



Newsletter No: 7 for 2019

25 October 2019

When I started preparing this note I thought not a lot had happened over the last 2 months. How mistaken I was. Part of that may have been I was in China for 2 weeks followed by Congress.

Well the team has been busy.

The Board wishes to thank you for your attendance and support at the AGM. Pleasingly there was unanimous support for the new constitution.

This has now been registered and we have satisfied the requirements of Inland Revenue.

The next step is to review and update the NZ Bridge Manual. We have decided to put a working party together and try and knock this off over a weekend.

The Congress committee is due to meet on the 29th of October for a debrief. On the face of it Congress was a great success with record numbers- 735 players.

On the Friday we had 135 tables which presented some logistical problems. Nevertheless, everyone appeared to have a good time. Clearly the introduction of a further open restricted event proved very popular. Equally popular were junior and intermediate events. There is no doubt the future success of congress will centre on growing participation in junior, intermediate and open restricted events. That is logical as the bulk of our membership sits within these categories.

At Congress we had the pleasure in recognising players' successes and achievements. Of special note was Michael Whibley for the best declarer play in 2019. Michael will receive the award in China. This is a huge recognition for a small country. As you will recall Geo Tislevoll was recognised in 2018 for the best defence.

Throughout Congress I harped on about appropriate behaviour. Whilst Congress was largely uneventful we still had a few incidents. Please stop and think before you say anything or act. Treat people in the same manner as you expect to be treated- with respect and courtesy. We will keep harping on until we see a noticeable change in behaviour. We are asking directors and recorders to be vigilant. It is not up to NZ Bridge, it is up to you the individual. We don't want to stand people down but we will if that is required to get the message through. This not about being less competitive, it is about being respectful.



We have a number of major events coming up in November. First of the ranks is the NZ Wide Pairs on the 1st of November. Last year we had over a 1000 pairs participating. Hopefully you will get behind this event and we can surpass last year's numbers. We know the cost of the event has risen but it is for a very good cause. The proceeds are going to the Foundation who are underpinning our youth strategy. Think of it this way, it is less than 42 cents a board and you get a booklet that fully analyses the hands.

Next up is the National 15A Teams in Nelson on the weekend of 9/10 November followed by the Interprovincials from the 23rd to the 25th of November.

Hopefully you will get behind your team and support them.

Whilst we were in China the WBF met. The WBF have confirmed zone 7 which includes Australia and New Zealand will retain its 2 places in each category for 2021. Next year we have the mind games (previously the Olympiad). The event is yet to be finalised but at this stage the likely location is Tsingtao, a large coastal city in China. Target date is the first half of October. We recently called for expressions of interest for next year. We are delighted with the response received. The International Committee meets on the 1st December to review the 2019 performance and consider what we do next year. Also, next year we are working on sending 2 youth teams to the youth championships. Whilst on the subject of international events, the APBF Congress is being held in Perth, Western Australia, next April. Many of the teams we played in Singapore I suspect will be playing. This event is potentially very good preparation for those playing at an international level. We have been invited to play which is exciting. However, historically we have not been in a position to offer financial support. Unfortunately, restriction on funding will continue in 2020. Notwithstanding, we hope players will take advantage of the opportunity to play this event. Teams participating do not have to comprise all New Zealanders. You can put a composite team together. We will help where we can.

Earlier I mentioned the support we are getting from the NZ Bridge Foundation. The Foundation has ambitious goals and is keen to support the development of the game in New Zealand. To do this they need additional funding. On behalf of the Foundation we are asking players to support the Foundation with fund raising opportunities so the Foundation can in turn support the bridge community with grants. Assistance may come from playing the New Zealand Wide Pairs, or from donations and/or bequests.

You may have observed that NZB has adopted a new Health and Safety policy. We have posted this on the website and clubs are encouraged to look at their requirements. Obligations under the Health and Safety legislation are significant and clubs should have a policy in force.

In prior renditions we have mentioned the need to review our marketing objectives and plan. The Board has approved funding so we can engage some professional help. We will keep you informed as we make progress.

At the AGM a question was asked as to what progress we are making with grading and handicapping. This has been deferred pending getting our platform fully operational. I have to apologise we are not

yet there. Recently we received representation from Mike Neels and Bob Fearn. This is a significant project and further research is required before we commit to a project team to develop and size something that will work for us on a sustainable basis.

The review of the Regional Committees is underway. Karen has now got a team together comprising regional committee representation (Sue Brown- Auckland Northland, Rona Driscoll- Waikato Bays, Mairi Fitzsimons- Central Districts, and Giles Hancock- Canterbury), an independent- Russell Watt, RBM Ray Curnow and Board representation - Karen Martelletti and Anne Barrowclough.

The future role of the RBM's will inevitably form part of this review. In the meantime, the RBM's are continuing their good work. We are in the process of developing plans for 2020. At the moment we do not have a RBM for Otago Southland so if you are interested can you get in contact with Alister.

In August we had a youth weekend and a teacher's weekend. Both were very successful.

We are planning changes to director training and assessment. The plan is to have 2 pathways:-

1. An on-line assessment, open book that will require 100% pass. Only questions answered incorrectly will have to be repeated.
2. Attendance and participation in an approved directing course.

Whilst on the subject of directing Murray has been working on directors' reference guides. Two guides will be released in the coming weeks with further guides under development. Further preliminary work has been done in putting together director movement guides. The plan is that directors will be able to enter the level of tournament, number of sessions and number of tables and appropriate movements will be recommended.

Enjoy your bridge and good luck to those competing at the upcoming events.

Cheers

Allan