



# Otago/Southland Regional Committee

Secretary/Treasurer

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Welcome back to the start of the Bridge year and I hope you have all had a relaxing break. Many of you will have new Committees, and as you plan your year's activities, I would just like to remind you that the Otago Southland Regional Bridge Committee is here to help in whatever way we can.

During 2011 we ran a Tournament for the Balclutha Club to help with their fundraising activities; and we are very pleased to see them re-join the Tournament Calendar for 2012. We also ran the Otago Southland Bridge Congress at Labour Weekend which was very successful, with numbers well up on the previous year. The Bowling Club rooms in Wanaka proved an ideal venue and the Congress will be held there again in 2012, but please note the change of date to Queen's Birthday Weekend. If you haven't played in a Congress before, this would be an ideal event to make your first - the Junior and Intermediate section is relaxed and friendly.

## Championship League

To encourage Tournament play the Committee has introduced a Junior and Int/Open Championship League for 2012; and forms can be downloaded from our website. The idea is to collect points for entering a Tournament and you gain additional points depending on your result. For example, you collect a point for playing in a Tournament, 1 bonus point if you average 50% or more overall, 2 bonus points if you win a session but are not in the top 3 placings overall, 3 points for 3<sup>rd</sup> overall, 4 points for 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 6 points for 1<sup>st</sup>. The good news is the **\$150 prize money** for the overall winner at the end of the year!

Forms must be signed by the Director on the day.

Full details will be on our website by mid February.

## New Directors

Thank you so much to the people who take the time to sit Directors' Exams. It is great to have new Directors coming through, relieving the pressure on our often overworked Tournament Directors.

Congratulations to our new Directors who sat their exams in 2011; and a special mention to Nick Bailey who sat both his Club and Tournament Director Exams in 2011. This was a fantastic achievement.

New Tournament Directors - Moss Wylie - Invercargill  
Nick Bailey - Dunedin

New Club Directors - Marion Furneaux - Wanaka  
Deirdre Lynch - Wanaka  
Nan Ottrey - Wanaka

If anyone is interested in sitting either of these exams in 2012 - please email me and I can send you the support material that we have. Every club should have at least two club Directors so please feel free to phone me if you are unsure. We are also looking at some training sessions for 2012, so will keep you posted.

### **Lessons**

These are the only way to grow your club, and are often the most daunting of events to run. However you really need to persevere and not be disheartened by the statistically high drop off rate. Each club should be incorporating lessons into their yearly programme, and I know many of you do. For those that don't, or are unsure, please remember that you are teaching basic Acol - so keep it simple and the best Bridge players are not necessarily the best teachers. So don't be afraid to put your hand up to teach. We have plenty of resources available and are here to help you wherever we can.

**Website - [www.otagosouthlandbridge.org.nz](http://www.otagosouthlandbridge.org.nz)**

A lot of work has gone into our website over the past year, and it is really starting to function for us now. All the entries for the Congress went through the website, as are the current entries for SI Teams.

The members of the clubs using it advise that they love the detail of their club results, if you have computer dealt cards then all the hands, and individual results, are available on line. I know of one club that is considering adding its Newsletter and Honours Board listings to their site - so you can personalise it in whatever way you wish. If any club is interested in adding to their website, or getting a Club site underway, then please feel free to contact me.

Well I hope you have an enjoyable year of Bridge and remember - *bridge is a competitive game, but the extent of fun derived from it is determined by the player's attitude.*

Kind Regards  
Otago Southland Regional Committee