



21 January 2022

Newsletter No: 1 for 2022

Hi Everyone

I don't know about you, but it is good that 2021 is now behind us. Second guessing how Covid-19 was going to play out and how that was going to impact club and tournament play was challenging to say the least. We are not out of the woods as we wait for Omicron to unfold its tentacles in the community. How Omicron will play out we will just have to wait and see. In the meantime, it is important to get on with our lives taking all the necessary precautions.

Prior to the end of the year, bridge clubs, except for, Auckland Northland and Waikato, have all been at orange and free to enjoy play. Clubs have introduced protocols to protect the welfare of their players. From 30 December all regions, subject to the prevailing traffic light setting have been able to play.

Our focus for 2022 is to avoid cancellation of any event. We are hopeful Congress will proceed in just a few weeks, starting 10 February. We are pleased with the level of entries particularly those in the intermediate grade. Last time we ran Congress we had ~720 entries. This year we are close to 600 which is commendable when we have no Australians, and we still have Covid lingering about. If Covid strikes, the plan is the event will revert to online. For now, the plan is full steam ahead. A reminder for those attending and to ease administration you are invited to pre-register your vaccination status with Richard. This will ease movement in and out of the venue.

You are also reminded that we are having a members' meeting between 4pm and 6pm on the 9th. We look forward to seeing a good turnout.

Full details below but make sure you rsvp for catering purposes.





INVITATION FROM THE BOARD

4-6pm on Wed 9th February
Upstairs at the Congress Venue
Lion Foundation Centre, Trustpower
Baypark Arena, Mt Maunganui

MEET AND GREET THE BOARD
DISCUSS NZBRIDGE PRIORITIES
CHECK OUT THE VENUE
BEAT THE QUEUES TO PREREGISTER &
SCAN COVID PASSPORTS

Finger food and refreshments provided
RSVP for catering purposes by
Friday 4th February to:
secretary@nzbridge.co.nz



A lot has been happening on the marketing front. Here is a snapshot.

1. New logo and brand identity design was launched on 1 December. Videography completed.
2. PR initiatives including development of a press kit. Congress will be a focus to pitch to mainstream media and raise the profile of the game.
3. New to bridge website: www.playbridge.co.nz
4. Social media audit and launch of two new social media sites- Facebook community page and Instagram page.
5. Congress promotion support.
6. RBM initiatives.

We hope you like the new logo.

What else has been happening- the manual has been updated and details provided to clubs. Director exams were recently held in Invercargill and a further course is planned in the next few months to be held in Wellington.

Whilst our priority is to encourage face to face bridge, we recognise online bridge has a role. The plan is to have at least one online tournament this year. Over the weekend of 17th & 18th December NZBridge will host a 10A Teams and a 10A Swiss Pairs on the RealBridge Platform. Rona has added these to the tournament schedule. We will provide further details over the coming months, in the meantime keep these dates free.

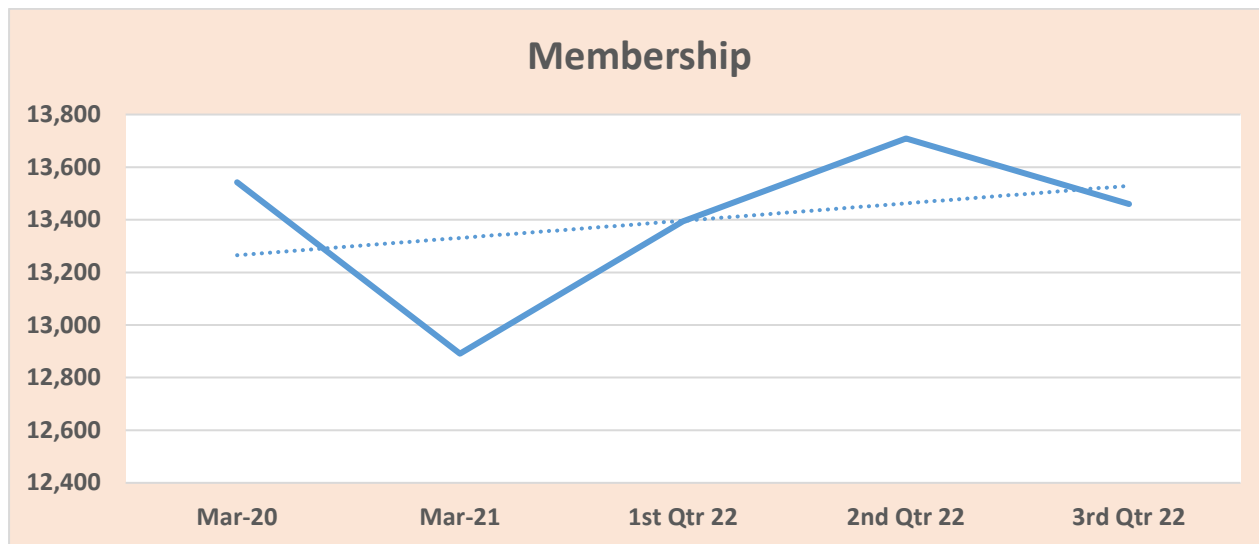
On the subject of, online events, we held a tri-series in December between Australia, Indonesia, and New Zealand. By and large the event went off very well. The highlight being our youth team triumphing in their category. We have agreed with the ABF to hold more events in 2022 but to extend the opportunity for non-international players. More news in due course.

