



## AUCKLAND/NORTHLAND REGIONAL COMMITTEE

### Report on Activities for the year ending April 2018

The highlight of the year for Auckland/Northland region was the commencement of the NZ Bridge Regional Bridge Mates national project.

Auckland/Northland feels very lucky that Jan France, a member of the Royle Epsom Bridge Club, applied for – and was successful – in being appointed as the inaugural Regional Bridge Mate for the region.

Jan has been working this year with Papakura Bridge Club and with Dargaville Bridge Club and the region has three more Clubs lined up for her to work with next year. However, as well as working with those clubs she has proved to be an excellent resource for the Regional Committee and has assisted with arranging marketing and advertising for the whole region for new members and learners classes, has assisted with youth events and has offered assistance for the upcoming IP event which is being hosted by the Auckland Bridge Club in November.

Membership and participation in the region has increased over the period with membership figures up by 67 from March 2017 to May 2018. Hibiscus Coast has increased by 44 and Warkworth (a small club of 120 members) by 18. East Coast Bays has reduced by 13. However, most clubs in the region are reporting increases in the learners coming through their lessons and these learners would not yet be included in the numbers shown. Auckland Bridge Club had 57 attend its first set of lessons and it is currently running a second set with another 20 or so attending. The publicity (radio, cinema and newspaper advertising) has worked well in the region and clubs are finding that once they have had a good intake one year it builds the following year as those learners bring in their friends and acquaintances.

The Regional Bridge Mate ran a survey in the region to determine how learners heard about the bridge classes and found that:

RADIO Direct	CINEMA Direct	RADIO Heard	CINEMA Saw	NEWSPAPER ARTICLE	NEWSPAPER ADVERT	LEAFLET	FRIEND	RETURNING PLAYER	ONLINE	POSTER	Numbers attending lessons
6	0	5	4	13	58	10	134	38	18	12	429

Probably as a result of the new players coming through the region has had an increase of 148 pairs playing in its tournaments in 2018.

The Region held its annual conference in April which was well attended (we thought) by 68% of its member clubs. The programme, besides an introductory talk by the Chair on activities the Committee had been involved in over the past year and the financial position of the region, included an informal talk from an international player on the experience of playing internationally for the country (some very interesting observations made here comparing tournament play in New Zealand with that played overseas), a powerpoint presentation from the Regional Bridge Mate who was unable to attend the meeting, a workshop session given by the Chair on the NZ Bridge

website including how to enter tournaments online, the tasks of the administrator and setting up club tournaments for online entry, the forums available where information and queries can be shared and any other queries about the website and then an informal presentation from each club on initiatives, learners classes, tournament administration and integrating learners into general club sessions after classes finish. The day was very much enjoyed by the club delegates who attended.

Regional tournaments and National tournaments hosted by the region continue to be very well supported with increasing numbers entering. This year the region was pleased that two more intermediate pairs than last year competed in the IP trials to represent the region in November. This year 16 pairs contested the open section, 7 women's section, 16 senior section and 13 intermediate section.

The region is looking forward to hosting the Inter Provincial tournament in Auckland this year.

Sue Brown  
Chair  
Auckland/Northland Regional Committee



## **Waikato Bays Regional Report June 2018**

### ***Committee***

Our committee has remained unchanged as a committee of five, with Ray McCully continuing to maintain the policy manual for us. At the end of June Ian Moore will be finishing his time on the committee, and has been replaced by Alan Dick from Rotorua. Thank you Ian, and welcome to Alan.

We have discussed the fact that the NZ Bridge rules dictate that we must hold a Regional Conference each year, and we feel that once every two years is enough, specifically in the last year of the elected period.

Also we feel, now the constitution is being reviewed, that the Board should have a look the role of the Regional Committees in general, given that there are now Regional Bridge Mates with what appears to be overlapping responsibilities.

### ***Championship Leagues, WAPs & BOPs***

The intermediate and junior championship leagues are still proving popular. 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 host both these area events on the regional website which makes it much easier for players to find information and results.

