



NEW ZEALAND BRIDGE NATIONAL CONFERENCE
Held at the Conference Centre Miramar Golf Club, Wellington
commencing at midday Saturday 11th June 2022

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

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

Regional Representatives: Naomi Hanna-Brown (Canterbury), Mereana Cullen & Alan Dick (Waikato Bays), Grant Jarvis (Auckland Northland), Paul Maxwell & John Wilkinson, (Wellington), Phil Noye, (Otago Southland), Bryan Green (Central Districts), Pam Whitehead & Chris Marshall, (Top of the South)

Apologies: Mairi Fitzsimons & Carole Bee

1 WELCOME

Allan Morris welcomed everyone to the meeting and outlined the programme for the weekend. After introductions, the Conference got underway.

2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

It was moved that the minutes of the Conference held in Wellington on 29th May 2021 were a true and correct record of the meeting.
(Chris Marshall/ Alan Dick)

CARRIED

Matter Arising

Three items not covered later in the conference programme were discussed.

- Allan Morris reported continued problems with reaching players and club personnel with mailouts from NZB Bridge not being shared by clubs.

- Murray Wiggins provided an update re the director training and accreditation programme including details of dates for exams and assessments for the remainder of 2022.
- Sam Coutts briefed the meeting of work to date with the player grading and handicapping project.

3 REGIONAL REPORTS

Delegates were invited to provide a summary of key activities and any issues they are facing. Presentations are annexed to these minutes and summarised below.

Auckland Northland

- Smaller Clubs are returning to normal participation levels
- New member levy concession very well received
- Auckland Club online offering during the lockdowns was well supported
- Interclub event online for 2022 and very well supported
- Very pleased to have a committee of 4 members from 1 July 2022

Canterbury

- Small committee 3 is working well
- Smaller clubs have grown
- Opportunity with 17 non-affiliated clubs in the region
- Good numbers attending learners classes
- Sunday offering by Chch Club is popular
- Issues with service offered at Intermediate tournaments

Central Districts

- A committee of 5 working well
- 2 clubs (Pahiatua & Wairoa) disaffiliated
- Results of a recent player / club survey summarised
- ALL Clubs have suffered a drop in revenue

Waikato Bays

- 2 new members joining in July
- Longstanding Committee members retiring
- Need to appoint a regional support person
- Lower participation noted at recent events

Otago Southland

- A small group of 4 with some confusion as to roles
- Clubs remained open apart from lockdowns
- Online bridge options not widely used
- Mainly attracted top end players who played online events
- Flu and Covid now hitting clubs hard
- A drift away from night play
- Needs of social players must be a focus

Top of the South

- BBO teams during lockdown proved very popular
- Significant amount raised with donation to Westport flood fund
- 50% of Clubs have grown others are down
- Tournament participation strong
- Intermediate trials strong with 8 tables participating

Wellington

- 4 members retiring and 4 new people joining
- Inter Club event online with good numbers
- Youth player week scheduled during July holidays
- Wellington Club acknowledged as a major supporter of the region
Issues with process for IP selections – Should there be a national directive.
- Relationship between Region and Support role need clarification



At the conclusion of these presentations Allan Morris acknowledged those committee members who are retiring at the end of June and thanked them for their service to bridge over a long period.

CONFERENCE TOPICS FROM NZ BRIDGE

Interprovincial 1st round draw

As has become a tradition the draw for the 1st round robin for the 2022 Interprovincials was conducted:

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

The Bridge Zone Radio Show

Mereana Cullen gave an update re the Radio show which will celebrate its 200th episode in the coming week. The show, in addition to being shared by NZBridge is played twice on each of the 12 access radio stations across the country. The show averages just over 1000 hits each week.

Regional Bridge Support Roles

Richard Solomon shared some details of the revamped programme and the re naming of the roles as above.

Efforts will be made in conjunction with the Waikato Bays and Canterbury regions to recruit a person for those areas. A conference for the Regional Support people is scheduled for early August. Regions were invited to provide ideas for activities that coupled be included in the work programme for these roles.

Hard Copy Teaching Material

Alister Stuck shared details of this initiative with the delegates, the initial idea coming from the Wellington Region. The learners material has been bundled into one booklet and has been made available to Clubs free of charge. So far over 400 copies have been made available.

Promotional Material

Alister then shared the marketing material that has been produced for Clubs and regions comprising business card with contacts for intending players and bumper stickers to raise the awareness of bridge. These along with updated system cards will be mailed to all Clubs over the next week or so.

