

# NZB<sup>♣</sup>ridge

**NEW ZEALAND BRIDGE NATIONAL CONFERENCE**  
**Held at the Conference Centre Wellington Airport commencing at**  
**10.00am Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2016**

**PRESENT Board:** Arie Geursen, Phil Rutherford, Carol Richardson, Alan Turner.  
Alan Joseph, & Karen Martelletti

Alistair Stuck, (National Secretary) Richard Solomon (Bridge  
Development Officer) & Murray Wiggins (Chief Director)

**Regional Representatives:** Michael Johnstone, (Canterbury), Chris  
Marshall, (Top of the South), Rona Driscoll (Waikato Bays), Bianca  
Van Rangelrooy (Auckland Northland), Dinnie Hall, (Wellington),  
Frances Sheehy, (Otago Southland & Colin Carryer, (Central Districts)

**Observers:** Sandra Calvert (Central Districts), Paul Maxwell & Tony  
Sutich (Wellington), Marilyn Jackson (Otago Southland) Helene Le  
Bresche (Auckland Northland & Fiona Temple (Canterbury)

**Apologies:** Noel Woodhall

**1 WELCOME**

Arie Geursen opened the conference, welcomed the delegates and outlined the programme for the day. Arie paid tribute to a number of longstanding Regional Committee members who had opted not to stand for a further term.

**2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

It was moved that the minutes of the Conference held in Wellington on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2015 were a true and correct record of the meeting.

**CARRIED**

**4 MATTERS ARISING**

Nil

## **5 REGIONAL REPORTS**

Written Reports from all Regions were circulated prior to the Conference. (Copies attached to these Minutes). The delegates were given the opportunity if they wished to highlight aspects of their report.

### *Central Districts*

Little interest in the Region from eligible players to contest the Intermediate IP Trials.

### *Top of the South*

Looking at way to promote the game and attract new players to Bridge in the Region.

### *Waikato Bays*

Annual Rubber Bridge training day held recently. Bridge Teachers to be subsidised to attend the Teachers Conference in July. Interest in the Intermediate section of the IP Trials was poor. Cinema advert promotion was picked up by two clubs in the Region. The project was not successful in Taupo given issues experienced with the independent Cinema operator.

### *Otago Southland*

Sought ideas from the delegates as to ideas for Agenda items for Regional Conferences. Also sought feedback from other Regions as to preparation / training plans initiated once IP teams are selected.

### *Canterbury*

Rubber Bridge participants up and due to an email promotion.

## **6 GENERAL BUSINESS**

### *2016 NZ Bridge Business Plan*

Phil 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.

### *Marketing & Website*

Karen briefed the delegates as to the reestablishment of the Marketing committee that will meet for the first time shortly. Karen presented the first draft of the online facility for Clubs to advise membership resignations and some of the further enhancements to the Website.

Given recent feedback and that tabled at the conference it is possible that the requirement to “sign on” to view the Masterpoints section will be reviewed, once number of registrations reach the sort of numbers that enable us to attract sponsors

### *Bridge Teachers Group Report*

Alan briefed the Conference work completed to date and the activities in the pipeline. These included continued corrections to the teaching material already published, updating of the Teachers Manual, and the role out of Intermediate / advanced lessons.

### *Tournament Review Taskforce*

Carol presented this segment and outlined the brief of the taskforce. Having in recently taken this role on Carol is eager to get the working parting together. An initial meeting is scheduled for 4<sup>th</sup> Sept 2016 in Wellington.

### *Succession Planning*

Alister led a discussion and sought feedback from the delegates as to how they encourage interested parties to stand for Regional Committee positions. The overall theme was that this was often a difficult task as people are time stretched and often unwilling to commit time to a further committee. Alister will host a one day workshop for Regional Secretaries before the end of the year to assist people settle into these roles.

