

President's Patch #11 – July 2017

From NZB

NZB has released a report on rejuvenating clubs which are ailing in membership and calling for submissions. This is likely to lead to an increase in club member subscriptions for 2018 and 2019 of ~\$6. The document is on the club noticeboard and available at <http://www.nzbridge.co.nz/latest-updates,listing,3234,nzb-regional-bridge-development-proposal.html>. At PNBC we have already implemented many of the recommendations made. Please send any submissions to the club email and we will collate and respond to NZB.

From the Subcommittees

Technology. New timer clock is a WIP.

Finance/H&S/Legal. The increase in likely subscriptions re NZB special levy is noted. We believe that some people may prefer to just play tournaments and not club sessions. For these people who don't want to take advantage of the excellent services the Club provides we recommend they subscribe under the Country member category (which will be expanded to include "a local not permitted to play club sessions") which gives half price discount (ex NZB levy). Simply send a note to the club email if you want to elect this option in 2018.

Maintenance. The process for carpet replacement is now underway with quotes currently being obtained with grant applications then being submitted. It is likely we will do the main room first and other rooms subsequently to maximise grants.

Administration. A new Admin section for our website is still a WIP.

Recruitment & Retention. There has been a big workload here in recent months. In total this year we have held 22 lessons (2 refresher lessons in January/February and 2 Improvers lessons by Graeme T aided by ChristineC, 10 beginners lessons by KenB, aided by JanW, and 8 Improvers lessons by RayK, aided by ElizabethK). The beginners (9) will be introduced into the Novice Plus room in August. In addition, three social nights have been held, with a Back to the Future Theme, playing hands against the greats of yesteryear.

Social/Tournaments. Since the April 'Patch' we have held the Junior/Intermediate tournaments and the Riot of Colour. Holding the Junior/Intermediate tournaments on the same day was successful as it created a better room ambiance, while entries were sufficient to suggest the format will be repeated next year. While there was plenty of colour at our Riot of Colour tournament there were only 11 tables. The subcommittee will be reviewing whether it should continue to be held. Next up is the Interclub with Wanganui/Hawera, held annually in Wanganui. The format for this dates back some years when numbers playing were much higher and there was competition for selection. Thanks to all those who replied to the invite to participate. Please keep a 'placeholder' on the date. We have written to Hawera and Wanganui suggesting an alternative format which caters better for our 'pot belly' structure of graded candidates (many Intermediates, few elsewhere).

Sessions. Members were canvassed recently about 2018 sessions; a survey conducted about Friday start time; and a meet of Gold/Platinums re Tuesday Open held.

Friday. The start time survey results were finely balanced with the numbers indicating they would start playing regularly with a later start time being roughly the same as those who said they would stop playing if there was a change. The status quo prevails in such situations so no change. In an attempt to boost numbers we will invite members of other clubs to participate on Fridays for table money only, ie no subscription necessary. Please tell anyone you think might be interested – we will of course be notifying the surrounding clubs.

Monday Afternoon. Concern was expressed that there was slow starting and late finishing. Players are reminded that they should be seated ready for play 5 minutes prior to the official start time of 1.15pm to allow the director time to set up and get play underway. It has been agreed with the director that once 4.30pm has occurred no new board should be commenced, and that the director should not call the last round move later than 4.20pm. A suggestion has been made to start play at 1pm during the winter months from 2018. If anyone has comments on this please send them to the Club email. Also, there was little support for a Champs, especially not one called 'Blue Rinse'!

Novice Plus. Beginners will be entering the Novice room in August. Be nice. A lot of effort has been put into preparing them for their first night. Throughout July they have been receiving 1:1 mentoring on each Monday by Gold/Platinums – it was heartening to see so many Gold/Platinums volunteering to do this.

Tuesday Open. The meeting held expressed a strong preference for this night to be recast as a Teams night. Further work will be done to define how this will operate but it is intended that there will be a variety of Teams events held. As an example of one variant, we recently converted the Swiss pairs event to a Swap Teammates roundrobin, whereby each round the same pair played with new teammates. This was well liked. Another suggestion has been for seeding based on NZB rank/grade, so the top four pairs play with each of the next four pairs on different nights (assuming a 4 table set up). It is noted that this may present a scarce opportunity for developing players to play in the same team as some very advanced level players. Any suggestions gratefully received. Once further detail has been worked through a draft programme will be circulated for input.

Newcomers

Warm welcome to:

Lorraine Smith; Daniel Palfreyman; Sheena Tinkler; Barbara Visser; Helen Sutherland; Elaine Todd; Max Sheehy; Juliet Hindman; Clare Veltman. All graduates of the beginners classes.

Tournament Success (since 1 May)

Wayne Burrows won the South Island Pairs, while Michael Hardman/ Hans Van Bunnik won the Levin Intermediate, and Stuart Malcolm/John Hogan won the Palmerston North Intermediate. Congrats.

Dates to watch out for:

August. Matchpoint Champs for Open and Multigrade evenings

September 24. Interclub with Hawera/Wanganui

October 14 PNBC Swiss Pairs