

Mid November 2021

Good morning All

I am pleased to tell you that your Committee held a meeting on Tuesday 9 November and discussed in depth the results of the survey which was recently distributed to Club members. Thank you to everyone who completed the survey. I apologise for the problems we experienced with the first survey and there were also some problems with the second, but we did get enough information from you all to indicate to us what our members would like to see. Detailed analysis is shown below.

Many aspects were highlighted, but most importantly it is abundantly clear Club members wish to continue playing bridge in the Club environment. It is important for us all to feel safe and confident in this environment, but also it is important for us to have fun and enjoy the social atmosphere provided at the Club. Therefore, members will need to do what they know will fulfil their preferences. If you are anxious about returning and not being kept safe, please make an informed decision as to whether you return to the clubrooms or not. We would love play to continue as normally as possible, for as long as possible.

Therefore, the Committee agreed to the following as from Monday 15 November:

1. **Registration** to play at a specific session at the Club is **NOT REQUIRED, apart from FRIDAY AFTERNOON.**
2. We will commence a REVISED programme (ie events will NOT continue as per our 2021 green programme book). Each event will be a “one off”, with winners published on the day.
3. We will score using Bridgemates, but will not have a designated Director.
4. Payment will be via Compa\$\$ and will be \$4.00 per session. We will be back to paying NZ Bridge levies, which equate to 30c + GST per person.
5. We will have a tea break, but no biscuits.
6. Please bring your own PEN, SNACK and cup if you prefer.
7. Please use the COVID tracer app or sign the book.
8. It is a requirement that players be double vaccinated, or have a medical exemption. Vaccination will help minimise the spread of COVID.
9. If you have a chest infection, cold, cough, etc – please do not come to Bridge.
10. Please continue with frequent handwashing and use the sanitiser provided.
11. It was agreed that the **wearing of masks is optional** while BOP is free from COVID 19 If your partner asks you to wear a mask - please do so.

The Committee is very keen to continue our Club sessions as normally as possible, meanwhile being flexible and aware of people’s sensitivities. We have been in communication with Tauranga Bridge

Club as we feel it is important for our mutual bridge family that the two clubs work together at this difficult time.

While face masks are encouraged but not required, wearing masks in indoor settings is going to be part of daily life as COVID-19 becomes endemic. We will need to adhere to the requirements of the new COVID-19 protection framework (traffic light system) which may require mask to be worn by those participating in indoor events, the situation will continue to evolve before it all settles. New Zealand Bridge is consulting with the Ministry of Health so hopefully new guidance will come which we will pass on to you all.

So, if you really wish players to wear a mask whilst at your table – SAY SO! If your partner requests you to wear a mask then you must. Those members with chronic chest conditions, or depleted auto immune, are advised to wear a mask. Can I advise that the N95 masks are very good (look on Google). These masks will filter 95% of viruses. If you are hesitant to return to the Club owing to special requirements – LET US KNOW PLEASE! We don't want to lose the wonderful caring atmosphere our Club has fostered and most of all – we want to play Bridge and have fun!!

#### SURVEY ANALYSIS:

43 responses were received which equates to 18% of all our members.

The main message that came through to us is that our members want to be kept safe but also want to return competitive bridge, and that COVID is here to stay and that we need to learn to live with it.

#### Survey results:

1. Social bridge. 58% of respondents have attended the social bridge on offer, 39.5% have not enjoyed it while 14% have enjoyed it. There were some very positive responses especially for Thursdays. Members enjoying the social aspect (and I suspect the wine)
2. The comments from Q3 were many and varied - "great to play with people face to face" "prefer competitive" "enjoy the social aspect".
3. Vaccinations. 95.3% of respondents want all members to be double vaccinated. This came through loud and clear with the exception if anyone has a medical condition making it unsafe for them and a GP letter to support it.
4. 44.2% of respondents said they would return to bridge as per the programme, 14% said no they wouldn't
5. 40.5% said they would return to bridge if we relaxed the need to wear masks and 19% said no they wouldn't.
6. Numbers for Xmas lunch have gone up to 50+

Thank you and stay safe

Diane

President