



New Zealand Bridge

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT
OF NEW ZEALAND BRIDGE**

Held at the Jet Park Hotel, Auckland on Sunday 8th November 2009 at 10.00am

PRESENT Kay Nicholas (Chair), Norm Silcock, Patsy Walters, Graham Wakefield, Murray Wiggins, Alan Turner, Michael Ware.

In Attendance Alister Stuck, Secretary, Arie Geursen CTD,
Richard Solomon BDO

Apologies Nil

1 WELCOME

Kay welcomed all to the meeting.

2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES- September 6th 2009

It was moved that the minutes of the September meeting were a true and correct record of the meeting.

CARRIED 39/2009

3 CORRESPONDENCE

The list of inwards and outwards correspondence was circulated prior to the meeting. Two late items (Queenstown Congress) were tabled at the meeting and marked for discussion under general business.

It was moved that the Inwards and Outwards Correspondence as circulated be accepted.

CARRIED 40/2009

4 BOARD REPORTS

Operations

Alister spoke to his Report which had been previously circulated. The cost of the Internet at the Kingsgate Hotel was discussed. This facility is outsourced by the Hotel and they have no control over the rates charged. This was noted by the Congress / PABF group as a potential issue for participants in the upcoming PABF. The situation has been mitigated for NZ Bridge following the purchase of a Modem Stick and a Dataplan with Telecom. This will enable the Secretary to work online from any location and be cost effective.

Arie advised the meeting that as part of its Sponsorship agreement Datacom will be providing a suite of Computers for the players to use during the PABF.

International

Norm moved that the NPC and Chef de Mission Reports (previously circulated) be received and that a vote of thanks be extended to the people involved.

CARRIED 41/2009

On the recommendation of the International Committee it was moved that Kris Wooles be reappointed as Chef de Mission for a further year with revised terms of engagement.

CARRIED 42/2009

National Congress Recorders Report

The Report from Noel Woodhall was received and discussed. The Board noted the complaints received by the Congress Recorder with respect to the behaviour of a player during the Congress Swiss Pairs and affirmed that such conduct would be prima face unacceptable in terms of the Zero Tolerance approach advocated by the Board.

Accordingly, the Board determined to refer the matter to the Chairperson of the CDD Committee for further evaluation and any action that may be considered appropriate consistent with Clause 27 of the Constitution.

It was moved that Noel Woodhall be appointed to the position of National Recorder for NZ Bridge.

CARRIED 43/2009

It was agreed that Alister to confirm the appointment with Noel and ask him to prepare role and responsibility summaries for the Regional Recorders. It was further agreed that Noel would be invited to the Regional Conference in February to address the Delegates.

National Congress

Richard spoke to his Report which was discussed at length. It was noted that numbers were up on the previous year and a likely financial surplus of \$23k would be achieved.

The Congress Organising Committee has flagged a number of areas to work on including the operation of the BridgePads, the Website updates and the timely completion of the Masterpoint return.

It has also received several suggestions from Players and will look to implement a number of them next year. The issue of succession planning was discussed with the Organisers recognising the need to blood new people who can assist in the future.

With the growth in the number of Registrants (particularly end of week participants) additional back office personnel will need to be employed to assist. An increase in entry fees of \$20 for full registrations and \$15 for all others is proposed for next year. The additional revenue will be used to offset the increase in Masterpoint charges and the cost of additional staff.

PABF Organising Committee

Richard spoke to his Report which had been previously circulated. Planning is well under way and it is likely that the PABF Website will go live within 10 days. Once up and running Alister will circulate the details to the Clubs and will feature a link from the NZB Website.

Bridge Development

Richard summarised key activities undertaken since his last Report highlighting the success of the recent youth weekend in Wellington and the Lifestyle and Retirement Expo in Auckland. Richard reported a pleasing increase in the number of Clubs who participated in the NZ Wide Pairs event. Richard will prepare and present his plan for the 2010 year as part of the Budget sign off process scheduled for February. (See comments under Finance)

Finance

Alan spoke to his Report and in particular the good progress made to date with our new Accountants – BDO Manawatu. Alan advised that almost all of the historical data had been captured in “Xero” and the transition from the ASB to the BNZ was complete. The recent GST return was furnished on time and the IRD have approved our request to move to a 2 monthly GST period. This will take effect from 1 April 2010. It was noted that Alan and Alister will meet with the Auditor (David Macdonald) this month to progress the completed of the March 2009 accounts.

