



## **Minutes of Auckland Northland Regional Committee**

Meeting held 7.00pm Tuesday July 5 2022 by Zoom (host Jane Stearns)

**Present:** Jane Stearns, Tania Brown, Peter Bowyer, Grant Jarvis

**Apologies:** (invited guest) Steph Jacobs Regional Support Person.

Being the first meeting of the new Committee members were welcomed by Grant and thanked for their willingness to support bridge in our region. Each member spoke of their bridge background and personal hopes for the success of the game.

Tania's offer to act as treasurer is most appreciated. We extend our warmest thanks to Sue Brown for fulfilling this role despite the heavy demands of her NZB position.

### **2022 Calendar:**

For the Committee the remaining tournament is the Main Centre Pairs and Teams. Entries are slowly increasing but the Auckland BC has requested some financial support to ensure costs are met. This was agreed to by the Committee but a full discussion of tournament costs, entry fees, roles and formats is proposed once the Working Group and NZB clarify the likely future of on-line bridge and related issues.

The Inter-club teams has progressed positively without issue. Feedback on the on-line format includes considerable praise from players who would otherwise not be involved due to Auckland traffic congestion and/or remoteness of their club. Northland teams are now involved providing welcome new faces. Patrick Carter has proposed splitting future open events into restricted open and "advanced" open (from any clubs in NZ). Other regions such as Wellington also have a small pool of very strong teams who would benefit from wider competition. Jane sought assurance that aspiring players could have a choice of competitions.

The inter-provincial team on-line trials selection method (based on a poll of over 30 past and present players) has had mostly positive feedback. A clear positive was the number of Northland players making the team who may not otherwise have trialled. It is proposed to continue the trials format in 2023 if the IP's remain on-line. Chef de Mission will again be Douglas Russell. All members will receive team polo shirts.

The regional rubber bridge competition drew a disappointing entry number but has produced some close friendly games. We have a Northland-Auckland final (Stearns/Grundy vs Badley/Marshall)

### **Northland Hui**

Jane Stearns presented and spoke to a written report that followed a hui with representatives from Whangarei, Dargaville, Paihia and Kerikeri. The report was wide ranging and enlightening with just one club (Kerikeri) offering on-line bridge. A positive feature was the degree of return to club bridge with table numbers close to pre-Covid.

The Paihia club had to cancel their Open tournament due to Covid after gaining excellent sponsorship and an entry of 14 tables.

We will revisit several issues raised in the report. The declining number of Auckland visitors to Northland events was discussed. The mix of the two provinces enhances all tournaments so it is hopeful a solution can be found.

We hope to discuss the report with Steph Jacob in the coming two months.

### **Regional Support Person.**

We are delighted to have such a competent and engaging person in Steph Jacob to take on this challenging position in the region. We hope to have a meeting with Steph before their conference (start of August) to identify common goals and proposed initiatives.

### **NZB Working Group / Kate Terry**

The committee affirmed their confidence in Kate and our appointed Thinktank representative Julie Atkinson. We also support Douglas Russell, Colin Bray and Anthony Hopkins in their “sub- group” roles. The ANRC will look forward to meeting Kate and/or her representatives.

As a Committee we are not implementing any policy or initiatives that may pre-empt the findings of Kate and NZB. However we added our congratulations and thanks to the Auckland BC for being so pro-active in introducing Real Bridge opportunities during the early lockdowns and beyond.

### **NZB Resources**

It was resolved to remind all clubs of NZB resources available for promotion of the game. The new system cards were discussed.

To date this year only two or three clubs have sought the regional subsidy to support clubs offering lessons and targeting new members.

A mention was made of the Incorporated Societies Act changes. Grant has some knowledge of the Act and is happy to assist clubs as required. NZB have indicated resource packs will follow to ease the transition.

## **Financial Reports**

It was acknowledged that no members have past financial statements for the region – nor current budgets. These will be requested.

The upcoming budget will be highly subjective given the degree of Covid related change in the region and the wait for on-line bridge decisions. Our current understanding is that reasonable requests for promotion, teaching and support will be met. Our primary task remains to identify strategies and pathways.

**The meeting concluded at 8.10 pm.**

**Date of next meeting** (with Steph Jacob?) to be confirmed. Kate Terry will be invited to introduce her consultation goals with the Committee.