



18 Aug 2017

The big news is that we are going live with the new Masterpoints registration on the 5th September. This will be an exceptionally busy time for Alister, but with his typical sang-froid he remarked to me that no one ever died of a spot of hard work.

Remember that there will always be teething problems with any new IT project; it goes with the territory. So please bear with us while the inevitable small glitches are ironed out. Don't hesitate to ask advice from Alister or Karen Martelletti if you have any problems.

We had a Board meeting recently, and the final touches were made to the various quick fix amendments to the constitution. Hopefully they reflect the will of the people!

I am very pleased to advise that John Skipper of Christchurch has accepted appointment to the Board of the NZ Bridge Foundation, the charitable arm of NZ Bridge.

The feedback from clubs on the proposal for Regional Bridge Mates has shown widespread support for the initiative nationwide. The Board have taken the decision to go forward and try and locate some of our most enthusiastic and amazing people from our national bridge family to go out into the Regions undertaking work to support clubs and grow the game. Advertisements for two year fixed term contracts which involve flexible part-time hours are now appearing on the NZB website and have been forwarded to all clubs. Once we know how many people we have to carry out this vital work we will be having another look at the figures and considering further the financial options. If all goes to plan, we should have RBMs out kick starting and rejuvenating clubs in the Regions by October. If you are a club that would welcome help from an RBM, now is the time to let us know.

During mid-July the Boards draft strategy document was shared with the Clubs and Regions as part of the consultation process. A number have taken the opportunity to provide feedback and we welcome any further comments etc up by no later than 31st August.



Our internationals have begun their campaign in Lyon for the coveted Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup and D'Orsy Trophy. A rebrand of our teams to align them firmly in the sporting arena for media purposes sees the Bridge Blacks (open), Bridge Ferns (women) and Bridge Masters (seniors) introducing themselves to the wider bridge community through a series of interviews on the NZB Facebook page. The overnight results are posted on the NZB website with detailed hand analysis and the highs and lows of each session. We wish them the best of luck over the coming days.

A very successful youth weekend was held over the 29-30 July. All ten members of the squad are committed to play in Canberra next Jan, and we look to have the makings of a very competitive team. Thanks are due to Tracey Lewis for organising the weekend and to Patrick Carter for organising an individual tournament which raised over \$2,300.00 for team funds.

The other piece of news is that I have recently returned from a holiday in Indonesia, where I contracted malaria. As if that wasn't bad enough I suffered a mild stroke. Mind you, so stricken was I by the malaria that it could have been a major stroke and I wouldn't have noticed.

The upshot is that I will be taking a couple of weeks or so off from bridge administration while I take stock of things.

Onwards and Upwards

Alan