Alan advised the meeting that the review of the previous GST return and the completion of the year end Bank reconciliation remain outstanding and cannot be completed until the records are retrieved from Peter O’Boyle.

The Board discussed the account received from Peter O’Boyle for \$3890.25 and the email from him advising that the financial records held by him would be released once the account was settled. It was reluctantly agreed in the interests of moving on and finalising the previous year’s financial statements that this account be paid.

Alan concluded his report with a request for all budgets to be to hand no later than January 20th 2010. Any requests for one off expenditure to be accompanied by a proposal for consideration at the February Board Meeting at which time the combined budget would also be presented and ratified.

7th Region Steering Committee

The Minutes from the Meeting held at Congress were received. It was confirmed that the election process for the inaugural Regional Committee

would be managed by NZ Bridge. Alister will prepare and send a Nomination Form to each of the 8 Clubs in the new Region before the end of November.

It was moved that the name of the new Region be known as “Top of the South” (amended from “Top ‘O The South)

CARRIED 44/2009

It was moved that the Top of the South Region be funded as per item 11 in the Steering Committee Minutes. The Top of the South Region will receive a levy share of \$2 per player calculated on their membership as part of the Annual Return process scheduled for later this year. In addition, the Masterpoints refund for the Canterbury Region as at 31 March 2010 will be split with the amount generated by the Northern Clubs allocated to the new Region.

In both cases these funds to be held by the Board until the new Region and the associated banking arrangements are in place from July 1st 2010.

CARRIED 45/2009

Regulations

Murray distributed minutes from a recent Regulations Committee meeting. Following a recommendation from the AGM the Committee has undertaken to review the “Pre- Alerting” policy and will circulate any recommendations for consideration at the February Board meeting.

5 REGIONAL REPORTS

Copies of meeting minutes from 3 Regions (Auckland, Central Districts, & Wellington, were circulated prior to the meeting.

The Board noted that the CD Region was looking to hold a Regional Congress in the New Plymouth area in 2012. It was agreed that this would need to be scheduled carefully so as to minimise any clash with other major events such as the North Island Teams.

6 GENERAL BUSINESS

Masterpoint (All Sessions to count from January 1 2010)

It was moved that players are entitled to the award of masterpoints from all sessions conducted by a club with the exception of sessions whose purpose is demonstrably that of teaching or instruction, a social occasion at which some bridge is played and forms of bridge such as rubber bridge or minibridge that fall outside the scope of the Masterpoint regulations.

CARRIED 46/2009

The relevant sections in the Masterpoint Manual to be amended to reflect this change.

NZ Bridge Foundation

Graham reported that the Foundations application for Charities Status has been deferred by the Charities Commission pending clarification of a number of clauses in the Trust Deed. Graham and Kris Wooles will progress this matter on behalf of the Foundation. Accordingly the Board will not consider gifting the Gifford Fund to the Foundation until the Charities Status is confirmed.

Helman Fund

It was moved that the Helman Fund comprising 889 Telecom Shares and a Bank Account with \$1285.33 be gifted to the NZ Bridge Foundation. This is conditional upon the Foundation to continue support the annual Helman Awards. Alister will open a separate Call Account for this fund with in the Foundations' group of Accounts.

CARRIED 47/2009

Jean Peche Award

It was moved that an amount of \$1000 be transferred to the New Zealand Bridge Foundation to formally establish a fund from which the annual Jean Peche Award will be made.

CARRIED 48/2009

AGM Minutes

It was moved that the minutes from the recent Annual General Meeting of NZ Bridge be published on the Website.

