



Waikato Bays Regional Report June 2019

Committee

We have recently co-opted Jo Simpson to the regional committee and have already enjoyed and benefited from her input. Ray McCully continued to maintain the policy manual for us. We also receive a written report from Eunice Eccles, our RBM, before each regional committee meetings so that we are kept better informed and can provide feedback. I never realise how much work we do until we write this report and have it all written down in one place!

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 changed the format of our trials this year, whereby players could only enter one field (open/women/senior/intermediate). Numbers were slightly down on the 20 in the combined last year, as we had 6 pairs in the open and 6 pairs in the senior, each playing a double round robin. There were also 3 pairs entered for the women's team, which was insufficient to trial so we selected that team. We also had 8 pairs in the intermediate as compared to 11 pairs last year. The new format did result in considerable angst for the committee beforehand, but it resulted in a very pleasant weekend from a player perspective. We have had considerable feedback which we will take on board when planning for format for next year.

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.

The Region was granted funds by Southern Trust for the purchase of uniforms last year - the unofficial vote being that our uniform was the best!!! It was very visible in the room and made it easy for the CDM to find players. A condition of the grant was that the region owns the uniforms, so we now have a stock of them. We have also allowed players to purchase one if they wish.

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 17 pairs entered this year, which is a vast improvement on entries a few years ago

Sponsorship to the National Congress

After a good response to our calls for nominations we awarded sponsorships to Terry Wells (Huntly), Jan Gyenge (Tauranga), Beth Kingsley (Cambridge) and Leanne Curry (Hamilton)

Thames Summer Bridge Festival

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

Regional bridge promotion

After being approached by several clubs requesting funding, we have developed a policy whereby we can make a financial contribution towards the advertising expenses of smaller clubs. We have also offered funding towards members attending the teacher conference, and for Waikato Bays players representing New Zealand

Youth policy

To encourage youth players to participate in tournaments, the Regional Committee will reimburse Waikato Bays Youth players for half of their Waikato Bays tournament entry fees up to a max of \$150 per calendar year.

Improver lessons

Many of our clubs run various lessons, which are sometimes available to bridge players from outside the club, but not always widely advertised. Our RBM collates information on lessons provided by clubs to provide better access to our players (note these are not beginner lessons, but improver lessons onwards). This is promoted through our website and by email to interested players.

Directors seminars

Allan Joseph is still running most entertaining and informative directors seminars in our region. This year we focused on tournament directors as that is currently our greatest need. We have since been asked to run a seminar at club director level as well, so Rona Driscoll is doing this using Allan's notes and presentation. I would encourage any region to ask Allan to run these seminars in their region.

Waikato Bays Regional Conference 2018

We asked the clubs if they felt we needed a Regional Conference held every year, if they would send a representative if we held one this year, and what would they like to see on the agenda. Of the 23 clubs we received 5 replies. One club was positive, two clubs would send a representative if it was held, three clubs felt that a Regional Conference held every two years was sufficient. Based on the lack of interest and failure to reply by the vast majority of the clubs, there was no Regional Conference held in 2018.

Central Districts Region Report for New Zealand Bridge Regional Conference.

The CD Committee held their CD regional conference in September. Whilst it was a worthwhile day, it was disappointing that only 11 clubs from the region sent representatives. We invited three speakers;- Jane Stearns gave an inspiring presentation about how Bridge clubs can make the experience of belonging to a club and playing there a very enjoyable one for members. Murray Wiggins gave us an update on plans for introducing a handicapping system. This was of great interest to clubs who are struggling with how to cater for great differences between player abilities.

Our Bridge mate Denise Ohlen gave an update on her work and in particular her successful initiative of the introduction of mini shaker tournaments on Sunday afternoons for novices. In a region like Central Districts we have discussed whether it is necessary to have a regional conference every year. In some years there are pressing matters to discuss. In other years it has been difficult to plan a program which will entice clubs from such a far-flung region to send representatives.

This year the CD committee undertook two initiatives. In 2018 we were very disappointed with the low number of entries in the Dan Gifford rubber Bridge competition. We offered classes in playing Rubber Bridge and increased participation from 8 to 21 pairs. Increasing player numbers in the trials was our second undertaking. Our trialists entered and played as teams. 8 intermediate teams competed, 5 senior teams 3 women's teams and eight open teams. This was the largest field for the IP trials that CD has managed for some time.

Learner's classes in all clubs in the region are well attended. The committee subsidised New Zealand Bridge radio advertising and this was a positive way to increase numbers. In general, the promotion of bridge through New Zealand Bridge initiatives, the Bridge zone broadcasts and the bridge mate have raised the profile of the game and helped to increase player participation in Rubber Bridge the IPs and in particular Multigrade tournaments in our region.

