



**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF
NEW ZEALAND BRIDGE INCORPORATED
Held at 10 am on Saturday, 26 Sept 2015
at the Kingsgate Hotel, Hamilton**

PRESENT NZ Bridge Board – Arie Geursen (Chair), Anthony Hopkins, Karen Martelletti, Phil Rutherford & Allan Joseph

Secretary of NZ Bridge - Alister Stuck

Chief Director - Murray Wiggins

Auditor for NZ Bridge - David Macdonald FCA

Hon Solicitor for NZ Bridge - Fergus More

Authorised Delegates

Pat Ware (Tauranga), Richard Bland (Whangarei), Steve Gray (Richmond), Neil Hawkins (Christchurch), Mary Pennington (Marlborough), Heather Jared (Hutt), Trevor Robb (Franklin), Mary Buckland (Ashburton), Alan Blackie (Golden Bay), Anne Barrowclough (Auckland) & Ray Curnow (Westport)

Proxies / Board Members representing Clubs

Graham Wakefield (Royle Epsom), Susan Humphries (Howick), Steve Gray (Nelson), Allan Joseph (Kairangi), Arie Geursen (Taupo), Mary Buckland (Timaru)

Observers

Jan Spaans, Dianna Lees, Margaret Perley, Hayden Seal, Lindsay Reid, Craig Shannaghan, Colin Carryer, Sandra Calvert, Mark Hangartner, Kevin Walker, Marilyn Jackson, Bev Gay, Mairi Fitzsimons, Trish Downward & Dallas Dagg

WELCOME

The Chairperson, Arie Geursen, welcomed all those present at the 2015 Annual General Meeting of New Zealand Bridge Incorporated,

Board members, authorised Club Delegates (or Alternates) and Observers. A roll call was taken of those present.

APOLOGIES

Angela Royle, Kris Wooles, Derek Evennett, Richard Solomon, Shirley Newton, Alan Turner, Allan Morris, Kay Nicholas, Keith Nicholas, Rona Driscoll, Judith Bishop & Taupo Bridge Club

Moved that the apologies be accepted.

CARRIED

MINUTES of the 2014 AGM

Moved that the minutes as previously circulated be taken as read.

CARRIED

MATTERS ARISING 2014 AGM

Nil

ANNUAL REPORT for year ended 31 March 2015

The Chair indicated that as the Annual Report had been circulated he proposed it be taken as read and that he would precis some of the highlights of the year under review and outline some of the initiatives in play for the coming year to grow the game.

Phil Rutherford referred the delegates to the Board Strategic Plan which had been presented at the National Conference, circulated to the Clubs and Regions and would be featured in the promotion booklet during Congress.

Graham Wakefield commented on the loss of members with the disaffiliation of the Opotiki Club and a sharp decline in membership at Hastings. Murray Wiggins responded on the latter and reported that this trend had been arrested with a large intake of new players.

Moved that the Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2015 be adopted.

CARRIED

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 March 2015

Alister Stuck led this segment of the Agenda summarising the Audited Financial Statements.

Moved that the audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2015 as presented be adopted.

CARRIED

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR

Moved that David Macdonald be appointed as Auditor for the 2015/2016 year.

CARRIED

Allan Joseph moved a vote of thanks for David Macdonald for the excellent work he did in the capacity as Honorary Auditor.

REMITTS FROM THE BOARD OF NEW ZEALAND BRIDGE

Remit No. 1

That Clause 3 – Interpretation – be amended (in the appropriate alphabetical location in each instance) as hereinafter set out, namely:-

16 By deleting the definition of "Tribunal" and replacing with the following definition:

"Tribunal" means any Tribunal from time to time constituted as the Bridge Appeal Tribunal in accordance with and pursuant to Rule 28 for the purpose of determining any appeal from a decision of the Conduct, Discipline and Disputes Committee.

17 By inserting a definition "Regulations" as follows:

"Regulations" means the Tournament Regulations as adopted from time to time by resolution of the Board of NZ Bridge and published in the Manual and / or on the NZ Bridge website.

18 By inserting a definition "Form" as follows:

"Form" means the Form specified from time to time by resolution of the Board of NZ Bridge as prescribed for the purpose of filing a Notice of Appeal with the Registrar of the Bridge Tribunal.

19 By inserting a definition "Procedures" as follows:

"Procedures" means the formal Procedures as adopted from time to time by resolution of the Board of NZ Bridge as applicable in the event any matter is referred to the Conduct, Discipline and Disputes Committee, and published in the Manual and/or on the NZ Bridge website.

