



New Zealand Bridge

NEW ZEALAND BRIDGE REGIONAL COMMITTEE CONFERENCE
Held at the Christchurch Bridge Club Sunday July 26th at 10.am

PRESENT Board: Kay Nicholas (Chair), Norm Silcock, Alan Turner, Patsy Walters, Graham Wakefield, Michael Ware & Murray Wiggins.
Chief Director Arie Geursen, Secretary Alister Stuck.

Regional Representatives: John Mitchell (Otago/Southland), Joan Small, Judith Calder (Canterbury), Margie Michael (Wellington), Wayne Burrows (Central Districts), Jenny Millington (Waikato Bays), Peter Bowyer (Auckland)

Presenters: Jim Murray, Tina McVeigh, Peter O'Boyle

Observers: John Skipper and Susan Edwards – Christchurch Club

1 WELCOME

Kay welcomed all to the meeting and referred every one to the Conference Agenda which had been previously circulated.

2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES- January 31st 2009

It was moved that the minutes of the January Conference were a true and correct record of the meeting.

CARRIED

3 REGIONAL REPORTS

Central Districts

This year the Region's Interprovincials Teams were chosen by a panel of Selectors with no Trials held. The Regional Committee will host a forum prior to the Zelda Morris 10A Pairs in November so that interested parties can provide feedback regarding this selection method.

Auckland

The Region held a "**Bridge for the Future Seminar**" recently which was well received. It was reported that player behaviour was a key determinant to Clubs being able to retain and group its membership. Code of Practice for behaviour to be considered. Richard Solomon to circulate a Report to the other Regions on the Seminar.

Canterbury

This year the IP Trials were conducted as Pairs with IMP Scoring. Some issues with the draw. Stephen Lester has been appointed to run a training session for the Teams.

Otago Southland

The IP Trials held as Pairs this year with positive feedback re the format. Planning is well underway for the Queenstown Congress at Labour weekend. John Mitchell to email a Flyer to Alister for placement on the Website and for distribution to the Clubs.

Waikato Bays

The Trials comprised a Pairs format with no Women's trial required as only 3 pairs entered. There is a strong schools programme at Te Kauwhata College with two of the players included in the Regions IP Youth Team. The Region sponsors two good initiatives for Junior and Intermediate players. Firstly the Intermediate Champions League where Tournament results are aggregated over the year and overall prizes awarded. Secondly the "Jones day out" hosted by Barry Jones. This popular training day was held for a 2nd time on the day of the Regional Conference. Jenny advised that there would be 80 players in attendance.

Wellington

As the IP Trials coincided with the PABF the Region allowed the 3rd pairs to be selected from those attending the PABF. Both the Open and Seniors Teams will include players selected on this basis. The Region hosts a strong Interclub Teams event held over the course of the year with 60+ Teams across 3 grades competing. The Regional Congress was held in mid July and while entries were down the event was well run and profitable despite there being no sponsorship.

Director Training sessions have been conducted by Alan Joseph resulting in a number of new Club directors from Wellington Clubs and the Kapiti Coast.

4 REMITS

1. Top Club Competition

Proposed Canterbury – Joan Small / Seconded Waikato Bays / Jenny Millington (for the purpose of allowing discussion)

"That the Top Club Team Competition format be amended so that each grade (Open, Intermediate and Junior) be treated as separate competition so that individual Clubs do not have to enter Teams in all Grades."

Rationale – To assist those Clubs particularly smaller ones who have difficulty putting together Teams in 3 divisions.

After much discussion and following a presentation (circulated prior to the meeting) by Murray Wiggins on behalf of the Board.

The motion was put & the Remit Lost

Further Actions to be Taken Relevant to the Remit

It was agreed that the Events Committee be asked to review the current membership limits set when enable two clubs to combine for the purposes of forming Teams. It was further agreed that the Events Committee consider an allocation of Masterpoints for the Regional Playoffs and for the Final.

2. Inter-Provincial Teams Competition

Proposed Canterbury – Joan Small / Seconded Central Districts – Wayne Burrows (for the purpose of allowing discussion)

"That the Interprovincials be separated from National Congress and be moved annually around the Regions."

Rationale – The current schedule makes Congress too long and involves two further days annual leave. There is dissatisfaction with Trial Format. Event has lost its prestigious focus

Again there was much discussion with Patsy Walters speaking for the Board re the information document that have been previously circulated.

The Motion was put & the Remit Lost

5 PROPOSAL – ESTABLISHMENT OF A 7TH REGION

Jim Murray joined the meeting and presented a proposal around the establishment of a 7th Region comprising the following 8 Clubs domiciled at the top of the South Island – (Westport, Golden Bay, Motueka, Richmond, Nelson, Picton, Marlborough, Kaikoura).

The proposal is fully supported by the 8 clubs in the catchment. Travel costs and isolation are major drivers behind the proposal.

There was much discussion around the proposal including the likely impact on the cost of IP events, and the effect on the reduced Canterbury Region.

Recommendation from Conference to NZ Bridge Board:-

"That there be a 7th Region in the top of the South Island comprising Golden Bay, Kaikoura, Motueka, Nelson, Picton, Richmond, Westport, Marlborough – in terms of the constitution effective 1 July 2010."

CARRIED

6 PRESENTATION – Tina McVeigh / House of Cards

Tina joined the meeting and gave a presentation and demonstrated the Bridge teaching materials from her recent visit to the UK and the EBU Teaching unit. The Conference contributed to discussion about key areas of Teacher Training, Player Retention and the declining membership across the country. Alan Turner advocated strongly the urgent need to establish an Accreditation Programme for Teachers and saw it as similar to the Accreditation of Directors that was implemented some years ago.

