

NZB Bridge

NEW ZEALAND BRIDGE NATIONAL CONFERENCE
Held at the Conference Centre Wellington Airport commencing at
10.00am Saturday 13th June 2015

PRESENT Board: Arie Geursen, Phil Rutherford, Shirley Newton, Alan Turner.
Alan Joseph, Karen Martelletti & Anthony Hopkins

Alister Stuck, (National Secretary) Richard Solomon (Bridge
Development Officer) & Graham Wakefield (Constitution Taskforce)

Regional Representatives: Fiona Temple, (Canterbury), Robin
Young, (Top of the South), Rona Driscoll (Waikato Bays), Peter
Bowyer (Auckland Northland), Dinnie Hall, (Wellington), Frances
Sheehy, (Otago Southland & Colin Carryer, (Central Districts)

Observers: Brett Glass (Waikato Bays), Sandra Calvert (Central
Districts), Anthea Black (Wellington) & Giles Hancock (Canterbury)

Apologies: Murray Wiggins

1 WELCOME

Arie Geursen opened the conference, welcomed the delegates and
outlined the programme for the day.

2 VALE – ALAN BARCLAY

The meeting observed a moment's silence in memory of Allan Barclay
(former Board Member) who passed away recently.

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

It was moved that the minutes of the Conference held in Wellington on 29th
June 2014 were a true and correct record of the meeting.

CARRIED

4 MATTERS ARISING

Nil

5 REGIONAL REPORTS

Written Reports from Auckland / Northland, Waikato Bays, Central Districts, Wellington, TOTS, & Otago Southland were circulated prior to the Conference. (Copies attached to these Minutes). In the absence of a report Fiona briefed the delegates as to activities in the Canterbury Region.

6 GENERAL BUSINESS

Board Strategy Document & Business Plan (Phil, Anthony & Shirley)

Phil, Anthony & Shirley presented this segment and outlined the Boards plans for the coming year and beyond to fulfil its mission to *'facilitate, maintain and grow the game of Bridge in New Zealand'*. A copy of the Business plan outlining the strategies and targets is attached to these minutes.

Role of the Bridge Development Officer (Richard)

Richard briefed the delegates as to the changes to his role following the move away from the production of the electronic Magazine to a web based bevy of articles to be uploaded frequently. In addition to this change Richard advised that he would be increasing his involvement with the Regional Committees and act as a conduit between them an the Board with regard to marketing, membership growth initiatives and Regional Conference planning.

Remit- Waikato Bays Region

The following remit from the Waikato Bays Region had been circulated prior to the Conference:

- a. *For Tournaments only, where C points are currently awarded at A & B Tournaments, 1B points shall be awarded for every 100 C points awarded at present.*
- b. *C Points would no longer be converted to B points.*
- c. *All Masterpoints would be used to calculate Rank, but only A & B points would be used to calculate tournament grades.*

Arie introduced this segment and the outlined the process for which the remit would be discussed and subsequently voted on.

Brett Glass was invited to speak to the Remit and outline the rationale behind it. Alister responded on behalf of the Board detailing a number of pitfalls with what was proposed. After much discussion the motion was put to the meeting and lost by a distinct margin.

Alan Turner who is to convene a taskforce to review Tournaments and Masterpoint offerings undertook to consider the essence of the remit when the taskforce meets during the 1st half of 2016.

Presentation – Tournament Scheduling (Rona Driscoll)

Rona Driscoll presented a PowerPoint setting out the magnitude of, and challenges faced when compiling the annual Tournament Schedule. This is a very difficult task with close to 500 tournaments to be accommodated annually. Rona advised that since making this presentation at the Regional Secretaries conference and to a number of Clubs that the process of compiling the schedule had improved. Arie thanked Rona for the excellent job she did compiling the schedule.

Bridge Teachers Group Report (Alan Turner)

Alan briefed the Conference work completed to date and the activities in the pipeline. These included minor corrections to the teaching material already published, updating of the Teachers Manual, and the development and release of up to 10 Intermediate / advanced lessons.