### ***Interclub events***

Interclub competitions are not easy in a region with large geographical spread, but most of our clubs meet in either the Bay Teams or the Waikato Inter-Club Teams. These events also serve to produce the two best teams in each grade, who then meet to determine which club's name will be engraved on the Waikato Bays Grade Trophies. There are also a number of interclub events between various clubs plus the monthly TWITs.

### ***InterProvincial Teams***

We were pleased to have sufficient entries to hold trials for the intermediates this year, as well as our usual open/senior/women's trials.

We were successful with applications to Pub Charity to assist with costs for the IPs in the past, so will be applying again this year.

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

Our Rubber Ducky Day Out was held at the Putaruru Bridge Club has mixed success from year to year, but we still had 18 pairs entered this year, which is a vast improvement on entries a few years ago

### ***Novice tournament***

For several years now the region has been holding a novice tournament at Matamata which is relatively central in our region. Although participants seem to enjoy it, numbers have been getting low numbers. As several clubs in our region now hold Novice events alongside other events, as well as the Mini Moos on the Waikato side, we have ceased holding the WB Novice event.

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

After a much better response to our calls for nominations we awarded sponsorships to **Sharon** Barton (Taupo) Tim Rigger (Te Aroha) and Lauren Lehdorf (Taupo). They all enjoyed their time at congress, as shown by this email we received:

*"Just a wee note to say – thank you so much for sponsoring me to Congress this year.*

*I really appreciated the opportunity to participate in the Intermediate Pairs, Teams & Swiss Pairs. It was an amazing experience, & inspiring to participate in such challenging card-play.*

*I also enjoyed the chance to 'mix with' & 'compete against', so many from other clubs & different parts of NZ. I loved my time there & will definitely be recommending Congress to other players in our area, & those I play against at tournaments. [We] are definitely going to play again next year. Thank you once again for the opportunity & your support."*

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

We are continuing to hold this successful event in partnership with the Thames Bridge Club.

## ***Regional bridge promotion and advertising***

We have not run any regional advertising this year, due to uncertainty as to the value of the radio campaign in 2017. When we asked clubs at our regional conference, we found that the radio campaign was received with mixed enthusiasm. Some clubs would do it again, perhaps at a different radio station and one club was dead against it. We may consider it again for 2019

## ***Directors seminars***

After Allan Joseph's most entertaining and informative directors seminars last year we ran them again this year. February is perhaps a little early, but it is very hard to fit in! We run two identical seminars in the same weekend, one in Rotorua and one in Cambridge, to give maximum opportunity for potential directors to attend. I would encourage any region to ask Allan to run these seminars in their region.

## ***Waikato Bays Regional Conference 2017***

13 of the 22 clubs were represented.

Anna Kalma had been number crunching and compared our region to the wider NZ Bridge population. In summary: Our region had grown by 4% since 2013 until last year. We grew 0.5% since the last Regional Conference. We remain the second largest region by club member population. Solely based on home club members, 50% of our bridge members are located in 5 clubs, Tauranga, Hamilton, Mt Maunganui, Taupo and Cambridge. Membership growth was seen at Cambridge (32), Whakatane (27), Taupo (23), Te Aroha (18), Mt Maunganui (14), Katikati (13) and Waihi (12). Negative membership trend was seen at some smaller clubs but at the large clubs also.

We focussed on teaching and retention of members. Will Fulton of the Franklin Bridge Club recounted his experience as a new player, from his motivation to tag along to the lessons, completing the lessons to starting play and to coming across the local battle axe trout which just about put him off playing ever again. Alan Turner gave us a brief history of how the series of 10 bridge lessons for each of beginners and improvers came into existence and that the Teachers Committee is currently developing lessons for intermediates. Jane Stearns gave us a passionate speech about how to enhance the experience for new members, how to welcome them and nurture them with a buddy. This is all strategy in order to keep them playing.