Mairi Fitzsimons
Chairperson
CD Region

Wellington Regional Bridge

Annual Report 2019

Introduction

This was a year of major change in Committee membership, with much of the experience of previous years moving outside the Committee. When Tony Sutich left us, we were reminded that he nearly did it all, being involved as designer and convenor of every Regional run activity. He even organised the engraving of our many regional trophies. We were fortunate that he continued working with us as new members took over his many tasks. What Tony didn't do; Heather Jared often did. Heather stayed on as the Treasurer in 2018 and her knowledge and contributions are invaluable.

Suzanne Duncan joined the Committee and took up the role of Chair, Paul Maxwell became the Secretary, but disappeared to the South of France for early 2019, placing more load on Suzanne. Looking forward, Mindy Wu is the new Committee Chair.

The Committee is dependent on the larger clubs to host, and often run, the regional and national events that are the responsibility of this Committee. In particular, the contribution to regional bridge matters from the Wellington Club and its manager, Bridget Hannaway-Willcox, is considerable and essential.

Strategy

The Committee had to focus on picking up and maintaining our significant contributions to enjoyable bridge, such as Interclub, a sizeable rubber bridge competition, the new Club Championship event, and the trials that select a capable team to go the IP Finals. In doing this, we also had to respond to and pick up on the NZBridge strategies. We recognised and accepted that we needed to draw more down from our accumulated funds to advance and support bridge and bridge players in the Wellington Region.

So we raised our contributions to support Clubs with recruitment and related costs, and had earlier supported the radio advertising campaign starting in early 2018. We also made a rare contribution towards the costs of local NZ representatives, influenced by the number of such representatives involved across two events, and hence the likely smaller shares of the pool they might obtain from other fundraising activities.

Events

Interclub

This was a well-supported event with 56 teams of four (or more) taking part in 2018. We had 16 Intermediate teams, 12 Junior teams, and 6 Novice teams. Once again, nine of the twelve local clubs entered at least one team, the three missing teams being those of the Kapiti Coast.

Wellington Regional Congress

ANZAC day fell on a Thursday in 2019, and so we retained a four day event. This time, we started with the Swiss Pairs, ending with the Open Provincial Teams over the weekend. There was positive feedback about how well the event went. This year, the efforts of the Regional Bridge Mate were most obviously rewarded with 6 Novice tables in the one session event on Sunday afternoon. While the analysis hasn't yet gone to the Committee, it seems that we have made a loss on this year's Congress.

Inter-Regionals

Wellington again won the 2018 Douglass McLean Inter-Regional Championships held at Congress, this for the third time.

Rubber Bridge

In 2018, Wellington were able to send two pairs to the national final. One of these pairs, Peter Newell and Martin Reid, went through and won the final.

Wellington Regional Club Championship

This comparatively new event was again contested with nearly a complete field. Only one of the local clubs did not enter a team. As an initiative, we included a Restricted Open grade, so four pairs from each club were required. The Karori club were first, with last year's winners, Wellington, coming second. The host club, Hutt were third. As we also recognise the highest ranked pair in each grade, there is something to aspire to for the smaller clubs.

Junior League

We continued with the Junior League, with a total prize pool of \$500. This type of competition is appealing to the most capable juniors, although we broaden its appeal by offering a prize for the pair that end up in the middle of the rankings. The Committee, in allocating its funding, has to weigh the impact of this competition against the efforts of the Regional Bridge Mate. She is working for all Novice and beginning bridge players. There is also the wider appeal of the Interclub competition, which attracts, year on year, numbers of Novice and Junior teams that are not usually seen in local tournaments.

Regional Finances

The Region again started the year with healthy bank balances. As indicated in our strategy, the purpose of having this asset is to advance bridge, rather than hold funds solely to earn interest. To this end, we have invested more in supporting NZBridge initiatives, in supporting clubs in lessons, providing related resources and covering advertising expenses, and supporting youth players and our internationals.

Regional Bridge Mate Activities

Regional Bridge Mate activities have been favourably reported on by NZBridge. Our local RBM has been active from her base in the Wairarapa. The Super Sunday events have proved very popular. They are supported by the clubs involved, with further excellent support from local directors.

2019 Regional Meeting Report

Region has focused mainly on Growth and Development over the last 12 months.

Membership

Region has shown good growth

CLUB	2016	2017	2018	2019	%
Golden Bay	54	52	51	47	-8.51
Greymouth			33	31	-6.45
Kaikoura	41	39	44	54	18.52
Marlborough	179	183	178	181	1.66
Motueka	49	50	49	48	-2.08
Nelson	178	180	184	193	4.66
Picton	57	65	54	66	18.18
Richmond	149	135	118	121	2.48
Westport	56	46	48	69	30.43
TOTAL	763	750	759	810	6.30

Clubs

Kaikoura has recovered from the earthquakes. The club has made a concerted effort in rebuilding its membership . Its annual tournament has received excellent support both from players within the region and from Canterbury with 26 tables this year.

Training

Beginner's lessons and more advanced lessons throughout the region have been well attended. 2018/19 year was the Annual NZB grant was exceeded and clubs express their appreciation for this ongoing support.

