



MINUTES OF NEW ZEALAND BRIDGE BOARD MEETING

**Held Wednesday March 28th 2012 at the Koru Lounge Wellington
Airport commencing at 10.00am**

PARTICIPATING: Kay Nicholas (Chair), Alan Turner, Patsy Walters, Lynne Fegan,
Allan Barclay (arrived at 10.30am) & Graham Wakefield

In Attendance: Alister Stuck Secretary & Richard Solomon Bridge Development
Officer

Apologies: Arie Geursen & Jenny Wilkinson

1. WELCOME

Kay welcomed all to the meeting.

2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Copies of the following minutes were circulated prior to the meeting.

Board Meeting - 25 January 2012
Confidential Minutes - 25 January 2012

Moved that the Minutes of the Meeting held 25 January 2012 be confirmed.
CARRIED 18/2012

3. CORRESPONDENCE

The list of Inward and Outward Correspondence was circulated prior to the meeting.

Moved that the report summarising the Inward & Outwards Correspondence be received.
CARRIED 19/2012

4. OUTSTANDING ITEMS

Constitution Changes

Alister reported that the amendments to the Constitution were recently filed with and subsequently approved by the Companies Office.

Plain English System Summary

Allan Barclay is to follow this up and recirculate a further draft including the amendments received from the Regulations Committee.

Teaching Resources Project

Alan Turner reported that the project had been completed and the hardcopy material was in the process of being distributed to the Clubs and Regional Committees. It was agreed that the files would be available via the Website and that a follow-up Bulletin would be prepared and mailed to the Clubs during the next week.

The Board acknowledged the work of the group comprising Alan Turner, Jenny Wilkinson, Tina McVeigh and Shirley Newton who were responsible for finalising the material and expressed appreciation for the quality outcome.

Tournament Task Force

The Working party will give a short presentation at the Regional Conference outlining the changes approved to the 15A Tournaments which will be implemented from 2014.

System Cards

Graham outlined the proposal agreed to in principle at a recent meeting of the Zone 7 Laws Committee held at Canberra. It was agreed to participate in a joint initiative with the ABF to produce a Trans Tasman System Card with joint copyright, for use in both countries. The Card will be available electronically and in hard copy. It is envisaged that this would be in use from 2013.

2013 Manual

Graham is to co-ordinate this project on behalf of the Board and where appropriate the Regulations Committee and will contact Claire Woodhall to discuss her availability to format the content again this year.

Scope & Delegations of Authority

Kay advised that drafting of the final two documents (Marketing & Remuneration Committees) had commenced and that it is envisaged that the documents will be presented at the April meeting.

Defunct Teachers Association

This group has been inactive for a number of years and the Board agreed to ask former participants to consider donating its funds to the NZ Bridge Foundation to establish a specific fund to support teaching initiatives. Allan Barclay agreed to formally contact the last known persons involved to progress this.

Constitution Review Group

The working party (established at the Dec 2011 meeting) is yet to meet but will do so prior to the April meeting. It was agreed that those present would review the constitution document and feed through any suggested amendments / improvements to Graham.

5. BOARD REPORTS

▪ **Congress / Bridge Development**

Richard spoke to his report that had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Canterbury Region had recently sought feedback regarding the Group booking facility with Air New Zealand. It was their view that they could secure cheaper air tickets for their Inter Provincial Team members by booking individually.

Richard is to respond advising that the Regions have this option available but it is on the basis that the players are reimbursed the lower of the actual ticket cost or the maximum subsidy based on location as previously circulated.

Moved that the Congress / Bridge Development Report as circulated, be received.

CARRIED 20/2011

▪ **Finance**

Alan's presented the updated Profit & Loss Statements to 29 February 2012. Noted that a number of apparent coding errors are to be corrected prior to production of the Annual Accounts.

Moved that the Financial Report as circulated, be received.

CARRIED 21/2012

Alan reminded the meeting that the draft Committee budgets are to be submitted no later than April 20th 2012 so that the group budget can be compiled and finalised at the next meeting.

▪ **Operations**

Moved that the Operations Report as circulated be received.

CARRIED 22/2012

▪ **Administration Committee**

Moved that the Administration Committee Meeting Minutes circulated, be received.

CARRIED 23/2012

▪ **International Committee**

Moved that the International Committee Report be as circulated, be received.

CARRIED 24/2012

It was noted that the WBF had recently confirmed venue for the World Mind Sports Games which will be held in Lille (France) 9 to 23 August 2012.

It was agreed that Alister would transfer funds to a Euro account and utilise to pay the WMSG entry fees.

▪ **Marketing Committee**

Moved that the Marketing Committee Minutes be as circulated, be received.

CARRIED 25/2012

▪ **Zone 7 Laws Committee**

Moved that the Zone 7 Laws Committee Minutes be as circulated, be received.

CARRIED 26/2012

6. REGIONAL REPORTS

Minutes from 5 Regions had been received and circulated prior to the Meeting.

Moved that the Minutes from Wellington (2), Canterbury, Auckland Northland, TOTS, & Otago Southland Regional Committees be received.

CARRIED 27/2012

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

▪ **Recommendation Website Redesign**

Lynne summarised the proposal from the preferred supplier Blacksheep Design of Palmerston North.