Board Financial Result to March 31 2015 (Alan Turner)

Alan advised the delegates that the Groups financial statements had been completed and were ready for auditing. It is likely that a surplus of \$100k will be achieved for the year. This is due to the effect of the increase in Tournament participation fees and levies while on the expense side a light international committee spend and trimmed admin costs during the period. This result includes a surplus of \$23k by the Regions to which Alan posed the question “was it better for the Regions to be making money or using what they earn to promote bridge in their areas”.

Outline- Proposed Constitution Changes (Graham Wakefield)

Arie introduced Graham Wakefield a former Board member and a current member of the Constitution Review taskforce to present this topic.

Graham outlined the proposed changes to the Constitution primarily rules 7, 27 & 28 with the intent of improvements to the discipline process and any appeal process that may result.

It was noted that the drafting of the changes would be finalised shortly in time to be presented for consideration by Club delegates at the 2015 Annual General meeting.

In addition Graham outlined the introduction of more detailed tournament regulations including the ability of Clubs to refuse an entry from a player at 5A events or below that they may be hosting.

A copy of the presentation is attached to these minutes.

The meeting thanked Graham for the work he was undertaking with this project.

National Congress

Richard outlined changes to the 2015 programme including a number of additional events aimed at lower ranked open grade players. Richard also reported that the Congress was using a temporary Website this year pending the development of a Congress page as part of the NZ Bridge Website revamp. This will include streamlined online registration and payment of entry fees.

There being no further General Business Arie summarised the day and thank the delegates for their attendance and contribution to the Conference and also for the work that they and their fellow Committee members do for bridge in their Regions.

THE CONFERENCE CLOSED AT 4.00pm.

The next National Conference 11th June 2016



NATIONAL CONFERENCE JUNE 2015

Signal Intent to Deliver
“Package of Actions”



1. Remit(s) for Constitutional changes – to be referred by Board to September AGM and circulated when available.
2. Comprehensive revision of Tournament Regulations – adopt upon completion and prior to Congress if possible.
3. Introduction of Code of Conduct for Tournament participants/attendees.
4. Various changes within Manual – 2015 reprint by year end.



PRINCIPAL DRIVERS

- 7 years experience under current Constitution.
- Several referrals to Conduct, Discipline and Disputes Committee (CD&DC)
- 2 appeals to Bridge Appeal Tribunal (BAT)
- Need for more sophisticated policies and documentation (in Manual and around Tournaments in particular) and better align with Australia



APPEAL PROCESS

- Task Force Review – February 2015.
- Consultation with Registrar and Chair of Sports Tribunal (ST) re proposals.



APPEAL PROCESS

Changes to Rule 28

1. Structure of BAT

- **Current:** 3 members of Sports Tribunal
- **New:** 2 members of Sports Tribunal and one from Standing Panel of suitably qualified experienced bridge players and/or officials appointed by NZB

2. Prescribed “Notice of Appeal Form” based on equivalent Sports Tribunal form



APPEAL PROCESS

Changes to Rule 28

3. Appellant required to file a copy of Conduct, Discipline and Disputes Committee decision accompanying appeal.
4. Appeals filed directly with Bridge Appeal Tribunal (BAT) Registrar, not NZB Secretary.
5. Requirement for deposit removed and replaced with filing fee payment
 - to cover administration support and assistance by BAT not any cost orders or any further expenses that the Tribunal may seek to recover or require be met



APPEAL PROCESS

Changes to Rule 28

6. Filing Fee paid direct to BAT rather than NZB
7. BAT's power to make costs orders and BAT Chair's power to make orders for security for costs when interest of justice require explicit (rather than rely on Sports Tribunal Rules).
8. Presumption that Appeal Hearings will be on the record unless there are exceptional circumstances requiring an oral hearing (ie. not de novo).



6. Filing Fee paid direct to BAT rather than NZB.
7. BAT's power to make costs orders and BAT Chair's power to make orders for security for costs when interest of justice require explicit (rather than rely on ST Rules).
8. Presumption that Appeal Hearings will be on the record unless there are exceptional circumstances requiring an oral hearing (ie. not de novo).



