



REPORT FROM AUCKLAND/NORTHLAND REGIONAL COMMITTEE JANUARY 2014

Greetings and Happy New Year from the ANRC members.

Our last committee meeting was held the end of November and a copy of the minutes was circulated to NZB. Our next meeting is Sunday 9th February some three days after the Regional meeting. Since our last meeting there are four items to report. With Christmas, New Year and summer holidays, the world of bridge has been somewhat quiet.

INTERCLUB

Our first session for the year is Friday 14th February...and although it's Valentine's Night, we anticipate a good turnout. Final team numbers are yet to be confirmed.

2014 INTER-PROVINCIALS

The committee is considering a request for this year's IPs to be held in Auckland. ANRC and Auckland Club held meetings to discuss the feasibility of this happening and a decision will be made at our 9th February committee meeting.

SYSTEM CARDS

Papakura club has asked if players entering a Junior tournament could be exempt from completing a systems card as they feel it could deter some players entering the tournament. The request has been referred to NZB. No response as yet.

YOUTH FUNDRAISER

A 5A tournament was held at Auckland Club on Saturday 14th December to raise funds for youth players going to Australia. This is the second year of the event. With 24 tables, \$3.8K was raised on the day. This money, together with money raised during the year and from the fundraising tournament in December 2012, brings the current fundraising fund to approx \$11K. This is an awesome amount. The majority has been used to pay the Youth players' entrance fee for the Australian Youth Championships, including meals and accommodation, (airfares were their cost) plus an accommodation contribution for nine youth players who are staying on in Australia to play in the South West Pacific Champs.

The money raised is for all the youth players and not just Auckland players. Perhaps other regions could consider holding a fundraiser for the youth?

Happy bridging in 2014.

Angela Royle
Secretary ANRC
21st January 2014



Waikato Bays

Regional Committee of NZ Bridge

Email: secretarywbbc@gmail.com

Waikato Bays Regional Report January 2014

Waikato Bays ended the 2013 bridge year with the presentation of the prizes for the Junior and Intermediate leagues in Cambridge. We changed the format for 2013 and ran these competitions as singles rather than pairs in the hope that it would attract more players – which we believe that it did.

We have initiatives coming up this year

➤ Rubber Ducky day

Christine Gibbons a NZ rubber bridge winner of the Dan Gifford Trophy in 2012 explaining the principles of rubber bridge followed by the first round of the rubber bridge competition. This is being held at Matamata bridge club and will be fully funded by the region

➤ Bridge Directors Seminar

Julie Atkinson and Patrick Carter are running a seminar for upcoming directors and those who want to brush up their skills and move on further. This is also at Matamata and will be fully funded by the region.

➤ Sponsor two people to the National Congress

The committee has agreed to sponsor two non-Open players to play at Congress this year to the value of the Intermediate package. There will be conditions (see appendix to this report if interested) and pairs are to apply or be nominated for this award

On the directors scene, Waikato Bays currently has two tournament directors looking to become National Directors, Rona Driscoll from Taupo and Dallas Dagg from Hamilton. The committee fully endorse their applications.

The Thames Bridge Club in January 2014 ran their 9th bridge festival, which was again very successful. This year the highest number of open teams competed yet – a total of 28 teams. The festival used the Compass scoring programme to create four seeded groups of teams using the players current Rating points and then presented prizes for the winners of each of those groups. The players knew which group that they were in from the start and were able to track their results against their group after each match. It proved very popular.

Thames also ran a multi grade teams and pairs event, which attracted just 6 teams, but 11 tables of pairs. The aim is to grow this area of players. The 3B one session event regrettably had to be cancelled due to lack of support.

Tauranga held their 7th mini congress and the lowest number of teams and pairs competing. The club could not establish the reasons as it has been held on the same weekend now for 6 years and consistently had 28-30 teams.

Appendix

This is another initiative the Region has agreed to, to encourage players in these grades to play more tournaments and attend our main event on the NZ Bridge calendar.

