



19 September 2024

Newsletter No 6 2024

Hi Everyone

I have just returned from 3 weeks travelling down part of the coral coast of Western Australia. Whilst a passionate believer that New Zealand comes first it was an exciting place to travel, apart from the distances are huge. We were able to swim with the whales and Manta-rays, but best of all we were able to experience the wildflowers that seemed to stretch forever.

This newsletter is rather brief as we prepare for Congress.

Congress

Congress is now less than 2 weeks away. Entries remain open and we encourage you to enter. As at the time of preparing this newsletter we had 537 entries. Whilst we are keen to see an uplift in numbers, we do recognize the fiscal challenges/cost of living issues that are impacting participation. Putting aside costs, we know Congress is an exciting time where lifetime friendships are made, and of course you fulfill your thirst for quality bridge.

This year you will note there is a Congress App- an exciting addition. You will note several exciting features including news and bulletins, results, draws, registration, find-a-partner, and more.

Then there are other events, such as the quiz night, which should be fun if last year is an indicator. If your club is interested in making use of our professional photographer at Congress, by getting some images of your club members that you can use in your marketing, please contact

mel.auld@nzbridge.co.nz

I and members of the board look forward to catching up with you at the Mount.

Youth Weekend

On the 7th and 8th, a youth weekend was held in Auckland, with players from around the country. Youth are part of our future, so it was exciting to have 40 youth in attendance. Some have been playing for a while and others new to the game. By all accounts everyone had a great time.

Membership

Once again, we saw further growth in our membership. We now have 12, 960 registered players. As I have done in the past, I am pleased to call a shoutout to Kaikoura Bridge Club up 14% in August, and 2020 Waiheke Bridge Club up 10% for the month.



Constitution

A considerable amount of work has gone into the drafting of a new constitution in line with the Incorporated Societies Act 2022. We wish to thank those who provided feedback on the draft.

At the AGM members will consider the adoption of a new constitution.

On the matter of clubs and redrafting of their constitutions there was a good turnout at a recent webinar on the matter. Some clubs were unable to attend but have requested a copy of the webinar.

Toolbox

We have agreed what this will look like. Detailed work will commence in November. Watch this space for more information.

Stop Cards

The Board considered a recommendation from the Chief Director and the regulations committee and agreed to amend the regulations to remove the use of stop cards. Inevitably there will be two camps when a change is made. The Board considered on balance the removal of stop cards would serve the game. The nonuse of stop cards does not remove the requirement for a RHO to wait 8 to 10 seconds before bidding if there has been a jump by his/her LHO.

Online

Shortly we will be issuing a statement on the future of online bridge for 2025. What is pleasing to observe is an uplift in numbers playing face-to-face.

Teaching and Learning

Alan Grant has been appointed as resource coordinator. We were fortunate to have a quality group to select from. Thank you to those who applied.

Once again watch this space.

I hope you continue to enjoy your bridge.

Cheers Allan