



New Zealand Bridge

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT of NEW ZEALAND BRIDGE Held at the Christchurch Bridge Club 15 & 16 February 2008

PRESENT Alister Stuck, Arie Geursen, Graham Wakefield, Kay Nicholas, Sue Edwards, Noel Woodhall, Arleen Schwartz, Murat Genc, and Tony Lenart (15 February only)

In Attendance Trish Scott, Secretary

APOLOGY Richard Solomon

PREVIOUS MINUTES

1/2008 That the minutes of the meeting held on 16, 17 & 18 November be confirmed
Moved Arleen Schwartz Seconded Kay Nicholas **CARRIED**

CORRESPONDENCE

2/2008 That the correspondence as tabled be accepted
Moved Kay Nicholas Seconded Sue Edwards **CARRIED**

REPORTS

Transition Group

Late last year a series of Bulletins was sent to all clubs and made available on the web setting out the process through to the election of the Board. Another bulletin will be sent with the ballot papers which will be posted to each club by Monday, 18 February.

Subject to ratification at this meeting, the first Regional Conference is scheduled to coincide with Congress 2008, on the preceding Friday night / Saturday morning with the AGM on the Sunday morning following the conclusion of Congress.

The role of Treasurer was raised – no decisions have been made regarding this, the status quo to continue. The new Board will confirm any change to that circumstance once the basis for discharging the organisations financial accountabilities has been reviewed.

Some Centres are requesting clarification regarding the process around Regional Committees. Another Bulletin will be prepared regarding format for nominating the Regional Committees, and related banking issues.

Business As Usual Group

Minutes from meeting held 19 January had been circulated.

Kay Nicholas congratulated the Marlborough Bridge Club on their achievement at the inaugural Top of the South Teams held over the weekend 2/3 February 2008

Kay reported that she had a favourable response from the Southern Charitable Trust that they would receive applications for assistance with the PABF and Congress

Non Playing Captains have been reimbursed for out of pocket expenses

Scoring Licence Agreement is now in draft format

Movements Manual – Julie Atkinson has prepared files for the scoring package – Noel to approach Claire regarding work on the layout.

3/2008	That Julie Atkinson be compensated for work done on preparation of this Movements information		
	Moved Arie Geurson	Seconded Murat Genc	CARRIED
4/2008	That the report from the Business As Usual Group be received		
	Moved Alister Stuck	Seconded Norm Silcock	CARRIED

Bridge Development Officer's Report

Report tabled. Issues raised by Richard for clarification are addressed within these minutes.

5/2008	That the report from the Bridge Development Officer be received		
	Moved Alister Stuck	Seconded Arleen Schwartz	CARRIED

Services

Discussion regarding approving grants. Under the new structure Regional Committees will administer

Regulations

6/2008	That the sentence around the 10% late penalty be removed from B7 in the next masterpoint manual		
	Moved Arie Geursen	Seconded Noel Woodhall	CARRIED

Discussion regarding the New Law Books : New Laws Books – Copies forwarded to each Club & National Director will have a ‘sticker’ saying ‘Presented by New Zealand Bridge’. Currently have agreement on Zone 7 interpretations but WBF raising concerns re Law 27 with the possibility of this being withdrawn and a return to the old Law. If changes are made Arie will circulate the information. Contact to be made with WBF Laws Committee to express our concern at the proposal to revert to the “old” Law 27. The new Laws will not apply to any tournament commencing prior to 1 June, e.g. tournaments over Queens Birthday weekend. Australia is aligning with New Zealand for most of the regulations, except the psych regulation. Director training will be arranged for the new Laws.

Re-write of the System Card. Martin Oyston will stock these for those wishing to purchase. To be available to download from the web. WBF document will remain on web

Small Card. Contact information to be provided to enable access to the template. NZBridge logo to be included and this card will also put on web to enable downloading.

Administration

The Scoring programme licence is now in draft
The Masterpoint programme review is ongoing
Arrangements are being made to provide for ongoing casual assistance in the Office.

Financial

Information circulated prior to the meeting

7/2008	Resolved that the financial statements as presented be accepted Moved Tony Lenart Seconded Kay Nicholas	CARRIED
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Discussion covering the financial provision for PABF: masterpoint programme; Law books and WBF fee (account received today).

Congress

Application being made to Datacom to sponsor technology needs
PABF – Hamilton City Council have confirmed sponsorship of the 2010 PABF of \$5,000

Given the favourable response from the Southern Charitable Trust, following Kay’s approach for support of the PABF and Congress, the Board authorised Richard to make an application for the additional Boards and Cards we require for the event.

Discussion regarding technology/units - Bridgemate (Dutch) \$A300;
Australian Bridgemate \$250 and Bridge Pad (uses ABCL scoring package) at \$175, which can also be leased.

