



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF NZ BRIDGE INC

**Commencing at 4.30pm on Friday 30th September 2022 at the Mt
Maunganui Bridge Club**

Welcome

Allan welcomed everyone and declared the meeting open.

Allan advised those present that the Board did not have information pertaining to the consultation re online bridge and for that reason there would be no discussion on this matter. He then handed over to Alister to conduct the roll call and list the apologies.

Participating

NZ Bridge Board

Allan Morris (Chair), Kate Terry, Anna Kalma, Sam Coutts, Sue Brown & Anne Barrowclough.

Officers of NZ Bridge

Alister Stuck, National Secretary, Richard Solomon, Manager Major Events & Bridge Education & Murray Wiggins, Chief Director.

Authorised Delegates

Ed Roggeveen (Picton), Tony Quinlivan (Christchurch), Marsha Woodbury (Marlborough), Hugh McAlister (Tauranga), Alan Grant (Wellington), Sam Gurney (Rangiora & Ashburton), Steve Gray (Richmond), Michelle England (Gisborne), Pam Whitehead (Kaikoura), Douglas Russell (North Shore), Wayne Gyde (Auckland), Madeline Askew & Phil Revell (Hutt), Alan Dick (Rotorua)

NZ Bridge Personnel Representing Clubs

Sue Brown (Kerikeri), Alister Stuck (Hokowhitu)

Club Delegates not pre-registered

Mereana Cullen (Hamilton), Kevin Birch (Franklin), Phil Noye (Otago)

Authorised Proxies

Alister Stuck (Palmerston North)

Observers

Diane Rodger (Mt Maunganui), Rebecca Osborne (Tauranga), Anthony Hopkins (Auckland), Jana Bott (Nelson)

Apologies

Waihi Bridge Club, Rona Driscoll, Angela Royle, Fergus More, Paul Hangartner, Kay Nicholas, Keith Nicholas, Victoria Bridge Club, Robyn Green, John Skipper, Jane Skipper, Tony Thomson, Timaru Bridge Club.

Moved: that the apologies be accepted.
(Allan Morris/Allan Dick)

CARRIED

Minutes of the 2021 AGM

Moved: that the Minutes of the 2021 AGM as previously circulated be adopted.
(Alan Dick/ Anna Kalma)

CARRIED

Matters Arising:

Sue Brown provided details of the Interprovincial costs that were sought at the 2021 AGM.

Annual Report for year ended 31 March 2022

Allan summarised the annual report (previously circulated) and now annexed to these minutes.

Moved: That the Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2022 be adopted.
(Allan Morris/Marsha Woodbury)

CARRIED

Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2022

Sue Brown presented the audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2022 and worked through a number key points.

Moved: that the audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2022 as presented be adopted.
(Sue Brown/Phil Noye)

CARRIED

Appointment of Auditor

Moved: that Paul Hangartner be appointed as Honorary Auditor.
(Anna Kalma/Douglas Russell)

CARRIED

General Business

No formal items of General Business were lodged by due date. However, the following items were raised from the floor:

Alan Dick & Phil Noye suggested that moving from a split of a player levy and session charges to just session charges may be an attractive option for non-affiliated clubs to join NZ Bridge.

Steve Gray asked about the Regional Committee Review that was conducted. The decision to retain the Regional Committees as an integral part of NZ Bridge was made following the review and those details shared with clubs in a newsletter. As the discussion ensued not all those present saw value in retaining the Regions as part of the offering.

Wayne Gyde challenged NZ Bridge suggesting that it was competing directly with Clubs by offering a masterpointed tournament on a Sunday and with the recent announcement of a series of online lessons. Allan Morris advised that the Board would respond in writing to the suggestion and will annex a copy of the response to the minutes for the benefit of those present.

Closure

There being no further business Allan thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for their participation and closed the meeting at 5.28pm.

NZ Bridge Board - response to issues raised by Auckland Bridge Club

Online Bridge Sessions

NZ Bridge has since the onset of the pandemic and in the months since provided support, and guidance to all Clubs. It was and has been a challenging time as conditions varied, and operated differently cross the country, but at all times NZ bridge was acting in the best interest of clubs and players across New Zealand.

NZ Bridge

- allowed Clubs to award masterpoints for their regular sessions converted to the online platform online very early on and this concession continues today
- ensured Clubs were free to transition scheduled tournaments to an online platform during the peak of the red traffic light settings
- shared details of its intention to consult regarding the long-term future of bridge and the blending of a mix of “in person” and “online” offerings.
 - placed a halt on the conversion of scheduled tournaments to online other than those where approval had previously been provided, as members returned to club play.
- sanctioned a national event to be held monthly on a Sunday evening concluding at the end of the year to meet the needs of those players seeking an online event. This event was deliberately scheduled at a time where there were very few regular sessions in place so as not to compete with Clubs working hard to rebuild participation.

Therefore, the Board does not support the suggestion that it has operated in direct competition against Clubs over this period.

The Board is aware however

- -of Clubs who have added additional sessions to their programme, conducting them online, often at times that clash with sessions held elsewhere.
- - other club members have been targeted for membership of the Auckland Bridge Club.
- that it has allowed the Auckland Club to continue to hold its monthly Thursday tournaments online with reduced masterpoints at Club level offered.



Online Learners Lessons

Following requests from several clubs NZ Bridge agreed to schedule a series of online learner's lessons which commenced recently. This was aimed at those people keen to learn the game this year who may not have the resources to attend club-based lessons and in some instances where lessons in their area have been held already with nothing further scheduled until the following year.

In all cases, and as alluded to in our recent email to all clubs, a key component of this initiative is the early introduction of these people to a club in their area. Our regional support people are charged with making this happen and they also used delivery of the lessons to upskill themselves to use the platform in the future.

This has been a proactive activity to support the growth of membership across the country.

