

# NZB<sup>♣</sup>ridge

**NEW ZEALAND BRIDGE NATIONAL CONFERENCE**  
**Held at the Conference Centre Miramar Golf Club, Wellington**  
**commencing at 10.00am Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

**PRESENT**    **Board:** Allan Morris, John Skipper, Anne Barrowclough, Sue Brown, Anna Kalma & Sam Coutts

Alister Stuck, (National Secretary) Richard Solomon, (Manager Events & Education) & Murray Wiggins, (Chief Director) & Caroline Wiggins, (Observer)

**Regional Representatives:** Naomi Hanna-Brown (Canterbury), Rona Driscoll & Alan Dick (Waikato Bays), Grant Jarvis & Michael Ware (Auckland Northland), Graeme Cheater & John Wilkinson, (Wellington), Judith Lawton & Brad Johnston, (Otago Southland), Mairi Fitzsimons & Bryan Green (Central Districts), Chris Marshall, (Top of the South)

**Apologies:** Nil

## **1    WELCOME**

Allan Morris welcomed everyone to the meeting and outlined the programme for the day.

Allan acknowledged with work and contribution of our much-loved & respected colleague Karen Martelletti who sadly passed away a few days prior to the Conference. As a mark of respect, a moment's silence followed. After introductions, the Conference got underway.

## **2    CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

It was moved that the minutes of the Conference held in Wellington on 8th June 2019 were a true and correct record of the meeting.  
(Bryan/ Rona)

**CARRIED**

## **3    REGIONAL REPORTS**

Delegates were invited to provide a summary of key activities and any issues they are facing.

### *Auckland Northland*

- Strong Inter Club Teams event
- Good participation in Tournaments across the Region
- Issue with the availability and aging of current directors
- Operating as a group of one is challenging

### *Canterbury*

- Small committee 3 is working well
- Healthy tournament participation esp Intermediate level events
- Intermediate league split into two competitions
- Several new younger directors available

### *Central Districts*

- A committee of 5 working well
- held several director training sessions across the region
- IP Teams by selection again in 2021
- low number of Club level directors is a concern
- Player retention is an issue for most Clubs in the Region

### *Waikato Bays*

- Shortage of Tournament level directors is a concern
- Allan Joseph's director seminars well supported and appreciated
- Offering grants for promotional assistance for learner's lessons
- Teams' trials (O, W,S) held in 2021 which attracted low number of trialists

### *Otago Southland*

- A new Committee this year working well together
- Vacancies to be filled if possible.
- IP Trials in teams format this year, not popular with players
- Allan Joseph's director seminar well supported and appreciated
- Supported a marketing initiative spearheaded by Sonia Adams of Wanaka
- Urgent need to develop more tournament level directors

### *Top of the South*

- Online events hosted during last year's lockdown
- low stock of directors is a concern
- Tournament participation strong
- Intermediate trials strong with 8 tables participating

### *Wellington*

- 6 committee members working well
- Inter Club event remains strong with 60 teams
- Open IP Team was selected, other divisions by way of a trial
- Tournament participation strong with some events over subscribed
- Rubber Bridge numbers strong again in 2021

## **CONFERENCE TOPICS FROM NZ BRIDGE**

### **Future of the Game**

Allan ran through a PowerPoint presentation as a lead into a discussion as to the future of the game. A copy of the presentation is attached to these minutes. The delegates broke into 3 groups to discuss and reported back as follows:

- Player retention was listed as most confronting challenge for NZ Bridge and for all Clubs.
- The environment and culture need to be addressed in some Clubs.
- Timing of sessions to better reflect the needs of Club members.
- Dissemination of information needs to be improved.
- Ambassadors for different cultural groups.
- A model for use in schools.
- Opportunities to target Intermediate Schools.
- National Database with ability to direct mail players.
- Social events and weekend pizza sessions for new players and the youth market

It was agreed that the Board via its Marketing Committee would review the feedback and formulate a plan to assist Clubs to grow and retain their membership base.

### **Disciplinary Matters**

John Skipper led this segment with a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. NZ Bridge has formally endorsed the WBF disciplinary code and has a zero tolerance for cheating at bridge at any level.

### **Director Development Initiative**

Murray Wiggins presented this segment sharing with the delegates details of several initiatives underway to improve and grow our stock of competent and available directors at all levels.

- The directors online quiz trialled as part of the May exam series will be made available online to anyone interested in completing it.
- Online exam for Club level directors will be available online at any time from early 2022.
- Candidates will be required to keep a directing log to be signed off by the Club president as part of the qualification process.
- Two assessment & accreditation weekends will be held annually. Murray will publish details of dates, locations, and entry criteria shortly.

#### *Matters Arising:*

It was the view of the delegates that candidates should be allowed reference material for the scoring and movements paper and that the candidates in the recent online exam be given the opportunity to provide feedback re the process and their experience.