International

Self-funding international programme for Beijing. Expenses covered for NPCs and WBF concessions available for Youth which Annette Henry is administering.

Two teams of six entries received and accepted in the Open; one Womens accepted. Partial entry for Seniors declined. The two Open teams will play off a 128 board match at Easter, in Auckland. The Wellington Bridge Club thanked for their offer to host trials and the Club has expressed interest in hosting trials on another occasion. Chef de Mission will be required and not yet in a position to appoint NPCs.

Noel expressed disappointment at the work the International Committee had done during the year

Election

Two nominations received for election as Chairperson and these nominees are also available for the Board, bringing the total nominations for election to the Board to eight. The ballot papers, together with the CVs of the nominees will be posted to clubs on Monday.

8/2008

That the Board confirm that if a candidate is successful in meeting the requirements for election both as Chairperson and as a Member of the Board then that candidate will be declared elected as Chairperson, and the candidate who polled highest of those who would otherwise have been unsuccessful for election as a Member of the Board shall be declared elected as a member of the Board

Moved Graham Wakefield Seconded Arie Geursen

CARRIED**9/2008**

That two scrutineers be appointed to assist the Secretary in counting the votes, viz; Jenny Wilkinson and Sue Edwards

Moved Alister Stuck Seconded Arie Geursen

Abstainees: Kay Nicholas, Murat Genc and Norm Silcock

CARRIED**Gifford Estate**

Opinion from Johnny Lenart has been received – to be discussed further.

GENERAL BUSINESS**Regional Committee**

Request received from Marlborough/Nelson for consideration regarding a separate Regional Committee for that area.. This paper to be referred to the new Board

Congress

Proposal that consideration be given to Blenheim hosting Congress – paper to be referred to the Congress Committee

Rating

Request from a player who had previously played successfully for many years in England, regarding recognition of his previous playing status there. Regulations Committee to consider and report back

The Meeting concluded at 9.30 pm – to re-convene Saturday 16 February 10.00am

16 February 2008

GENERAL BUSINESS (continued)

Board Election Awareness

Telephone contact to be made with Centres requesting they in turn contact the Clubs within their region to heighten awareness of the ballot papers / elections.

New Board Briefing

Candidates to be contacted (per letter) to alert them of a briefing meeting for the new Board which will be held on Saturday 29 March 2008 at 10 am – concluded before 5.00 pm, at the Christchurch Bridge Club, Nova Place.

Included in this briefing will be a power point presentation on current issues, an opportunity to ask questions and meeting dates for the remainder of the year will be set.

Delegated Authorities for the various Committees will be prepared / worked on to assist the new Board

Early March, Bulletin No 5 will be issued covering the Regional Committee election process.

Constitution Template – Graham is undertaking to prepare this template for distribution to Clubs

Clarification on a number of issues, which required resolutions to be passed prior to the appointment of the new Board :

Gifford Fund

Proposal that this fund be considered to be allocated into the proposed NZ Bridge Foundation. Noted that the sum available presently exceeds the original bequest and that the terms of the Foundation could be drafted to include a suitable acknowledgement of receipt of these monies on the original terms.

10/2008 That the information be received and that further discussion on this issue be deferred until after the actual establishment of the Foundation
 Moved Graham Wakefield Seconded Arie Geursen **CARRIED**

Regional Conference/AGM

- 11/2008**
1. That the inaugural Regional Conference be held on Friday, 26 September 2008 at 7.30 pm and if necessary, Saturday morning, 27 September, at the Kingsgate Hotel, Hamilton, with the AGM being held on the Sunday morning at 10 am, also at the Kingsgate Hotel.
 2. That NZ Bridge will re-imburse travel and two nights accommodation for the following: Seven (7) Board members, Officers and six Regional Chairpersons or their designated alternate.

3. That Clubs may appoint a delegate to represent them in person at the AGM but they are responsible for the costs incurred in doing so, or they may place their proxy with any other properly authorized delegate.

Moved Arie Geursen

Seconded Sue Edwards

CARRIED

Position of Treasurer

- 12/2008** That Tony Lenart be invited to continue in the position of Treasurer of NZ Bridge after 1 April 2008 in the same manner as at present, pending the new Board reviewing the basis under which it wishes to manage the organisation's financial accountabilities and that role.

Moved Kay Nicholas

Seconded Arie Geursen

CARRIED

NOTE Appointment as Treasurer does not confer membership of the Board of Management from that date under the Constitution

Bridge Scoring System

It was noted that use of the Bridgepad Wireless Scoring System has been trialled on a limited basis at the ACBL of the San Francisco Fall Nationals in November 2007. Graham Wakefield reported that he had negotiated, on behalf of NZ Bridge on that occasion, an offer of the exclusive agency or licence for the future distribution of this product in New Zealand and that a sufficient sample of this product (18 units) has now been delivered to enable a full trial and evaluation and comparison with Bridgemate and the related Australian product.

