



Newsletter No: 3 for 2020

25th April 2020

Anzac Day



Lest we forget the men and women who have paid the ultimate sacrifice whilst serving our country.

We hope you continue to stay safe and well in your bubble. Without doubt our ability to play online has provided some relief to the stay at home provisions under Covid 19. Thanks to the Auckland Bridge Club, Patrick Carter, Julie Atkinson and an army of helpers, there has been over 35000 hands for over 3500 players. The addiction is alive and well.

Last week we set about undertaking Phase 1 of a "health check" of bridge clubs. At the time of writing this note we had about 70 responses from clubs. If you have not responded we encourage you to do so. Pleasingly 51% of clubs say they have not had any problems yet and that none are expected. Another 25% have had no problems yet. Unfortunately, there are 4 clubs who are experiencing extreme hardship or finding it tough. Nearly 60% of respondents indicated they have the financial where for all to manage their affairs for 12 months or more.



We asked clubs would they be interested in receiving advice, support, and possibly financial assistance from New Zealand Bridge. The results are set out below:

Assistance	#Clubs
Planning for re-opening	44
Health and Safety	25
Grants/Loans	14
Obligations to staff	12
Applying for subsidies	9
Reducing fixed costs	6
Support paying bills	5
Talking to local council	5
Budgeting advice	2
Negotiating rent reductions	2

To help refine the support that we can offer, Phase 2 of the health check has now been distributed to clubs requesting urgent assistance.

In the meantime, we are focusing on a broad spectrum of initiatives that might help clubs through this unique situation. Next week we move to Alert level 3, which will be reviewed by Government on the 11th of May. The likelihood of us returning to the bridge table shortly must be considered remote. Our reading of the rules suggests until we get down to Alert Level 1 full participation will be curtailed. There is a very small window where we might be able to open at Alert Level 2 provided we meet health conditions, comply with travel conditions, and limit the size of gatherings. Our understanding of the conditions is set out in the following chart.

Recreation activities at Alert Levels 1-4

	Alert Level 1	Alert level 2	Alert level 3	Alert Level 4
Non-contact activity	No restrictions (other than general public health measures at this alert level).	Non-contact Activity can take place in outdoor and indoor facilities with public health measures. These include sanitation/hygiene guidance, advisory to minimise non-essential travel and conditions on gatherings. A condition on gatherings is that indoor facilities cannot exceed 100 people . People feeling unwell must stay home.	Outside bubble Non-contact organised recreation activity not allowed outside bubble. Virtual games and activities are allowed. No sharing of equipment outside bubble. Gatherings of up to 10 people will be allowed but only for wedding services, funerals and tangihanga. Physical distancing and public health measures must be maintained. Within bubble Activities allowed if permitted by travel rules at this alert level. Simple exercise, non-contact physical activity can take place.	Outside bubble Non-contact organised recreation activity not allowed outside bubble. Virtual games and activities are allowed. Within bubble Simple exercise, non-contact physical activity can take place, including in outdoor place that can be readily accessed from home. Low-risk activities only.

Over the coming weeks we will prepare a set of guidelines for re-opening. We are interested to hear from members who are willing to help with financial management and oversight at a club level. We are keen to put in place an advisory service for clubs. Shortly we will release health and safety guidelines for clubs including a section on pandemic management.

Our elite players have been notified that the WBF has cancelled the World Youth Championships and the World Games Championship to be played later this year. The intention of the WBF is that the 2020 events will be played in February/ March 2021 and then later in the year the 2021 calendar of events. Not surprisingly, there are a number of logistical and financial challenges which need to be addressed if we are going to support a jammed packed calendar in 2021. Our priority must be on the grass roots of the game- that is to rebuild the game, to re-open clubs and to get players back to the bridge table.

The Board met on the 21st as part of our fortnightly welfare check-in. I am pleased to report neither Alister nor Richard are short of things to do. Some of the matters discussed:

1. We are reviewing how we can secure media attention, that the game is alive and well with large numbers playing online. There are some wonderful, human interest stories out there that can be shared.
2. We plan on strengthening our social media policy. Those clubs who have a website and Facebook need to look at their security arrangements should members leave or should there be a change in personnel. Security protocols must rest with the club not an individual.
3. We are going to wait until 11 May before announcing any further major tournament cancellations.
4. A decision on the 2020 Congress proceeding or not will be made in June.
5. Revision of the manual is near completion. This has been a significant piece of work.
6. We are having a look at the rollover of player rating points at year end and whether we continue as normal, amend the % discount or set aside 2020 (ie no change).

Stay safe, stay well, and be kind

Cheers Allan