

Regional Committee Minutes

Regional Committee Meeting held on Sunday 15th September 2019 at 4 pm via zoom.

Present:

In attendance: Jenny Cooper [Secretary] -Chair for the meeting, Pam Whitehead Treasurer, Helen Robinson. In attendance: RBM: Ray Curnow

Apologies: Chris Marshall, and Bev Gay

Welcome: Jenny Cooper welcomed all to the meeting

1. Minutes of previous meeting:

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 27th July 2019 were confirmed.

Moved Jenny Cooper /
Seconded Helen Robinson

2. Matters arising from the previous minutes:

J Cooper to send confirmation of Director, and TOPS match committee representative to Nelson Club for 15A National Teams event. Plus, Scorer and Director fees and allocation of costs for budget. Date: 9 & 10th November 2019.

3. Correspondence In:

As distributed via email.

Date:2019	Who	Subject
29 July	Rona Driscoll	Notice re: Change to the minimum # of Boards to be played in Tournaments.
29 July	Alister Stuck/Jan France	"Document: Prepared by Jan France: Engaging communities in Bridge
30 July	Robyn Young	Announcing Final Representatives from TOPS for Dan Gifford Rubber Bridge: Phil Rutherford and Ray Curnow
1 August	Chris Marshall	Nomination of Ed Roggeveen as Chef De Mission for 2019 I.P's
3 August	Rona Driscoll	Tournament Jan 2020 -July2020 CONFIRMED
6 August	NZ Bridge	Note of AGM Saturday28th September. Nominate Club Delegates
9 August	NZ Bridge	National NZ Team application forms
11 August	Helen Robinson	Reviewing youth Bridge policy. Youth players underage of 26 are exempt from NZ Bridge levies
20 August	NZ Bridge	NZ Bridge Board minutes
26 August	NZ Bridge	Chairman Newsletter
29 August	Pub Charity email Application: PCL46875	Successful Application to pub Charity. \$3795.45
29 August	NZ Bridge	Updated policies: Health and safety Child Protection

30 August	NZ Bridge	Tournaments: Chance to review Masterpoint level
31 August	Robin Young: Marlborough Club	TOPS 10A Team event. 25/1/2020: Maurice Carter on match committee. Proposed Team entry: \$280/Team
2 September	NZ Bridge	Request for Year end a/c's sent to NZ Bridge. Already sent by TOPS Treasurer Pam Whitehead.
3 September	Rona Driscoll to Top of South R.C	Finalise Status "Distributed Tournament" In discussion with committee and clubs.
4 September	NZ Bridge	Reminder to nominate delegates for AGM
4 September	Helen Robinson	Youth Bridge update
7 September	Pam Whitehead	I.P Uniform: Checking of wording on Vests 2019. Indevein Sponsor. Plus whether Players get to keep Vests? * Note 1.
8 September	Pam Whitehead	Approval of payment for: 1.\$720 NZ Bridge I.P Entry fee 2. Approval to Pay deposit for Fino apartments for I. P's.
11 September	A number of email exchanges.	I.Ps Accommodation: Division of payments
13 September	NZ Bridge	Masterpoint invoices sent to clubs
14 September	NZ Bridge	NZ Wide Pairs registration. Date:1 Nov 2019
Assorted fliers	Club Tournaments	

Note:1 [Discussed vis email]: Top of the South IP Uniform Vest: A suggestion from the Regional committee is that an invitation "to buy" the vest, at a reduced fee, of \$30 is to be offered to the TOPS I.P representative team players. As some players may wish to keep a Vest as a memento.

4. Correspondence Out:

Date	Who	Discussion
30 July 2019	J Cooper to Robin Young	Thankyou for organizing the TOPS Dan Gifford playoff to find us representatives.
31 July 2019	J Cooper	Newsletter to clubs
1 August	J Cooper to Rona Driscoll	OK for Top of the South Region, with the clash with Timaru Congress.
4 August	J Cooper to ed Roggeveen	Thankyou for accepting Role as Chef De mission
27 th August	J Cooper to Nelson Club:	Thankyou card to Nelson for hosting Intermediate- Junior Teams event.

5. Financial report:

Financial position as at:	13/9/2019
Cheque Account:	\$6,283.66
Savings Account:	\$5,817.97
Term Deposit:	\$
TOTAL:	\$12,101.63

Payments to be approved for payment:		
Date	For	Amount
	Fino Apartments [Chch]: IP Accommodation	\$4365
	IP Entry Fee	\$720
	TOTAL	\$5085

Plus, Uniform and vest expenditure: Final invoice to be received.

*Note Top of the South Regional committee "Thanks": Indevin, for their Sponsorship support: Value: \$ 720
For Contribution towards the Top of the South: Uniform: Vests and embroidery.

All IP travel has been paid to those competing, NZB have reimbursed us those expenses.