- 13/2008**
1. That NZ Bridge confirm its acceptance of the offer from the proprietor of an exclusive agency or licence for distribution in New Zealand of the BridgePad Wireless Bridge Scoring System and authorize Graham Wakefield to negotiate the terms and conditions of the arrangement, subject to final ratification of such Licence or Agreement at the next Board meeting
 2. That approval now be given for an ongoing informal trial usage of BridgePad, to be co-ordinated and constructed in Wellington by Martin Oyston, under the ultimate supervision and control of the Chief Director, Arie Geursen and/ or National Director, David Stephen
 3. That once any necessary or appropriate software amendments to fully interface with NZ Bridge systems are scoped and identified, approval be given to the Congress Organising Committee to negotiate an appropriate contract with Martin Oyston to commission and/or undertake the required modifications, with any costs arising being a charge against the PABF 2010 budget allocation

Moved Graham Wakefield

Seconded Arie Geursen

CARRIED

NOTE The above does not indicate that a decision in favour of BridgePad over Bridgemate and other alternatives has been made

Club Constitution Template

A draft constitution which can be used as a template for adoption by Clubs (subject to any local modifications) and which reflects the affiliation of Clubs as members of NZ Bridge was received and discussed. Graham Wakefield, in conjunction with Arie Geursen and Kay Nicholas, will make the final adjustments so that the document can be circulated and posted on the NZ Bridge website

International

- 14/2008** That NZ Bridge appoint Stan Abrahams as Chef de Mission of the NZ representative teams attending the World Mind Sports Games in Beijing in 2008 and record that the appointment of the NPCs will be made after the Open teams playoff
 Moved Norm Silcock Seconded Murat Genc **CARRIED**
- 15/2008** That NZ Bridge select an under 21 team to attend the World Mind Sports Games in Beijing in 2008 on the same funding basis as the under 28 team, provided that the International Youth Co-Ordinator is satisfied that a credible team is available for selection
 Moved Norm Silcock Seconded Arie Geursen
 Against Noel Woodhall **CARRIED**

Sponsorship

Email received from Michael Gibson regarding a sponsorship opportunity from an undisclosed source to send a further team to the WMSG in Beijing was discussed. The Board was happy to progress discussions around sponsorship opportunities but would not be reviewing its position on the number of Teams that would be ratified for the WMSG. The Chairman to respond, to relay this decision and to invite further contact if the benefactor was interested in supporting other initiatives.

Office

- 16/2008** That the Board confirm that the Secretary's Contract of Employment be extended for a further term of one year from 1 March 2008, with any associated issues arising to be left in the hands of the incoming Board
 Moved Alister Stuck Seconded Sue Edwards **CARRIED**
- 17/2008** That the Chairperson be authorized to finalise arrangements with Fiona Temple to provide casual hourly rate support services, not exceeding 25 hours per month, to assist the Secretary, subject to this arrangement being as an independent contractor rather than an employment relationship
 Moved Alister Stuck Seconded Sue Edwards **CARRIED**

Transition

- 18/2008** That the Board convene a transition meeting in Christchurch on Saturday, 29 March 2008, commencing at 10 am, involving the members of the new elected Board, together with the outgoing Chairperson, Arie Geursen and Graham

Wakefield, to brief the new Board and provide for a fluent handover of accountabilities and responsibilities

Moved Kay Nicholas

Seconded Norm Silcock

CARRIED

Tournament Schedule

Draft Tournament schedule for 2009 presented to the meeting. In February Clubs and Centres indicate whether any changes are required to their major tournaments. It is noted that the Gold Coast Congress will be a week later in 2009 and the South Island Teams will need to be moved to accommodate this.

Discussion regarding the Queens Birthday tournaments; the Provincial Pairs and Main Centre Pairs /Teams and how these move within Centres, particularly how this relates to the Canterbury Centre.

19/2008

That the Board invite the Secretary of the Canterbury Centre (Kay Nicholas), to approach the Marlborough Club to discuss the concept of an Easter Mini Congress similar in concept to the present Hawkes Bay Congress commencing 2009 and that the Queens Birthday Congress remain in Christchurch

Moved Alister Stuck

Seconded Graham Wakefield

CARRIED

Alister Stuck

That a Vote of Thanks be extended to the outgoing Chairperson for his extended period of service in that capacity

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NEXT MEETING

Date for the next meeting yet to be set.