Conditions that apply:

1. You need to be a member of a Waikato or Bay of Plenty NZ Bridge affiliated club.
 2. You must have played in at least 5 tournaments in the 12 months prior your nomination being sent to the Region
 3. You have not been to more than one Congress before (not including the Top Teams event or Inter-Regionals).
 4. Closing date for nominations will be 1st July, 2014.
 5. All names will go into a "hat" and two names will be drawn soon after the closing date
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Central Districts Regional Committee

Regional Conference Report 6 Feb 2014

Interprovincials

The IPs are an important responsibility of the committee and members are concerned to obtain the best possible team and the best possible performance of that team as well as the best terms of contest possible. This year's contest being an experiment by way of running the event away from National Congress and as a stand-alone event there were some misgivings. However, both the Chef de Mission and the chair of the RC (also a contestant) expressed their congratulations to the organisers and the Wellington Bridge Club for the way in which the contest was organised and run.

At the last Regional Conference concern was expressed about some matters:

- Youth players were concerned about their IP reverting to National Congress and about not having been approached about the change. We are not aware that this matter has been addressed.
- The role of Chef de Mission possibly being too much for one person to manage when called on to be available as a substitute player and as a member of the appeals committee. In the event we sent an assistant Chef. The Chef de Mission observed that, while her services were not called upon, they well might have been. The RC will be re-assessing this before the next IP event.
- The proposal that local players be called on to act as substitutes where required. We still think that this policy requires review.
- The questionnaires will have provided good information to the organisers but they should not be regarded as the last word on the event.
- The CDRC had also discussed the matter of providing a "home room" for each team. Those of us who were there were very impressed with the way the Wellington Club coped with this and hope that those kinds of facilities are available at future events.

The above comments do not detract from the fact that overall the conditions of contest and other aspects of the event were well-appreciated by the CD Team and CDRC.

CDRC is about to start the next cycle of events by addressing the matter of selection method for the 2014 event.

Subsidising attendance at Teachers' Workshops

CDRC has a recent policy of offering clubs financial assistance to send those members involved in teaching Bridge. If people are interested in attending the conference then it would be a pity if they couldn't attend for financial reasons. It was decided that a combination of club and centre financial assistance would be a useful way to encourage them to attend. During the 2013 year this subsidy was taken up by

the Levin club and a teacher was assisted to attend. For the workshop in Christchurch immediately prior to this conference three clubs (three people) were assisted to attend.

Awards for best regional Junior and Intermediate players

The CDRC also decided to recognise the achievements of improving players and this seemed like an appropriate way to go about it. The award has been based on their performance in tournaments over the whole year. For the 2013 year the winners are:

Best Junior player: Joanne Farmery of the Havelock North Club

Best Intermediate player: Alister Poulgrain of the Hastings Club

Issues with Junior/Intermediate/multigrade tournaments

Over the past couple of years clubs, especially, but not only, the smaller clubs, have been experiencing problems trying to work out the best mix of tournaments to suit them and their members. Tournaments have been poorly subscribed or have been cancelled or rescheduled at late notice which has created difficulties for Rona, Alister and Dorothy. The problem arose when tournament eligibility was changed, people who saw themselves as intermediate players were no longer able to play there and the same was true for the junior/intermediate interface. As clubs become used to the new rankings of their players they look to re-organising their own programme and during the last two years this has happened as new committees take over and see new problems.

Tournament eligibility will always be in a state of flux and clubs will carry on experimenting with various combinations of the above tournaments but won't know how it's going to work for them. It would seem that some guidelines on a national basis would be useful in helping clubs to sort things out and save the administrators some trouble.

Evelyn Hurley



Wellington Regional Bridge Committee

REPORT FOR THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE **CHRISTCHURCH 6 FEBRUARY 2014**

It is the start of a busy year with a meeting of all the clubs in a couple of weeks to hear ideas and exchange thoughts. Then there is the interclub to arrange, which takes quite a bit of work, and the rubber bridge to organise, plus the usual trials, club championships and then it is Congress.

Our Secretary, Joan Waldvogel, is leaving the Committee at the end of February as she is off to Malaysia to teach for three months. We will miss her greatly. With the elections coming up in June we are also losing Paula Jenner, a very long standing member and past secretary, as she is retiring.

