

Perhaps you have heard a little about X-Clubs. In a nutshell ... it's as if you could play a NZ-Wide Pairs in each of your regular sessions. We currently have about one third of NZ's bridge clubs playing the same boards at the same time. The results are collected up, re-scored and cross-added over a huge field - often within a few minutes of the last result to come in. The cross-adds appear on the X-Clubs website www.compassmate.bridge-centre.org/results/weekly very shortly after all sessions are in. It is easier for your members to access this page if you put a link on your current website.

X-Clubs is quite transparent because, if any of your members are not interested, they need only look the other way. If they just ignore it there is no impact at all on what usually happens. It's just another report that gets published somewhere else. If you'd like to learn more there is lots of detail on the Home page particularly under the About tab.

NZ Scorer and CompScore2 Clubs

While many of the participating clubs use Compass scoring, those using NZ Scorer or Compscore2 can also take part if they have one of the later versions of NZ Scorer that is capable of producing XML files. At the end of each session simply copy the results XML into a shared Dropbox folder to which we invite you. Dropbox is a marvellous piece of software that lets invited users look at the same files. To get the season's files to you we would arrange a window of time when you can uplift them from this Dropbox folder. They should not be left lying around in the public domain for too long. After that the security of them is your worry.

All players of X-Club deals can now register to receive **Pianola** session report e-mails – for FREE! – see the button on the X-Clubs Home page. This is the ultimate in results reporting. You playing history builds up on-line and you can look back at every game you play, filtering by partner if you like. Your performance is analysed to the nth degree and you can opt into Pianola-Plus the only part of the service for which you have to pay. Players of X-Club deals may soon be offered a discount rate for Pianola Plus. Read up on Pianola at www.pianola.net

As for the issue of having disparate levels of competition going on at the same time ... it's really not very relevant. For every "good" board there is a corresponding "bad" board – even after cross-adding. Over the longer term the stronger players drift to the top. We see this happening in our weekly League tables published on every Sunday – see the analysis below. The results from a single session can seem a bit random but nobody has good/bad luck 15 times in a row ... right?