APPEAL PROCESS

Changes to Rule 28

9. Presumption that a penalty/sanction imposed by Conduct, Discipline and Disputes Committee will be suspended after the filing of an appeal unless, after hearing from each side, it is not in the interest of justice to do so



OTHER AMENDMENTS

1. Rule 7 - Affiliation

- Expand 7.2 to provide explicitly that all members of an Affiliated Club are, by virtue of that affiliation, also bound by the provisions of the Rules of NZ Bridge to the extent that the same apply to participants in the game of Contract Bridge and to the Tournament Regulations from time to time in force with respect to attendance at and participation in events to which such Regulations are applied.



OTHER AMENDMENTS

2. Rule 22 – Treasurer

- Provide explicitly for the Board to engage such professional accountancy services to support the Treasurer as shall be considered appropriate from time to time.

3. Honorary Solicitor

- Provide explicitly for the appointment from time to time by resolution of the Board of an Honorary Solicitor, and that no person shall be disqualified from acting as such by virtue of being a member of an Affiliated Club



CONDUCT, DISCIPLINE AND DISPUTES COMMITTEE

Procedures applicable to Conduct, Discipline and Disputes Committee will be incorporated within the Manual (and referenced in Rule 27). A preliminary draft is available (circulated).

The Board will determine final format in consultation with the Chair and members of the CD&DC, the Honorary Solicitor and any feedback received before the 2015 Manual reprint



RECORDERS

- While the role remains a valuable adjunct the way the Recorders work has needed to change.
- It is no longer tenable, lawful or useful to keep, or undertake to keep, complaints confidential as has been the practice since inception.
- Unless complainants accept that and are prepared to stand by their complaint the Recorder will not formally record the allegation



RECORDERS

- If the Recorder does decide to record a matter that might subsequently be referenced in a disciplinary process, the player effected will need to be made aware of that fact. The recorder should offer to record the player's version of events as well
- Recorders are "Officials" of NZ Bridge and will be afforded the same level of protection as a Director. Harassment and discourtesy towards them is misconduct
- The "Mandate and Procedures for Recorders" contained in the Manual (pages A11 and A12) will be revised before reprint



CODE OF CONDUCT

- Existing Code of Conduct for NZB representatives at overseas and home events and squads seeking selection will remain (but may be modified)
- New Code of Conduct will be introduced applicable to players and attendees at Tournaments and events sanctioned by NZ Bridge. Affiliated Clubs may choose to adopt for club sessions
- Provisions will draw from:
 - Existing Code for representative players
 - Relevant provisions found in typical Employment Contracts/similar documents



CODE OF CONDUCT

- Laws: Law 74 Conduct and Etiquette
Law 76 Spectators
- Other sports codes documentation

Misuse of Social Media is a difficult issue to address in context.

Tournament Regulations will introduce discretion to Affiliated Clubs/Organising Committees delegated authority to run tournaments 5A and below to refuse an entry from any player considered to have behaved badly/breached Code of Conduct in the past





REPORT FROM THE AUCKLAND/NORTHLAND REGION FOR THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE on Saturday 13th June 2015

Greetings to those attending the National Conference. Below is a synopsis of what has happened in 2015 and what is to happen in the Auckland/Northland Region.

REGIONAL CONFERENCE

On Sunday 1st February a successful regional conference was held at Orewa Club. 55 players attended the conference and all 19 clubs in the Auckland/Northland area had a representative at the conference. The Regional Committee was exceptionally pleased with the attendance.

We received positive feedback from those attending and the conference was certainly enhanced by having three guest speakers: Jane Stearns – Cambridge; Amanda Smith – Tauranga; Debbie Sullivan – Franklin.

Orewa Club members were excellent hosts.

INTERCLUB

This year 46 teams entered. Junior – 21; Intermediate – 17; Open – 8. The numbers are slightly down on last year.

DIRECTING SEMINAR

The Region is holding a Directing Seminar on Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th June. Howick Club is hosting the weekend and the Region is very fortunate to have Alan Joseph as facilitator. Saturday's session is for those wishing to take the Club Director exam or players wishing to know more about directing; Sunday is for those wanting to take the Tournament Director exam. Currently 19 have registered for Saturday and 13 for Sunday. The weekend for the seminar was specifically chosen to coincide with the Directing exam the following weekend.

