



17 July 2020

BREAKING NEWS

Congress 2020 is all set to proceed with only one condition- that Government does not impose/reinstate COVID 19 controls.

<p>Congress 2020 Sir Don Rowlands Centre, Karapiro 26 September 2020 to 3 October 2020</p>

The centre is on the shores of Lake Karapiro and is idyllically set. It is however remote with no shops in nearby reach. There will be on-site catering. More details will follow in due course.

There will be a slightly modified programme and there will be no night play. Sessions will finish around 5.30pm allowing players and staff to retire for the day. There is one new 34 room hotel in Cambridge (Hidden Lakes) and a reasonable amount of accommodation (Airbnb, Bed and Breakfast, Motels, etc) around the lake, in Cambridge and nearby, plus several eating establishments. It is only 40 to 50 minutes to Hamilton, with Te Awamutu & Matamata within reasonable driving reach.

We are investigating a bus service from Hamilton, however if you are driving and have space, to offer transport for those who will be in need let us know.

We want to thank the many who offered alternative venues for consideration after the Distinction Hotel left us high and dry. The team has worked tirelessly over the last few weeks to shore up a venue that could meet all or most of our requirements. For the last 12 months we have been investigating alternatives for 2021 so to scramble around in 3 weeks is a commendable effort. As we are just over 2 months from Congress, and several players had already arranged travel and accommodation there was a strong preference to keep the event in the Waikato region.

Contacts for accommodation in Cambridge and Hamilton:

Cambridge i-site Visitor Centre

info@cambridge.co.nz 07 823 3456

www.cambridge.co.nz 7 days 10.00am -4.00 pm

Hamilton i-site Visitor Centre

hailey.max@visithamilton.co.nz 7 days 10am-5 pm

www.visithamilton.co.nz 07 958 5961

If you are booking at Hidden Lakes Hotel, please say you are going to the National Bridge Congress.

The decision to use the Don Rowlands Centre is for 2020 only. We ask that you get behind it and support the organisers and staff to make the event successful. We are sure you appreciate the organisation of this year's event is anything but normal. We are confident that the venue will cater for the expected number planning on attending. Nevertheless, we urge you to enter as soon as possible so you are not disappointed. As we will have a slightly modified programme and no night play we have come up with an encouraging range of prices.

Further

- We will not be offering Airport Transfers this year.
- This year there will not be a Dine and Dance but rather there will be a prize giving with refreshments at the end of play on the final day.
- We will not be producing a daily bulletin this year.
- A summary of the revised programme will be on the Website from Monday.
- The Congress website will be updated over the next couple of days to reflect the revised programme.
- Online entries will re-open on Monday July 20th and will be on the basis that they are prepaid this year.

The entry fees have been revised and reduced as follows:

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|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| • Full Package | \$350.00 |
| • NZ Pairs /Restricted Open Pairs | \$140.00 |
| • NZ Teams/Restricted Open Teams | \$280.00 |
| • Individual events final three days | \$40.00 - \$75.00 |

South Island subsidies will apply as before.

I will be contacting those players who have already entered and paid for Congress to arrange any entry refund due.

In closing it would help us greatly with all the logistics if you complete your entries as soon as possible.

Richard Solomon

Chairman Congress Committee