



TOP OF THE SOUTH REGION

A Committee of New Zealand Bridge

Minutes of TOTS Regional Conference
held on Friday 11 March 2016
at Nelson Bridge Club

Present:

TOTS committee: Steve Gray (chair); Helen Robinson; Phil Donaldson;
Robin Young (Secretary)
NZ Bridge: Phil Rutherford
Marlborough BC Viv Murray
Nelson BC Sita Monaghan
Picton BC Adrienne Healey; Claire Welch
Richmond BC Gary Brunton
Westport BC Jill Ireland; Sue Robertson

Apologies: Shirley Newton; Jenny Pomeroy; Chris Marshall; Bev Gay;
Alison Graham; Ruth Allison; Jo de Bono
Phil Donaldson (Lateness)

Welcome: Steve welcomed the attendees to the conference

Elections: Present regional committee terms end 30 June. Nomination forms
have been sent out to clubs.
Steve Gray and Jenny Pomeroy are not standing for re-election.

NZ Bridge: Phil Rutherford spoke on the Strategic Plan that was presented to the
national conference in June last year.
He spoke on NZB mission statement and values.

Strategies:

- NZB to get to know the bridge community
The bridge community get to know NZB
- Provide service to bridge members.

Tactics:

- Line of communications. Via the new website. Emagazine is discontinued; and items from the regions are being published on the website. Jenny Pomeroy will gather news from TOTS.

- Further changes to come: enter any tournament online and make tournament payments; automatic updating of masterpoints; a national handicapping system; publishing tournament results.
- Encouraging new members: cinema advertising; teachers' conference in Pukekohe mid July .

General Business:

The meeting now broke up into 3 groups to discuss these questions:

- What can the Region do for you?
- What is each club doing to grow its membership?
- Can we collaborate to grow our membership?
- What can TOTS and NZB do better for your club?
- Tournaments and scheduling

After a break for a light snack the groups rejoined to collate their answers.

- IPs: continue with the Inter Provincials and ensure they are well run.
- Coaching: regular coaching sessions throughout the region, aimed at intermediate/improvers.
Encourage the use by smaller clubs of the NZB coaching grants for learners lessons; TOTS subsidise tutor costs for smaller clubs when necessary.
Give encouragement to directors; with training sessions and help with travel expenses for those attending training outside the region, as well as paying exam fees.
Ask NZB to press for NCEA "Certificate in Bridge"
- Publicity: appoint a TOTS PR Officer; whose duties include media publicity.
Use NZB banner with public displays of bridge playing.
Use NZB cinema ads.
TOTS to provide a horizontal banner for public display in front of bridge clubs to advertise events.
Some or all of the above 3 to be used prior to lessons.
Produce a pamphlet for letter drops.
- Bridge is fun: think of ways to emphasize the social and fun side of bridge. Think of events like Picton BC's home teams; played on any Monday of the month, throughout the year. Played in contestants' homes, C points awarded.
Make use of Jane Stern's video on the NZB website.
- Scheduling Tournaments: scheduling considered to be too

concentrated. This is an annual concern, and almost impossible to change; as no club wants to change its traditional dates, or hold tournaments outside the March to November period.

NZB Club Manual: Phil Rutherford gave a summary of the changes in the new update of the manual.

These are largely in presentation; the main changes in content being to do with proprieties and discipline.

A club may now decline any tournament entry without having to give its reasons.

Section A has the additions of Conduct, Discipline, and Disputes Committee: Code of Conduct: and Social Media Policy (the boards is reviewing this) .

Law Interpretation has been moved from section D to section B (now Directing).

Section C (now Tournament Organisation) includes Responsibilities of Tournament Organiser.

Section D is now tournament regulations

The meeting ended at 7.30pm