POSSIBLE VISIT OF RON KLINGER

The Regional committee, in response to one of its Northland member clubs, is coordinating Ron Klinger, from Australia, to visit New Zealand in November and run several coaching seminars throughout the Auckland/Northland region. Waikato Bays Regional Committee has also been invited to host him for two or three days and their response has been positive at this stage. Ron is provisionally booked for the period 30th October to 7th November and is happy to manage two or three sessions a day, every day, if it can be arranged. Sue Brown from Kerikeri Club, and a member of the ANRC, is looking after this event on behalf of the Region. Once the Committee has a clearer picture of Ron's schedule, there will be discussion on the possibility of underwriting his costs. However, at this stage we anticipate enough bridge players will attend to ensure all of Ron's costs are all met.

PAPATOETOE CLUB

Papatoetoe Club has generously offered a donation to the ANRC of \$2000 for a Regional project that fits in with their aims and beliefs within the bridge world. ANRC has a committee meeting on Sunday 5th July and will discuss Papatoetoe's offer. It is understood that Papatoetoe will be donating the same amount of money to the NZB Foundation.

CLUB TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP

The ANRC is disappointed only four clubs entered this year's event; Franklin, Howick, East Coast Bays and Mt Albert. Auckland Club has an automatic entry into the finals in Hamilton as they won the event last year. Each year the number of clubs entering has decreased. This year it was promoted to all teams at Interclub in the hope more clubs would enter. Unfortunately the number did not increase.

RUBBER BRIDGE

The number of entries this year has dropped considerably.

INTER-PROVINCIAL TRIALS

The event will be held on 15/16 August.

Here endeth the report for the Auckland/Northland Region.

Have a great conference and I hope much is achieved.

Kind regards
Angela Royle
Secretary, ANRC
June 6th 2015



Waikato Bays Regional Report June 2015

Committee changes

Our chairperson of seven years, Karen Martelletti was successful in the recent election of two members to the Board of NZ Bridge. Accordingly it was necessary for Karen to resign from the Waikato Bays Regional Committee and, somewhat ruefully, we wish her every success in taking this step. We can all feel it is a kindness from Waikato Bays to the rest of the bridge-playing public of New Zealand that everyone will now benefit from Karen's acumen, drive, and commitment to the game.

Rona Driscoll from Taupo has taken over as chairperson, and NZ Bridge have appointed Anna Kalma from Te Aroha to join the regional committee. The committee have invited Karen to sit in on our meetings as an observer and adviser when possible. Last year we began regular Skype meetings, generally monthly, with an annual face-to-face meeting. This has significantly reduced the costs of our meetings in both time and money.

Sadly, Allan Barclay has been diagnosed with cancer. He was on our Regional committee for a number of years and recently on the NZ Bridge Board. Allan has been a great servant of bridge in New Zealand. He and wife Denise have been, for many years, the backbone of the Thames club and they are the ones responsible for the now iconic Thames Festival. Allan has worked hard at both regional and national levels and is the author of many innovative ideas. His ability to think outside the square and his background in publicity and marketing have been great assets to the game. The committee acknowledges and celebrates Allan's numerous contributions to bridge in NZ in general, the innovations he brought to our region (several copied by other regions), and the manner in which he always looked for a positive way forward.

Championship Leagues and the WAPs & BOPs

Bob Fearn, author of the Compass scoring program, has provided an additional facility to keep track of the points standings in both Leagues. There is a link provided on our Regional website and the results will also display on the X-Club website. In a similar vein, Bob has also provided a tracking system for the Waikato Area Pairs and the Bay Pairs.

Jane Stearns – WB Ambassador

Jane Stearns of Cambridge has been doing great work over the last four years in breathing new life into shrinking clubs like Te Aroha, Te Awamutu, Matamata, and this year's project Tokoroa/Putaruru. She has also visited clubs in Queenstown, Wanaka, and Cromwell as well as the regional conferences of Otago/Southland, Auckland and Canterbury. WBRC recently approached the New Zealand Bridge Foundation for funding in support of Jane's marvelous work in the recruitment, education, and retention of new players – the future of our game and now owns a laptop, sound system, and data projector that Jane will use in her activities.

InterProvincial Teams

The trials for 2015 are to be held shortly, although it looks like numbers are again low.

