



12 February 2026

Newsletter No 1 for 2026

The Board held its 1st meeting for the year late last month at which my appointment as chair was formally ratified. I look forward to working alongside my colleagues and with our member clubs to further our game.

Workshop with Regions

On Sunday the board hosted a workshop with a representative from our regional committees. During the morning, we reviewed the activity plans and financial results for 2025 with the afternoon session dedicated to plans and budgets for 2026. We appreciate and thank the delegates for giving up their Sunday to participate and we are looking forward to the various activities planned for 2026 coming to fruition.

Website Upgrade

Last week we reached a milestone whereby a period of intense testing will be undertaken. While we don't yet have a launch date, it won't be until we are fully satisfied that this release will function properly. Those testing will consider not only the look and feel of the site, but also functionality and ease of navigation.

System Cards

We are looking to replenish our supply of NZ Bridge system cards in hard copy. Alister will let clubs know when they will be available.



Learners Booklets

We are delighted to see the launch of our updated learner's material and congratulate the members of our Teaching and Learning Committee for managing the roll out of the booklets to clubs. We were pleased to be able to make 20 copies available to each club free of charge. Our initial supply of booklets is all but exhausted so a further order is underway.

NZ Bridge Marketing Plan

During our workshop Kate Terry shared details of the board's marketing plan for 2026. We intend maintaining the momentum created thus far in conjunction with our marketing partner Fish Digital Limited. The plan comprises a monthly themed PR promotion using social media and in regional publications. Information will be shared with clubs shortly

NZ Bridge Financial Results 2025

Work is underway to finalise the annual financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2025. We are encouraged by the return to profit after several years of losses, a trend that we are working hard to ensure continues. In 2026 our outgoings will be lower with no funded teams traveling to overseas events.

Regional Championships

We receive regular feedback both positive and negative about aspects of the Regional Championships. While interest in the long-standing event has diminished over the years, NZ Bridge is keen to retain the event on the calendar in some form if possible.

The board will engage with players, clubs, and regions soon after the online segment that is being contested in May has concluded.

Congress 2026

The 40th NZ Bridge National Congress will be held in Palmerston North from 7 to 14 November 2026, returning as the premier event on the New Zealand bridge calendar, we expect a record number of attendees following strong participation in 2025. This year the Congress will take place at the Palmy Function & Conference Centre on Main Street, and at the Distinction Hotel on Cuba Street, allowing extra entries. In response to your feedback the programme closely follows the successful format from 2025, beginning with the **NZ Teams events on Saturday 7th November**, and includes a mix of national competitions and social fixtures. Entries are now open and you can register online at www.nzbridge.co.nz to secure your registration.

Incorporated Societies Act 2022

Finally, we are encouraged by the number of clubs who have completed the transition having re-registered under the Incorporated Societies Act 2022. We acknowledge also Anne Barrowclough who has led this initiative for us. Anne reports that 11 clubs are still to make the change and are working hard to do so by the due date. Any club requiring assistance should email Anne direct via anne.barrowclough@nzbridge.co.nz

Until next time.

Regards

Peter