WELLINGTON CONGRESS

The year, the Committee, has decided to increase the Congress to three days in July. From 2015, as ANZAC will be on the Monday nearest to the 25th of April, we will be holding the Congress over that long weekend. This means a short time between the two congresses but having the extra day means that there will more playing time available and there will be less pressure on the players. Also this programme will allow local people to play the whole event and travel home without the need to stay the night.

INTERCLUB

This starts in March and we are again hoping for 56 teams. We found the Open Reserve grade was very popular so we have kept it in. There are slight problems with that number of teams as only some of the clubs can take 28 teams and we might have to move to 3 venues if more want to play.

IPs

The Wellington Club held the IPs at the end of November. This is the first time they had been held outside of Congress for many years and it was most successful. Most of the praise has to be given to the Wellington Club for their work and to our Committee members too.

Several people/clubs have mentioned to me that they would like NZBridge to be more communicative with their thoughts and ideas so that some forward planning could be done, especially when money is concerned. I have been asked to bring this to the Board's attention.

Dinnie Hall

Wellington



TOP OF THE SOUTH REGION

A Committee of New Zealand Bridge

Report to Regional Conference 6th February 2014

Bridge Lessons and training

Our regions clubs are gearing up for the new season. Advertising of classes and the promotion of Bridge is at the forefront of many club committees.

Thank you to NZ Bridge for organising a second teachers training day. We have supported seven teachers this year representing six of the eight clubs in our region. Four of the teachers are returning for a second time having found last years training invaluable. If the training is held again next year, our goal is that the remaining two clubs in our region will send tutors.

Interprovincial Teams

The Top of the South Inter Provincial teams had a poor result compared to previous years. We are so used to punching above our weight that it is disappointing when the results reflect the size and player numbers of our region.

The players enjoyed the tournament, and spoke highly of the venue and organisation.

The jury is still out on whether four person teams are the way to go. My committee has asked me to propose that we are given the option of playing six person teams. When it comes down to it either the region or the players are willing to front up with the extra costs of sending six person teams.

We have had to rethink how we trial and select for the Inter Provincials this year. Selecting only two pairs per team means that we don't have the leeway that six person teams afforded. This year we will run a 5A Swiss Pairs on the Saturday followed by a 60+ board trial on the Sunday. The committee will then select the team from the two days of results. Hopefully this process will be more robust than the one day trial we ran last year.

Tournaments

The Top of the South 10A Regional Teams has just been played in Marlborough. We had 24 teams entered and a strong line up among the top ten teams being well represented from Christchurch Wanganui and Wellington as well as the usual faces from the Top of the South.

Marlborough will also be hosting the 15A National Teams event in July. We have tentatively booked the conference room downstairs at the Clubs of Marlborough just in case we can't fit into the normal playing room.

We have introduced two new tournaments into the 2014 calendar. Picton has added a Junior tournament and Richmond have added a Swiss pairs and moved an 8B from a Saturday to three consecutive Thursday afternoons. This is to cater for the aging players in the club and to attract Ernest Rutherford, a Ryman Healthcare company to be a sponsor.

The challenge of planning the 2015 calendar is almost complete. I compliment Rona Driscoll for doing an outstanding job. She communicates well and acts promptly. What more could we ask for?

I wish to acknowledge Pub Charity who continues to support our IP Team and the Nelson Building Society (NBS) who support many of our individual clubs as well as any National tournaments held within the region.

Steve Gray (Chairman)

Canterbury Regional Report January 2014

The second half of 2013 was a busy year for Canterbury with the committee focusing on bringing clubs together and engaging them in discussion around the development of bridge in the region.

This resulted in a meeting held in December attended by all our major clubs and a good number of the small ones where a number of topics were discussed: Tournaments, Director development, development of a zero tolerance regional policy, development of a forum for clubs to communicate better, recruitment and retention of players. The meeting was very helpful to all involved and everyone went away with ideas for their own club. A similar meeting will be held earlier in 2014 to follow up ideas and continue the brainstorming.