### *Interprovincials*

Phil introduced this topic with a statement that the Board was committed to the continuation of the Interprovincials for the medium term and sought feedback from the Regions as to their thoughts.

It was the view of those present that the Board's stance was supported but there was much debate (including a precirculated paper from TOTS Region) as to the location, format, timing, cost & level of player subsidy. The Board will consider all points raised before formulating a long term strategy for the event. It was signaled that the current level of player subsidies could not be sustained.

Allan Joseph presented draft copies of two publications (IP Organisers Kit & IP Chef de Missions Compendium) that will be finalised and released shortly.

### *NCEA – Certificate in Bridge*

Chris Marshall spoke to this topic having circulated a well written paper the essence of which was a request for the Board to investigate this matter. Richard responded having made some preliminary enquiries, and advised that he and Grant Jarvis would approach the Education Department to gauge their appetite for and the process involved in having Bridge added to the suite of NCEA level offerings in Schools. Richard undertook to report back in due course.

### *Board Elections*

Fiona raised as a discussion point how best to encourage Clubs to participate in this process. It was felt in some quarters that Clubs were reluctant to vote as they had little or no knowledge of the candidates. While Candidate CV's

were circulated that is often all the Clubs have to go on. It was agreed that it was a fine line between providing background info on the candidates and directing Clubs as to how to vote. It was further agreed that there is nothing stopping Regional Committee members from advising clubs objectively and fairly if asked.

#### *Honoraria Limits*

Bianca asked that the Regional Committee Honoraria levels be reviewed so that people doing other roles (e.g. Tournament Schedule) could receive a honoraria payment.

The present policy allows for the Secretary & Treasurer to receive a payment with the Regional spend not to exceed \$1500pa. After much debate the suggestion was not supported with the status quo to remain. In reaching the decision it was noted that in a number of regions the Tournament Schedule is managed by the Secretary as part of their role. It was also felt that it would be difficult to “draw a line” with such requests given the number of people who assist the Regions and NZ Bridge in some form or another.

There being no further General Business Arie summarised the day. He pointed out that the Chairman of NZB was ex-officio a member of all Regional Committees. He recently met with the Wellington Regional Committee and he was more than happy to attend a meeting of all incoming Regional Committees as part of the Board’s commitment ensure there is good flow of communication between the them and the Board. He thanked the delegates for their attendance and their 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 3.25pm.**

The next National Conference 10<sup>th</sup> June 2017



## **AUCKLAND/NORTHLAND REGIONAL REPORT JUNE 2016**

Greetings to those attending the National Conference from the ANRC members.

Our last committee meeting was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2016 and a copy of the minutes was circulated to NZB. Our next meeting is Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> July, three days after the new committee take over. Susan Humphries, Peter Bowyer and Angela Royle are stepping down. Between them they have given 26 years on the committee.

### **INTERCLUB**

Interclub is well underway. Teams comprise of: 20 Junior; 18 Intermediate; 9 Open.

### **2016 INTER-PROVINCIAL TRIALS**

The trials were held over two days for all grades except the Intermediates who played on the Saturday only. Number of pairs who entered: Open 8; Women 7; Senior 10; Intermediate 8. Carol Richardson has agreed to be Chef de Mission. Carol did a splendid job last year.

### **REGIONAL MEETING**

A regional meeting was held on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> May at Orewa Club. The committee decided to keep the meeting short and simple and, after the event, received positive feedback from those who attended.

The format: Introduction by Peter Bowyer; NZB news from Richard Solomon and Carol Richardson; guest speaker Angela Royle - topic - Members are our biggest asset. During the two hour session there were many questions and good discussion. This simple format was followed by lunch and a game of bridge - six tables.

14 clubs were represented. Helene Labreche and Bianca Rangelrooy, new committee members attended; plus Richard and Carol.

### **CLUB TEAMS TOURNAMENT**

With the cancellation of this event at Congress, the regional committee decided to continue the tournament but with a change of format. The new format allowed clubs of any size to combine and clubs could enter as many teams as they wished to.

