

13 January 2025

To the Members of Matamata Bridge Club Inc

NZ Bridge has been watching closely the ongoing issues faced at the Matamata Bridge Club, and while it is not our role to interfere in the independence of clubs, we are very concerned for the club and its members about the current situation.

We believe winding up a successful club that has been an important part of the community for 60 years would be a most undesirable option for Matamata club members and NZ bridge generally. However, we can see that with the current divisions it is going to be difficult to have an effective and fully functioning club for all members.

We would like to offer and facilitate a proposal for a constructive way forward.

Our proposal is that:

The withdrawal of both SGM notice of meetings.

Key parties meet with Allan Morris, after his return from Canberra on 23 January. Allan's role would be as an independent mediator, to consider issues and options, that are in the best interests for the Matamata bridge club and its members, and develop a proposal, in consultation with the club, to move forward.

From experience we all know when a business or a club is divided around personal lines and strong personalities it is a recipe for failure. Our community is very small and therefore it would be good if we can find a way to set differences aside and focus on the future where we move away from having two camps.

From our viewpoint if we can find a way of eliminating winners and losers the future of the Club will be in a better position to thrive and grow.

Allan is no longer a member of the NZ Bridge Board, is independent of it, and would be expected to treat all discussions as confidential to the Matamata club. Allan would have no requirement to report back to the NZ Bridge Board.



We believe that this proposal offers the club the opportunity to move forward in a constructive way that is in the best interests of members of the Matamata club. In the event a way forward is not found then the Club could reinstate an SGM and hopefully a positive solution will emerge.

Regards

Peter Newell
Chairperson NZ Bridge Inc

