

President's Patch # 7. October

Looking towards 2017, the main challenge facing the Club is insufficient playing numbers on Tuesday night. Several actions are underway to try and remedy this, but the stark reality is that if table numbers don't increase then 2017 is likely to be the last year for play on this night.

From the Subcommittees:

Social/Tournament:

The Interclub event with Hawera and Wanganui was somewhat of a disappointment as we were able to field only one of two required Junior teams, along with two Intermediate and two Senior teams. Despite that, we still managed to come home with some silverware, beating Wanganui. The Subcommittee is reviewing what it can do to ensure greater participation in the future. The event is primarily a social occasion allowing inter-mingling of grades and can also be a fruitful training ground.

The Swiss Open pairs was well attended with 15 tables, albeit slightly down on last year. The Swiss format with evening meal seems well liked. Thanks to Bridge NZ for sponsoring the use of the scoring tablets.

Social Sunday has proved popular. Thanks to Bev Colville for the suggestion for this.

The upcoming Xmas Cheer on Dec 3rd is the Club's main event of the year and highly popular with over 30 tables of all grades (and ungraded) participating.

Recruitment and Retention:

It is encouraging to see Monday Night having usually 7 tables in action. Thanks are due here to Julia Flavel for being an excellent 'host' cum marketing person, as well as Andrew/Carolyn Brodie for organising a better buddy/help system.

Finance, H&S, Legal:

A correction to what was stated in the previous newsletter regarding increased compliance/accounting time/cost. While the govt agency, XRB, has introduced new accounting requirements which appear to catch incorporated societies like ourselves, XRB has no enforcement power over societies. While this is a legal technicality, it may take some time to get legislation thru the parliamentary process. Thanks to Michael Hardman for this.

A separate email will be circulated shortly outlining the change to subscription categories for 2017. It is likely a number of people will be able to take advantage of subscription discounts, but to do so you will need to opt-in and tell us via club email which category you are eligible for.

Sessions:

The main 2017 programme change affects Tuesday Night (to be called "Open"). It promises a shorter 'winter and shoulders of winter' season comprising high quality events which on

one occasion is open to all comers from other clubs. In 2016 Tuesday has often had only 4 tables playing, sometimes less. This is not sustainable.

Summer Bridge will be played on Monday afternoons and Tuesday evenings thru' December and January. Note that this is a change to the 2016 Programme booklet. Depending on demand Summer Bridge nights may continue thru' February and March. One idea being developed is that a panel of Seniors (Platinum) may be established to assist and play with developing Juniors (Bronze) and Intermediates (Silver) using the Tuesday Summer Bridge nights in February and March. Hopefully this could lead to further participation on Tuesday night later in the year.

Maintenance/Upgrade:

The wheel stop grant for \$2K was received in full and these were installed by myself and Tony Clear.

The main summer exterior job will be an exterior repaint of the stucco.

Ken Bateman is underway on an interior upgrade involving, initially, photos of life members. If you can assist at all, please contact Ken (see earlier email).

Technology:

A grant application has been made to apply for replacement of the 'red devils', with generic Huawei tablets and associated bridge licencing software. This involves \$5.8k. Success of this will be known early November. It is likely that the red devils will continue in use in certain sessions until they reach end of life.

Conduct:

Nothing to report (good!)