12 teams entered the event (\$10 per person). Two clubs entered two teams and there was a combination of two clubs. We believe 144 players had a very jolly time and the winners were Royle Epsom (I just had to put this in the report!)

In 2015 Papatoetoe Club donated \$2000 to the region to be used for the benefit of players. Last year \$1000 was used to send two pairs to Congress and, this year, part of the remaining money subsidised cash prizes for this tournament. (There is \$250 left for next year.)

## **HONORARIA**

At the last committee meeting it was felt that NZB should look into the honoraria paid to the regional committees. Volunteers are a necessary part of many organizations, with bridge being no exception. Currently \$1500 is given to the region. For Auckland/Northland, \$1000 for the secretary and \$500 for the treasurer and this money is well deserved for the amount of work processed. However, the committee think that the person who looks after the tournament schedule (a tough job as Rona will know) should also have some form of remuneration without diluting what is paid to the secretary and treasurer.

This is a requested item on the National Conference agenda and new committee member Bianca Rangelrooy will speak to the subject.

## **GENERAL**

Bianca Rangelrooy and Helene Labreche, two new Auckland/Northland committee members, will represent our region at the National Conference. Bianca and Helene are very new to the workings of the bigger bridge world outside of clubs. I am sure you will look after them and make them feel welcome.

And finally, Susan Humphries and Peter Bowyer and I say farewell. For me I came on the committee being a very green committee member and after 13 years I have met great people, learned much about the workings of the organization and leave knowing we have left the region in good hands. Peter and I will be around should the new committee need any help or wish to tap into our knowledge of regional happenings.

Thank you all for your support and, in particular, Alister who has helped me enormously with Royle Epsom and as a regional committee member.

Happy bridging to you all.

Kindest regards  
Angela  
Secretary ANRC  
31<sup>st</sup> May 2016



## **Waikato Bays Regional Report June 2016**

### ***Committee***

Our committee has been the same since the departure of Karen Martelletti to the Board last year. We all appear to have a skill set which makes us combines very well as a group. Four from the current six committee members remain on the committee for the next term.

### ***Championship Leagues and the WAPs & BOPs***

The intermediate and junior championship leagues are still proving popular, and Bob Fearn's Compass facility has made it much easier to keep track of the progress in both Leagues. The Waikato Area Pairs and Bay Pairs are not regional events, being run by Waikato area clubs and Bay of Plenty area clubs respectively, but we are now hosting both these area events on the regional website which makes it much easier for players to find information on results etc.

### ***InterProvincial Teams***

Entries for the trials this year were a little higher than they have been, but disappointingly we did not have enough intermediates to hold trials this year.

We were successful with applications to Pub Charity to assist with costs for the IPs in both 2014 and 2015, and have applied again this year. We received the full amount requested in 2014, but in 2015 we only received about 25% of the amount requested. We are hoping for a better response to our application for funding this year. However we are still expecting the IPs to again be a considerable expense for us. Of all the players who booked their flights immediately after the trials, only 1/3 were able to get flights for less than the amount of the subsidy provided by NZ Bridge. We will also need to provide 3 nights of accommodation for all players, as there are no flights which can get our players to Dunedin on time on the Saturday morning, unless we expect the players from Hamilton to be up at 4am and travel for 5 hours to arrive just in time for the first match. We have also been disappointed with the lack of information provided by the IP organizers regarding accommodation options, etc, although we did eventually discover this on the Otago Bridge Club website. We recommend for future IP organizers to send out information directly to the regional secretaries at the earliest convenience.

### ***Website***

Michael Neels has been the driving force behind the change of our web site to <http://www.waikatobays.bridge-club.org>. Clubs without a web site can post their results for free to our site. They can request a club specific results page at a small costs. We also provide tournament entry for regional events, and for those clubs without their own website entry facilities, and a virtual noticeboard for tournament posters.

