

President's Patch # 13

In the very near future

2018 invoices have been circulated. Please pay by end of February. If you haven't received one or want to query your subscription rate please contact the Administrator.

Remember the SGM for carpet replacement on Thursday night, 7.15pm sharp.

Summer Bridge

Summer bridge has gone well, with ~ 7-8 tables on Monday afternoon and Thursday evening – apart, that is, from the main computer having a paddy. A more casual evening has also been held on Monday nights. A special thanks to mentors who have been assisting those wanting help on this night.

What's new in 2018

The two afternoon sessions remain very much play 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. Events are to be held in a Teams format but with partnerships, not teams, entering. Team-mates of the partnership will change each 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. Registration prior to each month's event is necessary via email to pnbridge@xtra.co.nz. See the club website for more information (<http://pnbridge.nz/TinyFileManager/resources/files/126///tuesfaqnew.pdf>). Payment in advance (\$16/person) to the Club bank acc (06-0729-0004233-00) would be appreciated. If paying cash on first night \$20. *Tuesday play starts in two weeks, so registrations need to be in by end of Thursday next week.*

Multi-Grade on Thursday night. Some events have become dual-grade (Gold and Silver) and it is likely we may see higher numbers of Gold players attending. If possible, we want Gold partnerships evenly divided between EW and NS. Over a month long event if seating compass is random by coin toss then no particular seating arrangement should be required. However, coin tossing doesn't seem to occur very often, and old habits are hard to break. An example, one event I looked at last year the winner had sat NS for each of the 5 nights, and the 2nd place had sat EW for each of the 5 nights. This could have been random of course but the odds are rather small! A suggestion – Partnerships involving a Gold player should sit at say Tables 1,2,3, which will help divide the Gold partnerships into NS and EW. If this voluntary arrangement doesn't work the director may require some seating changes. In addition, 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 in 2017 and worked well.

Committee

Additions to the Committee until the March AGM are William Laing as Treasurer, taking over from Debbie Marcroft, and Dianne Hunter, taking over as Thursday night room rep from Duane Griffin.

From the Subcommittees

Finance/HR/Legal. We have received two grants from Pub Charity (\$5,000) and NZ Community Trust (\$2,000) and await the outcome of a 3rd grant to Eastern & Community Trust (\$4,000 applied for). These are for carpet replacement. Invoices are now out, for the first time mostly circulated by email. Because of the amount involved

(\$18.5k) member approval is necessary and a SGM has been called. Sample colour mats have been placed out for comment.

Technology. Focus is on getting the computer up and running (or a replacement).

Admin. The 2018 programme booklet was released on schedule. Special thanks to Julia Flavel/Julie Bunnell for assisting.

Maintenance. Assuming the SGM resolution is approved, carpet tile install will occur in February. The play rooms will take one day to install, while the other smaller rooms will be on ad hoc basis. An interior repaint is scheduled for next Summer.

Recruitment & Retention. Focus recently has been on making sure we retain our new entrants, hence the summer programme (Monday night with mentoring in December) has been developed. This year we will continue with the NZB Beginners lessons (Ken Bateman) and the Improvers lessons (Ray Kemp) - (10 sessions of each). Main advertising for the Beginners lessons in 2018 is likely to be radio ads. We will also run a couple of Refresher lessons for the beginners with Ray Kemp as teacher. Thanks to both Ken and Ray (and their "assistants").

Tournament. The North Island Teams in early March is next up. Thanks to Denise Servante for taking on the Tournament Sec role. Another highly successful Xmas Cheer was held with 30 tables.

Sessions. Reported above.

Dates to watch

March 3/4. NI Teams.