Our guest speaker was Michael Spring, Immediate Past President of Bowls New Zealand. He showed us how Bowls NZ had tackled the challenge of falling membership by changing what they have to offer, and are trying very hard to shake the "old people's game" image. Amongst other things, they now try to cater for the baby boomers, generation X and Y and are now looking at the Millennials by offering non-members to have one-off games where they can hire bowling gear, be shown quickly how to bowl and have a game called "Jack Attack", usually followed by a trip to the bar. It had increased the revenue of the clubs considerably as they were attractive to work functions, team building exercises etc. He pointed out that Bowls NZ had gone into partnership with "Strong and Sustainable Clubs" which were resourced to host these kinds of activities and these clubs were checked with a kind of WOF. Bowls NZ have set up Community Development Officers in order to support the bowling clubs.

Michael also pointed out the seven drivers to club satisfaction: Decent Facilities, Great Coaches, Good Communications, Good Social Environment, Professionalism and Expertise, Friendly and Welcoming, Fulfilling Potential

# Central Districts Regional Report 2017/18

**Regional Committee for this period:** Chairman – Colin Carryer;  
Secretary/Treasurer – Sandra Calvert; Mairi Fitzsimons; Bryan Green and  
Francey Rolls.

A happy and functional committee who worked well together with special praise for Bryan who has tidied up the slackness of most clubs re the Tournament Schedule – clubs really need constant reminding that this is a well planned schedule and they must be active with being organised. I am standing down as Chairman after a 4 year term but am staying on the committee. Sandra is standing down from all her roles. I must personally thank her for all her dedication and great support in my role. As is the practice in CD the Chairmanship is rotating to the East Coast of the region and Mairi Fitzsimons is likely picking up the role.

**Finance :** A small profit of \$90 achieved fye 31/3/18, however expenses included the \$3,500 payment to the RBM. Balances of CD accounts as at 31/3/18 were \$23,707.93 Cr.

## **Interprovincials 2017 :**

The Regions' representatives' were:

Open: Wayne Burrows & George Masters / Les Gould & Steve Baron

Intermediate: Doris Chapman & Humphrey Symons / Henny French & Diane Pye

Women: Sarah Green & Lyn Muller / Cecile Gyde & Lynne Feather

Senior: Mairi Fitzsimons & Alister Buchanan / Jenny Wilson & Alan Doddridge

All the teams played lacking consistency with results -we once again languished mid pack and still wonder if the swiss pairs trialling system is the best. Since this report was written team trials have been adopted so we await with interest the 2018 IP results although the numbers of trialists were well up which may have provided some indication of players interest.

**Rubber Bridge:** CD was represented at the 2017 Rubber finals by Pieter Verhoek and Les Gould who finished very creditable runners up.

**Bridge Membership:** Membership is steady in the region with numbers for learner's classes appearing up everywhere which is a plus for the NZ Bridge drive and the efforts of our RBM Denise Ohlen who is doing a good job mostly on the East Coast but that is indicative of our geographical spread – CD may have to take the initiative and request we have 2 RBO's within the region.

I must also make comment on the very positive and encouraging Board we have operating now who also operate with total transparency and keep all Regions and members fully informed.

Finally, a big thank you to my committee members over the last 4 years and once again a special thank you to Sandra my Secretary. It has been a privilege and pleasure to lead the region and now hand the reins over.

Colin Carryer

Central Districts Regional Chair

**WELLINGTON REGIONAL REPORT**  
**FOR THE NZ BRIDGE NATIONAL CONFERENCE**  
**WELLINGTON 15 JULY 2018**

**Committee changes**

Another busy year has rolled on where we have been one person short of the desired 6 person Committee, despite a few attempts to co-opt via shoulder tapping. However, when it came to the crunch with both the Secretary and I standing down at the end of our terms and leaving just 3 members on the Committee from July 1, some more earnest shoulder tapping did fortunately bear fruit!

It is I believe of some concern that Regional Committees are not seen as an attractive option for those bridge players who wish to contribute to the development of the game in their Region. I am not sure what the answer is but I think that NZ Bridge needs to look carefully at this in their constitutional review and help avoid the perception that the Regional Committees are merely there to serve as “rubber stamps” for the National body.

