

President's Patch # 12

In the very near future

The 2018 programme booklets will be out soon, a major improvement in timeliness on the 2017 edition, so people can 'populate' their books with partners for next year.

Summer Bridge

Please note that the summer evening sessions will be Thursday 7.30pm, starting 7th December, and not Tuesday as in 2016. Monday afternoon remains 1.15pm start.

There will also be a Monday night session (7pm start). This is a casual night with manual scoring intended mainly for the "less confident" players, but anyone welcome. Cheat sheets are OK. No table money. No director. Some have indicated a desire to be mentored and play with a more experienced player. If anyone is interested in mentoring on an occasional basis please contact me so I can set up a pool of mentors for any given night.

Note that for all sessions there will be no play on statutory holidays.

Developing players

NZB have developed a programme for 2018 that maybe of interest to developing players. This will not be suitable for new entrants, but probably more suitable for Silver/Gold players wishing to advance. Check it out at:

<http://www.nzbridge.co.nz/latest-updates,listing,3366,nesting-pairs.html>

Regrades

Those that have met regrade criteria for 2018 are:

Bronze to Silver. Nick and Liz Finlay, Jo Cooley

Silver to Gold. Julie Bunnell, Rohan Wewala, Robyn Anderson

Congrats to all.

Butler Champs -Thursday. Currently underway

The eagle minded will have noticed the current scoring on Thursday is resulting in IMP scores that are not whole numbers. How come? The previous scoring system for Butler essentially took the table score, compared that with the field average score, and converted the difference to IMPs, so a whole number resulted. The new scoring system compares the table score with each other table, converts that difference at each table to IMPs, and then averages the IMPs, so fractions are possible.

The new system is called Cross-IMPs. Apparently it's a superior/fairer method. Part of a drive for continuous improvement in all we do. With both Cross-IMPs and the former scoring a slight difference in the number of boards played can result over the month competition, due to phantoms. To minimise the impact of this the winner will be decided on the highest IMPs/board played. It will likely only make a difference if there is less than say 3 IMPs between first and second over the four nights.

What's new in 2018

The two afternoon sessions remain very much business as usual. It is noted that the Friday session is now open to all members of other clubs to attend regularly without paying a PNBC subscription. Novice Plus on Monday night will also be much the same except that the Invitational Ladders have been dispensed with, and some cosmetic renaming of months.

Open on Tuesday night is set for a major uplift as previously flagged in the last President's Patch. Events will be held in a Teams format but with partnerships, not teams, entering. Team-mates of the partnership will change after each round/night with a seeding bias so top ranked partnerships play with lesser ranked partnerships. This will enable developing players to gain valuable knowledge playing with more experienced team-mates. Some months will be open to members of other clubs. More details of how this works will be circulated. One issue is that it will require an even number of pairs, so what happens when an odd number register? To solve this problem it would be great to have a "reserve" pair for those months when an odd number register, or perhaps to fill in when a partnership can't play all nights of the month. Anyone interested in acting as reserve? The carrot could be free entry fee/table money. Let me know.

Multi-Grade on Thursday night is set for a few tweaks. Three events will become dual graded, Silver and Gold. These are the Match-Point Champs, competing for the Rod Doherty Tray (Silver) and the Culpan Tray (Gold), the Butler Champs, with a single new trophy for both grades, and a Memorial event, competing for the John Whibley Cup (Silver) and the Maude Nash Trophy (Gold). For clarity, a G-S partnership will be eligible for the Maude Nash but not the John Whibley. A S-S partnership could win both. Similarly, for the Rod Doherty and Culpan. The Culpan Tray and the Maude Nash Trophy have previously been competed for on Open night. One issue that has been raised is that scores could be negatively impacted by playing the same way in a Mitchell movement as some higher graded pairs. For the match-point events we will participate in X-Club. This is a multi-club arrangement where boards are played simultaneously with members of other Clubs with scoring across the total field. Usually 100 + pairs are playing. This was trialled earlier this year and worked well.

From the Subcommittees

Finance. Debbie Marcroft is resigning as Treasurer from end of December, but will assist in preparation of the 2017 audit. William Laing has volunteered to take her place. Welcome William and thanks Debbie. Three grants for carpet replacement (cheapest quote was >\$18k) have been submitted. It will take until end of January before success or otherwise is known.

Technology. Duane Griffin has programmed a new timer clock. It will roll out as soon as director training has occurred.

Admin. Focus recently has been on ensuring the 2018 programme booklet is produced prior to end of season as mentioned above.

Recruitment & Retention. Focus recently has been on making sure we retain our new entrants, hence the summer programme above has been developed. Next year we will continue with the NZB Beginners lessons and the Improvers lessons (10 sessions of each). Main advertising for the Beginners lessons is likely to be radio ads. We will also run a couple of Refresher lessons for the beginners in late January/early February. Also, a series on Precision is under consideration, please let me know if you would be interested in attending these.

Tournament. The Swiss Open held in October was successful with a significant increase in table numbers. The Xmas Cheer is next up.

Sessions. Main focus has been on optimising the 2018 programme. Directors have been appointed for next year for Novice Plus (Graeme Donaldson) and Multi-Grade (Val Pain and Lorraine Stachurski). Open is currently planned to be "communal" directing, but given it is to involve manual scoring some non-playing directors (who hate electronic scoring) may be interested. Let me know. Thanks to Christine Compton for directing in 2017 (and prior years) on Thursday and the player-director role on Tuesday.

Dates to watch

2 December. Xmas Cheer.