Clubs also respond to the increase in Levies and Masterpoints. Overall the feeling was one that the increases were not unreasonable. However Clubs felt that there was a lack of explanation in response to letters they had sent to NZBridge regarding the rise in levies. While clubs could see that the levy rises were in themselves not unreasonable they felt that there was a lack of transparency regarding the NZBridge accounts. They felt that there was little information or explanation regarding proposed initiatives and details of some of the expenditure. They questioned why there was no budget forecast for years to come and why so much was being spent on the International area. They would like more detail on the financial situation and questioned why NZBridge had not forecasted the drop in player numbers and raised the levy earlier so as not to get in to such a bad financial situation.

The CRC has made available to clubs (all around the country) the Club Director's Manual compiled by Carla Heslop. This is a great resource that we hope will be used by all. We are currently in the process of making available to all clubs Carla's Protocol Booklet that is an excellent booklet for all players. We hope to have it available for download off our website soon.

Our first year of the Intermediate and Junior League came to a close. The Intermediate League was a hard fought and closely run affair. We were very pleased with the feedback and initial response to this competition and hope that it will go from strength to strength.

The CRC has been making contact with the non-affiliated clubs in our region. We have been trying to gauge interest in having a tournament or playing nights at an affiliated club. The Darfield club has grown considerably but we have not been able to convince them as to the benefits of becoming affiliated. Many of their players also play at Crockfords for Masterpoints. One of the problems seems to be their perception of no value for money and that players at affiliated clubs are too competitive.

We have a sudden jump in youth players in Canterbury (19). Many are of the younger age group (under 16) and will require fostering over the next few years. One of the difficulties is having suitable sessions for them to play in that aren't too late on school nights.

The on-line tournament entry function has been running well on our website. Clubs are now able to upload and manage their own tournaments. We have found that the online entries have been very useful for those entering tournaments from outside the region. Overall comments have been very enthusiastic about the new website. The tournament entry function plug in is owned by the CRC so that should anyone else build a website in WordPress they will be able to use the plug in as well.

2013 was a very successful year for our IP teams. It has given an excellent boost to morale in the Canterbury Region and brought the Ips in to prominence. Most players found the format, timing and venue etc in Wellington worked well. One noticeable improvement was in overall team spirit, encouragement and support amongst the 17 people attending. We were extremely lucky to have Kris Wooles as our Chef de Mission and he did a great job.

Michael Johnstone/Fiona Temple



Otago/Southland Regional Committee

www.otagosouthlandbridge.org.nz

Chairpersons Report for the Regional Conference, Christchurch 06.02.14

Committee Members

The Committee has the full 6 members with Kristen Collins (Chairperson), Ann-Louise Stokes (Secretary/Treasurer), Kaye Wilson, Frances Sheehy, Marilyn Jackson and John Mitchell. (Lynne Fegan has been co-opted as a computer/website adviser)

In accordance with our Strategic Plan the focus of the Committee is on:

Junior/Intermediate: Our region wide Junior/Intermediate Tournament League for 2014 is set up and going. Interest was high last year but few players actually sent in their completed forms. We will be running a drive toward the end of the year to increase returns.

Support of smaller Clubs within our Region: We have recently been to our newly affiliated East Otago bridge club to welcome them to regional bridge and have been in discussions with them regarding their first tournament. Our next regional meeting will take place at the Winton Bridge club before their Open Teams tournament.

Regional Congress & Tournaments: We have added a 10A point Swiss Pairs tournament to the regional tournament schedule; this was held in early January and ran well. We are hoping for an increase in numbers in future years.

Our Regional Congress has been moved to Dunedin this year and planning is underway. We have set up the role of Tournament Liaison within the Committee and this is streamlining tournament organisation

Goals

Websites: we are in the process of setting the last few clubs up with a webpage; we are making steady (if slow) progress on this.

Rubber Bridge: We have agreed as a Committee to set up both teaching and play opportunities for Rubber Bridge within our own clubs with the goal of increasing entries to the rubber bridge competition.

Summary

This year has started well with the successful running of the Swiss and our next meeting will focus on Trials and our Regional Congress.

Kristen Collins 28/01/2014

Our committee would like the IP competition, survey and location discussed at the conference. We have also had an inquiry from one of our clubs regarding the policy region/nationwide on the acceptable youngest age of club members and they would like a quick discussion of this at the conference.

Thank you and kind regards,

Kristen Collins,
Chairperson,
Otago/Southland Regional Bridge Committee
kristencollins007@gmail.com