We were successful with applications to Pub Charity to assist with costs for the IPs in both 2014 and 2015. We received the full amount requested in 2014, but this year we only received about 25% of the amount requested, so we are expecting the IPs this year to significantly deplete our finances.

Website

Michael Neels has investigated possibilities for replacing the current WBRC website at www.wbbc.co.nz which had become dated in terms of usability and functionality. We are expecting to launch the new website in a few weeks time.

Rubber bridge competition

For the past few years we have held a Rubber Ducky Day Out at Matamata, where we had coaching from Christine Gibbons and then the first round of the rubber competition. This was successful last year in attracting new players, but we were disappointed with numbers this year and cancelled the day as all players were already experienced at rubber bridge. We are hoping to promote it more next year.

Sponsorship to the National Congress

Last year we sponsored two non Open players to the NZ Congress to the value of the Intermediate package. The winners were Rosalind Phillips and June Hagan, both of Tauranga, who said they would never have gone to Congress, if it was not for this opportunity. Both brought partners who hadn't played at congress before either. As this was clearly successful at introducing new players to congress, this year we are increasing the sponsorship to 3 players of any grade.

National Club Championship

There has been a disappointing lack of interest from clubs in participating in this event. Accordingly, as the 2014 National Top Club event only had 5 regions plus the winning team from last year playing, we surveyed our clubs and have decided to withdraw from the event. Clubs did identify some issues with the format, and made a number of suggestions of how it could be improved.

Our interclub events (Waikato Interclub teams, BOP Teams and the Waikato Bays Trophies) are still popular and will proceed as usual.

No Rank (Unranked) status

Last year we suggested to NZ Bridge that the status of "No Rank" given to new players be changed to "Novice". This is easier to understand than "No Rank" or "Unranked", and could be used by clubs running novice events. Novices would still be graded juniors, but would be ranked novice until they obtain their Certificate of Proficiency.

WBRC Policy and Procedure Manual

We have over the years developed several policies to guide us, and future committees, in the decision making process. Ray McCully has collated these into a policy manual. We are currently working on the draft, and hope to release it in the next few months. We can make it available to other regions if it would be a useful starting point for them.

Thames Summer Bridge Festival

This very successful annual event is a great start to the WB Region bridge season, and has been run primarily by a small group of Thames Club members since its inception. As they no longer wish to run it, the Regional Committee will take over the running of it in conjunction with the Thames Club, starting in 2016.

Marketing

We have begun to consider ideas for raising membership and tournament attendance. Anna Kalma has put together some figures based on the limited data that is currently available, and we eagerly await data from NZ Bridge.

Statistics for regional player grades and ranks closely mirror the NZ-wide statistics. However, our clubs are significantly smaller than the national average (average membership is 91, as opposed to the national

average of 124). Of the 10 smallest clubs in NZ, 4 are in the Waikato Bays region. There are 26 clubs in NZ with less than 50 members, and 9 of these are in Waikato Bays.

Waikato Bays Regional Conference 2014

The Waikato Bays Regional Conference was held on Sunday 2 November 2014 at the Matamata Bridge Club. Most clubs were keen to attend, and we had representatives from 14 clubs, with apologies from another 3 clubs, plus the regional committee, Alan Turner from the NZ Bridge Board, and Richard Solomon, NZ Bridge Development Officer.

The theme of the conference was Grow, Collaborate, Celebrate, with a Challenge to all clubs to take home 2 key actions from the conference to put in place at their club. Bren Birss of the Mount Maunganui Bridge Club was so keen to come that she gave up her 60th birthday party to be there, so we celebrated with birthday cake (gin & lemon – yum!). The Matamata Club provided an excellent lunch as per their usual standard.

Grow: Karen Martelletti introduced the NZ Bridge Marketing Package to the attendees, highlighting the 6 main chapters and the basic system cards with the aid of an excellent Powerpoint presentation. The marketing package was received with great enthusiasm, and clubs are already using it. Amanda Smith (Tauranga) talked about the NZ Bridge lessons notes and teaching material she used for lessons. Amanda has developed a set of PowerPoint presentations to align to the NZB lessons and these presentations, freely available to all clubs, can be downloaded on the NZB website. The meeting was then split into four groups, and asked to come up with activities to support and grow membership. It was great to hear all the initiatives currently used by clubs, and to get ideas from other clubs to take home.

