



**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
NEW ZEALAND BRIDGE INCORPORATED
Held at 10 am on Saturday, 16 July 2011
In the Kingsgate Hotel Hamilton**

PRESENT **NZ Bridge Board** - Kay Nicholas (Chair), Alan Turner, Graham Wakefield, Jenny Wilkinson, Lynne Fegan & Patsy Walters.

Secretary of NZ Bridge – Alister Stuck

Bridge Development Officer – Richard Solomon

Chief Director - Arie Geursen

Auditor for NZ Bridge – David Macdonald FCA

Authorised Delegates

Douglas Russell (Akarana), Russell Watt (Auckland), Neil Hawkins (Christchurch), Lynne Geursen (Franklin), Lindsay Reid (Hamilton), Heather Jared (Hutt), Marilyn Jackson (Invercargill), Wendy Coburn (Westport), Dot Rapley, Golden Bay, Evelyn Hurley (Palmerston North, Amanda Smith (Tauranga), Derek Snelling (Wellington), Nina Hewitt (Otago), Tony Thomson (Victoria), Allan Joseph (Kairangi), Peter Bowyer (Howick), Don Nightingale (Wanganui), Chris Marshall (Picton & Marlborough), Murray Wiggins, (Hastings), Sita Monaghan, (Nelson), Chris Bolland, (Karori), Rona Driscoll, (Taupo), Brett Glass, (Huntly), Neil Hawkins, (Christchurch), Diane Esler, (Temuka), & Uneta Denley, (Timaru)

Proxy Votes

Graham Wakefield, (Royle Epsom) Lynne Fegan, (Wanaka), Kay Nicholas, (Geraldine)

Observers – Noel Woodhall, , Michael Johnstone, Karen Martelletti, Peter Collinge, Dinnie Hall, Jan Spaans, Keith Nicholas, Phil Rutherford, Gary Duncan, Les Gould & John Evitt

WELCOME

The Chairperson, Kay Nicholas, welcomed all those present at the 2011 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.

APOLOGIES

Allan Barclay, Kris Wooles, Jo Clark, Lucie Armstrong, Angela Royle, East Coast Bays & Rotorua Bridge Clubs

Moved that the apologies be accepted

CARRIED

MINUTES of the 2010AGM

Moved that the minutes as previously circulated be taken as read

CARRIED

MATTERS ARISING 2010 AGM

Nil

ANNUAL REPORT for year ended 31 March 2011

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.

CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENTS - LOOKING FORWARD FROM 31ST MARCH 2011

At this time I would like to touch on some matters that have occurred since 31st March 2011 which by the time of the next Annual Report will have become less current.

International

48th APBF Championship / Kuala Lumpur / Malaysia / 15th – 24th June

This International Event has just concluded. Thank you to the Teams who represented NZ in this Event.

▪ **Open**

Michael Ware & Geo Tislevoll, Wayne Burrows & Pam Livingstone, Ashley Bach & Michael Cornell – NPC Alan Turner

▪ **Women**

Jan Cormack & Jan Alabaster, Arleen Schwartz & Jo Simpson, Jenna & Christine Gibbons – NPC Kris Wooles

- **Senior**
Peter Bach & Tony Lenart, Judy McLeod & Derek Evennett, Chris Ackerley & Douglas Russell – NPC Tony Thomson
- **Youth**
Sam & Glenn Coutts, Sam Bailey & Jared Fudge, David Skipper & Pieter Vanderpoel – NPC Val Gardiner
- **Recognition of Self Funded Senior Team**
Trevor Robb (Playing Captain) & Andrew Janisz, Gary Duncan & Les Gould

I would like to thank all those people who worked tirelessly to rebook these Teams to ensure they actually made the Venue and to return to New Zealand (in both cases issues re ash cloud) and subsequently have had to work tirelessly to process all of the paperwork relating to the associated insurance claim and in particular Kris Wooles, Alister Stuck & Alan Turner.