20 By inserting a definition "Manual" as follows:

"Manual" or "NZ Bridge Manual" means the most recent edition of the Manual as published from time to time by NZ Bridge and available on the NZ Bridge website as a reference for Regional Committees, Affiliated Clubs and Players detailing the required standards relating to the conduct of bridge matters applicable to and/or governing Bridge Organisation, Administration and Operations in New Zealand.

CARRIED

Remit No. 2

That Clause 7 – Affiliation – be amended as herein after set out, namely:-

That Clause 7.2 be deleted and replaced by the following in lieu:

"7.2 Every Affiliated Club shall be bound by the provisions of these Rules by virtue of its affiliation and all members of the Club are, by virtue of that affiliation, also bound by the provisions of these Rules to the extent the same apply to members of an Affiliated Club participating in the game of Contract Bridge."

CARRIED

Remit No. 3

That Clause 22 – Treasurer – be deleted and that the following Clause be inserted in lieu, namely:-

"22 Treasurer and Honorary Solicitor

- The Board shall appoint from time to time an independent professional accounting firm to assist on a fee for service basis with the keeping and maintenance of proper books of account and financial records for NZ Bridge.
- Notwithstanding Clause 22.1 the Board may appoint one of its members to act as Treasurer having such duties and responsibilities as the Board shall determine including liaising with such accounting firm and reporting regularly to the Board on the state of NZ Bridge's finances and ensuring an audited set of Financial Statements is presented each year to the AGM.
- The Board may from time to time appoint a person to be the Honorary Solicitor for NZ Bridge, who shall not be disqualified from such appointment by virtue of being a member of an Affiliated Club.
- Nothing in Clause 22.3 shall preclude the Board from at any time or times engaging any other firm or person to provide legal services to or for the benefit of NZ Bridge and/or independently instructing the performance of such services."

CARRIED

Remit No. 4

That Clause 27 – Conduct, Discipline and Disputes – be amended as hereinafter set out, namely:-

That Clauses 27.3 to 27.5 inclusive be deleted and replaced by the following in lieu:

"27.3 Any determination of such allegation, complaint, matter, breach or failure may involve the imposition by the Conduct, Discipline and Disputes Committee upon such person or persons of any one or more of the following sanctions:

- Suspension or prohibition (temporary or for a defined period or for life) of such person or persons from participation in any capacity in all or any Contract Bridge events, tournaments, competitions, matches or sessions conducted under the auspices of NZ Bridge or by any Affiliated Club, or by any other party with the approval of NZ Bridge, and to extend, continue or vary the terms of, or lift, a current suspension or prohibition already in force;
- Imposing any condition or restrictions upon the participation by such person or persons in any capacity in any Contract Bridge events, tournaments, matches or sessions or giving any directions relating to such participation, whether temporarily or for a defined period or for life;
- A bar upon that person or persons being nominated as a candidate for, or being appointed to any vacancy in any office under this Constitution, or being employed by NZ Bridge, whether indefinitely or for a specified period of time;
- A bar upon that person or persons being selected as an official or as a playing member of any representative team or squad whether at club, regional, national or international level, whether indefinitely or for a specified period of time;
- A formal reprimand or censure;
- Imposing a monetary fine not exceeding \$20,000 payable to NZ Bridge, and fixing the date by which payment of such fine is due;
- Awarding a sum or sums of money payable to NZ Bridge on behalf of any person or persons affected by the conduct or behaviour the subject of the determination by way of reparations to or in recognition of costs and expenses incurred by any person or persons, and fixing the date by which payment of such sum or sums is due;
- A requirement that such person or persons meet the cost of, or make a payment towards the costs of, conducting any such enquiry (and carrying out any associated investigations) and/or making such determination, or the costs and expenses incurred by any Committee members, witnesses or

others in relation to a hearing, such payments to be made to NZ Bridge on such basis and by such date or dates as the Committee shall order;

- Any order for publication by the Board of the Committee's determination and / or the reasons for such determination, on such basis and in such manner as the Committee shall require; **and**
 - Any order for notification of the Committee's determination and/or the reasons for such determination together with any related recommendation and details of any sanction or sanctions imposed, to any overseas bridge organisation, federation or association, on such basis and in such manner as the Committee thinks fit.
- 27.4 The Chairperson, or any two (2) members of the Committee in the Chairperson's absence or unavailability, shall have the power to impose upon any such person or persons as an interim measure any sanction allowed under Rule 27.3 (a) or Rule 27.3 (b), from any date following receipt of the allegation or complaint until the enquiry into and/or determination of the allegation or complaint shall have been completed by the Committee, and to extend, continue or vary the terms of, or lift, such a sanction already in force.
- 27.5 The Committee, in enquiring into and/or determining any allegation or complaint, shall undertake a process or procedure in each case at its sole discretion but in accordance with the Committee's adopted Procedures as from time to time promulgated in the NZ Bridge Manual, and otherwise consistent with principles of natural justice, but shall hold such enquiry in camera, and further shall be entitled to consider its verdict, decision or determination in respect of such allegation or complaint in private."