There should also be more flexibility to spend money as the Region sees fit from at least the profits generated from those activities run by the Regional Committee such as the Regional Congress and Interclub.

Despite some frustrations, I am proud of what our Committee has achieved. I wish to thank outgoing Secretary Joan Waldvogel for coming back to the role to help us out when we were very short on numbers. Also Heather Jared for her work as Treasurer and Paul Maxwell and Margot Davenport for their valued contributions.

As I step out, I welcome on to the incoming Committee Graham Cheater from Waikanae and Suzanne Duncan (Wellington). We briefly had Katherine Gough (South Wairarapa) as well but then she became the new Wellington Regional Bridgemate but she will be allowed to sit in on our meetings ex officio. This will be beneficial both to Katherine in her new important role and to the Regional Committee. We will still endeavour to find a sixth Committee member if we can.

### **Main activities of the Regional Committee in the past year**

**Interclub:** This continues to be a great success story with 64 teams spread over 5 grades from 9 of our 12 clubs including both Wairarapa clubs. The only 3 not involved were the 3 Kapiti Coast clubs. Interclub is played on a monthly basis with 9 rounds spread from March to November.

**Wellington Regional Congress:** With ANZAC Day falling mid week on Wednesday, we ran the Congress over 5 days, although on the Tuesday we only had a “walk in” afternoon event which had limited interest. The Open events in particular generated record numbers but the lower grade events were not well attended. The conundrum is that for Interclub we have 22 teams in Open / Restricted and a much larger 42 teams in the Intermediate to Novice grades but in the Congress this pattern was more than reversed. We are still trying to find the answer to make Congress more appealing to the lower grades.

**IP Trials and National Finals:** Another highlight was the Wellington Regional team winning the National Finals in November for the second year in a row. In this current year we reverted to having all the trials run on a Swiss Pairs basis spread over 2 days. No trial was held for the Open team as only 2 pairs put their names forward. We wish our team well for the National Finals to be held in Auckland in November.



**Rubber Bridge:** There was keen interest again this year, aided by splitting up the Region into 3 “Pools”, 2 in the Wellington City area and one in the Kapiti Coast. This resulted in 41 pairs being entered which was significantly higher than any other Region, which gave Wellington Region the right to send 2 pairs to Hamilton for the National Finals. There is currently only one more match required to complete all matches in all 3 Pools. The 2 larger pools with 15 entrants each will each have their top 3 pairs, plus the smaller pool with 11 entrants will have their top 2 pairs combine in a “Top 8 Regional Finals” to find the top 2 pairs to go to Hamilton.

**Wellington Region Club Championship :** This event was resurrected very successfully back in July last year on a “Cambridge Sixes” format. The most pleasing aspect was that 10 of our 12 clubs took part in this single day fun event where each club had a team of 6 players made up of Open, Intermediate and Junior pairings and managed to play a complete Round-Robin (9 matches by 6 boards). One would have thought that these short matches would have made it a bit more of a lottery but once again congratulations to the usual favourites Wellington Club who won the inaugural trophy for this.

**Junior Grade League:** We have continued with this in an effort to boost the number of entries to Junior Tournaments but with limited success. It seems that some new initiatives will be required in the future for the incoming Committee to look at.

I wish the new Committee well in the future.

Tony Sutich  
Chairperson  
Wellington Regional Bridge Committee.

## 2018 Regional Meeting Report

Region has had a reasonably tumultuous year. The previous Chair resigned for personal reasons and Chris Marshall took over Chair with Pam Whitehead from Kaikoura being co-opted to the committee. Robin Young our secretary, since the Region formed in 2012 has resigned at end of term in July. His contribution to the Region is to be recognised with a gift, made up from contributions from all clubs, presented at South Island Pairs on 8<sup>th</sup> July. Robin has been involved in Bridge Administration at both Regional and club level for over 50 years.

