

April 2015

With the new season well under way it is time for another newsletter from your regional committee.

As most have probably heard, our chairperson of seven years, Karen Martelletti was successful in the recent election of two members to the national executive. Accordingly it has been necessary for Karen to resign from the Waikato Bays Regional Committee (WBRC) and, somewhat ruefully, we wish her every success in taking this step. We can all feel it is a kindness from Waikato Bays to the rest of the bridge-playing public of New Zealand that everyone will now benefit from Karen's acumen, drive, and commitment to the game.

Karen's resignation takes effect from the 1st of April. Rona Driscoll from Taupo will be taking over as chairperson, and NZ Bridge have appointed Anna Kalma from Te Aroha to join the regional committee. The committee have invited Karen to sit in on our regular Skype meetings as an observer and adviser when possible.

Allan Barclay

Sadly, Allan Barclay has been diagnosed with cancer. He was on our Regional committee for a number of years and recently on the NZ Bridge Board. Allan has been a great servant of bridge in New Zealand. He and wife Denise have been, for many years, the backbone of the Thames club and they are the ones responsible for the now iconic Thames Festival. Allan has worked hard at both regional and national levels and is the author of many innovative ideas. His ability to think outside the square and his background in publicity and marketing have been great assets to the game.

Championship Leagues and the WAPs & BOPs

The opening rounds of the Intermediate and Junior Leagues have taken place at Taupo and Cambridge respectively. Congratulations to Chris Jones and Christina Gillett of Taupo who took first place in the Intermediate and Jenny Oxley and Margaret Oliver of Cambridge who won the Junior – both at their home clubs.

Bob Fearn, author of the Compass scoring program, has provided an additional facility to keep track of the points standings in both Leagues. There is a link provided on our Regional website <http://www.wbbc.co.nz/> Go to the Links page. The results will also display on the X-Club website.

In a similar vein, Bob has also provided a tracking system for the Waikato Area Pairs (WAPs) and the Bay Pairs.

Jane Stearns – WB Ambassador

Jane Stearns of Cambridge has been doing great works over the last four years in breathing new life into shrinking clubs like Te Aroha, Te Awamutu, Matamata, and this year's project Tokoroa/Putaruru. This has impressed so much that the WBRC recently approached the New Zealand Bridge Foundation (see <http://taurangabridge.homestead.com/nzbf.html>) for funding in support of Jane's marvelous work in the recruitment, education, and retention of new players – the future of our game. Such is the recognition of the importance of these things that NZ Bridge sponsored Jane to visit clubs in Queenstown, Wanaka, and Cromwell in the week prior to addressing the Otago Regional Conference in Alexandra on 29th March. Jane has also addressed the Auckland and Canterbury

Regional Conferences on this important topic. With the funds willingly granted by the Foundation, the WBRC now owns a laptop, sound system, and data projector that Jane will use in her activities.

InterProvincial Teams 2015

If you thought last year's IP Teams event in Auckland was an expensive affair, you'll be aghast at the projected cost of sending our teams to Christchurch this year. Something around \$10,000!! Pub Charity largely funded last year's attendance and we have an application prepared for assistance this year too. We encourage anyone fancying an all-expenses-paid weekend of bridge in beautiful Christchurch to trial for a place in this year's event. These trials are to be held at the Tauranga club on June 20th and 21st.

Snippets

The teaching resources created by NZ Bridge now include ten further units aimed at Improvers. These are available for download as pdf's, hand records and deal files from <http://www.nzcba.co.nz/teaching-materials-improvers.html>.

Your Committee

Ray McCully continues writing up the Region's policies and procedures in his professional way.

Brett Glass is to attend the National Conference in Wellington on the 13th of June to speak to Huntly's proposal to restructure the award of masterpoints. In summary, the main objective of the proposal is to have tournament gradings determined by tournament performances.

Michael Neels is to investigate possibilities for replacing the current WBRC website at www.wbbc.co.nz it being felt that the present structure has become dated in terms of usability and functionality.

Rona Driscoll is working hard on the 2016 national tournament schedule, Jan Spaans is perpetually busy doing Secretary/Treasurer things, and Anna Kalma has just joined us.

I welcome any feedback as to what you want in our Regional Newsletter, so until the new time.....

Michael Neels signing off