Murray to follow up and report to the next Board meeting.

### **Clubs Survey**

John Skipper shared with the delegates details of the Clubs survey form. This arose at the Board planning workshop held in April. Board members will be visiting several Clubs to work through the survey questions and will compile and share the findings in due course.

### **Youth Interprovincials 2021**

Alister sought feedback from the delegates to an earlier email regarding interest in resurrecting a youth player section at the Interprovincials. With the age limit increased to under 30 it was noted that at least 4 teams would be able to be formed for this event. Sam Coutts will work with the Regions to finalise details.

### **Regional Committee Minutes**

Alister reminded delegates to please share copies of their meeting minutes with the Board. These are tabled at board meetings and made available to players via our website.

### **Player Grading & Handicapping Project**

John Skipper presented this segment working through a PowerPoint presentation. A copy of this is attached to these minutes. Clubs and Regions will be invited to provide feedback as the project is developed and rolled out.

### **RealBridge Online Platform**

Murray shared with the delegates information about the RealBridge online platform that was used during the recent Zone 7 Playoffs with Australia. IT is likely that other international bridge events will be conducted using RealBridge in the future while global travel restrictions remain.

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

As has become a tradition the draw for the 1<sup>st</sup> round robin for the 2021 Interprovincials was conducted during the lunch break:

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

### **Online Entry Function- National Congress**

Richard Solomon gave a brief rundown on the undated entry function in place for Congress this year.

### **NZ Bridge Manual**

Murray Wiggins shared with the delegates two minor changes to regulations namely.

- For all events 10A and above a dedicated scorer, reporting to the director in charge is to be appointed.
- NZ Bridge from time to time may approve events additional to those in the Tournament Schedule at its own discretion. Such events may be one-off in nature and outside current policy.

### **Marketing Initiative – Wanaka**

Richard Solomon and Judith Lawton shared details of a very successful promotion at the Wanaka A & P Show. Sonia Adams led this and is to be congratulated for her efforts.

## **CONFERENCE TOPICS FROM REGIONS**

### **Waikato Bays**

The Region sought an update regarding the RBM project noting that there were only 3 Regions supported by an RBM. Allan Morris provided an update and assured the delegates that the work of the RBM's would be included in planning for the "future of the game".

With the withdrawal by the Banks of cheque facilities the Region sought some advice regarding options to obtain cash for prize payments. It was agreed that payment of prize money by way of a direct credit to a bank account was the way forward. Bryan Green shared a template adopted by the Levin Club for this purpose whereby the prize winners are given a form to complete on the day to provide their bank details.

Alister to share this template with the Regions who can use for their events and make available to their Clubs.

### **Auckland Northland**

Grant Jarvis presented a summary of inconsistencies in the regulations in relation to the cell phone use. After a discussion Murray outlined a draft of proposed changes to the regulations that the Board will consider. Details to be circulated when finalized.

The Region also discussed the nonstandard events held recently where Pairs events were split into two distinct fields both for prize and Masterpoint awards purposes.

Murray reported that he is reviewing this practice and is seeking input from his Australian counterparts. Until this is thoroughly reviewed, and the Board has the opportunity to consider any changes such events are not to be held.

Grant shared feedback from players in his Region regarding the fixed date for IP Trials. The annual clash with Mothers' Day was not ideal and an option to avoid this clash was sought.

It was agreed that Rona Driscoll would look at options to mitigate this clash from 2023 by switching some events.

Finally, the Region raised the issue of NZ Bridge implementing a trans gender policy. It was agreed that this was appropriate to have, and the Board would look to have a policy drafted in time for its next meeting.

Alister will contact the ABF who have had a policy in place for some time.

### **Otago Southland**

The region raised the appropriateness of gender-based events at the Interprovincials. Allan Morris advised that NZBridge would continue to align its events to that of the WBF where separate events for Women are held. With the growth in popularity of Mixed Teams it is possible that this could be added to the Interprovincial offering in the future.

The region also asked if emails of national events be sent directly to all members rather than through club secretaries. They tend to get lost in transit or not forwarded in a timely fashion. Alister to investigate to see what could be implemented.

### **Top of the South**

Chris Marshall shared with the delegates funding grants for national & regional events. Details of the application process can be found via the following website. [Regional Events Fund | Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment \(mbie.govt.nz\)](https://www.mbie.govt.nz/regional-events-fund)

The Region raised the current process for selection the Region that has 2 spots at the Rubber Bridge finals. It is their view that it would be fairer to all Regions if this were calculated based on a proportion of home club members participating rather than on the highest number of entrants. This was support by the delegates and Richard Solomon noted to review this and share any changes for 2022.

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

**THE CONFERENCE CLOSED AT 4.40pm**