Tournaments

As a result of a number of comments received a complete revision of the Regions Tournament Schedule was undertaken and adjustments made to give more even spread.

2018 Calendar year we introduced an Intermediate and Junior league ladder to encourage participation in tournaments. We believe this was a successful initiative in 2018 and we have received Sponsorship to continue it for 2019.

IP Trials experienced a scoring hiccup but we believe the team selected on the day was the correct one.

Regional Conference

The committee has a Regional Conference planned for Sunday 23 June in Richmond

Theme of “Continuous Improvement”

Working to get Guest Speaker Gilbert Enoka, All Blacks “Mental Skills Coach”

- Growth and retention of Membership – Marketing, advertising, integrating new members
- Development of Players - Improver Lessons, mentoring etc. Self-development strategies – aimed at raising “competitive level of Play” throughout the region, to compete regionally and nationally.
- Youth Strategy: To generate an interest in bridge from younger bridge players to club play

Summary

The Region continues to function well.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE - NZ BRIDGE - 2019

Canterbury Regional Committee Report

We are only a 5-person team at the moment, which means that we are concentrating on the nuts and bolts. Our Regional Bridge Mate, Sonia Gill, will be helping us out with some projects. Sonia ran a “Learn Bridge in a Week” course in Timaru in January, the ten Beginners lessons delivered over five days.

TOURNAMENTS

We have taken on a few challenges in 2019 by assigning regional/national tournaments to clubs that will be hosting them for the first time. Our IP Trials were held successfully at Timaru, and the numbers were similar to what we would expect in Christchurch. Timaru will also be hosting the Swiss Pairs in July.

Also in July, Crockfords will be hosting the South Island Pairs which is a new challenge for all involved. We are confident that it will be a well-run and enjoyable tournament for all of our guests. In September Akaroa will host the 10A Regional Pairs. And in November the Christchurch Bridge Club will host the IP Finals.

We feel sure that the host clubs and members will enjoy the new events and learn from the experience, widening and strengthening our ability to run high-level bridge tournaments throughout Canterbury.

Tournament participation is holding steady in 2019.

TEACHING

We have cancelled our Teachers Conference for 2019 in favour of supporting the National Teachers Conference. We will be helping to fund the attendance of four people from Canterbury.

LEAGUES

We decided to change the prizes for our Intermediate and Junior Leagues from cash to free tournaments ! This has been widely approved as a way of rewarding the winners but also promoting more players to attend tournaments.

CONGRESS SPONSORSHIP

For a few years we have been offering funding to assist a pair to attend National Congress for their first time. Having had no applications in 2018, we decided to change the criteria to individual sponsorship. We were then delighted to have seven applications, of which three were selected at random to play in Hamilton.

INTERNATIONAL FUNDRAISER

A social tournament was held at the Christchurch Bridge Club on April 6th, to raise funds for the five Canterbury players representing New Zealand in 2019. Our contribution was both to assist in promoting the fundraiser and to run an auction to play with the international players on the day. A great idea, however in hindsight it needed increased promotion to gain the participation levels that would have made it a financial success.

Canterbury **R**egional **C**ommittee of **NZB**ridge

The Otago/southland Committee has the full six members with Frances Sheehy (chair) Marilyn Jackson (secretary) Phillip Hensman (treasurer) along with Maria Godfrey, Lynn Fegan and Paul Freeland.

Regional Congress and Tournaments.

Our Regional Congress was this year held in Alexandra. We were disappointed in attendance as we were hoping for more pairs to enter from Central Otago but only one pair from Wanaka in the intermediate and two pair from Queenstown so we are going to continue to hold it in Dunedin from now on as this will keep the costs down for running it and also for the majority of players will not have the cost of accommodation.

The regional swiss pairs tournament held in January in Invercargill was very well attended well done Invercargill. We are well under way for our June regional teams and pairs tournament.

Interprovincial Pairs.

Our trials were held this month and we had fourteen pairs in the open, women's and seniors. Twelve pairs in the intermediate which was a slight increase on last year. We did play more boards this year so I am sure we had the best on the weekend winning.

Seminars.

We are lucky to be getting Murray Wiggins to hold a seminar in Dunedin in July for tournament directors, so hopefully we will have more people to call on for tournaments.

The Oamaru club have requested John Sheehy to come for an afternoon to give a talk on club directing, that is happening on June the 29th.

We have also asked clubs if they would like seminars on improvers classes and many clubs have indicated that they would like this so we intend to have them in different areas so that several clubs can combine.

I would like to thank my committee for all the hours that they committed to the area. Maria is going for funding again this year for help with accommodation for the IP teams. She is often on her own when tournaments are held in Dunedin.

Marilyn keeps in touch with me frequently .and spends hours going through emails and replying to them. Lynn is a great asset to the team and is working on a strategic plan that we will all be going over in the next couple of weeks.

Paul is helpful with new ideas and Phil of course is always on top of the finances.

So I am sure that we will have another successful year,

Frances Sheehy (chair for Otago/Southland)