was agreed that a working party headed by Graham along with Patsy, Jenny, Alan & Richard be established with the view to staging the Interprovincials in the Wellington area over a three day period comprising Friday to Sunday inclusive in late November 2013.

- **Updating Contact Details with Inland Revenue**

Alister advised that he had tried unsuccessfully to update our contact details held by Inland Revenue. The department advises that they will only make the change if the request is accompanied by a formal resolution from the Board.

Moved that a formal request be sent to IRD to update our contact details as follows:

Alister Stuck
National Secretary
PO Box 5242
Palmerston North 444

CARRIED 114/2012

- **Governance Policy**

Lynne presented the final draft of the Governance Policy to the Board members,

Moved that the Policy Manual be adopted.

CARRIED 115/2012

It was agreed that Kay would provide a PDF copy for distribution to the Clubs, and Regional Committees and to be placed on the NZ Bridge Website.

- **Baden Wilson Competition**

Alister tabled some suggestions that he felt would enhance this competition including a separate prize for females and a prizes of a free Congress entry for the two category winners.

After much discussion and no consensus Alister withdrew his proposal.

▪ **Issues with the New Website**

At the conclusion of the November meeting a number of Board members participated in a casual discussion regarding the look of the new Website. A list of concerns was prepared and discussed at the December meeting.

It was agreed that the NZ Bridge Logo be added to the bottom left of each page and the colours be reviewed.

Allan Barclay sought to add a function to enable entries for all National Tournaments to be dealt with electronically via the new Website. Those present did not view this as a high priority at this time, however it would be considered in the second phase of website development dealing with add-ons.

Alister advised that the launch date for the new site was now in the Board members hands and that the delay is due to a hold up with information requested, namely Board Vision and Mission Statements and Sponsors' logos.

Allan advised that he would draft those documents by the end of the weekend.

▪ **Additional 15A Tournament in 2013**

The International Committee sought the Boards support for an additional 15A Teams Tournament to be held in Christchurch over the weekend of November 2nd & 3rd 2013. The event would be a one off, open to all comers, and would be used as the first of 3 selection events from which the 2014 International Teams would be formed.

Moved that the additional tournament be approved.

CARRIED 116/2012

Richard advised that he may look to rescheduling the NZ Wide Pairs to avoid a clash with this new event.

▪ **Feedback to WBF & Zone 7 – WMSG 2012**

On the recommendation of the International Committee it was agreed that Alan Turner would draft a letter to the WBF and Zone 7 regarding issues with the format of the recent World Mind Sports Games and the transnational event that followed.

▪ **Policy Review- International 4 Year Budget & Programme**

Arie presented this segment on behalf of the International Committee. At the recent debrief meeting concerns were discussed at the Board's decision to abandon the 4 year budget allocation for International. Arie outlined the workings of the Committee and its strategic plan which molded around the 4 year international cycle. The committee had successfully managed its budget over the past 4 years recoding a surplus of \$35 000 approx.

The Committee sought Board approval to reinstate its 4 year plan and funding allocation.

Moved that the international Committee be granted an indicative funding allocation totaling \$400 000 over the 4 year period 2013 to 2016.

CARRIED 117/2012

Jenny is to amend the Committees Delegation of Authority and present and the next Board meeting for sign-off.

▪ **Air New Zealand Group Booking Facility**

It was agreed that the group booking facility would not be used for the Interprovincials in 2013.

Richard is to advise the affected Regional Committees of this change.

▪ **Meeting Dates 2013**

Subject to confirming the availability of the Meeting Room at the Wellington Koru Club the following meeting dates were agreed:

2013

Wed Feb 6 th	Regional Conference Wellington – (Confirmed)
Wed March 13 th	Board Meeting Wellington
Sat April 6 th	Board Meeting Wellington
Sat June 29 th	Board Meeting Wellington
Sat Aug 24 th	Board Meeting Wellington

Meeting Closed – 11.40pm