World Teams Championship / Veldhoven – Netherlands / 15th – 29th October 2011

- **Open**
Michael Ware & Geo Tislevoll, Ashley Bach & Michael Cornell, Martin Reid & Peter Newell – NPC Alan Turner
- **Women**
Shirley Newton & Jenny Wilkinson, Kathy Yule & Jan Cormack, Linda Cartner & Glenis Palmer – NPC Kris Wooles
- **Senior**
- Peter Bach & Tony Lenart, Douglas Russell & Chris Ackerley, Judy McLeod & Derek Evennett – NPC Tony Thomson

Best Wishes to these Teams as they prepare and then compete in this Event.

Appointment of Lynne Fegan to NZ Bridge Board Vacancy / May 2011

Lynne brings Corporate & Business Sector skills to the Board and I thank her for the enthusiasm and expertise she has contributed to date.

NZ Bridge Foundation

Three new Trustees were appointed in April – John Wignall (MNZM), Karen Martelletti & Tony Thomson. At that same time Kris Wooles' resignation was accepted with regret. I thank Kris for his input to the setting up of the Foundation and recognise that time constraints and other commitments have meant he can no longer continue in the role of a Trustee.

Primary School Bridge Initiatives

- A North Otago initiative commenced last year is continuing with pleasing results – Bridge is taught in the Maths Classes of two Primary Schools.
- A South Canterbury initiative of an after school Bridge Club at Grantlea Downs Primary School was commenced at the beginning of the 2nd Term and will continue in the third term. Year 7 & 8 children are participating.

Conclusion

At this time player recruitment & retention remains the single most major collective issue being faced by NZ Bridge, its Regions and Clubs. Our collective challenge is to help increase membership of NZ Bridge by promoting the benefits of the high level mental stimulation and social engagement for all ages which Bridge provides.

The English Bridge Union recognised these benefits and set up an initiative, detailed in an article on its Website to mark its 75th Anniversary, which is outlined below.

In 2009 the English Bridge Union set up the All Party Parliamentary Group for the development of Bridge under the chairmanship of Baroness Ruth Henig. The Group has concentrated on two major areas of development.

1. Introducing Bridge to Primary School Children

The goal is to enable primary school children to experience the benefits of Bridge. Bridge helps them improve their numeracy skills, problem solving ability, probability assessment, speaking, listening, rule following, team building, mental capacity and much more.

2. Research into how Bridge can protect against Dementia

Recent research has proven that undertaking regular mental activity such as playing bridge can significantly lower the risk of developing forms of dementia in our older population and the social interaction it offers the elderly can stave off cognitive decline."

Developing and implementing short, medium and long term strategies focused on these concepts could provide NZ Bridge Clubs with the impetus to recruit potential members from non traditional sources. The challenge is collective and one which we must all embrace if membership of our Clubs is to grow.

I leave you with two quotes to reflect on:-

Winston Churchill – English Statesman (30 November 1874 – 24 January 1965)

*From
Observer "Sayings of the Week" 27 July 1952*

"It is always wise to look ahead, but difficult to look further than you can see."

*From
100 essential things you didn't know you didn't know / John D Barrow / The Bodley Head / 2008*

"A Politician (substitute Board) needs the ability to foretell what is going to happen tomorrow, next week, next month and next year. And to have the ability afterwards to explain why it didn't happen"

Moved that the Annual Report be adopted

CARRIED

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

Alan Turner led this segment of the Agenda firstly summarising the Audited Financial Statements the results against budget and concluded with a vote of thanks to David Macdonald for the job he had done as Honorary Auditor.

Moved that the Annual Accounts as presented be adopted

CARRIED

NEW ZEALAND BRIDGE FOUNDATION

Tony Thomson led this segment on behalf of Chairperson and fellow Trustee Jo Clark who was unable to attend. Tony summarised the activities of the Foundation over the previous year including the recent appointment of 3 new Trustees (himself, Karen Martelletti & John Wignall). Tony also presented the financial Audited financial statements for the year to March 31 2011 and outlined the activities that the Foundation had in the pipeline to attract further funds and make appropriate disbursements.