Platform Upgrade

Alister gave a brief report of the work currently being undertaken to improve our online platform. The improvements include enhancements to the player registration process enabling email details to be captured. This in turn will streamline the process for players seeking to register for "mynzb". Work is also underway to create a national database from which targeted mailouts can be initiated. Release of these enhancements will be later this year once testing is completed and suitable training material produced.

Online Newsletters

Anna Kalma led this segment and provided details of the proposed format of future newsletters and mailouts. A discussion was held regarding the optimal frequency of mailouts and the need to improve the reach to clubs and players both in a general mailout and for those on a targeted basis. A copy of Anna's presentation is annexed to these minutes.

Finance Snapshot

Sue Brown presented high level fugues of our financial performance and position over the past 3 financial years. The results are particularly pleasing given the impact that Covid-19 and the resulting lockdowns have had on membership and participation. A copy of Sue's presentation is annexed to these minute

New Event- Teams of 3

Richard shared information following the successful running of a new player teams of 3 event at the Hawkes Bay Congress. 3 new players were joined by an expert who played a 6 board teams match partnering each of the 3. The event was the brainchild of Nan Wehipeihana who provided sponsorship for the event and has indicated an interest in rolling this out to each region to hold an event annually. There was unanimous support from the regions to

progress this further. Richard will engage with the regional support people to promote the events locally. A summary of the recent event was prepared by Nan and is annexed to these minutes.

Incorporated Societies Act Changes

Anne Barrowclough is leading this for NZ Bridge and presented a summary of the changes to the act detailing implications for NZ Bridge and its member Clubs. Anne outlined a timeline for compliance and what NZ Bridge will provide for clubs by way of information and assistance. An initial mailout to clubs will be completed in the coming days. It is intended that a YouTube video will be produced to help Clubs navigate the changes.

Alister will contact Marsh Insurance Brokers Ltd to suggest that they include information regarding liability cover options for clubs given that will become an important consideration under the revised Act. A copy of Anne's presentation is annexed to these minutes.

Privacy Act

Anne also provided a summary of key points in relation to the Privacy Act. A copy of the information is annexed to these minutes.

Online Bridge Strategy Working Group

Kate Terry led this key segment outlining the timeline for consultation with Clubs and players regarding the place for online bridge in our offerings from 2023 and beyond.

Information will be mailed to clubs in coming days inviting participation in a 12 person think tank and also to regions to schedule a series of meetings either in person or online. A copy of Kate's presentation is annexed to these minutes.

Marketing Update

Anna Kalma led this segment and provided an update of the work undertaken to update our branding and enhance our online presence. The presentation included details of the engagement of marketing firm Fish Digital Ltd and projects undertaken over the past year and those scheduled for the coming months. A copy of Anna's presentation is annexed to these minutes.

CONFERENCE TOPICS FROM REGIONS

Otago Southland

Phil Noye shared some information that he had gathered from the Otago Bridge Club in relation to membership and participation trends.

A theme not unique to Otago is the drift away from night play in favour of daytime sessions.

A larger % of the membership has been intact for 15+ years which leaves the club exposed when new member intakes and retentions are not sufficient to grow the numbers.

It was agreed that NZ Bridge needs to engage with the Clubs and enable them to offer shorted evening sessions that will better appeal to new players and those for who a late finish mid-week doesn't work.

Top of the South

The region submitted 3 topics for discussion and consideration. It was agreed that two (Hybrid tournaments and establishment of an online region) would form part of the Online bridge working groups thinking and they be deferred to that group.

The third in relation to the current regulation for Interprovincial residency was discussed. The current wording needs to be reviewed and updated so that the intent of the regulation is clear, and the integrity of this longstanding event maintained. Murray Wiggins is to escalate this issue to the Regulations Committee and publish a revised regulation as soon as possible.

Waikato Bays

A paper recommending a change to the entry criteria for open restricted events was circulated prior to the Conference.

The proposed change would see players ranked as National Master or below as of 1 January in the year the event is held eligible to contest these events.

This would also align with the entry criteria in place for the national congress.

Those present saw merit in the suggestion and endorsed in unanimously.

Alister will in conjunction with Murray present a wording change to be adopted at the July board meeting and effective from that date.

Conference Close

At the conclusion of the formal part of the meeting everyone present was invited to share their thoughts and takeaways from the conference. After which Allan thanked everyone for their attendance and participation in a very successful weekend

The Conference closed at 2.10pm Sunday 12th June.