



## Wellington Regional Committee (WRC) Newsletter, March 2022

The WRC hosted a meeting of representatives from the Wellington region clubs on 13 November last year. This was well represented by the clubs and generated some interesting discussions. One of the requests was that the WRC produce a newsletter of what is happening in the region.

With the advent of RealBridge, we are now seeing a lot more online bridge while we are going through the current pandemic. With alert level at Traffic Light Orange, some of the upcoming regional events are not able to play face-to-face due to differing reasons. Events like Mixed Sex pairs and the Wellington Congress are now being played online. Information about these events can be found in the WRC website (<http://www.wellingtonregionbridge.nz>).

For future newsletters, we would like some inputs from the clubs. This could, for example, be sharing any initiatives you have undertaken, or any other news you wish to share with other clubs in the region. Please send such information to the WRC's Secretary.

### What does the WRC do?

The primary role of WRC is to act as a liaison between the clubs and NZBridge. Outlines of the roles and responsibilities of the regional committee can be found in the NZ Bridge Manual, available online from NZBridge website.

The Wellington committee comprises of the following members:

Chair:	Mindy Wu (Wellington & Karori clubs)
Secretary:	Paul Maxwell (Wellington club)
Treasurer:	John Wilkinson (Wellington club)
Members:	Graham Cheater – Rubber Bridge convenor (Waikanae club) Nebojsa Djorovic – Co-Interclub convenor (Wellington club) Martyn Rew – Interclub convenor (Karori & Wellington clubs)

## **Funding of the Regional Committee**

Up until March 2020, the committee was funded by local affiliation fees. As some regional committees held large, accumulated funds, the policy was changed. Regional committees were told to submit an annual budget to NZBridge. When the region's accumulated funds were wound down, NZBridge would then fund the region based on the submitted budget.

Currently, the Wellington region has approx. \$30,000 in reserves. In a normal (non-pandemic) year, we would expect this to last us for a couple more years.

## **Interclub**

Last year was a disappointing one for interclub with the competition not being completed due to the lockdowns. To avoid this, the committee decided that interclub would be played on RealBridge this year. This guarantees the competition will run for the full 9 rounds.

This year, we have 46 teams entered made up from:

- Open – 4 teams
- Open Restricted – 6 teams
- Intermediate – 24 teams
- Junior – 9 teams
- Novice – 3 teams

As this newsletter is going to print, many of you have already played the first round of interclub on RealBridge. We hope you've enjoyed your experience.

## **Rubber Bridge**

The regional committee is responsible for organising and co-ordinating the draw of the rubber bridge competition.

You will have recently been advised of the details of this year's competition by Graham Cheater (Rubber Bridge Convenor). We very much hope to receive entries from members from each one of the 12 clubs in our region. This, in large part, is dependent on the support of individual club's secretary/manager to pass on this information to their club members via email. Just leaving it on the club's noticeboard is not sufficient.

It is worth noting majority of the rubber bridge pairs entered so far have come from the Wellington and Waikanae clubs, where we know the club secretaries have shared the information with their members via email.

Please contact Graham Cheater if you have any questions on the rubber bridge competition.

## **Inter-Provincials**

This is one of the premier events on the NZ Bridge calendar, which pits region versus region. Each region is made up a team from each of the 4 grades – Open, Women, Senior and Intermediate.

Each grade has their own unique competition, and their placings are awarded points which go towards the Dougal McLean Trophy for the top region.

Wellington's most recent wins of the Dougal McLean Trophy were from 2016-19.

The committee is responsible for selecting the teams. The method of selection is at the discretion of the committee, ie, either trial or selection.

Notice calling for nominations will be out soon. Any bridge partnership with proven results can put their nominations to the selection squad. We would like Clubs to encourage their members to support this event.

## **Proposed New Junior Tournament**

The committee is proposing to hold a new Regional Junior tournament for Juniors/ Novices in October 2022. This is like the Wellington Congress but just for the junior and novice players.

We are also going to try and ensure that for 2023 we will streamline junior tournaments throughout the year. Currently, they are occurring too close to each other in some cases.

## **School Holidays Programme – Wellington Bridge Club**

Wellington Bridge Club has come up with a new initiative for online lessons for school aged children during the July school holidays using the social media platforms for their advertisement. This potentially could benefit other clubs in the region as well as nationally. The committee has approved funding for the advertisement part of the project.

While on this subject, don't forget that if you are promoting lessons at your club, the regional committee will reimburse upto \$500 of the advertising cost on presentation of receipt.