



26 August 2022

Newsletter No: 6 for 2022

Hi Everyone

Online Bridge

We wish to thank clubs and players who responded to the questionnaire relating to online bridge. We received over 100 responses, which demonstrates people care about the future of our game. As you all know the consultation period closed on 12 August. The Working Group, members of the Thinktank and the various work streams are now working through the process.

We appreciate the desire for an early response. The Board and the Working Group understands the call, but it is more important that we diligently work through the process, develop a sustainable outcome that is going to serve our game in the long run. I want to dampen any expectation that online will be discussed at the AGM. If we are sufficiently advanced, we will provide a briefing. If we find additional analysis or research is required, then I ask for patience.

Club Membership

Over the last few months, we have seen our overall membership grow from a recent low of 12,500 to 12,850 at the end of July. It is pleasing to see players returning to bridge as the fears on Covid 19 subside. Several clubs have made huge strides with Rangiora up 19, Whakatane 18, Christchurch 17 and Nelson 16. Auckland has 28 learners who are engaged and excited so hopefully next month we will see another rise. On the flip side we have a few clubs who appear to be doing it hard with numbers falling. Please contact Richard and we will see how we can assist.

The Boards singular focus is on how we can help clubs grow membership and increase participation. We are strengthening our investment in regional bridge support officers, as well as improving marketing collateral.

In the meantime, please do let us know what is working for your club with player retention and participation. We are keen to share details of successes.

On that note we hear that some clubs are getting a very positive response to offering shorter sessions particularly those held during the evenings. We fully support this and encourage clubs to try this if it makes night play more appealing to members, especially those who are working.



Asia Cup

In October we will be sending a development team to Indonesia to play in the Asia Cup. Congratulations to Jeremy Fraser-Hoskins, Jack James, Leon Meier, Michael Ware (Captain), Ashley Bach & Michael Cornell.

World Bridge Federation

Earlier this week election to the Executive Council took place in Poland. We have passed on our congratulations to those newly elected- Franck Riehm (France), Fernando Lena (Argentina), and Helen Kruger (South Africa). Also, Ben Thompson, President of Zone 7 has been elected as 1st Vice President. We look forward to the benefits that should arise from the newly appointed.

Congress 2022

It is hard to believe we are just over a month away from Congress. Registration numbers are down on prior years. I think the lower number is because players are a little nervous about the event being cancelled. The only reason the event will be cancelled is if there is a change in the Government Covid 19 settings. The likelihood of this happening is becoming more remote as we move closer to the 1st October. As of 25 October, the daily new community cases are 2,780 with a rolling 7-day average of 3,061. Hospital cases recorded at 336, meaning the health system has the bandwidth. Baypark is an exciting new venue. The tournament programme provides an opportunity for everyone to play. Therefore, if you have not entered you are encouraged to enter. Enjoy the occasion and make many new friends. We look forward to seeing you there.

Regards

Allan

