



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF NZ BRIDGE INC

**Commencing at 4.00pm on Wednesday 14th October 2020 via Zoom
Online platform**

Welcome

Allan welcomed everyone and declared the meeting open, handing over to Alister to conduct the roll call and list the apologies.

Participating

NZ Bridge Board

Allan Morris (Chair), John Skipper, Karen Martelletti, Sue Brown & Anne Barrowclough.

Officers of NZ Bridge

Alister Stuck, National Secretary, Richard Solomon, Manager Major Events & Bridge Education & Murray Wiggins, Chief Director.

Authorised Delegates

Jill Herman (Hutt), Judith Lawton (Invercargill), Ann Baker (Marlborough), Allan Joseph (Kairangi), Bridget Hanaway -Willcox (Wellington), Nick Cantlon (Te Awamutu), Michael Johnstone (Timaru), Julie Bunnell (Palmerston North), Anne Barrowclough (Auckland), Karen Martelletti (Tauranga), Michael Neels (Cambridge), Rona Driscoll (Taupo), Judith Howard (Matamata), Gaylene Cumpstone (Waitomo), Anna Kalma (Te Aroha), Margie Robbie (Rotorua), David Luxton (Omokoroa), Rex Gatenby (Morrinsville), Ross Provan (Putaruru), Richard Solomon (Akarana), Lynne Fegan (Wanaka), Christine Gibbons (Te Puke) & Anne-Marie Russell (Victoria)

Authorised Proxies

Alister Stuck (Royle Epsom), Rona Driscoll (Thames).

Observers

Robin Young (Marlborough), Eunice Eccles (RBM Waikato Bays), Jenna Gibbons (Waikato), Kay Nicholas (Timaru) & Bob Fearn.

Apologies

Angela Royle, Fergus More, David Macdonald, Jan Spaans, Otago Bridge Club, Tauranga Bridge Club, Kate Terry, & Murray Wiggins for late arrival.

Moved: that the apologies be accepted.
(Anne Barrowclough/Ann Baker)

CARRIED

Minutes of the 2019 AGM

Moved: that subject to a minor spelling correction the Minutes of the 2019 AGM as previously circulated be adopted.
(Sue Brown/Rona Driscoll)

CARRIED

Matters Arising:

Annual Report for year ended 31 March 2020

Allan summarised the annual report (previously circulated) highlighting the following:

Very unexpected end to the year. The behaviour and support of players around COVID 19 is to be applauded. When I wrote this report the world was sitting at 20 million cases. Today it is close to double that figure. It just shows the impact this ugly virus has had on the world and on recreational services.

It was pleasing to note Clubs demonstrated financial robustness and caring for members. Regrettably due to the lockdowns, we lost membership intake, which will impact us in 2021. As it stands today, we are down by approx 900 home club members.

The Board and management have worked hard to maintain a quality service. Hopefully, you have felt that we have kept you well informed and consulted appropriately. We have provided a scorecard for the year. Because we have limited tools the scorecard tends to be subjective and only qualitative. In most cases we have made progress.

As much as COVID 19 impacted Clubs it had an impact on NZB. More of the impact will be felt in 2021 with a sizeable reduction in revenue. The focus on COVID 19 meant somethings slipped, notably:

1. The Regional Bridge Mate initiative. We only now have 3 regions covered.
2. Tournament and Ranking/Grading review is not as far advanced as we would like.
3. Regional Committee review
4. Promoting a supportive learning environment
5. Growing participation at all levels
6. Raising the profile of bridge
7. International players sharing their experience
8. Strategy on how we give back to clubs.

The Board is now focused on the future and is considering “a Bold Inclusive Strategy” for the next 5 years. For bridge to thrive and develop we believe we need

to lead, ensuring we provide measurable value to clubs and players and to work on strategies to bring new players to the game. We are convinced we need to find ways where we can work in partnership with clubs. We believe there are many exciting opportunities ahead. Over the coming months we are keen to explore our thinking with you.

There is a huge number of people to thank. Inevitably in singling out people for recognition I will inadvertently leave someone out. If I do so, please forgive me. I would like to acknowledge and thank the following:

1. All Regional Committees
2. David Macdonald our honorary auditor for many years who is stepping down.
3. Fergus More our honorary solicitor.
4. Len Anderson and members of the Conduct Complaints and Discipline Committee, whom we have had to use more than I care.
5. Derek Evennett and Trustees of the NZ Bridge Foundation.
6. Rona Driscoll for the tournament schedule.
7. Barry Jones and Merana Cullen for the Bridge Zone. I must add Judge Julie
8. The International Committee, non-playing captains and selectors
9. Murray and all directors around the country.
10. Members of the Education Committee.
11. Clare Coles whose term on the board ended 31/3
12. Regional Bridge Mates.
13. All those that ran online bridge, in particular Patrick Carter and his team.
14. Lastly but not least Alister and Richard.

Whilst celebrating, we want to commend all the winners of our national events and IP's.

Moved: That the Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2020 be adopted.
(Allan Morris/Christine Gibbons)

CARRIED

Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 Mar 2020

Moved: that the audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2020 be tabled.

(Anne Barrowclough/Anna Kalma)

CARRIED

Sue presented the audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2020 and worked through a number key points.

Moved: that the audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2020 as presented be adopted.

(Sue Brown/Allan Morris)

CARRIED

Appointment of Auditor

Allan advised that our Honorary audit of many years David Macdonald was standing down. Allan recorded a vote of thanks to David for the work that he has done for us.

Moved: that the board have delegated authority to appoint an auditor for the 20/21 year.

(Allan Morris/Anne Barrowclough)

CARRIED

General Business

Allan reported that the 3A supplementary trial would continue for the remainder of 2020 with a view to implementing at any outcomes in time for 2021.

John Skipper provided a short updated regarding the Player handicapping project.

The question of using non-compliant cards was raised. The Board issued a bulletin last year advising that non-compliant cards are not to be used in tournaments. Murray to resend a further advise so that these cards are no longer used.

The question of a national blueprint to raise participation as mentioned in the chairs report was discussed further. Allan Morris advised that details of the this and the 5-year plan will be shared with clubs for their feedback once the Board had completed the draft document.

A question was raised regarding the ability to host Club session entries online. This to be followed up in due course.

A question regarding the Board election cycle was raised. Allan Morris outlined the process.

A question was raised regarding the decision to reduce the “restricted events” Masterpoint offering at congress. Richard outlined the Congress Committee’s rationale. The matter to be referred to the Congress Committee for review.

Closure

There being no further business Allan thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for their participation and closed the meeting at 4.40pm.