

14 October 2020

## CONGRESS 2020



As much as we wanted Congress 2020 to proceed the conditions set by Government make the running of the event impossible. It is sad but it is what it is.

We set a minimum criterion that the entire Country had to be at Alert level 1 on or before the 16<sup>th</sup> September, so we had sufficient time to complete arrangements. As you know the Government has extended Alert Level 2/2.5 for a further week. The plan is

1. The Auckland Region Alert Level 2.5 will remain in place until at least 11.59pm on Wednesday 23 September. There is no guarantee that the Auckland Region will be at Alert level 1 prior to the commencement of Congress.
2. The Rest of New Zealand will remain at Alert level 2 until at least 11.59pm on Monday 21 September. Subject to no deterioration the Rest of New Zealand will step down to Alert Level 1 at 11.59pm on 21 September.

Further leaving a decision any longer could have a detrimental impact on player travel and accommodation arrangements. We hope you can secure refunds and/or credits.

Undoubtedly there will be a contingent of players who might suggest Congress should or could continue without Auckland. That is not possible. Congress 2020 is our national championship and as such we cannot run the event if we are forced to exclude 25% of our playing membership.

Further, to date, Auckland players comprise >34% of overall entries and 38% of open entries. The financial viability of running the event without Auckland participation is severely compromised.

To assist Richard and his team **please do not cancel your entry. We will manage the cancellations as we arrange refunds.**

If you originally paid via credit card, please email or phone Richard with your bank account details so that your refund can be processed. This will not be necessary for those who paid directly into the Congress bank account

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We know this decision will be a major disappointment, but we need to care for the welfare of players. We thank you for your understanding.

We now look forward to Congress 2021, making it bigger and better.

Cheers Allan

Chair New Zealand Bridge