The difference of the GST amount not given for IP accommodation from Pub Charity is being paid by those competing, so far 9 of the 16 have paid the small amount requested.

Vests have been ordered and paid for.

Comments on the Financial report:

Motion: That the financial report is accepted and that the payments totaling \$5085 be approved for payment.

Moved:
Pam
whitehead /
Seconded:
Jenny Cooper

Agenda items and General Business

6 Reimbursements of Training to TOPS Clubs:

Kaikoura \$340: Paid

Golden Bay \$676.50 [awaiting report and expense claims]

Greymouth \$288 [awaiting report and expense claims]

Hokitika \$620

Top of the South Regional committee believes in supporting the smaller clubs deliver their training lessons.

In reviewing the Funding allocation, it was proposed to get all the applications in and allocate the funds supportively, by the end of the financial year.

We are allocated \$1000 BY NZ Bridge per annum for Training. We agreed to support a new club forming in our region, with support from NZ Bridge. We acknowledge we spent more than the training budget, but we charged with investing in the future development of the game regionally.

Jenny Cooper to amend the application form and ask clubs to scan and email applications.

7 Teacher National meeting: 17th August 2019

Helen's Report from Bridge Teachers' Conference
At Wellington Bridge Club 16/17 August 2019
To Nelson club

- Attending - about 40 teachers and NZB reps
- Facilitated by Richard Solomon.

The theme for the conference was KISS -
Keep them; Inspire them; Socialize them; and Support them.

Teaching Adults - Margaret Curnow and Kate Terry

A very useful reminder that we are all different in how we learn, our previous experience, and our motivation. Various strategies were outlined - give the overview; expect homework (quiz) to be done; review previous weeks; mix the group; be careful with language used

Strategy for Youth - Jan France

Jan has a background in working with young people and has been significant in the development of the Strategy for Youth policy 2018-2022 (copies of which have been sent to Clubs and are on the website). This includes policy on protection and health and safety.
The Duke of Edinburgh Award now has Bronze, Silver, and Gold awards for Bridge.
Areas to develop are in schools, recruiting teachers and volunteers, award schemes, resources, certificates. Perhaps Inter-Schools Challenges...to be played online, and/or similar set up to NZ Pairs...

Mini-Bridge - Alan Grant, Teacher, Wellington Club

Among the resources on the website, is "The Mini Bridge Pack" - a stand-alone resource, designed to introduce the game to any age - take it home and teach the children, or grandchildren, or
Alan took us through a lesson on Mini-bridge, and suggested just playing Mini-bridge for the first two or more weeks, gradually introducing new terms, rules, etc.

New Player's perspective -

A new member of the Wellington Club had volunteered to tell us what it was like for him as Learner and new member. One point I picked up from him, is feeling "overwhelmed" in the first few lessons - so going slowly, perhaps 2-3 weeks of mini-bridge, shutting down those who already know something and want to show that....

Another point was the benefit of constant review of previous lessons, of the bidding, more than the playing.

Resources - for Beginners, Improvers, Intermediates - Shirley Newton

Shirley went through all the resources presently available on the website for Beginners. These are continually being updated and added to.

Teaching Bridge to new immigrants with limited English - Jane Stearns

Jane has been working with ESL groups, and has developed a very simple book (dictionary) of Bridge terms, with pictures and colors.

Fun Times at a club - Karen Martelletti

Tauranga club has been having fun events for many years - Teams events with each team dressing up; Other events with dressing up.... Of interest, each event has the committee choosing a theme and dressing up appropriately, i.e. they set the expectation.

Helene Labreche from North Shore area spoke of her past 5 years **teaching bridge**. Going from no budget from the committee to spending \$1000 on advertising. Her message was we need to see it as a business, advertise, Neighbourly etc., sell,

KISS - we broke into groups of 6 or so, to discuss strategies for **Keeping them; Inspiring them; Socializing them; and Supporting them**.

Unfortunately, I had to leave during this part to catch a plane. I understand we will get some reports back from Richard Solomon, and anyway, Lindsey was there for this session. One point that came out clearly was the importance of having the Committee onside for any new KISS strategies.

I regret I also missed the sessions on Acronyms and Sayings; and Q & A of the Teacher's group. This would have been the ideal time to ask how other Clubs look after their young members.

Jeremy Morley was a guest speaker at the end.

I was glad to attend this conference, and to catch up with new ideas, and new resources, and I hope to incorporate some of these while encouraging others to do likewise.

E.g.: I've noticed that the Monday and Tuesday table numbers seem to be lower than usual – is that just seasonal? Do we need some KISS strategies here?

The Mad Hatters Party is a novel fun event for Nelson, and I hope it will be well supported. I've sent an email to the "new Monday players" bringing this to their attention, emphasising the fun and social aspect, so hope some will turn up.

If we know of any ESL tutors, they may be interested in adding Bridge to their curriculum.

