



AUCKLAND/NORTHLAND REGIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT

August 2013

The most controversial happening has been the change of dates and venue for the IP tournament. We had organised two trial dates...April and August. However we felt that April was far too early and so changed it to one trial in August. The bridge players were not happy with the new scenario and this was reflected by the low number of players who entered the trials. However we do have four players for each category and our Chef de Mission is the well-respected bridge player Denis Humphries.

Hibiscus Coast Club hosted the Main Centre event for the first time and did an excellent job. 38 Pairs and 26 Teams entered.

The Rubber Bridge tournament attracted 37 pairs...the most ever.

Seven clubs entered the Club Teams Championship...rather a disappointing number considering we have 19 clubs in our area. Mt Albert was victorious.

Auckland club hosted the North Island Teams in May and 34 teams entered the event.

The World TV Teams event was held in June and attracted 24 teams.

Howick Club hosted a youth tournament on a wet Sunday afternoon in July with players from Macleans College, McAuley High and Pakuranga College. There were five tables and those who played thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

We were very sorry to lose Patrick Carter from the ANRC. His work in looking after the tournament schedule was quite outstanding. Tony Morcom has taken over the job and we now have the young fresh face of Susan Humphries on the committee who has also taken over the role of treasurer and what a fine treasurer she is too.

In June we had a weekend Directing Seminar with Allan Joseph from Wellington as the facilitator. We had a very good attendance on the Saturday when the emphasis was directing at club level. On the Sunday we had a small select gathering as the emphasis was for those wishing to become Tournament Directors. (The Tournament Directors' exam was the following weekend. Seven passed and five were from the Auckland/Northland Region and four had been on Allan's course.) We received a lot of very positive feedback about the seminar and Allan Joseph was an excellent presenter.

Julie Atkinson leaves Auckland Club in September and the ANRC will acknowledge the work and support she has given the committee over the years.

There has been much happening in the region for the first half of the year and to all who read this mini report...have a happy and exciting time at the bridge table in the second half.

Yours in bridging
Angela

Angela Royle, Secretary
Auckland/Northland Regional Committee

August 19th 2013



CENTRAL DISTRICTS REGIONAL COMMITTEE

REGIONAL CONFERENCE REPORT 25/08/2013

Central Districts Regional Committee

- | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| • Don Nightingale | Wanganui | Chairman |
| • Jean Bennett | Gisborne | |
| • Alan Doddridge | Palmerston North | |
| • Val Gardiner | Wanganui | |
| • Bryan Green | Levin | |
| • Evelyn Hurley | Palmerston North | |
| • Dorothy Mackay | Levin | Secretary/Treasurer |

Rubber Bridge

The 2013 Rubber Bridge is at the final play-off stage between England/Beale Gisborne & Kemp/Townsley Palmerston North to find who will represent CD at Hamilton.

Club Championship Teams

The 2013 Club Championship Teams East/West play-off between Napier and Wanganui resulted in Napier winning through to represent CD at Hamilton alongside Palmerston North who automatically qualified as 2012 champions.

Interprovincial Trials

The entries for our 2013 Interprovincial Trials were disappointing with only one team entry for the Open, three teams for the Seniors, two teams for the Womens and six pairs for the Intermediate. The Seniors and Womens' sections were run as teams trials while the Intermediate section was run as an Imp datum pairs trial.

The following teams will represent CD at Wellington:

- Open – R. Hurley, E. Hurley, P. Livingston & W. Burrows.
- Seniors – A. Buchanan, K. Bateman, R. Nightingale & D. Nightingale.
- Womens – A. Buckley, A. Thirtle, D. Mackay & C. Hull.
- Intermediate – J. Watson, P. Watson, J. Haslett & N. Bright.

As much as our Region agrees with the Interprovincial Championship being separated from Congress we do have the following concerns with the new Interprovincial format:

CENTRAL DISTRICTS REGIONAL COMMITTEE

26 Victoria Terrace Ohau RD 20 LEVIN 5570 – Telephone 06 367 9438
Email cdbbridgeregion@gmail.com

- The Youth Interprovincial reversal back to Congress following contact from one youth pair without consultation with the other five Regions or youth players.
- Each Region only having one Chef de Mission to carry out the role and duties set out by NZ Bridge for four teams with no non playing captains appears to be too big an ask.
- The proposal of having local players to act as substitutes for teams in case of illness etc where the Chef de Mission is not eligible we believe is not an acceptable option.

