

President's Report 2017 AGM

The year past

Committee:

- A significantly altered operating structure was put in place with much decision making now devolved to subcommittees which can include non-committee members, while the main Committee has quarterly meets focussed on governance/strategy.
- A President's Patch was introduced to inform people of what is being planned, what we are doing, and what we have done. This allows plenty of opportunity for feedback.

Maintenance:

- New security fence – paid for by neighbour;
- Wheel stops – fully paid for by \$2k grant from Mainland Foundation;
- Chair backs and seats – part paid for by \$5k grant from NZ Community Trust
- Stucco painted;
- Small room interior light replacement.

Technology:

- Projector acquired;
- New mixer amp and microphone acquired;
- 24 tablets, licences and 2 multi UBS chargers – fully paid by \$5.8k grant from Pub Charity ;
- New Pianola web site, with improved member communication functionality and partner finder functionality;

Recruitment and Retention:

- The first 10 lesson set of NZB Improvers lessons were held, in addition to the usual NZB Beginners lessons. In addition, a 2 lesson Beginner Refresher course was held in January/February 2017

Finance, HR, Legal:

- Subscription categories have been increased to allow for more flex in discounting and was rolled out for 2017 with a number taking advantage of discounts available.
- A major revamp of the Constitution was approved.

Social/Tournaments:

- The inaugural in-house tournament (Mad Hatter) was held, replacing the Charity Pairs.
- A couple of edu-social nights were held (one in the Open room, the other in Novice Plus).
- A Social Sunday session was introduced on roughly a monthly basis, using manual scoring.

Sessions:

- The Monday night room had a mid-season make over to more closely align with the needs of lesson graduates, along with an improved buddy system.
- Grading was more objective with criteria established, while Handicapping had a simplified understandable structure put in place.
- New final night formats to add more sizzle to some events were trialled successfully.
- Nights have been renamed Novice Plus, Multi-Grade, Open. Cosmetic, but better reflects the intent of the evening.
- Grades have been renamed Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum. Again cosmetic, but significant confusion resulted from using the same names as NZB does but to mean different things.

The new year

Committee:

A major focus is to get fresh blood into the Subcommittees. Succession planning needs to be put in place. The President stands down next year as per the Constitution and the Treasurer has indicated this is her last year.

Maintenance:

Carpet replacement is the biggie, probably to be timed around summer. Grants will be attempted to cover the brunt of the costs, expected to be ~\$25k.

Technology:

A new timer may be looked at.

Recruitment and Retention:

The same lesson series as 2016 will be held for both Beginners and Improvers. Marketing for the Beginner's lessons will take place in April via a Mini-Bridge Open day.

Finance, HR, Legal:

Main focus will be on better banking facilities.

Social/Tournaments:

Reducing the volunteer workload has been a key aim. The Intermediate and junior tournaments have been reduced to one day, while the Mad Hatter will be modified with Hokowhitu members invited. No National tournaments will be held.

Sessions:

All night sessions have two social nights with a theme, which this year is Back to the Future.

Novice Plus is mostly a continuation of the programme that was implemented mid last year;

Multi-grade has had some tweaks, including a Swiss Pairs (replacing a Teams event), and a Butler Pairs Champs, with Silver Matchpoint Champs relocated to mid year.

Open has had a radical makeover with a shortened "winter+shoulders of winter" season involving a new event, the Butler Pairs All Comers Champs where members of other cubs are invited to compete. Hopefully the revised format will increase numbers from the unsustainably low numbers of 2016. That is, hope more than expectation.