### ***Rubber bridge competition***

The Rubber Ducky Day Out was held at the Putaruru Bridge Club this year. A challenge to all clubs in the region to enter at least one pair in the competition resulted in a field of 15 pairs, a big improvement on last year when the Rubber Ducky Day Out was cancelled due to lack of entries. Putaruru is a small club, revitalized after Jan Stearn's work with them last year, and this was the first regional event they have hosted. They did an excellent job, even decorating the club room with little rubber ducks!

### ***Novice tournament***

For some years, the region has held a novice tournament in October, designed to be for beginners recently out of lessons. However, this now clashes with the timing of the National Congress novice event, and fresh beginners aren't always that keen to begin tournaments so soon. We have now moved our Novice Tournament to March, before all our junior tournaments. We hope it will be an introduction to tournaments, and at a time when beginners have gained a little confidence at club bridge and are ready to move on to tournaments.

### ***Sponsorship to the National Congress***

Last year we sponsored three players to the NZ Congress to the value of the Intermediate/Senior package - Pamela Pedersen, Bren Birss and Gilda Newland, all from the Mount Maunganui Club. As the intermediate/senior packages are no longer available, the sponsorship is now to the value of \$200

### ***WBRC Policy and Procedure Manual***

Ray McCully has collated all our policies into a policy manual, which is available on our web site for all to see, and has proved very useful. Even though Ray is stepping down from the committee, he remains our main man in keeping the manual up to date.

### ***Thames Summer Bridge Festival***

This event was organized by our committee for the first time. The 2016 festival was as successful as ever, and most players probably didn't even notice the change of organizers. A highlight was having Denise & Allan Barclay's son Greg there on Sunday to present the trophies and prizes. The committee received mostly favorable comments and will continue to organize this event in partnership with the Thames Bridge Club.

### ***Cinema advertising***

This was not widely taken up in our region, perhaps due to the timing of the release. Whakatane and Taupo were the only clubs to apply for the subsidy, but Taupo's application was later withdrawn due to difficulties in getting the advertisement screened in the local cinema.

### ***Waikato Bays Regional Conference 2015***

The Waikato Bays Regional Conference was held on Sunday 20 September 2015 at the Matamata Bridge Club. Most clubs were keen to attend, and we had representatives from 11 clubs, with apologies from another 4 clubs, plus the regional committee, Allan Joseph, Alan Turner and Karen Martelletti from the NZ Bridge Board.



## **Mini Moos programme**

Jane Stearns, appropriately attired for the occasion, presented the Mini Moos programme she and Nick Whitten of the Morrinsville Bridge Club have been running for a few years now, using a very well set up slide show. The Mini Moos programme is a get together of very new players, just out of the lessons, in a non threatening environment who play up to 12 hands in an afternoon. There is no time pressure, cheat sheets are allowed, phone a friend when a player has a query during bidding or play, the results of the boards are compared to a predetermined datum. The first and last session of 6, held during the second half of the year, are played with a Rainbow movement (individual) where each board is played with a new partner. The other sessions are pairs events. After each board is played, an information sheet shows what the players might have done with the bidding and how they may have played the hand. If they choose to do so, they can bid and play the hand again, so they can see how it feels to do things differently. Should your club wish to know more about the Mini Moos programme, please contact Jane via [janelawrence50@hotmail.com](mailto:janelawrence50@hotmail.com).

## **New website**

Mike Neels our Master Drupal Web Site Builder explained several aspects of the new Waikato-Bays web site, [www.waikatobays.bridge-club.org](http://www.waikatobays.bridge-club.org), a hub for any WB information.

## **What changes have clubs made since the 2014 Regional Conference?**

Clubs reported a range of new initiatives – player rewards, joint lessons, supervised sessions for new players, radio advertising, newspaper articles, open days, visiting local interest groups, new websites, handicapping. All clubs present concurred that nurturing the new players was the way to go.

