



Table Talk

KAPI - MANA
BRIDGE CLUB



December
2016



Merry Christmas

We had a successful Christmas Party and Prize Giving on Friday 5th December. There was a wonderful spread of food for both courses. The drinks flowed freely and everyone had a great time. Congratulations to all those who won events and trophies.

I would like to thank all club members for another great year at bridge and wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Looking forward to seeing everyone (Wednesday players included) on Tuesday 10th January 2017 when bridge starts again,

Margaret.

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Club Play

Keen to play, but don't have a partner? – phone

Gaye (238-9904) for a Monday partner,

Annette (234-8916) for a Tuesday partner,

John (233-6122) for a Wednesday partner, and

Pauline (234 8499) for a Thursday partner

When can I play bridge again??

Bridge starts up again on **Tuesday January 10**, and **Thursday January 12**.

Tuesday is Mixed Pairs, with no partnership restrictions, all players welcome

Thursday is also Mixed Pairs, a continuation of the Fairly Plate for 2016/2017

Wednesday play begins on **January 18**, with the popular *Holiday Bridge* sessions



Mac blowing balloons 1

Earthquake damage!



Luckily for the Club, these were the only casualties on November 14

Put it in your diary now!

Thursday 26 2016, 7pm

Opening Night – Director's Choice,

Everyone welcome, partners not required.

Be there at 7pm for a convivial get-together before play commences

If you're interested in knowing who won what in 2016, check out the 2016 Winners document on the Results page on the website

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What's happening at NZ Bridge?

Ah, if only we knew for sure!

On November 4 an open letter was sent to all bridge clubs by Alan Turner, a board member & Treasurer with NZ Bridge. In this letter Alan discusses a proposed restructuring of NZ Bridge. "The Board intends to change the governance of NZ Bridge to a model which I believe is financially unsustainable. This change includes disestablishing all existing staff positions and employing a CEO, an Administrator and an Event Manager. I am concerned about this and I am opposed to the change. I have made it known that I consider the Board does not have a mandate for this change. I am more concerned, however, that the Board is now planning to make this change as soon as possible and does not appear to be at all concerned about lack of mandate. I have been told by one board member that the changes will be irreversible.

NZ Bridge has a term deposit of around \$276,000. This is money we have saved over the years as a reserve. The Board wish to access this term deposit to meet (at least in part) the costs of the proposed restructure. I have made it clear that I will not agree to that. As a result I have been threatened with removal as Treasurer"

The 2016/17 business plan of NZ Bridge made no mention of this proposed restructure.

Alan Turner also requested the Board stop the planned restructure until after the March 2017 Board elections, so the affiliated clubs (like us) can vote for candidates knowing where they stand in terms of the proposal.

This resulted in a letter from Arie Guersen, Chair of NZ Bridge, on November 8 rebutting some of what Alan Turner said, but also acknowledging that the Board is considering a restructure.

Arie said: "the Board has signalled an intention to work towards a model which sees the Board in a governance rather than a management role, something envisaged and provided for when our Constitution was adopted in 2008. This type of model, where governance and management/implementation are separated is widely followed in New Zealand by virtually all organisations with comparable responsibilities (e.g. Golf NZ, Rowing NZ and NZ Football) ... It is also not correct to say that the Board has no mandate to proceed. Under the Constitution, control of NZ Bridge rests with the Board"

In a letter a few days later Arie stated that club affiliation fees would not go up due to the restructure.

These letters have resulted in a flurry of correspondence from various clubs and individuals on the matter. Essentially everyone appears to be saying:

1. NZ Bridge is a small, volunteer organization, not a large corporate one like Golf NZ etc., and management/governance separation is not appropriate
2. Not consulting stakeholders (i.e. clubs like us) was unwise
3. The statement on who controls NZ Bridge has not gone down well.
4. The objectives, and costs, of the proposed restructuring have not been made clear.

What happens next?

That's not entirely clear. A letter from Arie Guersen on 9 December simply said "No final decisions have been taken on changes to NZB structure or staffing"

As things develop, I'll keep you posted, so watch this space

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Christmas Decoration fun 😊



Christmas Party animals!



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