***Recommendation from Conference to NZ Bridge Board:-
"That the board research and sponsor the plan to implement an
accreditation plan for teachers and to consider the establishment of
some standard teaching notes"***

CARRIED

7 Tournament Schedule Review

Kay commenced her presentation by stating that as Masterpoint Revenue represents approximately 50% of NZ Bridge Income it is timely to undertake a Review of Tournament Schedule. The purpose of Review is to:-

1. Collect and collate data relevant to all Tournaments being run under auspices of NZ Bridge Incorporated
2. Analyse this data relevant to the spread of Tournament Scheduling within Regions and adjacent Regions
3. Achieve a collaborative approach to Tournament Scheduling where a Region is geographically diverse and its Clubs draw Tournament entries from another Region
4. Establish protocols relevant to the scheduling of 15A / 10A / 5A Tournaments including but not limited to:-
 - Mandatory avoidance of clashes
 - Requirement for forward annual planning which takes into account variability of Easter / National Trial Dates / Major Australian Events / and a variable NZ National Congress date where applicable
5. Analyse the number and category of Tournaments being held with the view to ensuring the Masterpoint Manual Rules relevant to Tournament Allocations are realistic and accurately reflect current needs / expectations of not only Club and Regional Administrators but most importantly the majority of the Players
6. Determine:-
 - Basic principles relevant to Tournament Scheduling process nationally
 - Degree of regulation desirable i.e. highly regulated vs minimal
7. Develop a Tournament Philosophy & Policy which:-
 - Provides Clubs & Regions with clear guidelines on scheduling of 5A / 10A Tournaments including avoidance of clashes within the Region and adjacent Regions
8. Provide vision and direction for the future one example being:-
 - To consider the merits of Stratified Tournament categories as an incentive for Players keen to progress to enter higher graded Tournaments

Initial analysis of the Tournament Schedule data indicates there is a wide variation in the way the Tournament Allocations are interpreted / applied. The challenge for the Review Team is to ultimately achieve a model relevant to Tournament Scheduling and related matters which is widely understood and supported by Regions, Clubs and their members.

Initial analysis of data related to the awarding of Masterpoints for Club Sessions indicates that some Clubs choose not to award Masterpoints for a number of competitive sessions that form part of their annual Calendar of events. The Masterpoint Manual C3 states that "*Every Club must provide for each member of the Club an opportunity to play in at least 40 competitive sessions of play during the Calendar year*". As it appears that the intent / spirit of this Authorisation Document is not being supported by some Clubs the Masterpoint Manual will be reviewed to address the issue.

At the conclusion of the presentation Alister asked the Regions to ensure that their 2010 Tournament schedules were sent to Susan Edwards by the end of the July so that the full schedule can be prepared and any major clashes dealt with.

8 Finance

Peter O'Boyle (Treasurer) joined the meeting for this segment. Alan Turner presented and spoke to the Draft Accounts for the 2009 year which had been received earlier that day. Alan explained that although the Accounts were still not finalised it appeared there would be a significant surplus for the year which was a direct result of a decision made in 2008 to reduce the International Budget in order to use the savings made to substantially fund the 2010 PABF event that NZ Bridge was hosting.

Alan also advised that because the current method of financial reporting lacked professionalism plans to improve this practice had been made including the implementation of the Accounting Package "Xero" which will be managed from the National Office.

Alan reported that a decision had been made for the BNZ to become NZ Bridge's Banker. Some Accounts would be moved to BNZ over the course of the next fortnight while the Main Account and the Regional Accounts would be moved over progressively. The Congress and Magazine Accounts would be transferred following Congress.

In his presentation Alan covered membership stats and levies and commented that some Clubs continue to make incorrect levy returns.

Alan presented the Draft Budget for the 2010 year and will circulate the final position following adoption by the Board. Alan closed by urging the Regions to utilise their Call Accounts and to take advantage of NZ Bridge's ability to invest through its group arrangements with BNZ.

9 BRIDGE FOUNDATION

The Draft Trust Deed of the proposed NZ Bridge Foundation was presented by Graham Wakefield. It is intended that the fund be established with the Gifford Fund and the Helman prize Fund. It was noted that specific funds (within the Foundation) could be established with a specific purpose in mind e.g. to support bridge teacher training. The Board Secretary will provide secretarial support to the Foundation.

The Regions were asked to review the Draft Deed and provide feed-back to Alister over the next couple of weeks so that the Deed can be finalised and adopted at the August Board Meeting. In addition the Regions were asked to consider and provide the names of any potential Trustees, again prior to the August Board meeting.

10 RECORDER ROLES

Arie Geursen is preparing a Draft Outline of the Role and Responsibilities of Recorders. He will consult with Graham Wakefield and Kris Wooles re the document which is to be presented to the Board at its August meeting.

11 TROPHIES REGISTER

Alister informed the meeting that Evelyn Hurley is assisting the Board with the archiving of its historical records. Included in this role is the establishment of a "Trophies Register". This is to include the Trophies awarded at the National Congress and in the current Island and Regional level Tournaments. The Regions were asked to provide Alister with a list of any Trophies they presented and provide a photograph and some history associated with each one.

12 GENERAL BUSINESS

Peter Bowyer sought feedback on the Ethics video to gauge how widely it was used at Club level. It is apparent that this resource is not popular and it was suggested that it could be made available via a link to Website.

There being no further business Kay thanked everyone for their participation and closed the meeting at 4pm.

Next Regional Conference – Wellington 6th February 2010