



Newsletter No: 6 for 2019

26 August 2019

The World Championships in Wuhan, China start on the 14th September. We have four teams participating- Open, Women, Senior and Mixed. I hope you get behind the teams and enjoy watching their performances. The teams will be providing daily updates.

The next major event is Congress, starting 28th September in Hamilton. We are grateful for the assistance provided by all sponsors but in particular our two major sponsors- Hamilton City and Ryman Healthcare. If you have not yet registered, I hope you are encouraged to get on to it and play in our most prestigious event.

On the morning of Saturday 28th September we will be holding our AGM. After broad consultation, we will be proposing the adoption of a new constitution that is designed to govern the organisation for the next 10 years and beyond. Should the constitution be adopted, which I hope is the case, the next body of work is a comprehensive review of the manual to ensure it is reflective of the new constitution and mirrors the rules of the game and how the game is now played.

We know a review of the manual is required but it is quite a large piece of work.

Late last month Alister shared with you details of changes that we made to minimum boards required to be played at tournaments from 5A level and above. We are delighted to hear already that a number of clubs hosting events have been able to run formats better suited to the number of tables in play. I do reiterate though that it is not our intention to dumb down tournaments with less bridge played. The key here is flexibility for Clubs and directors after factoring in the number of tables in play and the time available to complete the event. I can report that Murray Wiggins is preparing a table of recommended board numbers for various table numbers. This will be completed shortly and we will share this information with you.

In prior renditions of this newsletter I have emphasised the importance of appropriate behaviour at the table. Regrettably the message is not being picked up. Over the last few weeks we have a number of instances where the behaviour at the table was far from acceptable. The Board has a zero tolerance for inappropriate behaviour and will enforce regulations at our disposal. The Board has an expectation that senior players, in particular, will lead by example. Beginners, juniors, intermediates and many open players are influenced by the actions of our senior and supposedly more experienced players. So please stop and think before you do or say anything. If something untoward happens at the bridge table, please call the director and allow them to deal with the situation. Understanding that



this newsletter often does not get circulated beyond its committee, I would encourage each club to promulgate this message during September to all its membership via its newsletter, website and announcements at the start of each session.

Recommendation- **STOP AND THINK BEFORE YOU SAY OR DO ANYTHING.**

As reported on earlier Jane Stearns has resigned from the Board. I have been asked on a number of occasions, why? I am pleased to report, nothing mysterious or untoward. The decision is for personal reasons, which I hope like us, you will respect. Jane is finishing off some project work. As a result of Jane's resignation we now have a vacancy on the board. Normal practice is for the board to seek expressions of interest and fill the vacancy short term. As we have just over 5 months before we call for nominations and the fact that the board is working well I have a preference to delay doing anything in haste. Nevertheless I am keen to hear from anyone who may be interested in serving on the Board. At the moment we have a good general set of skills, which are supported by volunteers on as a required basis. Looking ahead marketing/public relations would be beneficial.

On the subject of marketing we are re-establishing a marketing sub-committee of 5-6 people to develop and oversee implementation of a long-term marketing strategy around the bi-line - "Bridge- A Game for Life". We think this body of work will take about 6 months. If you have, or know anyone with marketing, advertising or PR skills and contacts, and would like to help us please contact Alister (secretary@nzbridge.co.nz) with some background information. The wider the range of skills we can access the better the job we can do.

For some months we have been developing a health and safety policy and a child protection policy. We have a duty under law to look after the welfare of employees and people participating in the events we manage. Equally we have a duty to look after the welfare of our youth players. These policies will be posted on the website under resources. We strongly urge that clubs look at their own arrangements and ensure they are compliant. Feel free to use the policies we have developed as a template and we thank Anne Barrowclough for compiling these documents.

With Jane stepping aside there has been quite a bit of chatter as to what we are doing going forward with the Regional Bridge Mate (RBM) initiative. We have a workshop with the team on Tuesday 27th August. We will report separately on the findings of the workshop.

Lastly we had a brief discussion on the future of the bridge forum on our NZB website. We are keen for this to continue as it provides a voice and a place for members to share ideas. We are looking at what we can do to improve how we deliver the forum.

Enjoy your bridge

Cheers Allan