



Minutes of Auckland Northland Regional Committee

Wednesday 22 March 2023 7.30pm

Present: Jane Stearns, Tania Brown, Grant Jarvis

Correspondence and Matters arising from last meeting: nil

Event feedback from Grant:

Rubber bridge entries close April 1 and currently numbers require a boost. Reminders have been forwarded to clubs and last year's participants.

The inter-provincial trials flyer has been distributed. There is little change to 2022 but, after a review of player feedback, the guidelines for any required substitute(s)/ reserves have been changed. There is a strong chance that our local directors will be trialists and that an out of region director will need to be sought.

The regional inter-club event has again attracted 48 teams including multiple Northland teams. An excellent response. We thank Auckland BC and Sylvester Riddell for repeating a very well attended orientation evening for those new to Real or teams play.

The Easter Congress fliers have been distributed and the event promoted in our newsletter.

A March 2023 ANRC Newsletter was distributed to all clubs on March 20.

Several clubs have requested deletion of open tournaments or downgrade of events for 2024. This follows a big decline in entry numbers and a falling number of open grade members at the clubs concerned. 3A events have found little interest this year. The Committee fully accepts their reasons and has approved all requests. There have been multiple date change requests for 2024 and we greatly appreciate Rona Driscoll's patience and excellent feedback in these matters.

Budget feedback from Tania:

Tania presented her budget and multiple aspects were discussed.

Three clubs have claimed their subsidy towards lesson promotions.

The desire for NZB to standardise formula (across regions) for the issues of rubber bridge finalist subsidies and youth tournament subsidies was again expressed. We would also hope that each region can reasonably expect reimbursement for non-budgeted spending on “justified presentations” such as flowers for bereavements.

The possibility -and procedure- for the region to deal with National Swiss Pairs entry fees was considered.

NZB Regional Conference:

We are very appreciative of Jane’s offer to attend this conference in Wellington given her current time pressure in her employment. We look forward to receiving her feedback on a meeting scheduled for Wednesday 28.

National Swiss Pairs Format Decision (On-line or face to face?)

This was discussed in depth with no unanimous opinion on several points. A consideration of a potential face to face deficit was discussed (***this issue was subsequently clarified at the Regional Conference***). We also noted the relatively low face to face numbers for the North Island Pairs (despite an excellent venue and host administration) compared to the very high on-line numbers at Christchurch and Rotorua.

It is a very difficult choice as we accept that Auckland is an ideal venue to host face to face but that on-line caters to a large number of pairs who will not otherwise be included.

Our feedback has been passed on to the Auckland BC to enable a joint decision at their meeting on March 28.

It was resolved that “ANRC asks, for 2024 and beyond, that NZB makes these decisions for us based on their review of on-line bridge and player demand”. We would be happy if Auckland, Chch and Wgtn had a three-year rotation of, say, two face to face and one on-line. That would also help to protect the clubs who have had their own open events decimated by on-line event clashes.

Condolences:

The Committee extend their sincere condolences to the friends and families of Alan Turner and John Wignall. Their service and contribution to bridge was immense.

Congratulations:

We wish well our many regional players who have been selected for the World Teams in Morocco and the PABF teams in Hong Kong. And our gratitude goes to Jonathan Westoby, Douglas Russell and GeO Tislevoll for accepting the demanding administrative roles of Chef De Mission and NPC's.

Meeting ended 8.45pm Informal meeting set for March 28 to discuss Conference feedback.