Tournaments

2013/2014 CD Regional/National tournaments and venues:

- 10A Zelda Morris Provincial Pairs, 9/10th November 2013 at Napier.
- 10A Marion Hill Main Centre Pairs, 8th March 2014 at New Plymouth.
- 20A North Island Teams, 26/27th April 2014 at Palmerston North.
- 10A John Fullarton teams, 2/3rd August 2014 at Gisborne.
- 10A Zelda Morris Provincial Pairs, 8/9th November 2014 at Hastings.

Don Nightingale
Chairman.



Wellington Regional Bridge Committee

REPORT FOR THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE **WELLINGTON 25 AUGUST 2013**

Early this year we had a meeting of all the clubs' representatives which was most successful. The clubs found that they were not the only ones with certain problems and the exchange of information was most helpful. We plan to hold another one in February 2014 and make this a yearly event. Most people found it valuable just getting to know people from the other clubs as it was useful to know someone to ring when necessary.

INTERCLUB

This year, because of the change in grading, we introduced a 5th grade of Open Reserve in our interclub. As well as Open Reserve we have Novice, Junior, Intermediate and Open. We ended up with 56 teams, which is our absolute limit from March until November in two venues. The event is held monthly. Because of the numbers we are restricted by space as to which clubroom we use but everyone seems to be enjoying the event. Tony does a wonderful job organising the draw.

WELLINGTON CONGRESS

This also was almost at maximum. It seems that a good time was had by all. Heather Jared was the Congress Manager and did a magnificent job, assisted by her husband, Chris. The main problems were technical ones

but our Chief Director, Allan Joseph, stayed till all hours and sorted these out. In 2015 we are looking to hold the Congress at Easter as we have found that trying to play the amount of bridge we did in two and half days is too much.

IP TRIALS

In May we held our IP trials using the same method as Otago & Waikato Bays and while the event went well, the results were rather surprising with a couple of our top pairs missing out. Maybe the short 8 board matches had a levelling effect. Most trialists were happy with the format and we will probably use it again next year.

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

We only had 4 teams entering this year, which was disappointing. It seems that the main problem is getting juniors to play. Also some of the smaller clubs feel they cannot compete with a large club like Wellington. Perhaps we could look at the rule that two clubs with under 100 players can join forces and make that 150 which might help

TOURNAMENTS

We have found this year that our Open and Multigrade tournaments are well supported but we have trouble getting the Juniors to play. In some way this is surprising as the Juniors and Novice play happily in the Interclub event but not in tournaments. One club had to cancel their Junior tournament as they only had 6 entries.

Later this year we are going to have a meeting of all the Bridge Teachers in the region so they can support each other and exchange ideas. Hopefully it will become a yearly arrangement.

I would like to thank the Committee for all their work.

Dinnie Hall

Wellington



TOP OF THE SOUTH REGION

A Committee of New Zealand Bridge

Report to Regional Conference 25th August 2013

Bridge Lessons and training

Our regions clubs are under way with lessons for 2013

| Club | New | Youth |
|-------------|-----|-------|
| Golden Bay | 4 | |
| Kaikoura | ? | |
| Marlborough | 12 | 1 |
| Motueka | 8 | |
| Nelson | 10 | |
| Picton | 0 | |
| Richmond | 12 | |
| Westport | 10 | |
| TOTAL | 52 | 1 |

The Regional Committee advertised the availability of subsidies of costs for Bridge training in an effort to spend the allocated funding each year. So far we have had applications from Marlborough (including Picton) and Kaikoura to run Intermediate level lessons. In addition the Region ran an Intermediate Training Day following the Marlborough Intermediate Tournament although well attended by Marlborough & Picton members no other clubs availed themselves of this training opportunity.

TOTS Strategy Planning

A planning day was held in Richmond with Club President's also in attendance (with exception of Kaikoura). Key Points from the day were:

- Concern at Kaikoura's isolation from rest of region
- Continued focus on training throughout the region
- Lack of suitably qualified Tournament Directors
- Web site for Region considered low priority for funds available
- Tournament Calendar is congested in middle of year. Also concern expressed that Christchurch held a 5A on same weekend as Centre Island Pairs. The Region was under the impression that adjacent region's should

not be allocated A point tournament on same weekend as National level 15/20A tournaments.

