

# NZB<sup>♣</sup>ridge

**NEW ZEALAND BRIDGE NATIONAL CONFERENCE**  
**Held at the Conference Centre Miramar Golf Club, Wellington**  
**commencing at 10.00am Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

**PRESENT Board:** Allan Morris, John Skipper, Anne Barrowclough, Jane Stearns, Clare Coles & Greg Whitten

Alister Stuck, (National Secretary) Richard Solomon (Bridge Development Officer) & Murray Wiggins (Chief Director)

**Regional Representatives:** Tony Biddington, Darryl Douthwaite (Canterbury), Rona Driscoll (Waikato Bays), Bianca van Rangelrooy, Mark Lynn (Auckland Northland), Paul Maxwell, (Wellington), Maria Godfrey, (Otago Southland), Mairi Fitzsimons & Bryan Green (Central Districts)

**Apologies:** Karen Martelletti

**1 WELCOME**

Allan Morris welcomed everyone to the meeting. All those present then introduced themselves and the conference got underway.

**2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

It was moved that the minutes of the Conference held in Wellington on 15 July 2018 were a true and correct record of the meeting.

**CARRIED**

**3 GENERAL BUSINESS**

*Constitution Review*

John Skipper led this segment and referred to the latest draft of the constitution that had been shared with Clubs and Regions for their feedback. John summarised the key changes and invited delegates to submit further feedback by way of the survey form or a simple email to Alister if preferred. At this point around 20 submissions had been received either supporting the proposed document, suggestion minor changes, or in some cases identifying minor spelling corrections.

Those present were supportive of the proposed constitution and will be encouraging Clubs to do the same by way of a yes vote when the document is presented at the AGM in September.

#### *Future of Regions*

Allan introduced this topic and invited comments from the delegates as to their thoughts regarding the future look and function of the Regional Committees. It was agreed that it was timely to review the Regions. This would include thought given to centralising some functions, possibly involving the RBMs and considering the possibility of less formal groupings of Clubs to work together.

It was agreed that upon his return from the APBF Allan Morris would establish a small working group (to include regional committee members) to review regional committee roles with clubs by June 2020. Include options (including size/number of regions) and financial implications.

#### *RBM Pilot Update*

Jane presented this segment and shared the successful results achieved by the clubs in the pilot. It was pleasing to see that the Clubs being supported by an RBM achieved increases in membership, playing session participation and retention of new players. Jane outlined the national work undertaken by the RBMs that had resulted in 14 strands of the NZB strategic plan relating to growth being implemented.

The pilot has been extended for a further 3 months to the end of the year to enable the plan for the future to be agreed and implemented.

#### *Youth Strategy*

Richard outlined the youth strategy that was rolled out by the Board recently. This includes a number of initiatives to attract and retain youth players. The programme is to be managed by Richard and Jan France the AK Northland RBM and supported by coordinators to be appointed at regional level.

It was also noted that the NZ Bridge Foundation had agreed allocate the proceeds from this year's NZ Wide Pairs event to support this project. Cost of the NZ Wide Pairs will be \$10 this year. Delegates were encouraged to talk to Clubs in their region and convince them to get behind this event. Also to encourage Clubs not to charge extra with the full amount going to the Foundation. Delegates were informed that NZB will absorb its costs and will not be charging for masterpoints.

#### *Future Marketing*

Anne shared some ideas for the future marketing of Bridge in NZ including an opportunity to think beyond the traditional Club setup. There are opportunities for shorter sessions, online bridge and catering for the social players who play at home. The Marketing Committee are to meet shortly to progress these ideas.

### *Presentation- XG Grades*

Rona Driscoll shared information regarding the ranking function that is available to Clubs who participate in X Clubs. With all Clubs playing the same deals each week it enables player rankings to be tabulated and updated. Murray raised some concerns as to the security of the deal files that are in circulation (at some Clubs all files for the full calendar year). He noted to review this and provide an opinion from the WBF Laws committee and share any guidelines or recommendations.

### *Interprovincial 1<sup>st</sup> round draw*

As has become a tradition the draw for the 1<sup>st</sup> round robin for the 2019 Interprovincials was conducted during the lunch break:

1. Top of the South
2. Canterbury
3. Auckland/Northland
4. Otago Southland
5. Wellington
6. Central Districts
7. Waikato Bays

### *Director Training and Assessment*

Murray outlined the changes to the director assessment and exam series that will be rolled out over the next 12 months. This will include online (pre –exam) testing for people seeking to sit the Club level paper. The tournament level paper is being replaced by a two day assessment, the first of which will be held in Dunedin in July. A second weekend will be held in in either Waikato Bays or Auckland Northland Region later in the year. Looking ahead the plan is to hold one in each island annually. The assessment for national level directors will remain unchanged but candidates will be required to have additional supervised directing at major events before sitting the formal examination.

### *Regional Meetings Online*

Alister shared with the delegates the success that the Board and a number of committees were having by holding online rather than face to face meetings. Over the past 3 years there have been significant savings in both time as cost as a result.

It was the Board's wish that the Regions move the majority of their meetings from face to face to online using the Zoom facility. It was agreed that the RBMs would assist those Regions to set up and become familiar with zoom over the next few weeks.

### *Bridge Lessons in Chinese Mandarin*

Jane shared with the delegates the beginner's lesson video that had been dubbed in Mandarin. At this stage lesson 1 has been completed and if well received it is intended to do so for the remaining 9 lessons. The material will be available on the Website in due course.

## **5 REGIONAL REPORTS**

Written reports 6 Regions were circulated prior to the Conference. The delegates took the opportunity to share highlights and successes. A copy of the various reports will be posted on the website along with the conference minutes.

At the conclusion of the formal part of the meeting everyone present was invited to share their thought on the day after which Allan thanked everyone for their attendance and participation in a very successful day.

**THE CONFERENCE CLOSED AT 3.46pm**