

30th August 2021

POSTPONEMENT – NATIONAL CONGRESS 2021

Deja vu. Covid-19 once again is going to disrupt Congress. The likelihood of New Zealand being at Level 1 for the last week of September is beyond remote.

So, what does this mean? Regrettably no Congress at the end of September.

Rather than forego the event for another year we have explored alternative dates whereby we might be able to still proceed with Congress 2021. The 2022 Congress will continue with its usual slot.

Having explored a range of options that least disrupt the calendar we have found a window in February 2022. We would like to thank both the Auckland and Christchurch bridge clubs who have agreed to shift scheduled events to make this happen. Details of the changes to their events and others will be posted on the tournament page.

Like the Olympics we propose this year's (2021) **Congress will now take place from Thursday 10th February 2022 to Thursday 17th February 2022**. A little different in that the event will run mid-week to mid-week. It also means we have had to shuffle the timetable. The New Zealand Teams will now be played first.

The weekend (12th-14th) of the event provides an exciting opportunity for Novice, Juniors and Intermediates to participate. We are hopeful a large number will play. After all, these players are the future of the game. We know the prospect of a week's bridge maybe daunting for some, hence the decision to have Novice, Junior and Intermediate events over the weekend. We encourage everyone, irrespective of your grade to give it a go. It is a lot of fun and you will make lifelong friends.

Moving to mid-February means we are outside the school holiday period which hopefully means accommodation is more readily available and will be a bit cheaper.

There are a few mechanical matters requiring consideration and/or action. We need to notify players about the change in dates. Next players can have an option of transferring their entry or cancelling the entry and receiving a refund if they so wish. A further option for those who elect to transfer their entry and have paid, is to seek a refund, and then at some future date make a payment. If a player wants to transfer their entry and payment that is equally fine.

The new dates for Congress will still allow those players to travel and play the Gold Coast Congress from the 19th February to 26th February should the Gold Coast proceed and should travel be permitted.

We know the decision to postpone Congress 2021 will be disappointing and you will be faced with reorganizing travel and accommodation. Sorry about that but running the event has proved to be outside our control. At least whilst we continue to be in lockdown, we have something to look forward to.

Stay well, stay Safe
Cheers Allan