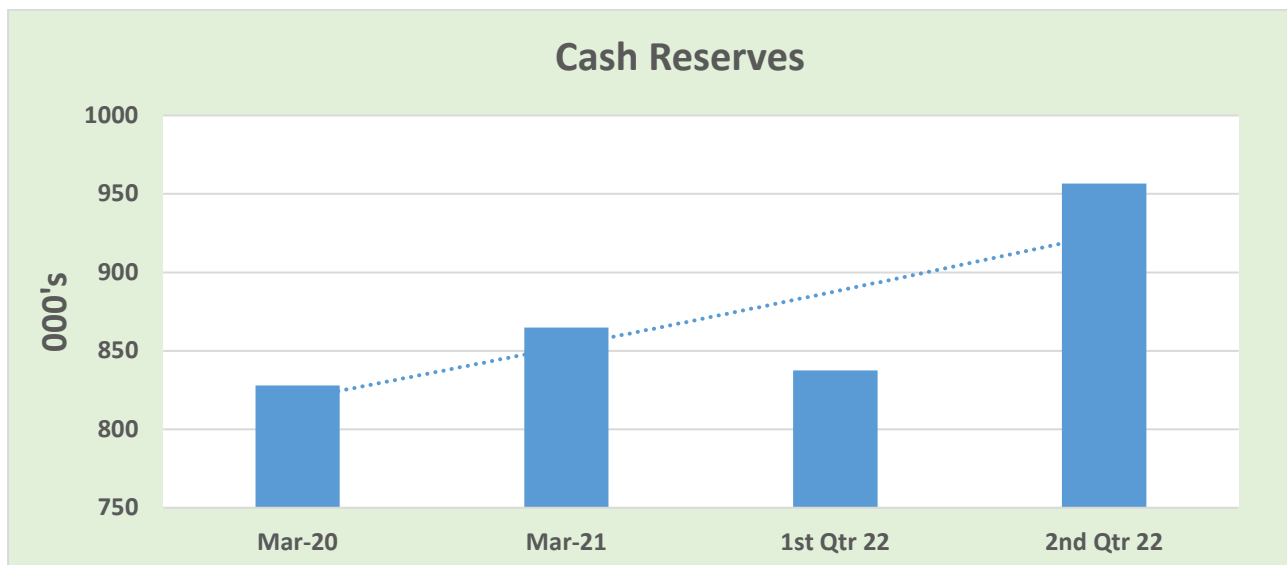
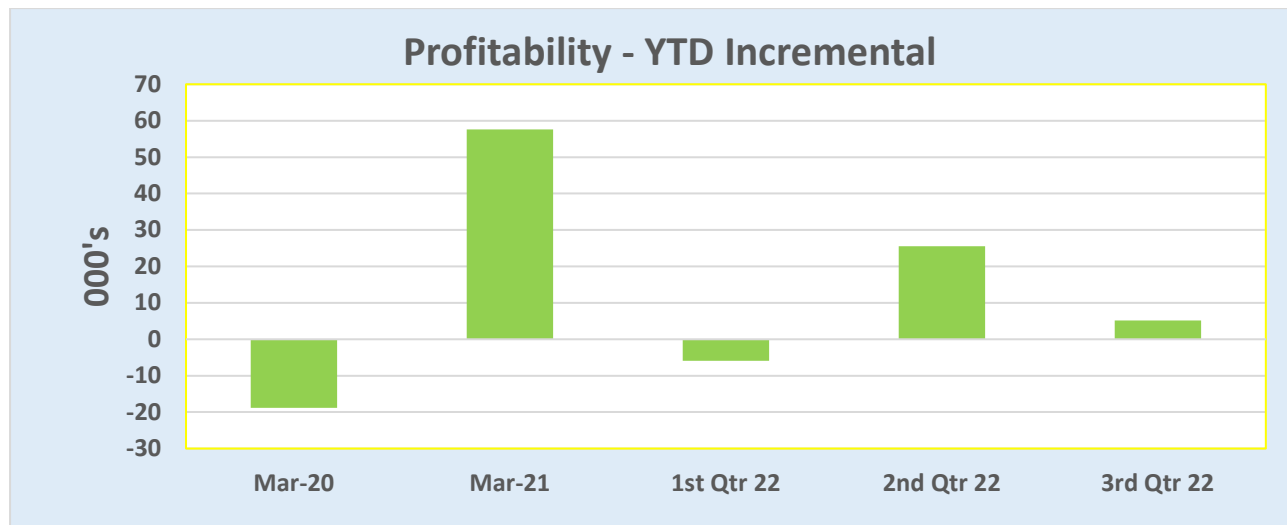
The World Bridge Championship is scheduled for late March early April in Salsomaggiore, Italy. Having consulted squad members, we have decided against sending a women's', mixed, and senior teams. We are still evaluating sending an open team. The latter depending on the ability of players to be able to freely return home and on the protocols for Covid.