Collaborate: Amanda Smith shared her experience where Tauranga was doing lessons in collaboration with Mount Maunganui. Anna Kalma of Te Aroha described how the club rose from the ashes by following a three tier strategy: spruce up the club rooms, embrace technology, target new members and keep them. She acknowledged Jane Stearns and Hermana Hemmes who had been instrumental to the revival of the club.

Michael Neels (Cambridge) briefly touched on X-club. The collaboration side of X-club is that participation of many clubs gives a large pool of results, which increases the accuracy scored across results. Players have reported that they are actively waiting for X-club results to be published as they want to see how well they do “in the big pond” rather than a small puddle at club level. For those who are interested in what X-club is all about, it is a free service, and which you can read all about it on <http://www.compassmate.bridge-centre.org>

Celebrate: How do we celebrate the volunteers in our clubs? Whilst many volunteers go unnoticed, many clubs in the Regions are proactive and here are some of the ways they are recognised: Life membership or Free membership, Free table money, Trophy/award for volunteers, Gifts, Annual BBQ for volunteers, and the most fun idea – an Addicts trophy for the most sessions played per year.

After the 2014 Regional Conference, several clubs have taken ideas away and initiated changes and/or introduced something new.

Waikato Bays Regional Conference 2015

This will be held on Sunday 20 September at the Matamata Bridge Club.

Central Districts Regional Committee:

This year has been the first year of the new committee of Colin Carryer, Michelle England, Mairi Fitzsimons, Les Gould, Bryan Green. Matthew Schumacher was elected however due to other commitments resigned after a few months and the remaining committee members opted not to seek a replacement. A new Secretary/Treasurer with non-voting rights was elected - Sandra Calvert

An early agenda item for the new committee was to update the Business plan and website and instigate a trophy system for Intermediate Junior players (based on Wellington Region).

Financial Accounts:

The Central Districts Regional Committee's Financial Accounts for the Year Ending 2014-2015 have been completed. The financial status of the Region has shown a cash increase of approx \$5,000 which will assist with the increased IP costs this year being in the South Island.

Interprovincials 2014 :

The regions representatives were :

Open: Hurley/Hurley, Dravitzki/Dravitzki

Women's: Whyte/Yeomans, Thirtle/Buckley

Seniors: Nightingale/Nightingale, Bateman/Woodhall

Intermediate: Burney/Symons, Wiggins/Wiggins

The best result being the Seniors who finished 2nd.

The trial date for 2015 IP's has been forwarded to late August. The Region has experienced slightly disappointing results over the last couple of years so have decided to change the format to a pairs trial this year to see if we can gather some better results.

Rubber Bridge:

CD was represented at Congress 2014 by Mairi & Matthew Bristow however they were not the eventual winners.

The 2015 Rubber Bridge knockout for the Region is currently in the third round however entries were relatively low this year with only 13 pairs entering.

Club Championship Teams:

New Plymouth represented the region in 2014 finishing 4th overall.

Playoffs for 2015 will commence on 14th June 2015.

Bridge Membership:

As elsewhere in New Zealand, membership in our Region continues to decline however we will be addressing this at the Regional Conference.

Regional Conference/ Teachers Conference:

This will be the first year that CD is having a Regional Conference, and we will incorporate a Teaching session for the Teachers in this conference rather than have a separate meeting – this being due to the region having such a wide geographical spread. The conference is to be held in Dannevirke and the committee will be assisted by Shirley Newton and have arranged for Jane Stearns to come and talk about retention of members and new member initiatives and club rejuvenation. We are actively encouraging our clubs to attend the conference.

NZBridge

REPORT FOR THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE HELD IN WELLINGTON ON 13 JUNE, 2015

Our committee consists of three members who have stayed, Heather Jared, Tony Sutich and myself and welcome three new members, Janet McMenamin, Anthea Black, and Paul Maxwell.

INTERCLUB

Again we have 58 teams in our interclub which has limited the use of some club rooms. It is a very popular evening of bridge so we accommodate everyone who wants to play from novice to open.

RUBBER BRIDGE

While the entries were slightly down on last year we still have a good turn out for this competition. The first round has been completed already.