CARRIED 49/2009

Complaint – Stan Abrahams

The Board received a copy of a complaint that Stan Abrahams made to the Chef de Mission regarding the selection of NPC's for the recent event in Sao Paulo. It was agreed that the Board would respond to the points raised. Kay is to draft and circulate the response.

Account – Duncan Badley

Kay tabled a letter from Duncan Badley seeking payment of monies which he claims is owed for work done historically for the establishment of the Scoring Programme.

The background including missed deadlines and unsatisfactory outcomes and a history of communications between parties, including from John Lenart as the Board's then solicitor, that led to and recorded the severing of any arrangement were discussed at length.

While the present approach sought to reopen a matter the Board had long regarded as closed it was agreed, without prejudice and consistent with an earlier stance, that the Board would offer the sum of \$10,000 to be

accepted by 15 December 2009 in full and final settlement of all issues/claims involving the programme, and conditional upon Duncan providing an invoice in his own name rather than an entity with which NZ Bridge has had no past relationship.

Treshna Project

A progress report from John Kriuniger was discussed. The slow progress was noted and concerns aired regarding the functionality of the Programme. It was noted that John would report soon after the 19th of November when he is scheduled to meet with the Developer.

Masterpoint Issues - Whangarei 10A Events July 2009

Alister outlined issues that he was experiencing in securing the correct files for this event. It had come to his attention that the files originally submitted were incorrect and the overall position A Points were not allocated correctly. Alister reported that the Club personnel had worked hard to find a resolution but it seems that the solution lies with the offsite Scorer. No spaceArie has undertaken to contact Martin Oyston and liaise with the Club to resolve this matter.

Feedback – 2009 Queenstown Congress

Kay tabled a copy of a letter sent to the Otago Southland Region Committee and a further letter addressed to the Board regarding the recent Queenstown Congress. Both parties outlined areas which they felt could be improved.

Space

Murray Wiggins who officiated at the Congress mentioned some concerns he had with the format and the late change to the Programme. Murray was not part of the Match Committee and it was felt by the Board that he should have been included.

Alister to write to the Regional Committee:-

- Enclosing copies of the letters received re 2009 Queenstown Congress
- Indicating that if required the Board can provide mentorship to the Committee during the planning and implementation of the 2010 Congress
- Observing that the Match Committee (as per section B6 in the Masterpoints Manual) must ensure the Congress Format and Programme are appropriate and remain as advertised unless absolutely unavoidable.

Arie will also contact Cliff Rickard who directed at the Congress.

Board Elections – March 2010

Alister advised that he has drafted the Nomination Forms for the Board election and will distribute the paperwork to the Clubs before the end of the year.

Annual Membership Returns

Alister advised that he has drafted the Annual Return Forms and will distribute the paperwork to the Clubs before the end of the year.

Transfer of Unused Tournaments

The current policy around the ability to transfer unused Tournament allocations between Clubs was discussed. This policy is to be considered as part of the Tournament Calendar review.

Regional Conference Feb 2010

Alan presented an outline for the Conference to be held in Auckland over Waitangi Weekend. The conference will start late morning on Saturday February 6th and would be preceded by a Board meeting scheduled for the previous evening. The Conference will continue on the Sunday and will include a Forum for the Regional Secretaries and Treasurers.

It was agreed that an invitation be extended to a representative from the 7th Region (to be agreed by the constituent Clubs) to attend the Regional Conference and that the Board will reimburse the cost on the same basis as other representation.

As soon as the Jet Park Hotel confirms the availability of rooms etc Alister with liaise with the Regional personnel to make early travel bookings. It was agreed that all travel bookings are to be made via the NZ Bridge Travel Card.

Format Interprovincial Championships

Arie advised the Board that the format for this event will need to be considered and reviewed so that the Teams from the new Region can be accommodated. Various options were briefly discussed and it was agreed that Alan and Norm would draft and present suitable options at the February meeting.

Feedback - Masterpoint Updates

Michael advised that he had received some good feedback regarding the Masterpoint updates on the Website. The regular progress reports regarding outstanding Tournaments are appreciated by the players.

The meeting closed at 4.30pm