

NEW ZEALAND BRIDGE CONDUCT DISCIPLINE AND DISPUTES COMMITTEE

NOTICE OF DECISION

The Disciplinary Committee met on the 23 April 2021 in furtherance of its enquiry and investigation into an allegation that Mark Noble played in casual mode on BBO in partnership with himself.

It considered Mark Noble's responses including the response of 23 April where he expressed an intention to "remain free to play online practicing my own system as I see fit".

The Committee is concerned that Mark Noble:

1. Has not responded adequately to the questions asked by the Bridge Disciplinary Committee; and
2. Clearly does not appreciate that playing both hands instead of in a partnership adversely affects the performance enjoyment and results to those hands because of the special knowledge he has to the contents of the hand that opponents believe is held by his partner, and that by these actions he brings the game of Bridge into disrepute; and
3. Has previously been the subject of a related decision of this Committee notified on 27 October 2020 involving similar conduct in online tournaments.

The Committee has made the following decisions:

1. It remains seized of the complaint despite Mark Noble advising his resignation from the Feilding Bridge Club and from further involvement with New Zealand Bridge.
2. Mark Noble is suspended from playing bridge either in person or online, for a period of 12 months from 23 April 2021.
3. The New Zealand Bridge Secretary is directed to record Mr Noble as "Archive" on the Masterpoint Register.
4. A copy of this decision is to be published on the New Zealand Bridge website, and advised to the Australian Bridge Federation for information.
5. New Zealand Bridge is requested to forward a copy of this decision to BBO and advise them of the usernames GMNoble and FilthyA that are associated with the suspension.



Len Andersen *GA*
Chairman
Conduct Discipline and Disputes Committee