

## **BRIDGE RECORDING IN NEW ZEALAND**

A bridge recorder is an experienced player who is available for informal advice; this could be about an issue of play, bidding or etiquette. Any bridge player may contact the recorder to help them decide whether to take an incident to formal appeal, or just to report a concern about another bridge player's behaviour (at or away from the table). Communications with a recorder should remain strictly confidential to that person alone.

A recorder receives, investigates and evaluates incident reports. He or she then communicates, as appropriate, with those involved with a reported incident, especially the reporter and the subject. A record of all incident reports, along with records of investigation and resolution, is maintained. The recorder may make or assist with an impartial presentation of evidence to a disciplinary committee or may present a complaint to his or her appointing organisation.

The New Zealand Bridge Board appoints a national recorder, who is available for consultation at national events. Each of the seven regional committees should appoint a regional recorder, who, whenever possible, should be available at regional events and tournaments. All bridge clubs should have a recorder available for club events and tournaments. If a player is disciplined by his or her club for continuing misdemeanours, then the regional recorder should be informed. Regional recorders should in turn inform the national recorder about serious incidents, so that appropriate action may be taken at national events if the same player re-offends there.

A recorder has no disciplinary authority and must not give any indication to the contrary. He or she may file a complaint with an appropriate disciplinary body against a subject as a means to resolve an incident report or reports. A recorder may choose to inform a subject that a complaint may be filed in the future should the undesirable behaviour continue.

A recorder should not serve on any bridge disciplinary body. A recorder should preferably not serve on a bridge appeals committee as this may create a conflict of interest. However, if no other qualified people are available, a recorder may be a member of an appeals committee.

It is very important that bad behaviour be reported to the recorder. A quiet word in the ear of the perpetrators may be all that is required to prevent further incidents and make the game of bridge more enjoyable for everyone. Recorders should maintain a dossier of incident reports for use if our ruling body considers disciplinary action against players or partnerships. As far as possible, confidentiality should be maintained.