### Elections 2018

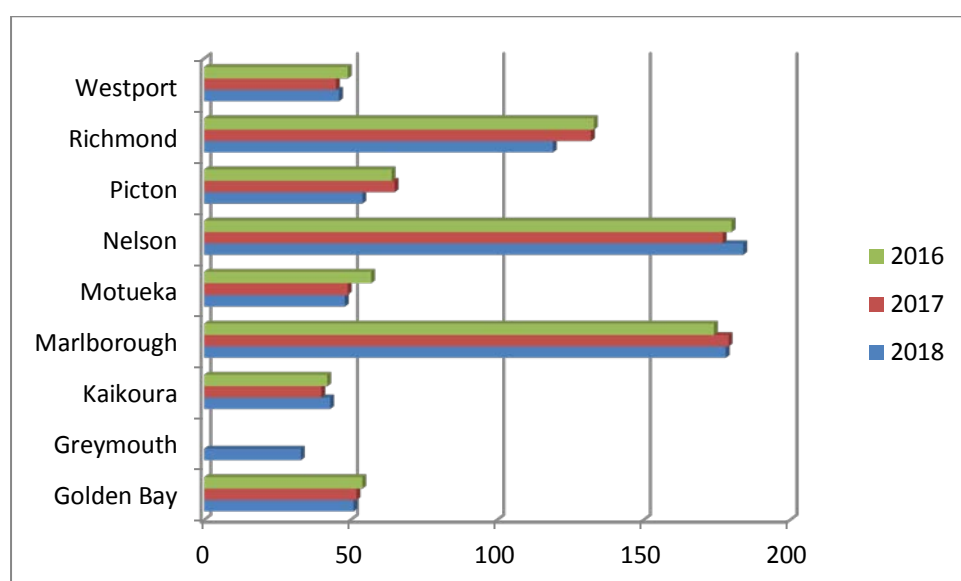
Chris Marshall - Chair  
 Ed Roggeveen - Secretary  
 Pam Whitehead -Treasurer  
 Jenny Cooper  
 Helen Robinson  
 Jenny Cooper

### Membership

Region numbers over 3 years as at 31 March

2016	753
2017	739
2018	756

Drop in numbers in 2017 considered to be due to NZ Bridge invoicing quarterly and clubs cleaning up records. The growth in 2018 due to the affiliation of Greymouth with 33 members



### Clubs

We welcomed Greymouth club to the Region this year. This was largely due to the efforts by a group of Westport players along our Regional Bridge Mate, Ray Curnow (also Westport) and the culmination of a couple of years effort.

Kaikoura has always been a concern to the committee due to its geographical isolation, especially after the earthquake and also the aged membership. The club has made a concerted effort in rebuilding their membership (for which we appreciate the involvement of Jane Stearns in initiating the revival) and also we are getting more Kaikoura members at tournaments. This year Kaikoura had 3 ½ pairs in the IP Trials (approx. 16% of their membership). With Pam Whitehead from Kaikoura on the Regional Committee we now have much closer feed-back on the club.

Both Golden Bay and Picton clubs are in the process moving to new premises. As would be expected both clubs have experienced push back from those who do not want to disturb the status quo. Golden Bay has lost some membership due to the shift but has good participation numbers in lessons and feed-back received indicates the club is now in good heart and moving forward.

### Training

Beginner's lessons and more advanced lessons throughout the region have been well attended. 2017/18 year was the Annual NZB grant was exceeded and clubs express their appreciation for this ongoing support.