Allan Joseph, representing the NZ Bridge Board, gave us an overview of the objectives of the Board. Amongst the activities mentioned to try to raise membership, the Board has created a 30 second video clip, which will screen in cinemas throughout the country. Allan promoted the idea for clubs to have a Public relations Officer and a Membership Officer, and talked about the rights and responsibilities of club members. Lastly Allan thanked all the volunteers at all levels of the game. He said there is a danger of volunteer “burn out”, which may be prevented by the clubs asking their volunteers if they need help and offer to help them in whatever they do for the club.

## **Collaborate**

Ray McCully showed us with a slideshow how the Waikato-Bays region is implementing the NZ Bridge Strategic Plan. One of the things to come out of the discussion which followed, is that technological support is likely to become necessary for some clubs, e.g. for the installation of Dropbox.

## **Tournaments**

We discussed:

- Why do we hold tournaments?
- How do clubs find Directors and Scorers?
- What do Directors and Scorers get paid?
- ideas to grow and support the Junior and Intermediate competition

As a result we have trialed renaming all OPEN Tournaments as “ALL GRADES” tournaments, and have placed on our website a guide to payment for directors and scorers, along with a list of available directors.

## **Waikato Bays Regional Conference 2016**

This will be held on Sunday 18 September at the Matamata Bridge Club.

# Central Districts Regional Report

## **Central Districts Regional Committee:**

Committee is Colin Carryer (Chairman), Michelle England, Mairi Fitzsimons, Les Gould, Bryan Green with Secretary/Treasurer (with non-voting rights) Sandra Calvert. The committee have worked together well as a team and I would like to thank Michelle who has worked tirelessly to tidy up the tournament schedule and ensure Clubs are more aware of their responsibilities. Michelle will be standing down at the end of this term. Les after many years of good service will also be standing down. Thanks to him also for his service and contribution.

## **Financial Accounts:**

The Central Districts Regional Committee's Financial Accounts for the Year Ending 2015-2016 have been completed. The financial status of the Region has shown a cash increase of approx \$3,000 which will assist with the increased IP costs this year being in Dunedin.

## **Interprovincials 2015 :**

The regions representatives were:

Open: Stuck/Wilson, Carryer/Calvert

Women's: Coleman/Bain, Green/Stachurski

Seniors: Buchanan/Yeomans, Whyte/Bateman

Intermediate: Schumacher/Turner, Humphrey/Jones

Open finished 3<sup>rd</sup> with the others 4<sup>th</sup> and the Region finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Dougal McLean Trophy.

## **Rubber Bridge:**

CD was represented at Congress 2015 by Jan Whyte & Ken Bateman however they were not the eventual winners.

Rubber Bridge knockout for the Region is currently progressing however as in previous years entries numbers were down with only 11 pairs entering.

## **Club Championship Teams:**

Palmerston North represented the region in 2015 finishing 4<sup>th</sup> overall.

## **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:**

August last year was the first year that CD had a Regional Conference. Whilst it is hard to get Clubs to attend given the wide geographical spread we had representatives from 10 clubs. Held in Dannevirke the conference incorporated a Teaching session for the Teachers, presentation of a Marketing Package by Shirley Newton, presentation of 'Bridge-it Jane's Way' on how to rejuvenate a club by Jane Sterns along with general discussions on how Clubs were going.

## **REPORT FOR THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE WELLINGTON 11 JUNE 2016**

Our June meeting will be the last for three of our committee members and we are still trying to find more volunteers, which we will have, hopefully, by 30 June, including a replacement for our Secretary, who has moved out of town, committee member and myself. After 6 years I feel that it is time for someone else to take over. The work load of the Committee has increased a lot over the last couple of years and finding someone with time to manage this increase is not easy.

