

Minutes Otago Southland Regional Committee Monday 26 January via Zoom at 11:00am

Present: Judith Lawton, Carole Bee, Hamish McDonald and Phil Noye

Apologies: Nil

Minutes of the previous meeting:

“That the minutes of the meeting held on 1 December 2025 at 8:30am be taken as read and moved as being a true and accurate record.”

Moved Carole/Phil– Carried

Matters Arising: Nil

Financial Report:

Balance at 31 Dec 2025 \$629.61. One teaching and Learning payment still outstanding but Invercargill identified as one that bounced back. Expenditure for the month \$3916 comprised of the Regional Challenge travel subsidies, Chef De Mission costs, Junior incentive payments and Conference attendance costs. Due to no conference this year we are \$2108 ahead of budget.

Motion: “That the financial report be received.”

Moved Hamish/Phil -Carried

Motion: “That the Inter Club Teams Cup be repurposed and presented to the top Junior pair in any Otago Southland Provincial Championship Pairs event, currently held at Kings Birthday”

Moved Phil/Hamish – Carried

Matters Arising:

1. Phil to test the waters with Oamaru, Otago, Taieri and East Otago re holding interclub teams competition. Would need to be Int and Juniors and not all clubs could field an open team.

Correspondence:

INWARDS:

1. As per emails: Various inward tournament posters for distribution.
2. Secretary NZBridge: 1/12: From the Chair No7 newsletter
3. Secretary NZBridge: 1/12: Board election results: Kate Terry Anne Barrowclough & Murray Wiggins returned
4. Secretary NZBridge: 2/12: Voting stats: Slightly over half clubs voted. OS only 1/3
5. Various emails re masterpoints for RC trials 2/12
6. Secretary NZBridge: 2/12: Bulletin re RC format
7. Invercargill Club 3/12: Maybe a missing teaching conference payment
8. Tournament: 4/12: Clarification re masterpoints for RC trials
9. Bridget Hannaway: 8/12 requesting trial dates of they are to be held for RC teams
10. Secretary NZBridge: 9/12: Minutes board meeting November 2025
11. Secretary NZBridge: 9/12: Preliminary notice re planning day.
12. Secretary NZBridge: 10/12: National Swiss pairs poster
13. Daniel Blakely 16/12: Request for youth player support.
14. Taieri Club: 19/12: Request for tournament move to 28 Feb 2027
15. Secretary NZBridge: 22/12: commentary for 5 year plan for NZBridge
16. Donna Hipkins: 23/12: Confirming hall booking for 22 March for OS Conference
17. Secretary NZBridge: 23/12: Info re teaching booklets for lessons
18. Wanaka Club: 23/12: Do not wish to be host for OS Teams and Pairs
19. Alexandra Club: 27/12: Request to move tournament to 8/9th Feb for 2027
20. Phil Noye: 29/12: Brad confirmed for conference
21. Secretary NZBridge: 31/12: Membership report
22. Secretary NZBridge: 31/12: Masterpoint reports
23. Deborah Huang: 11/1: Follow up re payment request...I am lost...
24. Brad Johnston: 12/1: Thoughts on possible trail format for INT RC teams.
25. Tournament 14/1: Change to 2027 schedule. We get National Pairs 28 Aug f2f or online
26. Secretary NZBridge: 15/1: Invoice levies \$0.00
27. Taieri Club: 18/1: Will go back to committee re tournament date change

OUTWARDS:

1. Secretary NZBridge : 1/12: Minutes of 13 Oct 2025 meeting
2. Various emails forwarding tournament advertising to all clubs
3. All OS Clubs and Various individuals: 1/12: Invitation to form teams for RC and apply to trial.
4. Tournament: 1/12: Informing of the Invercargill tournament cancellation
5. Winton Club: 1/12: Follow up of Junior Champ unclaimed prize.
6. All OS Clubs: 2/12: The year round up and reminders
7. Donna Hipkins: 3/12: Request to hire the hall for 22 March Conference
8. Donna Hipkins: 22/12: Confirming booking
9. Team captains INT trialists: Email notifying that there will be a three team trail.
10. Team Captains OPEN WOMEN & SENIOR 11/1: No trail congratulations
11. Taieri Club: 18/1: Decline change of date due to Online booking: Suggest alternative or remain where it is.

Matters Arising:

1. Alexandra tournament date change for 2027 approved.
2. Taieri Tournament date request Carole as responded that that is a weekend set aside for online tournaments so is unavailable currently. They are returning this to their committee and considering their options.
3. Hamish to check what Deborah Huang has been paid for. Believe she had two requests for support.
4. Wanaka do not wish to host OS Provincial Pairs and Teams on Kings Birthday. Their venue is not available on Sundays. Carole to approach Oamaru as they had indicated they would be open to this when approached previously.

Motion: "That the Correspondence be accepted as dealt with."

Moved Phil/Carole- Carried

Strategic Plan:

1. RC Int Team Trials :Carole to email team captains with Phil's proposed dates and format for online trails. To indicate availability by the end of this week. Phil to be BCC in so he has their email addresses.
2. Regional conference in Cromwell 22 March 10:30am cuppa
 - a) possible topics include:
 - NZ Bridge website resources, what is there and where to find it.
 - Learnings from the teaching and learning conference.
 - Hearing from NZBridge directly.
 - Head Director session.
 - Junior incentive scheme.
 - Tournament gradings and how to best serve our membership demographic.
 - Sam Coutts
 - Anything that crops up from regional conference in Feb.

- Website hosting and management. John Shanks is likely to withdraw his services in near future. What do we want to do?
 - Our OS tournament Schedule and our commitments to NZBridge. Also a look at the tournament grading system and what a restricted open actually means.
 - Timing of Regional Challenge we could offer up 29/23 August (our current NZ Commitment date) for use and swop our commitment date to first round May date (old trail dates under old system).
- b) Catering Cromwell Club will do \$10 pp Morning & Afternoon tea and Lunch.
3. Hamish prepared a comprehensive report on the current NZ grading of players that has lead to an unbalance in the intermediate grade of people who used to be open players, but have no way of being regraded as open as they do not enter A point tournaments, and those that have just been graded as Intermediate. Leads to dissatisfaction among the less experienced intermediate players as very hard to do well in a tournament. Judith to take it to Wellington Meeting.
 4. John Shanks retiring not as imminent as we were once led to believe but we still need to decide where to from here at some stage. Item on Conference agenda. Carole to ask clubs if they want us to keep a copy of their entry link for safe keeping.
 5. OS Junior Incentive scheme. Last year's data showed that juniors still did not travel "Out of Zone" much to compete in junior tournaments so it was decided to adopt a system used by Canterbury. Carole to draft a document for distribution and send draft to committee.
Motion: "That we adopt a model similar to the Canterbury incentive scheme where players apply for reimbursement and enter a random draw for prize money. Any graded tournament at an NZ affiliated OS Club 5A or below, minimum 6 tournaments to qualify, 20% refund of entry fee, 1st prize draw \$100 2nd \$75 and 3rd \$50. Can play with any NZ graded player that meets the tournament requirements." Moved Hamish/Phil - Carried

Meeting Closed 12:15pm.

Next meeting Zoom 9 Feb 9am via Zoom