WELLINGTON CONGRESS

This year the congress was held over ANZAC Weekend and this resulted in a larger number of entries. Unfortunately there is still a lack of junior entries although we have quite a few teams in the Interclub. We are hoping that the introduction of the Junior League will encourage more players next year. It was a most successful congress judging by the comments made.

We have not held our IP trials yet but they will be teams this year to satisfy the people who feel this is the only way to hold trials. It will be interesting to see how many teams we get.

We had regional meeting in February, but, unfortunately, not all the clubs attended. We will follow that up to see if we can get more interest from the clubs in attending our next meeting in February. The NZ Bridge MMM Resources kit was well received.

Dinnie Hall
Chairman Wellington

TOP OF THE SOUTH REGION

A Committee of New Zealand Bridge

1 June 2015

Regional report to the National Conference.

Tournaments

Planning for 2016 has been completed and agreed upon.

The current tournament season is well under way.

The age old issue for us of not having sufficiently qualified directors available to direct continues to bother us. Our four Tournament Directors all wish to play rather than direct. We have one Club Director who has shown a willingness to gain her Tournament Directors qualification. She is being given every opportunity to Direct at 5A events in the region. The Region does not have any National Directors.

Another Directing issue has arisen recently where National and Tournament Directors invited to the region have struggled to get the Scoring software to do what they want it to in terms of Movements or Teams logistics. It is apparent that scoring has become too specialized for many Directors now and that we need to find dedicated scorers to possibly fill the role.

The availability of proficient scorers for Teams and Swiss Pairs events are unfortunately just as scarce as Tournament Directors in our Region.

We introduced a Regional Junior Interclub event last year which was successful and at the players request will introduce a Regional Intermediate Interclub for 2016.

All 8 clubs will be attending this year's Open Interclub event for the second year in a row.

Two new Junior tournaments were successfully held last year by Picton and Marlborough and are now annual calendar events.

Bridge Lessons and Training

Most clubs are continuing to use the New Zealand Bridge resources and the new Improvers material has been well received.

Beginners Lessons are well patronized and our clubs continue to maintain their current membership. Retaining new members remains a challenge as it requires significant personal input from the few dedicated teachers.

We plan to hold a Regional training workshop later in the year for Intermediate players focused on those successful and aspiring to be in the Inter Provincial Team.

A well supported Directors workshop (30 attendees) was held by Allan Joseph prior to our IP Trials.

Fund Raising

Having to give New Zealand Bridge the GST component of any funds raised continues to be a topic raised at every meeting we hold. We don't believe that we should have to use the levies received from New Zealand Bridge to top up that portion of our hard won sponsorship from Pub Charity which supports our IP Team.

One of our team is gearing up to make another presentation to the Board.

NZB Board

We are grateful to have Phil Rutherford attend most of our Regional Meetings. He is able to keep us up to date with the Boards plans and ideas.

We were also pleased to have had Shirley Newton attend our last meeting where she reminded us of the useful Marketing Material published by New Zealand Bridge last year.

Waikato-Bays/Huntly Master Point proposal

The Region has instructed our representative to vote against this proposal. However, it has raised some discussion and it has been agreed that there is a proportional anomaly in the granting of C Points when a small number of pairs play. (Less than 11 pairs in a Howell or less than 11 tables in a Mitchell). We have no agreement as yet on whether it is worth pursuing though.

I will leave it to Robin to expand on this at the meeting.

Steve Gray
Chairman
Top of the South



Otago/Southland Regional Committee

www.otagosouthlandbridge.org.nz

Chair Report for the National Conference, Wellington, 13.06.15

Committee Members

The committee has the full six members with Frances Sheehy [Chairperson], Marilyn Jackson [Secretary], Philip Hensman [Treasurer], James Coutts, Joan Scarlet, Maria Godfrey [replacing Kaye Wilson].

Unfortunately Kaye has more commitments at work and does not have the time to commit to the Otago/Southland Bridge Committee.

Maria Godfrey is at present tournament secretary for the Otago Club and is willing to take Kaye's place. I am sure she will be an asset to the Committee.

