



Wellington Regional Bridge Committee

Wellington Regional Meeting of Clubs
at Victoria Bridge Club
Sunday October 15 2017 at 1.30pm

Present

Ken Wood (U.Hutt), Nigel Horne & Yvonne Helps (Kapi-Mana), Peter Palmer (Kairangi), Jim Brough & Vivienne Cannell (Karori), Derek Gill (Victoria), Ruth Brucker & Brad Tattersfield (Wellington), Liz Catherall (SWBC), Fran Jenkins & Rosie Bauckham (Masterton), Anne Ricketts (Waikanae), Tony Sutich, Joan Waldvogel, Heather Jared, Paul Maxwell, Margot Davenport (Regional Committee), Greg Whitten (NZ Bridge)

Apologies

Brian Pender (Paraparaumu Bridge Club), John Swinson (Hutt Club)
Tony Sutich welcomed the club representatives and expressed regret that some clubs had not been able to send representatives.

1. Greg Whitten (NZ Bridge)

Greg reported on the AGM and the initiatives NZ Bridge was taking. There was now unanimity on the Board and delegates at the AGM gave positive feedback. The Board's main emphasis is to ensure a strategic plan is in place to “grow the game” and increase membership each year. Over the last five years membership has declined from 15,000 to 13,000. The Board recognizes the importance of having a close relationship with clubs, and that transparency is critical to ensuring this. It has made a strong commitment to improving communication

Regional Bridge Mates – six RBMs have been appointed and a further appointment is pending. The Board has earmarked \$220,000 out of existing monies to fund these and each regional committee has been asked to set aside \$1500.00. To date 30 clubs have requested the assistance of an RBM.

Tournaments and grading structure – this will be reviewed over the next twelve months.

Constitutional review – some quick fixes were made at the AGM. Following on from a full review, a new constitution will be presented at the 2018 AGM.

Sponsorship – Greg is looking for an overall sponsor and aims to produce a document on sponsorship.

New NZBC website – tournament entries can now be made online and results are updated immediately. There have been some minor teething problems with the latter. The aim is to produce more data to be able to see the current state of bridge at any given time.

2. Presentation of Wellington Regional Committee Annual Accounts (Heather Jared)

A detailed report of these was emailed to the clubs prior to the meeting. It showed that total assets have more than doubled over the last five years and now stand at \$48,472.

Jim expressed appreciation for having a full set of the accounts presented.

The meeting was told that NZBridge determines how these funds can be used, for example for advertising, for paying tutor's expenses etc but not as a payment to an individual or for capital expenditure.

Heather will email clubs with the NZBridge policy in relation to the use of the region's funds and invite clubs to submit their ideas on how these funds could be invested to 'grow bridge' in the region. A committee comprising Brad Tattersfield, Heather Jared, Tony Sutich, Derek Gill and Vivienne Cannell will then prepare a proposal to submit to NZ Bridge.

Radio Advertising Campaign (Tony Sutich)

A paper outlining a number of options was sent out to the clubs prior to the meeting. The Regional Committee has agreed to put up \$2030 to fund 195 commercials in the Wellington area which covers seven clubs: Hutt, Kairangi, Karori, U. Hutt, Victoria, Wellington and Kapi Mana for a month from mid-March to mid April. The Wairarapa Clubs do not feel a radio campaign is necessary or would be effective for them. Anne Ricketts, Waikanae Club, is trying to get a co-ordinated response from the Kapiti Coast clubs and will be reporting back to the Regional Committee once she has done this.

Two or three clubs will be starting their lessons in early April as it does not suit them to start at the beginning of Term 2. This is not seen as a disadvantage as it gives potential players in the Wellington metropolitan area options as to starting time and day of the week.

Junior Tournaments and League

Offering financial incentives has not helped boost attendance at these. Suggestions as to how to increase attendance included:

- more encouragement by leaders in the home clubs and the offer to find partners
- clubs encouraging people as a group to attend tournaments and perhaps arranging a shuttle
- avoiding scheduling tournaments on weekends when there is interclub
- a better spread of tournament dates perhaps aiming to have one junior, one intermediate and one multi-grade tournament each month
- a tournament where a junior player could play with an intermediate player.

Clubs were asked to canvas their junior players and feed back their findings to the Regional Committee. Getting this feedback will also be one of the roles of the RBMs.

Greg complimented the Hutt Club on the learners' system card the Hutt Club has available on its website and invited other clubs to look at it.

Regional Club Championships

Tony reported that the feedback from all the clubs that attended this event was very positive so the same format will be adopted in 2018. The Compass system seems to lend itself best to scoring for this event.

Club liaison with the Regional Committee

Because of the difficulties the Regional Committee has often experienced in establishing two-way communication with the clubs, the clubs have been asked to nominate someone in their club to act as a liaison person.

Next regional meeting

It was suggested that this be after the RBMs have had time to settle in and before the advertising campaign begins in mid-March.

The meeting closed at 5.00pm