### **INTERCLUB**

Our interclub is still flourishing with 58 teams, the same as last year but with variation within the grades. The grades are Novice, Junior, Intermediate, Open Reserve and Open. Tony Sutich does a great job organising this and using several of the clubs as venues so that the Upper Hutt, South Wairarapa and Masterton teams do not have to travel all the way in to Wellington each time. Unfortunately, although we have 12 Junior teams in the Interclub, we could only manage to attract 2 teams to our congress competition.

### **WELLINGTON CONGRESS**

For the first time this was held over the three day weekend and was most successful. Next year, as ANZAC Day is on the Tuesday, we will hold this congress over 4 days. This will allow us to hold the teams on two days with just a Swiss draw which the players seem to like. Our numbers were down slightly from last year but the people who attended seemed to enjoy it tremendously.

### **IP TRIALS**

We held a pairs trials this year and had more entries than last year of teams, and it was a well run event. This year we had the players playing in their own group but scored over the four groups as this gave a better datum.

## RUBBER BRIDGE

Lots of entries again and we are up to round 3. People really enjoy this game, especially playing in each others home and getting to know other people who they would normally never meet.

Dinnie Hall

Chairman  
Wellington Region

## TOP OF THE SOUTH REGION

### A Committee of New Zealand Bridge

27 May 2016

Regional report to the National Conference.

#### **Regional Committee**

The end of the latest two year term for the committee will end on 30<sup>th</sup> June. For the first time in TOTS six year history we have not held an election. In fact we only had five nominations for the six positions.

We welcome Rebecca Osborne (Nelson) and Jenny Cooper (Golden Bay) onto the committee as new members.

Returning members are Chris Marshall (Picton), Robin Young (Marlborough) and Helen Robinson (Nelson).

Excellent continuity has been retained with both Chris and Robin as inaugural TOTS committee members committing to a fourth term and Helen staying on for a third term. At a meeting this month we were able to co-opt the sixth person to the team. Thank you to Wayne Smith from Westport for agreeing to have his arm twisted.

Leaving the committee are inaugural members Steve Gray and Phil Donaldson. After three terms each it is time for a break. And thank you also to Jenny Pomeroy who leaves us after one term but who now takes up the reins of putting together the Regional news for NZ Bridge from time to time.

Phil Rutherford is also a very welcome attendee at most meetings as a Board member and remains involved in our email discussions.

I like to think that there will continue to be plenty of robust thought and innovation from the new TOTS committee and that they will lead our region well.

#### **Inter-Provincial Championships**

Our trials have been completed for another year, the team has been selected and travel and accommodation arranged. We had 14 pairs trial for the three Open Grades and 8 pairs trial for the Intermediate team. Thank you to Julie Atkinson for coming down to the Mainland to Direct the two days of Trials.

Looking at our expenses (including the subsidised travel) we have our doubts whether financially it was a good idea for NZ Bridge to hold the competition in Dunedin.

It appears that the cost to send and accommodate our 17 person team will be about 50% more expensive than what it cost to send a 28 person team to Hamilton in 2012 and between two and three times greater the cost of sending our team to Wellington (2013) or Christchurch (2015).

We have asked Chris Marshall to discuss the timing of the IP Championships at this meeting as this may also be a factor.

### **Bridge Lessons, Teacher Training and Tournaments**

Four teachers from TOTS will be attending the Training seminar in Pukekohe in June. TOTS have paid for their travel.

Lessons are in full swing across the region although I get the impression that generally they aren't as well attended as they have been in the last couple of years.

Although membership remains static, on the upside, our tournament numbers have increased significantly from last year and in Richmond and Nelson the numbers playing at Club sessions have also increased.

It seems that those beginners that we have managed to retain are playing regularly and are also venturing into the tournament scene.

### **NZCEA in Bridge**

TOTS will be putting forward some information to see what the other regions think about our new initiative of "getting Bridge into schools".

If Bridge can become an elective it could give us an entrée into promoting Youth Bridge.

Thanks to Helen Robinson for the work so far.

