

## **President's Patch # 5. August**

### **Club Grading and change in grade names**

The Club has an internal grading system which is used for event eligibility and handicapping, with the grades being called Junior and Intermediate (and Senior/Senior Reserve). The internal grading system for Junior and Intermediate has nothing to do with the NZ Bridge gradings of Junior and Intermediate. But to use the same names as NZ Bridge is poor practice and led to significant confusion at the 2016 Junior Champs. The NZ Bridge system is developed around tournament participation and doesn't cater well for assessing the current merits of club players as some of the data may come from an earlier period with the player rejoining bridge years later, and many club players don't play tournaments. There is valid reason for using an in-house grading system.

The internal grading system is primarily based on the average on club night achieved in the current year, with the actual threshold for promotion left to the grading subcommittee to determine. However to determine a player's internal grade for someone who has been a member of another Club obviously requires some subjectivity. The regrade from internal Junior to internal Intermediate is really an indication that they are ready to play at the next level. The bar to becoming an internal Intermediate is set a lot lot lower than the NZ Bridge Intermediate grading.

The change in names effective 2017 are as follows:

Junior == Bronze

Intermediate==Silver

Senior Reserve==Gold

Senior==Platinum

Certificates will be issued for any regrades at night prize givings, if possible, and regrades will be broadcast via mass email release.

Nights and change in names

The Committee is also changing the names of the nights in 2017.

Senior/Senior Reserve will be called "Open";

Intermediate will be called "Multi-Grade";

Junior will be called "Novice Plus".

There are several reasons for the changes:

The Committee wants to reflect that on Tuesday and Thursday anyone can attend. Using grade names gives the impression that only those graded players can attend. Prior to 2016 Senior players could not play on Thursday, while Senior Reserve could only play with an Intermediate or Junior. This is no longer the case. Gold and Platinum players and partnerships are welcome to play on Multi-Grade night but are currently not eligible to win events (apart from handicap events).

Tuesday is where there is the highest standard of play and etiquette. Calling it “Open” dovetails with the tournament naming practice where Opens are normally A point events. Thursday is more of a social night and we have chosen Multi-Grade to reflect the lower standard and etiquette. Multi-Grade dovetails with tournament practice where Multi-Grade typically describes a B point event.

Many Clubs do not have a “Junior” or equivalent night. Rather, after beginners lessons, “newbies” are thrown into an open style night. The Committee believes it is better to give “newbies” a more relaxed setting for playing with fewer boards, more time per board, tea breaks, “helper assistance”, etc. The prime purpose of Monday night is to give beginners a warm and friendly environment to learn and practice the game, with the intent they will progress to Multi-Grade night when ready at their own election. However we recognise that some players may wish to play on Monday night despite being higher graded due to other commitments on Thursday night and they are welcome to do so, but are currently not eligible to win events. “Novice” in NZ Bridge is someone with less than 5 A and B points and is a closer fit to the room standard than “Junior”. The “Plus” reflects that fact that others can play as well.

Volunteers:

Much volunteer work goes unseen with people beavering away in the background. Recently I popped into the office. A short while later the “lighting” team (Don and Barbara MacDonald, with Goff Ashwell) turned up to change all the small room tubes and clean the diffusers – an afternoon’s work. We can now see the cards a lot better so no excuses!

### **GARDENS a HUGE THANK YOU**

Led by Carolyn Brodie, we had a massive tidy up of flaxes, grasses and autumn leaves, mulched the plants and planted some primulas. A huge thank you to Roxanne Brassington, Roger (who returned the following Saturday as the grasses were unfinished) and Lenice Wedge, Liz Goodman, Rita Hodson, Andrew Brodie and Heather Cooper who served up a delicious morning tea.

Committee/Subcommittee changes:

Kay Townsley has resigned as day time rep. Her position has been taken by Tony Clear. Ken Bateman has resigned from Committee while Ray Kemp has resigned from the Sessions Subcommittee. All are thanked for their contributions. Hans Van Bunnik has joined the Sessions Subcommittee.

### **Newbies**

A warm welcome to:

Jenny Barnes Liz Finlay Margaret Foss Melanie Keen Allison Knox William Laing Judy Theng Joan Petersen Nick Finlay