



MINUTES OF NEW ZEALAND BRIDGE BOARD MEETING

**Sunday 4th July 2010 at Jet Park Hotel, Auckland
commencing at 10.00am**

PARTICIPATING: Kay Nicholas (Chair), Julie Atkinson, Graham Wakefield, Alan Turner, Michael Ware, Patsy Walters, Jenny Wilkinson.

In Attendance: Richard Solomon, Bridge Development Officer

Apologies: Arie Geursen, Chief Tournament Director; Alister Stuck, Secretary.

1. WELCOME

Kay welcomed all to the meeting.

2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved the Minutes of the May 7th / 8th 2010 Meeting as circulated were a true and correct record of the meeting.

CARRIED 49/2010

3. OUTSTANDING ITEMS

Bridge Teachers' Accreditation

A summary of the exploratory meeting held in Christchurch on Tuesday 22 June, 2010 was tabled. This subject will be further discussed at the next Regional Conference in August. Kay will write to the Regions who will be asked to nominate key lead teachers to attend on that occasion.

The primary focus will be to work with Clubs to provide teachers with resource material, training and support with the opportunity for accreditation and mentoring. The broad aim will be standardised teaching methods rather than using a standardised system. It may be possible to apply to a Charitable Trust for financial assistance towards development of the support package.

Scope and Delegation – Events

There was nothing further to report.

Constitution Changes

Graham confirmed registration of changes is still outstanding.

Policy for Recorder Roles

While the Regional Recorders were now in place, Graham would follow up on provision of a Policy Document in consultation with the National Recorder.

Minimum Board Requirements for A points

The position re the minimum number of Boards played to be eligible for A Point awards needs to be checked with Alister. The Board wished to be clear whether any permission granted is a one-off exception to the current Regulation or is to be construed as a change of policy.

Review of Tournament Schedule 2011 / 2012

This must take place soon.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

The list of inwards and outwards was circulated prior to the meeting.

Kay added a letter from Timaru Bridge Club re sanctioning of Tournaments involving clashes.

With reference to the Zone 7 correspondence, Kay will write to Zone 7 concerning the lack of advice of the impromptu changing of the timing of their AGM in Hamilton.

The Board noted with concern the continuing issues being experienced with respect to the hosting of the NZB website. Graham will discuss the matter further with Alister with a view to writing formally to Telecom to express dissatisfaction with Telecom's performance and seeking compensation. If these unacceptable difficulties continue Alister is authorised to negotiate with an alternative Provider.

With respect to the Christchurch Club's query regarding future format of the Club Championship, all seven Regions will be allocated a place in the finals at the 2011 National Congress notwithstanding that three way matches may be required.

Moved that Inwards & Outwards Correspondence be received and approved.

CARRIED 50/2010

5. BOARD REPORTS

Operations

It was moved that the Operations Update from Alister, as circulated, be received.

CARRIED 51/2010

Bridge Development, PABF and Congress

Moved that the recommendation of the Congress Committee with reference to the award of medals, and prize money as in previous years, at the National Congress be adopted.

CARRIED 52/2010

The Board endorsed a suggestion that the Junior and Intermediate Congress events be promoted among eligible players at such Tournaments prior to Congress, with a view to encouraging more entries, especially from the Waikato, BOP and Auckland Regions where the opportunity for participation is potentially easier.

Now that the PABF has been completed, the opportunity will be taken to refocus the BDO's time commitment to the Bridge Development component of the role.

It was also agreed that Richard would prepared a detailed report regarding the recent PABF event to be retained for future use.

Moved that the respective reports from Richard Solomon, as circulated, be received.

CARRIED 53/2010

Chef de Mission & NPC Reports – PABF.

The reports from the Chef De Mission and all five NPC's had been circulated.

These were discussed with consideration to how New Zealand could be more competitive in the future. It was felt some pairs, particularly youth pairings, would have benefited from more bridge prior to the competition.

Moved that the Chef De Mission and NPC reports with respect to participation in the 2010 PABF in Hamilton, as circulated, be received.

CARRIED 54/2010

International Committee Report – 1 July 2010

The Board received the Report, noting that a self-funded team comprising John Wignall, Bob Scott, John and Jane Skipper had been ratified as the official Team for the Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championships in Delhi, India, October 2010.

After a lengthy discussion with respect to the content of the proposed Bulletins covering the International Programme for the 2011 and 2012 calendar years, and also Self Funded Teams, publication was agreed to be deferred until further revised Drafts had been circulated.

These will be further considered at a teleconference meeting of the Board on July 12 after further review and input from the Committee. In particular, the Board will consider the various criteria and factors relevant to the selection of the proposed squads in each category, the appointment of the Chef de Mission and NPC's and Team selection issues.

The Board approved the concept of there being a facility on the NZ Bridge website whereby players can register to have information sent to them regarding future international events (as per 3.2.5 Scope and Delegation Authority International Committee).

The Board reviewed the revised Scope and Delegation of Authority for the International Committee as submitted.

Moved that the annexed revision of the scope and delegation of the International Committee be adopted subject to the heading of Clause 8 being restated as "International Representative Teams".

