



12 July 2010

Bulletin Covering International Programme 2011 | 2012

1. NZB is half way through a four year International Cycle. This cycle is already referred to elsewhere on the NZB website under “International”. There will be a review in late 2012 and a new four year International Programme will then be implemented.
2. In 2011 NZ will contest:
 - a) A PABF (to be renamed the APBF) Championship in Malaysia June 15 to 24 comprising Open, Women, Senior, Youth (U26).
 - b) A Zone 7 (NZ, Australia, New Caledonia, French Polynesia) contest for Bowl / Venice cup slots which will take place in Malaysia immediately after the PABF;
 - c) Subject to qualification via b) above, the Bermuda Bowl / Venice Cup / Seniors in the Netherlands in late September / early October. There is no Youth section in this event.
3. In 2012 NZ Bridge will contest the Mind Sports Games which are likely to be held again in China. We do not know the details of this but it is likely the Event will be held following the Olympics held in London.
4. NZ Bridge wishes to send the strongest Teams possible in Bermuda Bowl years while allowing more scope for bleeding new players in other years. In each case Teams are to be selected by the approved selection process.
5. NZB has already signalled the significance of established partnerships with its pronouncement of the 100A Point participation qualification requirement in 2010 and / or 2011 while indicating that more details would follow later surrounding the whole Qualification Process.

6. The International Committee has met and resolved the basis on which the 2011 and 2012 Team selection process will be conducted as follows:

2011

7. We will **not** have Trials. Instead we will select Squads with the number of pairs in a Squad depending on the suitable candidates in each category. Team selections will be made from these Squads. Pairs in a particular Squad are not precluded from being selected in a Team in an alternative category for which they are eligible. A pair selected to a Squad is not guaranteed to be selected in a Team.
8. Pairs will need to complete a comprehensive Entry Process which is likely to be required by mid-December. A formal document detailing this process will be prepared to be posted on our Website later, however the key difference from previous years is that NZ Bridge will be requiring each partnership wishing to be considered for selection to submit a CV predominantly covering partnership history, partnership intentions for practice and international experience. The partnership will need to indicate what A Point Events they have played together, as well as their actual results and teammates on such occasions if applicable. Individuals will still be required to complete a Declaration of Availability and a Code of Conduct.
9. The U26 Squad will not be subject to a strict 100A point participation requirement but pairs will still need (amongst other usual compliance requirements) to submit a CV covering partnership results and individual bridge history.
10. Each Squad will be selected by a designated Selection Panel in each instance of at least three members with the Chef de Mission and the NPC for that Team to be ex officio members. Other members will likely be proposed by the Chef de Mission to the International Committee whose final nominations will be referred to the Board of NZ Bridge for ratification.
11. Squad selection will be made by the end of the first week in February 2011 (to allow results for the Australian NOT to be taken into account). Selection criteria will be wide ranging with the Selectors ultimately having the final and absolute say.

Criteria to be considered includes but is not limited to, the longevity of the partnership and its performance history as reflected by the CV, previous international experience as individuals and / or partners, recent form including attendance at, and results in recent National Congress Pairs and Teams and / or performance results in any major Australian or other international events .

Compatibility with each other and with potential Team members will also be factors, together with any other matters deemed relevant by the Selectors to be taken into account.

Finally the Selectors will be charged, in assessing the suitability of the players, in recognising the importance of all our players being excellent ambassadors for our National Teams at and away from the table.

12. For 2011, given the timing of the announcement of the 100A point participation requirement and closing date for selection, the selection panel will apply discretion to that **criterion. However**, partnerships who do not present as having played enough recently are at risk of not being chosen.
13. Squad members will be **required** to participate in the South Island and North Island Teams, in formations designated by the selection panel. A formal practice weekend and / or matches may also be required. Players will no longer have the expense and time away necessitated by attending trials.
14. Team selection for Malaysia and Holland will be completed by 18th April 2011, in order to allow evaluation from the North Island teams (9 / 10 April) to be taken into account.
15. The task of the Selectors will be to mix and match pairs from the Squad to produce a sufficiently strong group of Teams to go to Malaysia to contest the PABF and give the best chance of qualification for Holland.
16. While the Women's and Senior events were not contested last year, the Open was, and both NZ and Australia had very close semi-final matches.
17. Pairs in the Open, Women and Senior Teams may be selected to attend both events.
18. If there are slots available for self-funded Senior Teams at the PABF, NZ Bridge will call for expressions of interest, and make a selection. Self-funded Teams comprising Squad members will be given priority over teams not containing Squad members.
19. Funding for the 7 Teams next year will be partially met probably with a weighting in favour of the Holland event because of the greater costs. As in previous years players will be expected to contribute significantly to the cost of attendance. Details will be advised later.

2012

20. In 2012 NZ Bridge will conduct a Pair's Trial, with those Pairs finishing in 1st & 2nd place in the Trial gaining automatic entry to the Team, and the 3rd Pair for each Team decided by selection.

Pairs will be nominated by the Selectors to participate in the Trials. Those selections are required to be ratified by the International Committee of NZ Bridge.

21. As with 2011, there will be a requirement for each partnership to submit a CV and relevant supporting information in order to be considered for entry into the Trial, and players are on notice that the 100 A point participation requirement will apply from 1st January 2011. In exceptional circumstances determined by the Selectors and ratified by the International Committee there may be some relief from strict compliance with the latter criteria.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alister Stuck', written in a cursive style.

Alister Stuck
National Secretary