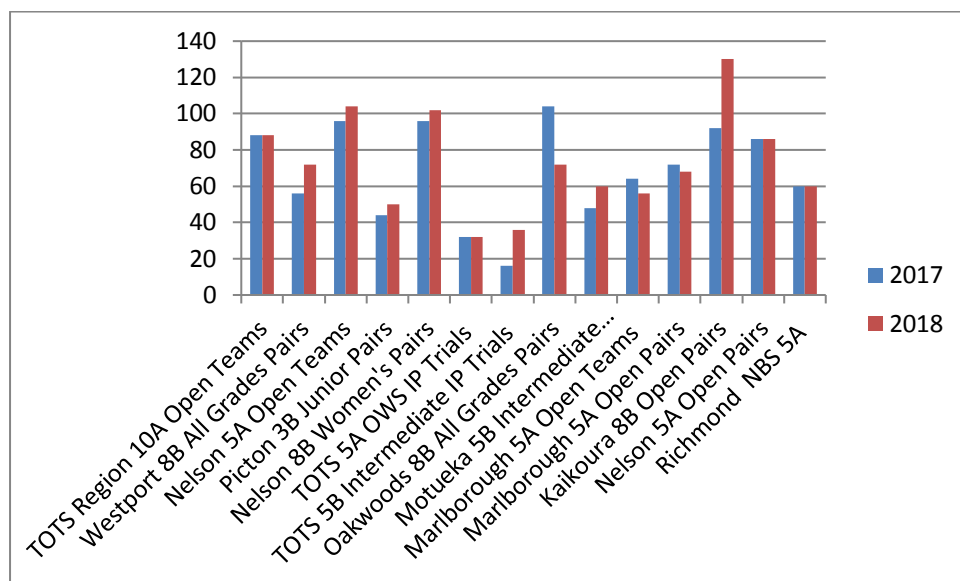
The Region subsidised 3 clubs in radio advertising campaign based on the National strategy. The result was less than satisfactory which may have been due to short lead time or may have been that beginners in classes did not associate advertising campaign with being the reason they decided to participate. Further work needs to be done on Radio advertising before making further commitment from a regional level. Westport has been running very successful media campaign for a number of years including a weekly radio spot with commentary from

### Tournaments

2018 Calendar year we have introduced an Intermediate and Junior league ladder to encourage participation in tournaments. This seems to be effective so far.

The recent Kaikoura tournament set a record, for the Region, with 33 tables. The high attendance was partially due to the Interclub Teams (Intermediate /Junior) being run the following day.

Tournament comparison 2017 to 2018



Tournament turnout so far this year appears to support the benefit of the League Ladders

IP Trials format for Intermediate was changed for 2018 from 2 day Round Robin to 1 day Swiss. Selection committee were aware of shortcomings of SWISS. However, on the day the result was justified and the additional entries to this event increased from 12 (2017) to 36 (2018).

### **Summary**

The Region continues to function well.

The new committee has an inaugural meeting scheduled for Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> July.

# NATIONAL CONFERENCE - NZ BRIDGE - 2018

## Canterbury Regional Committee Report

We have lost two good people who have retired from the CRC at the end of this term; and been joined by one new valuable member. So at the moment Canterbury is a member short; and also we are currently without a Chairperson. But we are in good heart.

We are finding a balance between carrying out our standard activities, and also trying to add a bit of extra leadership to our region. We have a healthy bank balance, and we are always trying to find small ways to utilise our funds for the good of as many players as possible around Canterbury.

### TOURNAMENTS

It is important that our regional tournaments are run well, and that we concentrate on the nuts and bolts. At the same time, we are trying to make our tournaments a little bit special, over and above a standard club tournament. We are offering extra prizes, catering treats, certificates, bunting, and paying for an assistant director/scorer. These extras are coming from our committee funds, beyond the actual budget for the tournament. We hope that we are creating a brand of tournament that attracts more players in future years.

Tournament participation is holding steady in 2018, after a good rise last year.

We are spreading our regional tournaments to as many of our clubs as possible. And finding a mix between taking control of the operations ourselves, or allowing the host club to manage and influence some of the functions.

This year we have dropped our Same Sex/Mixed Sex Pairs to make room for a Canterbury Sixes event which we hope will be a success.

In 2019 we are delighted that Akaroa Bridge Club will host a regional tournament for the first time, the 10A Regional Pairs. The IP trials will go to Timaru for a change, Crockfords Bridge Club will host the South Island Pairs, and Christchurch will host the IP Finals. We hope that these events will be successful, and supported by the players from the host club and beyond.

