

## **President's Patch #4. July 2016**

Life Member, Administrator, Daytime Director, Lorraine Stachurski can now add Gold Grandmaster to her CV. Gold is highest level and she joins Wayne Burrows and Bob and Ev Hurley at that level. Congratulations. There are only 30 Gold Grandmasters NZ wide.

### **Directors**

My "call to action" for new directors in the last President's Patch met with a deafening silence. The reality is that we are playing too many sessions for our thin director resource to cope adequately with. A start has been with reducing the 2017 Tuesday bridge playing season to "winter + shoulders of winter". However more needs to be done. You will hear more on this.

### **Inaugurals**

Several "inaugurals" have been introduced:

Undoubtedly a hi-lite and successful was the mid-winter member-only Mad Hatter tourney. 14 tables encompassing a good cross section of all grades and daytimers. I expect word-of-mouth to lead to an increase next year. Photos are on our website.

Social Sunday bridge (no director, no red devils, no host) has been introduced with 6 tables at the first session, with a wide range of abilities present. At this stage it is being run on an occasional basis (fitting in around room availability and what tourneys are on locally), but this will be reviewed. Next is on 31<sup>st</sup> July. There is a Partner Finder on the noticeboard. A member can play with a non-member.

Improvers Lessons using the NZCBA template have been held with 9-13 individuals, using the Club's new projector. Four two-hour sessions on Wednesdays so far, with another three sessions booked on August 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup>.

A new format for the Tuesday Swiss Pairs with a semi-final/final on the last night proved successful.

### **From the Subcommittees**

*Social & Tournament:* Following the Mad Hatter the next tournament is the Intermediate on Sept 10 ("Intermediate" refers to your NZCBA ranking not your Club grade – confusing I know). Players with NZCBA ranking less than Intermediate are also welcome to play.

*Recruitment and Retention:* Beginners lessons have finished. The "graduates" (8 of them) will spend a couple of weeks in a practice setting and then hit the Junior room running in August. A special Butler pairs cum social cum instruction session will be held in the Junior room on August 29<sup>th</sup>. An "opt-in" email Q&A service for bidding/opening lead questions started with a hiss and roar but faded. Suggestions of how facilitate inter-member discussion of hands welcome.

*Sessions:* A revamped Tuesday schedule for 2017 was in President's Patch #3 with no adverse commentary resulting. Thursday seems in good health with 14 tables at the start of the July Handicap Pairs, with a new handicap system being used. No change to season length for Thursday is expected for 2017, but there maybe some changes to events held.

*Maintenance:* Working bees to install the backs and seats has been completed (Ross Quayle, Goff Ashwell, myself). A surprising number of old seats/backs have found a new home! Room aesthetics

are considered sterile. Ken Bateman is leading the charge on improving this. Look out for the changes. We are endeavouring to improve external gate access using both combination and key locks. Don MacDonald is leading this project. The combination lock is difficult to open and a “pain”, especially on cold, wet nights.

Technology: Please use the new Pianola web site (<http://pnbridge.nz/>). It is in a formative state at the moment. Suggestions welcome. Our timer is on its last legs (it predates the club move to the current premises!). Duane Griffin has custom built new timer software for the big screen and this should be rolled out shortly.

Conduct: Nil activity. Good!

Finance, Legal, H&S: A major revamp of the Rules is underway for which it is expected a Special Meet will need to be called. Also, consideration is being given to becoming a Registered Charity, which will allow better access to grant funding. In the near future the Club faces major expenditure for carpet replacement as the current carpet is becoming threadbare in spots and will become an H&S issue.

Graeme Thomson