

Otago Southland Regional Committee Update

Greetings from the committee

Six months have flown since our inaugural meeting and there is quite a bit to share with everyone.

Firstly, our congratulations to the winners of the **Otago/Southland rubber bridge**, Pamela Nesbit and Peter McCaskill. We wish them success when they compete in the finals at congress in Tauranga in September. Entries were received from throughout the region but the number of entries was disappointing. We encourage everyone to have a go, it is fun, it's different to duplicate and it's not that difficult; have a look at Waikato-Bays Bridge club info on rubber bridge at www.waikatobays.bridge.org

The **inter-provincial teams' trials** took place on Mother's Day in May. The teams that will be representing the region at the Inter-provincial Teams Championships in Auckland in November 2021 are:

Intermediate: Barbara Hutton, Judy Russell, Lydia Turley, Pam Hodgkinson

Open: Brad Johnston, Kevin Skoropada, Matt Blakeley, Paul Freeland

Senior: Arleen Schwarz, Chris Ackerley, Murat Genc, Pamela Nesbit

Women: Anne Somerville, Donna Ruwhiu, Joan Scarlett, Kristen Collins

Chef de mission: Phil Noye Our best wishes to them all as they represent our region.

The IP trials will be held again on Mother's Day 2022. While the committee has yet to decide on the format for selection, now is the time to find a partner, establish a team and play together so that you have your systems, defence and partnership understanding sorted before the trials.

Changes are inevitable and one new innovation, which comes from New Zealand Bridge, is the use of **on-line entries for tournaments**. When your club applies for a tournament date it is approved by the regional committee and sent to the National Tournament Secretary, who documents and enters the tournament information on the NZB website. This means that your tournament can now attract entries from anyone who sees the information on the NZB site; great for holiday makers passing through your town and wanting a day of bridge to enhance their holiday, or someone from the club up the road who didn't realise they could support their favourite charity at your club event. Of course if you don't frequent the NZB site now is the time to start. Apart from the entries to tournaments there is Richard Solomon's daily bridge column, lesson resources, teaching materials, a list of every NZ player's masterpoints and so much more hidden in the files. If you're unsure what the opposition meant by checkback Stayman, or Michael's cue bid look it up and maybe even incorporate it in your system, the notes are helpful & easy to follow. www.nzbridge.co.nz

The changes banks have made regarding cheques will affect us all, especially at bridge clubs. We will all have to find safe ways to negotiate the **chequeless and eventually cashless world** in which we live...and it's not as difficult as some seem to think. With the entry forms on line clubs can, and we recommend, include their banks account number and request online prepaid entry fees.

On the day of the event no one has to rummage to find the cash to play, everyone is accounted for and bridge begins. At the end of the day the prizes will also take a different format, vouchers instead of cash in the envelopes. ***Congratulations, you've won first place and you've won \$60!*** Before the event some computer person will have spent 15 minutes preparing the appropriate vouchers for the tournament. At the bottom it will ask the prize-winners to provide a bank account number to the treasurer so the prizes can be paid directly into their bank accounts. The change will require a little bit of time for the treasurer as s/he pays the winners, but no collecting money, no counting, and no banking and the only things to sort at the end of the day are the names on the appropriate vouchers and envelopes. Try it, we did it very successfully at a recent tournament, and everyone seemed happy to accept the changes.

Congratulations

.....
you achieved place

in **the Charity Pairs**

Please email your name, home club & your bank account number to@gmail.com

or provide the account number on the reverse of this form

\$.....will be deposited into your account within the week

Have you entered your team in the **National 15A Teams August 28 and 29?** The entries have recently been upgraded to allow 36 teams for the event. If playing isn't appealing consider visiting the Invercargill club on Saturday morning or afternoon, or Sunday morning to see some of New Zealand's top bridge players in action.

The regional committee is more than happy to support clubs in the region if they have questions, concerns or kudos. Please feel free to contact one of us, if we don't know the answer we will be happy to try to find it for you:

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Yours in bridging

Judith

Chair Otago Southland Regional Committee

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