- New members, learners, tend to be in the 50+ age bracket although Marlborough has managed to attract some potential Youth players. A lot of discussion on how you get the perception of Bridge out of the senior citizen demographic.
- Consensus that a Regional Committee meeting with all Club presidents attending once a year is very valuable.

2013 Centre Island Pairs

Picton, a club of less than 60, hosted this tournament in the newly completed Port Marlborough Pavilion Sports & Community Centre (officially opened the week before the tournament). There were 22 tables from predominantly Top of the South, Christchurch & Wellington. The event was run 3 round qualifying on Saturday with carry-over to both Barometer final and Plate. Winners were:

- Final - Michael Ware & Susan Humphries , Akarana
- Plate – Gray Renwick & Jen McGowan, Christchurch and a very popular win from Youth players.
- Intermediate – Kay McKellar & Judith Marshall , Marlborough

The tournament was sponsored by Nelson Building Society and received many accolades from players on the venue (which seated 220 so plenty of space to spread out), the organisation by the Picton Club (who arranged discounts on ferries and accommodation plus very generous raffle donations). Overall the event was very successful with only a few minor hitches with technology.

Rubber Bridge

A disappointing entry this year with 2 pairs Marlborough, 1 Picton and 4 Westport. The competition was played on a Knock-out with on each side of the island with the final round match East Coast vs. West Coast and won by Kate Davies & John Paterson.

More encouragement needs to be given to this aspect of Bridge.

Steve Gray (Chairman)

Canterbury Regional Report August 2013

Christchurch Bridge Club

The Christchurch Bridge Club moved in to its new building on Queen's Birthday weekend. The opening ceremony was over the weekend of the 29th/30th June and was a great success. Addresses were made from the President Shangar Singh, John Wignall and Mayor Bob Parker who officially opened the building. Around a hundred people attended. Thanks were given to Papanui Bowls for their excellent support of the club over the last two years.

It is a very good, modern facility. It has good playing space with a separate teaching room, manager's office, dealing room, director's platform, kitchen and bar. The acoustics and air conditioning are modern and very good. It is a relief to be back. The club will now be focusing on getting players to return that have been absent and ensuring that the club gets back to smooth overall running.

Regional Committee meetings

The CRC decided a few months ago to hold their two monthly face-to-face meetings at clubs around the region. This initiative was to give club committees the opportunity to meet with the CRC get to know us and to give them a forum in which to discuss concerns and issues with us. We have had two such meetings so far (with Rangiora and Crockfords) that have been a great success and clubs have been very positive about the opportunity to talk with us. Both clubs in these forums have raised a few issues. These issues have also come up in general discussions with other clubs.

- Clubs are wondering why they should remain affiliated. What do they get for the cost of affiliation apart from Masterpoints? In some clubs, especially the smaller ones, but also Crockfords who have a much higher general age bracket, the number of players who are interested in Masterpoints is low. What else does NZBridge do for them? Where is the value for money? The national marketing? Other resources such as guidance or advice on how much to pay tournament directors or how to deal with difficult players? One of our small clubs (Diamond Harbour) has disaffiliated as they felt that there was no value to them in remaining affiliated.
- There is a feeling of lack of connection to NZBridge (this is one of the reasons for our meetings). It is felt that a lot of information is sent *at* clubs but little general overall communication.
- Concern of the rising costs and viability of running tournaments. Catering costs in particular mean that clubs are finding it hard to break even, let alone make a profit from running tournaments. Crockfords wanted to know if they actually have to run tournaments as it usually costs them money to do so and only about 5% of their players play in tournaments. It is of some concern that Crockfords from 2015 may reduce the number tournaments that they wish to hold. Christchurch has also indicated that the entry costs to tournaments are going to rise to \$30 a head minimum per tournament due to the increase in the costs of overheads. It is of concern that an increase in entry fees will reduce the number of tournament players playing.

The CRC has begun to address some of these issues by writing 'packages' for clubs to use. So far we have collated 'how to run a tournament' and 'dealing with difficult players' packages. We have a funding package, a mentoring package and a Canterbury bridge directory in the pipeline. These are/ will be on our website for use by anyone.

