

20 July 2017

2018 International Programme

2018 is a gap year as far as International Competition by country is concerned; there are no World Team Championships or World Bridge Games (Olympiad).

The APBF is organising an Asia Cup which is scheduled to be held in Bangladesh from the 1st to the 10th April. NZ Bridge envisages sending an Open, Women and Youth team to this event.

However the NZ Department of Foreign Affairs currently displays the message below on their Safe Travel website. "There is a high risk to your security in Bangladesh due to the heightened threat of terrorism and uncertain security situation. We advise against all tourist and non-essential travel to Bangladesh".

NZ Bridge has decided that it will not send teams to Bangladesh unless the situation improves and the current advice on the Safe Travel website is withdrawn.

We have decided that a cut- off date of the 15th December this year is appropriate for making a go or otherwise decision. Players and Captains have to have enough time to make travel arrangements.

We do not want players to go to the trouble of submitting the various squad application forms if we do not go to Bangladesh. Therefore we are inviting expressions of interest by email from players which should be sent to the Secretary of NZ Bridge by 15th November. Should the Department of Foreign affairs declare that it is safe to travel to Bangladesh, and NZ Bridge concurs, the Selectors will choose the teams and then require the chosen players to complete the application forms.

The World Youth Bridge Team Championships will be held in Wu Jiang, China from the 9th to the 18th of August. We hope that we will be able to send a team to this event. In the meantime it will be really important that youth players who feel that they will be in a position to represent their country play in as many tournaments as possible. We will make a further statement early in the New Year.

The Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championship will be held at the Gold Coast Convention Centre from the 14th to 18th February. This event immediately precedes the Gold Coast Congress which starts on the 17th February. Applications for teams of four or six should be sent to the Secretary, NZ Bridge, by the 15th November. The Selectors will announce the successful team prior to the end of November. There will be no funding for this event.

Regards

Derek Evennett