### **Cinema Advertising**

Westport ran the New Zealand Bridge advert in their local cinema.

We were pleasantly surprised that the cost seemed very affordable for the amount of exposure.

The only report back so far from Westport is that it is still running one month after the end of the agreed term.

Steve Gray  
Chairman  
Top of the South

## REPORT FOR NATIONAL CONFERENCE Held at Wellington 11 June 2016

We have not attracted any new members to our committee this year. Judith Calder and Helen Good, both long serving members, elected not to stand again this year. Judith has been on the Committee for 8 years and has been both secretary and treasurer for the Region and Helen has served for 6 years. Both will be missed by the remaining members; Fiona Temple, Giles Hancock, Peter Van Leeuwen and me.

We have continued with the Intermediate and Junior Leagues. Giles Hancock has partially automated the process to convert the text files into the spreadsheet – all we have to do is educate the clubs to provide the information in the correct format ☺. We have also provided sponsorship to one intermediate/junior pair to attend National Congress in Hamilton this year. However we still need to find other strategies to increase the participation of junior and intermediate players at tournaments.

This year we had 20 pairs contesting the Rubber Bridge (up from 12 pairs last year.) This is a reflection on the increased promotion made by the Committee. Our challenge will be to get participation from the clubs outside of Christchurch.

We have had good participation from the Clubs at our Regional Conference and have welcomed the input from Angela Royale, Phil Rutherford and Alan Turner. We have invited Alister Stuck to our next conference so that the interface between the clubs and the NZBridge may be improved.

There will be an unforeseen effect on our finances with the IPs being held in Dunedin. Because of the difficulties in booking hotel accommodation for the teams, the players will have to find their own accommodation and the claim back for a subsidy. This means that, as payment will be after the event, we will not be able to apply for Charity funding.

Michael Johnstone  
Chairperson



# Otago/Southland Regional Committee

[www.otagosouthlandbridge.org.nz](http://www.otagosouthlandbridge.org.nz)

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## 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. Both Philip and Maria were co-opted on as two members left. But all six members have been voted on for the 2016-2018 period.

## Junior/Intermediate.

Our region wide Junior/Intermediate tournament league has not been all that successful we would had only half a dozen enter and the same ones each year so we have cancelled this in the meantime.

We still subsidise youth players up to \$150 a year towards their tournament entries.

## Regional Congress and tournaments

Our regional congress is now to be held at labour weekend, and now running our provincial pairs and teams Queensbirthday weekend.

## Interprovincial Trials

We had 14 pairs enter the Open/womens/seniors, but only four pairs in the intermediate. It is a shame we can't get more in the intermediate as the format is difficult to perhaps get the right result.

We have had trouble in the past with selected pairs not making the effort of playing together, and after having sent several emails out to



the successful pairs we actually banned two people from not being eligible of being in a team this year. What do other centres do about practicing etc?

Richard Solomon had a meeting with the regional committee and the Otago Club. This was a great benefit to both as we discussed the Otago Club to have more input and more support to the regional committee.

The National swiss pairs 5/6 september and the South island Teams were both held in Dunedin. Both James and Maria doing a huge amount of organising with keeping in touch with Allan and Maria organising the food etc.

Rubber Bridge is underway and have had a lot more entries this year.

As yet we have not held a regional seminar this year but intend to hold one in Balclutha early November.

Finally I would like to thank my committee for all the work they have put in for the year. Marylin has been most supportive and spent hours sending out emails talking on the phone to me and other committee members. We do not have many meetings as we are so far apart but do most by phone. Maria and James have worked tirelessly in Dunedin. James has been a great benefit at written correspondence to people when necessary. Maria has set up most tournaments, collected money helped with food, and has not as yet complained. Joan takes minutes at meetings and in touch with Marilyn in Invercargill. So here's hoping for a better year this year.

Francis Sheehy (Chair Otago/Southland 2016)