

NEW ZEALAND BRIDGE NATIONAL CONFERENCE
Held at the Conference Centre Miramar Golf Club, Wellington
commencing at 1pm Sunday 11th June 2023

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

Alister Stuck, (National Secretary), Bridget Hannaway (Manager Congress & Major Events) & Education) & Murray Wiggins, (Chief Director)

Regional Representatives: Naomi Hanna-Brown (Canterbury), Alan Dick (Waikato Bays), Grant Jarvis (Auckland Northland), Margie Michael, (Wellington), Judith Lawton, (Otago Southland), Bryan Green (Central Districts), Pam Whitehead (Top of the South)

Apologies: John Skipper (overseas) & Murray Wiggins (late arrival)

1 WELCOME

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

2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The draft minutes for the 2022 conference held 11 & 12 June were previously circulated. Alister advised there were two minor spelling corrections.

Subject to the two changes outlined it was moved that the minutes be accepted as correct.

(Alan Dick/Grant Jarvis)

CARRIED

3 REGIONAL REPORTS

Delegates were invited to share details of key activities and any issues they are facing.

Auckland Northland

- A significant number of people attending learners classes.
- Most come via word of mouth & billboards.
- Tournament participations down with 4 cancelled
- 7 events won't take place in 2024.
- Northland tournaments well supported.
- Difficult recruiting for the regional committee.

Canterbury

Good numbers attending learners classes.

Billboards have been a good source of new players

Sunday training sessions well received.

Crockfords Friday night teams event going well.

Continuing issues with poor player experience at int tournaments.

Day sessions strong.

Central Districts

- Succession issues with 4 of 5 not restanding next year.
- Good numbers attending learners classes.
- Facebook promotions went well.
- Low numbers attending Junior tournaments.
- Levin Club offers a 10-session card as part of the learners pack.

Waikato Bays

- Succession issues for the committee continue.
- Hand over from previous holders not smooth
- Learners numbers strong
- Greg Davenport working with non-affiliated clubs.

Otago Southland

- 3 new tournament directors (not willing to direct)
- Learners material very well received.
- Good numbers at Int & Jnr Tournaments.
- Venue issues for major events cost & availability)
- Interclub teams event being planned.

Top of the South

- Transition to new committee went well.
- Tournament participation strong.
- Good numbers for the SI Teams (Online)

Wellington

- Issues with IP Trials.
- Wellington Clubs 3+3 teams event well supported.
- School holiday programme planned for July.

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

Finance & Budgets

Sue Brown led this segment and went through the workbooks that were shared at the March workshop. Sue noted that none of the regional budgets hand been completed using the template provided and asked that this be used.

Interprovincials from 2024

Murray led this segment and outlined the changed agreed by the board to return the IP finals to f2f and hold them in conjunction with the national congress from 2024.

A bulletin summarising the changes will be prepared and distributed.

Eligibility Criteria IP Trials

Murray introduced this topic noting too that a paper had been prepared by the CD region for the conference.

Having considered this and given ongoing issues with interpretation of the eligibility regulation for those players with club memberships across more than one region a rewrite of the relevant clauses was outlined.

It was agreed that what was proposed would give clearer guidance to both players and regions and eliminate the issues that tend to arise.

Murray to draft a bulleting for distribution to clubs & regions and update the online manual.

Director Training

The CD Region shared a paper seeking an improved and national approach for Club director training.

Murray responded and shared details of a proposal from Allan Joseph to run two levels of coaching (home club director & nationally qualified club director) The programme was trialled at the end of 2022 and NZB bridge fully supports the roll out of this in 2023. The programme comprising a mix of online and in person sessions.

Material including a course outline and registration details would be shared with clubs and regions in the following week.

Interprovincial 1st round draw

As has become a tradition the draw for the 1st round robin for the 2023 Interprovincials was conducted:

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

AGM 2023

Alister reported that the notice of meeting had been issued to clubs and that he is taking registrations for Club delegates. As promulgated previously, a list of delegates will be recorded on the website and only those registered prior to the meeting will be granted speaking rights at the AGM.

Platform Upgrade

The Board has commissioned a review of its website and masterpoint platform. While that is being worked through other projects (including the player handicapping project) will be put on hold.

Regional Committee Minutes

Alister asked delegates to ensure that regional committee minutes were copied to him, and that the new logo be affixed to them. These had been emailed to regions previously. Any region who does not have their logo can seek a placement file from Anna Kalma

Online Bridge Strategy Working Group

Kate Terry gave an update re the online trial which had now included 5 trial weekends. More details to be shared after the board is briefed at its July meeting.

Appointment - Marketing Manager

Anna Kalma shared that the board was hopeful of confirming an appoint to this new role in the coming week.

Congress 2023

Bridget Hannaway gave an update re Congress 2023 including details of registrations to date and the extended offering for junior & intermediate players.

Director fees

Following an informal discussion Murray agreed to prepare a paper of suggested fees for directors to be distributed to clubs & Regions.

Women in Bridge

Kate Terry shared that a group had been formed to look at improving standard of high-level bridge in NZ. It is intended to run a promotion on March 8th, 2024, to coincide with international women's day.

CONFERENCE TOPICS FROM REGIONS (not covered above)

Auckland Northland

The region sought a consistent approach to the payment of subsidies for youth players and those attending the Rubber bridge finals. Sue Brown shared the board's position that it did not wish to set restrictions on these as the needs of each region are different.

The region also expressed concern as to the board's decision to increase the tournament participation fees citing that this approach was not consistent with other sporting bodies. Allan Morris thanked Grant for his thoughts and noted that the region was not seeking a review of the decision.

Grant wished to have a vote of thanks recorded for Rona Driscoll for the work she undertakes managing the tournament schedule. Those present endorsed his request.

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 4.05pm.