



7 December 2020

Newsletter No: 9 for 2020

Over the preceding few months, we have been developing a strategy for the next 5 years and beyond. Our focus is all about working in partnership with clubs to grow membership and participation. In many respects it builds on the foundation of the regional bridge mates and the excellent work they have done.

Our plan is over the next couple of months is to test our thinking, amend or tweak the plan as found necessary and then undertake full consultation with clubs. If your club committee is keen to be part of the testing conversation, we are keen to hear from you.

Last month the Inter-Provincials, were held in Wellington. A successful weekend with the Auckland Northland Team winning the Dougal McLean Trophy. Winners of each group were: -

1. Open- Auckland Northland (Geo Tislevoll, Michael Ware, Tom Jacob, Nick Jacob)
2. Seniors- Central Districts (Jan Whyte, Bob and Evelyn Hurley, Ken Bateman)
3. Women- Waikato (Karen Martelletti, Kate Terry, Christine, and Jenna Gibbons)
4. Intermediates- Wellington (Jeremy Morley, Martin Rew, Simon Louisson, Andrew Cushnie)

Congratulations to the winners and everyone who participated.

Also, in November we saw the final of the National Rubber Bridge. Congratulations to Stuart Grant and Tony Quinlivan from Christchurch who took the honours from Clare Coles and Kevin Whyte of Cambridge.

The other day we received a communication from the WBF about the explosion of online cheating. A copy of the communication is on the website and you are encouraged to read it. As Gianarrigo Rona (WBF President) says we are facing a very unpleasant and unacceptable situation due to the explosion of online cheating. The image of bridge cannot and must not be deformed and the enjoyment and pleasure given by the game cannot and must not be infected by this vile behaviour. We fully support these sentiments and will do our part to stamp out and rid the game of cheating. Regrettably, we have had to address our own cases of cheating,



referring incidents to Conduct, Discipline and Disputes Committee. We know when you live in a small community circumstances of cheating or suspicions of cheating are often known or thought to be known. We are bound to follow due process, cater for natural justice, and adhere to statutes and regulations. Often when we publish the findings of an investigation this does not sit well with parts of our community. We understand the sentiments of players, but each case needs to be considered on its merits. It is hard (impossible) to apply a blanket response to each case. Having said the above we want to make it clear going forward if a player cheats, we will use everything at our disposal to eliminate cheating and rid the game of players who embark on such behaviour. If you need to break the rules and cheat this game is not for you. If you are found to be cheating, you can expect to be named and to be banned. Once again, we remind players, they have a personal responsibility to act ethically and play the game in the manner it was intended. If players observe any form of cheating or inappropriate behaviour we want to know, and you are encouraged to report such circumstances to us, the chief director, and the national recorder.

Also, along with the ABF we have written to the WBF supporting the Nordic Bridge Union call for action against cheating. The action taken by the WBF is a major step forward to addressing this vile behaviour.

On a positive note, notwithstanding a difficult year with COVID 19 the organisations finances are in a healthy state. Year to date surplus is \$99k compared with a budget loss of \$0.5k. The primary reason is reduced activity due to COVID and keeping expenses in check. We have the expense of the IP's so our surplus for the year to date will reduce but will remain healthy.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of December new privacy laws came into effect. We have shared with clubs a draft data management policy that deals with protection of private information. It is important that clubs have in place a policy for managing private information.

Regional Committees have been appointed for the next 2 years. We thank those who have volunteered. For the Auckland Northland Region where we don't have a quorum, we are undertaking a trial where many of the functions will be undertaken by a person yet to be appointed.

At our last meeting we formally accepted the resignation of Greg Whitten. On behalf of the Board, we want to acknowledge Greg's contribution over the last 3 years. Greg constantly kept us grounded ensuring we prioritised the interests of clubs and club players. Equally we want to acknowledge and thank Kay Nicholas, past chairperson of NZB, life member, and trustee of the NZ Bridge Foundation. Kay recently resigned from the Foundation after

serving for nearly 7 years. Kay has devoted nearly 16 years plus time at a club level to the ongoing welfare of bridge in New Zealand.

Starting in the new year we will be issuing a monthly "regulations" newsletter. This is all about familiarising you with the regulations and making bidding situations better understood. We have asked our Regulations Committee to develop, release and implement a plan to boost our stock of tournament level directors. Details of this and a call for expressions of interest to take part in the programme will be released early in 2021.

Alister shared a bulletin with all clubs earlier this week reiterating our plans for the end of year roll over. A change to open grade will be implemented whereby all players ranked at provincial Master and above will be graded Open. Opening rating points will not be depreciated by the usual 20% as part of the recalculation for the 2021 playing year.

As the year draws to a close, we thank you for your contribution to our game and the feedback you provide us. Hopefully, the disruptions we have experienced this year are well behind us and we have a full calendar of bridge events in 2021 to look forward to.

On that note there are a number of events scheduled over the holiday period that you may consider playing on your home patch or elsewhere if you are travelling:

- 3 -Night Pairs Wellington commencing 27<sup>th</sup> Dec
- 3 -Night pairs Papatoetoe commencing 27<sup>th</sup> Dec
- 3 -Night pairs Auckland commencing 5 Jan
- 3-night pairs Christchurch commencing 5 Jan
- 3-night pairs Alexandra commencing 8 Jan
- Thames Festival commencing 8 Jan
- Holiday Pairs Kerikeri 8 & 9 Jan
- Waitemata Open Pairs 16 Jan
- O/S Region 10A Swiss Pairs Invercargill 16 Jan

Details of these events and others over the remainder of January can be found here <http://www.nzbridge.co.nz/events.html>

Cheers Allan