## **FUNDING APPLICATIONS**

Already this year we have had applications from three clubs for funding for costs of Beginner's lessons; and two from the Akaroa club for Improver's lessons. We welcome these applications, and try to be as generous as possible. We want to encourage all of our clubs to hold good quality lessons. Our RBM, Sonia Gill, is taking three of the Beginner's lessons, which has also allowed her to establish contacts at these clubs and help them with other activities.

## **TEACHING**

At the moment each of our clubs independently manages its own Improver's Lessons. We feel that there could be even more opportunities for development, for all levels of players. One of our projects will be to create an ongoing master list of all lessons, publicise it to all of our clubs, and encourage the clubs to invite players from other clubs to the lessons.

Another project is to create a master list of all of our teachers, and what topics and courses they can offer, and disseminate this information back to the clubs.

## **DIRECTING**

In February we took the opportunity of hosting a seminar with Martin Oyston, which covered in particular some of our scoring and movement questions. We would like to co-ordinate and fund more director training throughout the region.

We are fortunate in having our only National Director, David Stephen, come out of retirement this year. He has already made a mark at the Christchurch club, and we hope to utilise David much more around the region, directing and training.

We have set up a Google Group for Canterbury Directors, which unfortunately has not been used a great deal. We continue to use this to share information and present situations for discussion, and may widen it to include all players.

## **LEAGUES**

Our Leagues continue to run throughout the year, and provide our keen Intermediate and Junior players with further incentives. This is our sixth year of running the leagues, and we have made a couple of changes to the format to try to freshen them up. We think they have contributed to the rise in numbers we have seen in tournament participation.

The Otago/Southland Regional Committee has the full six members going into the new term with Frances Sheehy, Marilyn Jackson, Phillip Hensman, Maria Godfrey, and new members Paul Freeland and Lynne Fegan to replace James Coutts and Joan Scarlet who retired from the Committee this year.

In accordance with our strategic plan, the focus of the Committee is on giving help to all the clubs to encourage learners classes and getting more juniors and intermediates to enter tournaments.

### Regional Congress and Tournaments

Our Regional Congress was held in Queenstown again last year. The number of entries was disappointing, so after our de-brief on it, we found that accommodation costs were very high in Queenstown so that may have put a few people off. The feeling was to continue to hold it in Central Otago, so this year the Congress is being held in Alexandra. All other regional tournaments were successful, including the Swiss Pairs held in Invercargill.

### Interprovincial Teams Trials

Our trials were held in May and we had sixteen pairs in the Open/Women/Seniors combined field. We played a round robin of eight board matches. I know that eight board matches is not ideal but we did play 120 boards and I am sure the cream came to the top. I know that Moss Wylie thought that playing a round robin with trialists for all teams together was not right, but in Otago/Southland our seniors and women on many occasions outclass our open players.

We had ten pairs in the intermediate trials this year, which was very encouraging after having only two pairs enter to trial last year.

### Interprovincial Teams Finals

I believe that there will be a discussion at the National Conference on future venues for the Interprovincial Teams Finals. I looked back at the 2013 survey and it was interesting to see that most players preferred a six person team, 65% to 35% - and it would entice more people to enter the trials as they would have a better chance of getting in a team. I know that this would be a bigger expense but some fundraising could help this.

I would like to thank my committee for the hours they have committed to the region.

Maria has often been on her own as the on-the-spot person when regional tournaments are held in Dunedin. Maria also organises the tournament flyers, she does the minutes for our meetings, and she also approves all the bank account payments set up by Phil.

Marilyn works tirelessly on all the emails coming through and keeps in touch with me constantly, and replies to what's needed to be done.

Phil is on top of the finances, and being an accountant, he makes sure that the money is spent wisely.

So with Paul and Lynne on board this year, I am sure we will have another successful year.

Thankyou

Frances Sheehy  
(Chairperson for Otago/Southland)