The organisation finances remain healthy notwithstanding revenue from masterpoints is down for the first 9 months.

NZ BRIDGE DASHBOARD

As at the End of the Third Quarter 2021





Membership numbers are down which is not unusual as clubs review and purge their membership lists. Some clubs are experiencing high losses so if there is anything we can do to assist let us know. At the get together on the 9th of February we hope to discuss options and ideas to grow player numbers.

Profit is marginally ahead of forecast primarily due to an increase in participation and masterpoints. Cash reserves remain healthy with good returns in December. The gains on our investments are of course unrealised.

In the next few days, we will be issuing a survey about online bridge. We are keen to have your clubs, response back by the 5th February.

At the board meeting earlier this week we made a call to host the 2022 Interprovincial finals online and have shared this decision with the Regional Committees today.

Regions are free to select their teams as they wish, which this year may include online trials for which we will award Masterpoints. Richard will provide more details over the coming months. As was the case in 2021 Regions may select either 4 or 6 person teams.

Over the summer break you may have heard two interviews on Radio New Zealand. Thanks to Charleen and Sonya for promoting bridge. That little bit of airtime resulted in enquiries about the game and participating in lessons. Also, over the summer break Sonya ran a programme for youth staying at Glendhu Bay (Wanaka) campground.



The other thing that may interest you is that Sonya is running Pub bridge. She has an arrangement with a local pub for a couple of tables. Players can go along and play pre dealt hands. It is generating interest. South Wairarapa have picked up on the idea. If we stretch our minds there must be heaps of creative ways to get the game out into the community. Please share your ideas with us.

Regards

Allan

Postscript

Post completion of our newsletter the Government announced should Omicron manifest itself in the community the whole country would move to the red traffic light within 24 to 48 hours. There is no plan to use lockdowns as a control measure. It is clear the plan is to use rapid antigen tests (RAT). Additional detail is yet to be announced, so we are in a bit of a vacuum. Should we move to red traffic light bridge can continue, limited to 100, provided players are fully vaccinated. Further advisories will follow as and when the Government make announcements.

We also appreciate there maybe concern about Congress. We will continue to keep arrangements under the microscope. Further communications will follow as we better understand our options

