

### **President's Patch #3. June 2016**

The Committee and Subcommittee structure is now posted on the Notice Board. If you have any ideas for any Subcommittee please feel free to approach one of the members. Unfortunately the structure will shortly have to be updated as Mereana Cullen is departing for greener pastures in July.

#### **Directors**

The Club relies heavily on volunteers for a large range of tasks, and while the Club membership (and hence volunteer base) has been tapering off in recent years, the tasks haven't changed much. This year we have already seen the Social/Tournament Subcommittee take decisive action in axing the Charity tournament. Another area of voluntary work is night time directing. This is a relatively thankless task involving stress both in relation to dealing with "difficult!" people, keeping to time, and Scorer technology issues. In an animal environment directors would be called an endangered species. This was brought home to me vividly when Mereana (who was in charge of the director roster) sent me the roster as part of a handover of responsibilities. We are operating on the smell of an oily rag. At that point we had one week remaining before disaster struck with no-one available. Mereana was also our only trainee director and last Monday night was director by herself – but one less director in the director pool from July.

Already, Tuesday night now has no director, rather a combined pool act as director if needed during the play, while Val Pain and Christine Compton usually do the start up/end of play stuff. I think it is abundantly clear that we are playing too many night sessions. Both Tuesday night and Monday night are not well supported with typically 4 or 5 tables involved. The Sessions Subcommittee has decided to reduce the length of the Tuesday night year from April to September (Senior/Senior Reserve pairs are now eligible to play on Thursday night).

#### **A call to action here.**

We need volunteers for director training with a view to becoming an accredited Club director. The next set of NZCBA exams are scheduled for late October. The material can be self-taught in your own time. It will also benefit your own play as it is helpful to already know what the options are when the director rattles off "choose between options a, b, c". Post accreditation Ross Quayle/Graeme Donaldson will provide Director mentorship to assist getting up to speed (or even pre accreditation as Graeme was assisting Mereana). Any interest please let me know.

#### **More on Slow Play**

A new initiative to assist with slow play is being trialled on Tuesday night from start of June. This is NOT aimed at penalising slow players at all. All that happens is that when a 30second buzzer beeps for end of round any boards not already in play (ie post auction) shall stay that way – there is no penalty, the Scorer simply calculates your percentage based on boards actually played. If a "serial offender" is detected then the Recorder can have a chat with them to see if there is a way to improve their timeliness without forfeiting their quality or enjoyment of play. Also, the Sessions Subcommittee is surveying Tuesday players to determine if an earlier start time of 7.15pm is preferred.

#### **From the Subcommittees**

Social & Tournament: The Charity Pairs tournament scheduled for June 25 has been scrapped. A flyer is nearly out for a member only social tournament. The intention is to foster more member social interaction so it is hoped it is well supported by all.

Social Sunday. This is casual bridge on a Sunday afternoon, with tea/bikkies. No director, no Red Devils, manual scoring. Gold coin donation table money. This will start in July.

Recruitment and Retention: "Improver" lessons (based on the NZCBA set of lessons) are commencing in June, on Wednesdays, while the Beginners lessons continue into the 2nd month on Mondays. The Subcommittee has acquired a projector to assist with the lessons. Separately, an "opt-in" email Q&A service for bidding/opening lead questions has been started. Simply send your email addy to [gt@hrlmorrison.com](mailto:gt@hrlmorrison.com) and I will add you to the discussion group.

Sessions: The main decision has been to reduce the length of the season of Tuesday night, treating bridge more like a winter sport. This will not only reduce pressure on directors, but is also an attempt to increase table numbers per session, with hopefully people still playing the same (at least) number of nights but compressed into a shorter time period, meaning table numbers per night will improve. In addition there is an attempt to increase the quality of play and for at least one event will be trialled for "invited outsiders" to attend without requiring a subscription. A draft timetable looks like the following:

	<b>Nights</b>	<b>Tuesday Open</b>
Feb		
March		
April	4	Welcome Butler
May	5	Butler Plate All Comers Champs
June	4	Swiss
July	4	Memorial Trophy Pairs
Aug	5	Senior Club Champs
Sept	4	Myra Stubbs Teams (3 Nights)
Oct	1	1st Night Butler Play the Odds/Prize Giving
Nov		

Maintenance: A working bee to install the backs and seats has been held (Ross Quayle, myself). The result is obvious! One more bee is needed.

Technology: Currently both new and old web sites are running, but the old will shortly die. Please use the new site (<http://pnbridge.nz/>). It is in a formative state at the moment. Suggestions welcome.

Graeme Thomson