CARRIED

Remit No. 5

That Clause 28 – Right of Appeal – be deleted and replaced with the following Clause in lieu, namely: -

"28 Right of Appeal

- 28.1 A verdict, decision or determination made by the Conduct, Discipline and Disputes Committee under these Rules may be appealed by any person affected only and exclusively to a Tribunal called the Bridge Appeal Tribunal established under Clause 28.4.
- 28.2 An appeal is commenced when such person lodges a Notice of Appeal on the Form from time to time prescribed by NZ Bridge for that purpose with the Registrar of the Sports Tribunal established by the Board of Sport and Recreation Act 2002 and continued under the provisions of the Sports Anti-Doping Act 2006, who shall also act as Registrar of the Tribunal.
- 28.3 Any appeal notified in accordance with Clause 28.2 shall not be treated as valid unless the Notice is:
- (a) accompanied by a filing fee of \$1,500 paid to the Registrar of the Tribunal, and a copy of the formally written record of the verdict, decision or determination of the Conduct, Discipline and Disputes Committee the subject of the Appeal; **and**
 - (b) is filed within ten (10) days of the date such written decision has been advised to and received by such person or persons as are the subject of the decision.

- 28.4 The Tribunal shall be constituted on each occasion a valid appeal is filed with the Registrar by the Chairperson of the Sports Tribunal for the purpose of adjudicating upon the appeal after the completion of any interlocutory processes, utilising not less than two (2) current members of the Sports Tribunal (one of whom shall act as the Tribunal Chairperson) and one (1) member chosen from a standing panel of persons experienced and knowledgeable with respect to the game of bridge and the practical application of its Laws and Regulations including the conduct of bridge tournaments and events, the membership of such standing panel being appointed and/or discharged by resolution from time to time of the Board of NZ Bridge.
- 28.5 The practice and procedure of the Tribunal shall be regulated by and be consistent with the Sports Tribunal Rules as promulgated from time to time, modified on any occasion as the Tribunal may think fit, provided however that the Tribunal shall also have the powers to impose any one or more of the sanctions, orders, restrictions or prohibitions identified in Clause 27 as available to the Conduct, Discipline and / or Disputes Committee.
- 28.6 The Tribunal shall have the powers to:
- (a) if in the opinion of the Tribunal Chairperson the interest of justice so require, to order that security for costs be lodged by any party or parties with the Registrar; **and / or**
 - (b) make an order for costs incurred in respect of the appeal by any party and/or the Tribunal, against any party or parties.
- 28.7 Hearings will be on the record unless in the opinion of the Tribunal there are exceptional circumstances requiring an oral hearing. The Chairperson of the Tribunal shall be entitled to determine and give directions relating to prehearing case management, procedural and / or evidential matters, and to exercise such function without reference to the other Tribunal members.
- 28.8 Any penalties orders or sanctions imposed by the Conduct, Discipline and Disputes Committee are deemed to be suspended after the filing of a valid appeal unless, upon the application of any party and after providing the opportunity for both sides to be heard, the Tribunal determines that any or all such penalties, orders or sanctions shall continue in force pending determination of the appeal."

CARRIED

NZ BRIDGE FOUNDATION - PRESENTATION

Susan Humphries (Foundation Secretary/ Treasurer) led this segment and presented the Foundation's Chairpersons report and the Audited Financial Statements for the year to 31 March 2015.

Allan Joseph moved a vote of thanks for Susan Humphries for the work she undertook for the Foundation and also for her promotion of Youth Bridge.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- Social Media Policy

Mark Hangartner commented on the recently released Board policy relating to "Social Media" and asked if there had been any thought given to seeking feedback from Clubs before the policy was finalised and released.

Fergus More responded on behalf of the Board advising that there had been no thought given to doing so.

- Closure

There being no further business Arie Geursen, thanked the Delegates and Observers for their contribution.

Allan Joseph acknowledged the work on our many volunteers throughout the country and their contribution to bridge at many levels.

The Chair closed the meeting at 11.00 am