

Wellington Regional Bridge Committee

30th January 2024

KNOCKOUT RUBBER BRIDGE EVENT – 2024

Calling all Rubber Bridge enthusiasts and those who want to take up this different style of bridge where the luck of the cards can give you the opportunity to shine!

We are now calling for entries for the Rubber Bridge Wellington Regional play-offs to find the top two pairs to represent our Region in the National play-offs to be held at the National Bridge Congress which is to be held between 28rd September and 6th October. Last year Brian Cleaver and David May won the National final. With the new rules from NZ Bridge this win now entitles our Region to have our top two pairs qualifying to play in the finals at National Congress to compete on a knock-out basis against the top pair from each of the other 6 Regions. Please support this worthwhile, **free** fun event and help us get two pairs to National Congress again. In addition, we have a Cup to present to the Wellington Regional winners.

In the Wellington Metro area, we will continue with the usual knock-out format played at homes after doing a random draw by ballot. However, Waikanae Bridge Club are likely to again have a separate draw in their "Kapiti" area, with their winning pair (or top 2 pairs?) eventually merging into the main Wellington Metro draw at an appropriate time.

We would also welcome a separate pool in the Wairarapa area (last year 3 pairs) if players in the Masterton and South Wairarapa clubs are interested. This could be run on the same basis as the "Kapiti" pool. If an individual or club in the Wairarapa is prepared to co-ordinate this, then please let me know and I will be very happy to assist. The Kairangi Bridge Club may also consider a separate pool.

It would be appreciated if clubs could promote this event amongst their own members. We require entries from individual pairs in the Wellington Region to be sent direct to me by **31st March**. Entries from the Kapiti zone / pool, plus any entries from the Wairarapa, or other "Club Pools," will also need to be sent to me by 31 March. We will want to complete the first round of matches no later than early May. The last round of matches to find the two pairs to go to National Congress, must be completed by the end of August, if not earlier.

Entry Fees; - the Regional Committee has decided that entry to the Rubber Bridge Regional knock-out event will be **free for 2024**. However, clubs or zones organising and holding local heats prior to amalgamating in the main Wellington Regional Pool, may wish to make a small charge to defray any costs etc.

Format; - For those pairs in the general draw, (Wellington Metro area), there will be a random draw as to which pair they will play. The random draw for the Wellington Metro area will be made ASAP after entries are received on 31 March and advised to all contestants. The draw will eventually include winners at an appropriate time, from any

heats run outside the Metropolitan area. Note – such “local area heats” must also be based on a random knock-out system.

So, why not enter with your favourite partner and give it a go!

- Top prize money at the National Congress (\$1,000 to the winning pair);
- Luck of the cards can have a major bearing on the result;
- Less experienced players are encouraged to participate by allowing only systems used in Junior tournaments (unless otherwise agreed to by both pairs, with no coercion);
- Different from both regular Pairs or Teams play and more relaxing;
- Knockout format with a random draw, each round comprising 30 deals against another pair until we come up with a winning pair (possibly two) to represent the Wellington Region at National Congress in early October, with generous financial subsidies for the qualifiers;
- Played at a time and location (usually at home) mutually agreed by you and your opponents, or if necessary by the Convenors ballot;
- Depending on interest, a tutorial and practice session may be arranged;
- Full updated rules of the contest will be emailed to all contestants after entries are received, along with the initial draw for those not playing in a club heat.

- **Entries or enquiries to the Convenor : Graham Cheater by email : grahamlcheater@gmail.com**

Phone contact 04-9049917 or 027 4483938

- **Remember, - all entries from individual pairs or from Clubs (listing all entrants up to that date), to be received by the Convenor by 31 March.**