CARRIED 55/2010

Minutes International Committee Meeting and Review

The Minutes of the meeting held on Sunday September 20th 2010 were circulated prior to this meeting.

Moved that Kris Wooles be appointed as Chef de Mission for the 2011 international program as recommended by the International Committee.

CARRIED 56/2010

The Board supported in principle that the usual tenure for the Chef de Mission be for three years, as for Board members.

The Trials / International Program notice should contain reference to the fact that any comments from players should be sent to the NZ Bridge Secretary for response by the International Committee.

Moved that the Minutes of the International Committee Meeting and Review be received.

CARRIED 57/2010

Regulations

The minutes of the teleconference meeting of the Regulations Committee on 1st July 2010 were circulated prior to the meeting.

Moved that the Regulations Committee recommendation to trial announcing the range of the 1NT opener at three clubs (Otago, Wellington and Auckland) for six weeks be adopted

CARRIED 58/2010

Noted that any changes to regulations should generally be discussed with the ABF in advance of the next publication of the manual.

Julie will clarify with Arie that the definition of “acquaint” in respect of pre-alerting includes the option of using either a pre-alert card or a verbal statement, and report to the next Board Meeting with a view to including an appropriate statement in the Congress Bulletin, if the interpretation is to be applied at Congress.

6. REGIONAL REPORTS

Moved that the Minutes from Otago/Southland, Central Districts, Top of The South and Auckland Regional Committees, as previously circulated, be received.

CARRIED 59/2010

7. FINANCE

Alan Turner presented his Financial Report including draft Financial Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2010. More work needs to be done on these Accounts before they can be audited and presented. However the GST audit by BDO shows no significant issues. The 6-monthly return to 31 March 2010 is the last for that timeframe & subsequent GST periods are 2-monthly which is more straightforward.

A meeting will be scheduled shortly involving BDO, our auditor, Alan and Alister to seek to finalise the 31 March accounts and identify any issues.

Graham will email Alan and Alister with respect to treatment of the grant made to the Foundation.

The Scope and Delegation of Authority of the Finance and Strategy Committee has been reviewed.

Moved that the revised Scope and Delegation of Authority of the Finance and Strategy Committee, as annexed, be adopted.

CARRIED 60/2010

An extended discussion followed regarding the organizations' current financial position and commitments and the increase in GST to 15% mandated from 1 October 2010.

Moved that Clubs be advised that the Board will commit to holding the current rates of levy and master-points charges for a minimum of one year from 1 July 2010, by absorbing the GST increase scheduled to occur during that period.

CARRIED 61/2010

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

Recognitions

Moved that at the next AGM the Board propose that Arie Geursen be elected as a Life Member, for services to bridge in New Zealand.

CARRIED 62/2010

Moved that the Board present a formal Certificate of Appreciation to those persons involved in facilitating a very successful PABF in Hamilton in May 2010.

CARRIED 63/2010

In context the Board noted Arie's pivotal role in the running of the 2010 PABF and wished to acknowledge the whole Organising Committee: Lesley Chubb, John Evitt, Arie Geursen, Richard Solomon, Alan Taylor and Patsy Walters, as well as others who contributed significantly to the implementation and conduct of the event

Zone 7 Minutes

The Board reviewed the Minutes of the Zone 7 Meeting held in Hamilton on May 24th 2010 and congratulated Alister Stuck on being appointed as Secretary/Treasurer of Zone 7.

WBF

Moved that the advice with respect to the proposed amendments to the WBF Bylaws and Constitution intended to be ratified at the Congress in Philadelphia be received, and that no action be taken to oppose the changes proposed.

CARRIED 64/2010

Ministry of Education

Kay and Graham will follow up to obtain criteria for Leave Without Pay as per Ministry of Education Guidelines.

NZ Bridge Printing

Graham recommended accepting a quote received for supplying paper and envelopes with the new NZ Bridge Logo, for Regional Committees, and those who write on behalf of NZ Bridge or a Committee of NZ Bridge.

Moved that the quote be accepted.

CARRIED 65/2010

The new Logo will also go on the Congress brochure for 2011. Richard is to liaise with Kay over that brochure and the style and presentation in due course.

Regional Conference Planning

Rooms have been booked at the Jet Park Hotel on Sunday August 22nd. Alister is working on the program which will include a session for the Teaching Group and the planning of the 2012 Tournament Calendar.

Minutes NZ Bridge Foundation

The Board acknowledged the receipt of the Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees of the New Zealand Bridge Foundation, dated 23 May 2010.

A suggestion was made that Clubs may choose to set up a raffle stand at Tournaments to fund-raise for The Foundation.

Delegate to WBF Meeting

The Board will ask John Wignall to be its delegate at meetings during the World Bridge Series in Philadelphia in October 2010.

Facilitator with Bridge New Zealand

Julie Atkinson has agreed to liaise between Clubs and Bridge New Zealand should Clubs have any difficulties in dealing with Bridge New Zealand over Administration (though not bridge scoring) issues involving the scoring programme.

The Meeting closed at 7.30pm.