Moved that the Report & Annual Accounts as presented be adopted

CARRIED

GENERAL BUSINESS

- **Appointment of Auditor**

Moved that David Macdonald be appointed as Auditor for the 2011/2012 year

CARRIED

- **Management of 15A Tournaments (Auckland Bridge Club)**

Russell Watt spoke to this item voicing concerns at the Boards decision to involve itself in what the Auckland Club considered to be operational matters. Arie responded outlining the reasons why the Chief Director would be responsible for the appointment of Directors for all 15A events and would also be required to approve the Tournament Flyer and the proposed format. A discussion ensued and while not all delegates were in support the Board confirmed its policy position that the prescriptive responsibility for such events rests at national level would remain in place.

- **Central Districts Regional Committee (Hastings Bridge Club)**

Murray Wiggins spoke to this item and voiced concerns about the Boards recent decision to amend the composition of the Central Districts Regional Committee namely the removal from the Committee of Mr Gerard Palmer. Kay sought confirmation from Murray that he had discussed this Agenda Item with Mr Palmer. After advising that he had not done so Kay advised the meeting that any discussion on this item was limited to generic matters only.

Graham Wakefield responded and advised that the Board had lost confidence in Mr Palmer to represent the Board on one of its Committees. Accordingly a decision was made to remove him. Tony Thomson asked for clarification whether this decision could be reviewed or rescinded in the future.

Graham summarised the constitutional position wherein a person can not be appointed to a Board Committee without the majority of the Board supporting the nomination. Therefore while the present Board had made the current decision it was unable to indicate if majority support for a similar nomination would be available on any future occasion.

- **Central Districts Club Teams Play-Offs (Hastings Bridge Club)**

Murray Wiggins spoke to this topic and expressed his Clubs concerns that the Board had sought to interfere in the Region's Interclub Competition to determine its representative in the National Clubs Championship competition at Congress by questioning the eligibility of a member of the Hastings Club team in the Eastern zone play-offs in this event.

Graham Wakefield responded and advised that the Board had been alerted to the fact that Mr Gerard Palmer had contested the event as a member of the Hastings Team while permitted to participate in Club play but subject to a ban from Tournament participation. It was the Board view that this event was not Club play and was in fact a tournament scheduled in the Tournament Calender with an entry Flyer issued and the opportunity for Masterpoints to be awarded. The Board had investigated to clarify the factual context and had referred the information available to Kris Wooles (Chairperson- Conduct, Disputes and Discipline Committee) for further consideration.

It was agreed that the Regulations Committee be asked to update the Tournament Regulations in the Manual to ensure that the Club Championship (including any preliminary heats) is more clearly defined as a Tournament.

- **Corporate Koru Club Membership (Hastings Bridge Club)**

Murray Wiggins spoke to this topic voicing the Clubs concerns that the Board had chosen to spend the member's funds on corporate membership of the Koru Club. Alister responded and outlined the rationale for the membership. It is planned that the Board will meet more frequently and will do so using the Meeting Room facilities at the Wellington Koru Lounge. The Board members will be able to travel in and out on the day of the meeting which will see a reduction in

accommodation, meals and airport transfer costs. Alister outlined the cost of meetings where Board members are required to overnight and that the cost of the Koru membership will be covered by two such meetings being replaced by single day sessions over the coming months.

Sita Monahgan said that the proposal made good sense and she supported the Boards decision.

- **Session Times- National Congress**

Brett Glass asked that the session times at congress be reviewed to include more early finishes and less evening sessions. This suggestion to be forwarded to the Congress organising Sub Committee.

- **Timing of Congress**

Derek Snelling sought clarification to the timing of the National Congress in future years. Richard Solomon advised that the event would return to the Sept/Oct time slot from 2012.

- **Thanks to Secretary**

Allan Joseph thanked Alister for the stirring job he does as National Secretary.

- **Christchurch Bridge Club**

Neil Hawkins thanked those present for the support that the Christchurch Club and its members had received from the Bridge community of New Zealand following the Earthquakes.

There being no further business Kay Nicholas, thanked the Delegates and Observers for their contribution to the meeting.

The Chair closed the meeting at 11.40 am