How about a one-off session for parents and/or grandparents teaching Mini-Bridge to play at home?

Helen Tabled Lindsey Guy's perspective on the Final session of the teachers' conference:

Alan Grant was very enthused about his time teaching mini bridge at Wellington college and has since sent us his dealing files. I think this is a good way to get it into schools and a booklet was included to be photocopied to handout to interested parents or more likely in our case grandparents. I also think a good idea is to run a 2-hour session at the club on mini bridge for those wishing to know more. I for one had never played it before.

For resources, players are often telling me they need this and that and if perhaps we (probably me!) did a bit of what is actually available it might be helpful. There is far more than I realised. Teaching bridge to new immigrants interested me as I am a trained ESOL teacher and we have the teaching company here that Jane Stearns works for. When I get my A into G and make time, I will approach them for a chat to see the possibilities. Jane has done a very good book for learners that she doesn't wish to share but will sell to me. If I have sorted something out I could buy some off her at Congress. She also has leaflets in different languages.

Fun times....

When TOTS were wanting to introduce a new event, which was not a starter, well in Nelson and Richmond anyway, they did not mention split 6s. This seems to be a new fun event that is taking off and I like the idea of it. We could try it with just Nelson, Richmond and maybe Motueka say one Sunday and see how many takers we have. It's a team of 6. 2, open, 2 intermediate and 2 juniors. I think they play Swiss pairs in their section.

Note: The split sixes referred two: Where a team is composed of: two open players, two intermediates and two junior ranked players.

In preparation for the meeting tomorrow, I offer my report as interim TOPS Youth Rep.

I met Jan France, NZB Youth Development Worker, at the recent Teachers Conference, where she gave a presentation on the NZB Youth Strategy, and encouraged all Clubs and regions to be more proactive in encouraging young people to learn and play Bridge.

Regionally, as I see it, our immediate action plan could be:

First step - to appoint a Youth Rep.

Second step - to confirm the TOPS strategy to support young players is as set out in my email below.

Third step - to remind clubs of the NZB Youth Strategy, and encourage each Club to appoint a Youth Rep, and offering support, suggestions, resources.

Fourth step - to gather information from all Clubs on their young members, and any activities they are undertaking or want to undertake to encourage young players.

Meanwhile, the Learn How to Play Bridge project at Waimea College is fizzling out, from lack of students interested and/or able to attend. Their lunchtime is effectively 30 minutes at most.

Paul Nistor, the keen teacher behind this, and I discussed alternatives.

The majority of students who turned up initially were Year 9 and 10.

This age group have Enrichment subject choices - 3 hours a week for a term.

This sounds an ideal set up for teaching Bridge. But.... the range of choices is already time tabled for 2020, teachers have been recruited, Police-checked if need be, and students have made their choices. Paul retires after next year.

Meanwhile, he will check out whether Waimea Intermediate may be interested.

Talk with you tomorrow

Helen

We thanked Helen for her ongoing work in this area. What further support does she require from the regional committee?

Our regional Bridge mate has been actively supporting this initiative as well.

9 Distributed Tournaments for Top of the South region in 2020?

We were approached by Rona Driscoll to confirm "Distributed Tournaments" that we had planned for 2020. Ray Curnow as RBM was present at the meeting. As President of Westport club, he was able to report that Westport would be happy to host a Tournament in 5TH September 2020 as an 8B.

We need to raise with Marlborough Club to discuss this with them. As the format of a distributed Tournament had not been finally approved by NZ Bridge.

Then reply to Rona with an application to confirm the Tournament status. ASAP.

Jenny Cooper/ Chris Marshall and Bev Gay and Ray Curnow to finalise status and Tournament program.

10 Match committee: Tournament: Top of the South 10A Teams Event. 25th January 2019 Club: Marlborough Bridge club. Nominations:

Ed Roggeveen: Director
Chris Marshall: Match committee TOPS representative
Moved: Jenny Cooper
Seconded: Pam Whitehead
All in favour: Carried.

11 Other General business:

1. Training opportunity: Richard Solomon is coming to Golden Bay Tournament Saturday October 2019. Has offered to conduct a lesson session on the Friday 18th October evening. Jenny Cooper to confirm location, fees, costs, and Time. Firstly, checking with Golden bay club for access to club rooms.
2. Review of Intermediate Junior Teams Tournament: Thankyou to Nelson club for hosting the event. We have a new winner in Golden Bay, with assistance from Sue Glue and Michelle Gunn from Greymouth.

We would like to acknowledge Helen Robinson's efforts on the match committee. Some players thought they needed more sustaining food. But most comments were positive on a well-run event.

Meeting closed at 5.10pm. Next meeting: To be confirmed

Minutes confirmed by

Name (printed):

JENNY COOPER

Signed:

J Cooper

Role:

Chairperson for Sept 1 2019.

Date:

24/9/2019 ONLY.