Regional Congress and Tournaments

Our Regional Congress was played in Dunedin at Queens Birthday weekend. The entries were disappointing, especially for the junior/intermediate section. The change of venue from Central Otago to Dunedin has not been as successful as we would have liked, so for 2016 we are changing back to Central Otago probably Queenstown, and changing from Queens Birthday to Labour weekend. Hopefully we will get some Canterbury players, as they now run a Congress at Queens Birthday weekend as well.

Tournaments are not being well supported and we need to look at ways to encourage players to come. Balcutha tournament was nearly cancelled but the Otago/Southland Committee managed to find some more players, so in the end it was quite successful.

The Interclub Teams was disappointing as only two clubs participated, Otago and Invercargill – Invercargill won.

Other clubs did not want to participate as in the past Otago have put in a strong team and then had other players playing in Hamilton. We think that whoever plays

in the team for the qualifying should represent that club, unless unable to due to sickness.

Another problem that has been reported is that it is very difficult to get Open players who are willing to play, because there are no A-pts for the Finals in Hamilton – they would prefer to play in the other Congress events.

Junior / Intermediate

Our Region-wide Junior/Intermediate Tournament League for 2015 is up and going. Disappointed with number of cards being sent in. We need to promote it in all the individual clubs again. It just seems to be the same ones winning.

I P Trials

We ran our 2014 Trials as a swiss pairs, including the intermediates as there were so few entered. The team selections were then made by two very experienced players (non-triallists), to make the strongest teams in each category. This upset some pairs as they thought they should be in different teams. So this year we are accepting entries and the players will choose which team/s they would prefer to play in.

Otago/Southland were pleased with how the teams finished at the Interprovincials – first in the open, second in the womens and second overall.

Otago/Southland would like the Interprovincials to go back to a six man team and playoff in Hamilton.

It has been suggested that we run the Trials as a tournament, and you just put your name forward if you want to be in one of the teams. It may bring in more entries.

Otago/Southland Regional Conference

We had a very successful Regional Conference, which we held in Alexandra. We chose Alexandra as the venue as it was quite central to many clubs – Maniototo, Queenstown, Wanaka, Cromwell and Alexandra. Te Anau also attended, along with Invercargill, Winton, Balclutha, West Otago and Oamaru. Otago were sending Bradley but he unfortunately had a car accident on the way. It was disappointing that Otago with over 400 members, could not take the time to send two or three members.

Allan Joseph did a terrific job over the weekend, with some assistance from Murray Wiggins. Allan held a Directors Seminar on the Saturday with about 20 people from six clubs attending. Allan also led the NZ Bridge presentation at the Regional Conference on the Sunday. All of the clubs attending the Regional Conference were thrilled with the day and said how they benefitted by it.

Questionnaire for the Sunday Conference was as follows:

Question 1

Do you think the idea of a Regional Conference serves a purpose of a future need for your club

Very suited	suited	mildly suited
50%	50%	

Question 2

If further Regional Conferences were to be held, should they be held

Annually	2 yearly	3 yearly
45%	55%	

Question 3

Do you think this Conference was

Too long	just right	too short
	100%	

Question 4

Was the presentation booklet well presented and easy to follow

Yes	no
100%	

Question 5

Was the presentation material well suited to your club

Very suited	suited	mildly suited
40%	60%	

Question 6

Is there more information required at local level from the Regional Committee

Yes	No
30%	70%

General Comments:

Excellent speakers – very motivating.

Well worth coming to, thought Jane was very good.

Valuable to hear what other clubs are doing or problems they have.

Worthwhile day, great ideas, helpful in going forward.

Great food and hospitality.

We need a Jane to come and talk to our members.

We need help to encourage new players and still have good players attending.

Enjoyed my first conference, learnt a lot, feel more confident.

Very useful information – well conveyed, good meal. Great weekend – many thanks to Allan, Murray and Jane.

An impressive investment of New Zealand Bridge and Otago/ Southland Regional money, absolutely wonderful day, well run, excellent food.

Many were disappointed with Otago not having representatives there.

Finally I want to thank my committee in all the work they have put in for the year, and especially to Kaye who has done a great job and I am sorry to lose her. And to thank everyone for their support when I took on [The Chair] later on last year. I am sure we will have an even better year this year.

Frances Sheehy, Chair for Otago/Southland, 10/06/2015.