2013 Interprovincials

The Canterbury Inter Provincial Trials were held in April. We would have preferred to have held these later with the finals in November but due to the short notice of the finals date shift this was not possible. While the costs to the CRC are less for the finals being held in Wellington, the CRC is disappointed that no extra money has been made available for the costs of sending the youth to Hamilton. The airfare costs to Hamilton are very high. Good advanced planning and notification for the 2014 IP finals for Youth and other would be of great use.

Most of our players are not unhappy with the 4 man teams except some seniors who feel the playing requirements may be too onerous.

We are very pleased and grateful to Kris Wooles for agreeing to be our Chef de Mission.

Internet banking

The CRC now has Internet banking. Many thanks to Alister for doing this. It will mean that we can manage our funds better to achieve maximum interest from our accounts.

Website

The CRC website has now been running for several months and we have had extremely positive feedback about it. Players are mostly using it for tournament information such as results, flyers etc. It will take a bit of time for people to get used to using it but we believe it will be a great asset to the region. The website is being hosted by the Website Guys based in Auckland. They have also been assisting with general help and are currently in the process of writing a plug in for online tournament entries that will be used by all clubs in the region.

Non-affiliated clubs

The CRC has been looking at how we can improve our relationship with non-affiliated clubs in our region. New CRC member Giles Hancock has been in touch with and has compiled a full list of club details for all Canterbury clubs. This list is available on our website. We hope that closer contact and communication with non-affiliated clubs will be of general benefit to bridge in our region but also may encourage clubs to look at the benefits of being affiliated and make affiliated clubs more approachable to members of non-affiliated clubs.

New Announcing Regulations

Players have slowly taken up these new regulations and the directors have been doing a good job of reminding people. Most players seem fine with the regulations but some of our more elite/senior players seem resistant to the changes.

Youth Players

It was looking like Canterbury was going to be short of youth players in years to come but things are looking brighter. We have had 8 new youth complete lessons with another 4 to come in August. That will bring our youth numbers up to around 18 for 2014. The average age is quite young (around 13/14) so it will take time for them to develop. Ten of these players will be attending the August youth weekend.

Junior/Intermediate League

This league was launched this year. It has been very successful in the Intermediate Grade. We have seen players actively seeking points and playing in tournaments further a field in the region than usual. Having the tables and results updated after each tournament on the website has helped to stimulate interest.

For the Juniors things have been slower to take off and we have less qualifiers. It seems to be more difficult for Junior players to find another Junior to play tournaments with. We have therefore seen a number of Juniors playing in the Intermediate section with an Intermediate partner instead.

We will be handing out trophies and prizes at the end of the year.



Otago/Southland Regional Committee

www.otagosouthlandbridge.org.nz

Chairpersons Report for the Regional Conference, Wellington 25.08.2013

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)

2013 so far...

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

Junior/Intermediate: Our region wide Junior/Intermediate Tournament League for 2013 is going well with a lot of interest and debate among players about qualifying and points.

IP Trials: were held 13th/14th April. Numbers remained similar to previous years, a small increase was seen in the Intermediate field.

Please see our letter to NZ Bridge regarding IP selection re: Youth and other teams.

Support of smaller Clubs within our Region: We have recently had the bridge club in Palmerston (East Otago Bridge Club) vote to become affiliated and we will be travelling to play on their club night to welcome them and offer support.

We are also making a point of sending birthday cards to Clubs on their significant birthdays to let all the clubs know we are following their progress and celebrate with them.

Regional Congress & Tournaments: Our Regional Congress in Wanaka went well but we have decided to move this to Dunedin from next year onwards.

We have added a 10A point Swiss Pairs tournament to the regional tournament schedule for next year in an attempt to introduce and popularise different types of bridge format.

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.

Masterpoints: We have contacted all of our regional clubs with a bulletin on Masterpoints and the part they play in the administration of bridge at a regional and national level. We will be endeavouring to continue this campaign until all sessions in the region are masterpointed.

Summary

This year had been an effort so far. We have had to organise and then re-organise our teaching seminar, our IP trials and our Youth trials: this has caused a lot of frustration and re-work. While we recognise that any change to national events is sure to cause some disturbance we don't believe all of this year's drama has been necessary. Our committee members are volunteers and asking them to give up their spare time to re-organise something that has already been organised is going a bit far – especially if we want them to stay on our committees.

We hope that things will settle down and that advanced communications and strategic plans will be available in the future to show major changes at least a year in advance.

Thank you and kind regards,

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