Moved that Black Sheep Design Group be appointed to redesign the NZ Bridge Website; and that their quote no. 7242 dated 20 March 2012 be accepted,

And an amount of \$10 000 as provided for in the 2011/2012 budget be carried forward for this project,

And that a further amount of up to \$20000.00 be requested in the 2012/13 budget to be applied to this project,

And that the additional quote from Blacksheep Design (No7243) for optional 'add ons' be considered once the new Website is up and running.

CARRIED 28/2012

There were requests for the following to be addressed before formally accepting Black Sheep's offer in writing:

- Is HTML 6 being used
- The timeframe of work progress
- Payment schedules
- Usage of a testing client

▪ **Board Elections- Destruction of Voting papers**

Moved that the voting papers be destroyed.

CARRIED 29/2012

▪ **Appointment- NZ Bridge Foundation Secretary/ Treasurer**

Moved that Susan Humphries be appointed to the position of Secretary Treasurer for the NZ Bridge Foundation.

CARRIED 30/2012

- **Appointment – Privacy Officer**

Moved that, pursuant to the Privacy Act 1993, Alister Stuck be appointed to as the Privacy Officer for NZ Bridge.

CARRIED 31/2012

- **Hokitika Bridge Club**

The Board noted with sadness the decision of the Hokitika Bridge Club to dis-affiliate from NZ Bridge. It was agreed that the Board and the Canterbury Regional Committee would maintain contact with the Club with the hope that their decision would be reconsidered in the future.

- **Jubilee Celebrations- Ashburton Bridge Club**

Kay reported that she attended the Clubs 50th Jubilee celebration recently and was invited to speak at the Dinner on behalf of NZ Bridge following which she presented a Congratulatory Certificate to the Ashburton Club on achieving this milestone.

- **Issues Raised by Auckland Bridge Club**

Kay advised that correspondence had been received from the Auckland Bridge Club and that a meeting with representatives from the Club Committee, The Auckland Northland Regional Committee, and the Board has been agreed to and would be held in Hamilton immediately prior to the Board meeting scheduled for April 24 2012.

- **Privacy Commission- Correspondence**

The meeting noted the advice of the complaint recently received by the Privacy Commissioner from a member of an affiliated Club and the subsequent response from the Chairperson which had been circulated.

- **NZ Bridge Scoring Programme- Compatibility with Bridgemates**

The meeting discussed correspondence from Jan Spaans of Hamilton who is the New Zealand agent for “Bridgemate” Scoring devices. Jan highlighted that the NZ Bridge scoring programme was now compatible with two table top devices (Bridge Pads and the Jannerston product called Bridge Scorer) but not the Bridgemate product. He has requested that the Board give consideration to modifying the Scoring Programme so that Bridgemate users could score their events using the NZ Bridge Programme.

It was agreed that Alister would write to Martin Oyston seeking an indication of what modifications would be required and the likely cost if any, to add Bridgemate devices to the mix.

- **Regulations- Announcing of 1 Club & 1NT Opening Bids**

Graham reported that the Zone 7 Laws Committee had agreed to a variation to the Regulations to apply from 1 January 2013 so as to require the “announcing” in context of 1Club and 1NT opening bids.

Graham and Arie will be liaising with the ABF over drafting of the Regulations. An appropriate Bulletin outlining the changes will be prepared prior to any implementation of the proposal.

- **Declaration of Board Voting Papers**

It was agreed that the Voting papers used for future Board ballots be amended to include a declaration on behalf of the Club to be signed by two Officers.

- **Effective date for striking of the Annual Levy**

Alister reported that it was his view that the timing of the Annual Levy was still not optimum and it was agreed that he would provide some data and recommendations at a future meeting.

- **Preparation- End of Financial Year**

Alan Turner advised that he would write to the Regional Treasurers regarding the timeframe for the completing the audit of the Regional Accounts.

- **Ratings Rollover- Effective date**

Alister summarised the feedback that he sought from those Clubs who host Tournaments during January.

Moved that the following wording in the Masterpoint section of the Manual on page E7 (6) be deleted,

The calculation is currently done at 31 December each year and the new Rating Points come into effect as at 1 February in the following year.

and replaced as follows:

The calculation is currently completed as at 31 December each year and published online as soon as possible thereafter.

The new Rating Points and Gradings come into effect for the purpose of Tournament participation as soon as they are published on the NZ Bridge Website.

CARRIED 32/2012

- **Marketing Initiatives**

A discussion was held regarding Marketing and Strategic Initiatives for New Zealand Bridge including initiatives to grow the Player base across the country.

It was agreed that the Board would meet in Christchurch for the weekend of May 26 & 27 to progress this discussion. Alister agreed to make the necessary arrangements and also to secure an independent speaker / facilitator if possible.

The April Regional Conference will be themed ‘Growing our Business” and the ideas emerging would be tabled at the Board Members planning weekend. Mention was also made of the ABFs “new member” welcome packs and the member benefits and discounts negotiated with 3rd party providers which could be readily adapted to New Zealand circumstances.

Next Meeting

6.00pm Tuesday 24 April 2012 - Hamilton

10.00am Wednesday 25 April 2012 - Regional Conference Hamilton

4.45pm Meeting Closed