Memo to New Zealand Bridge

From Central Districts Regional Committee

2 March 2024

**Central Districts Business Plan**

 **Background**

Central Districts comprises 17 Clubs spread over a large geographic region. There are three main centres of Bridge - Taranaki, Horowhenua/ Manawatu/ Whanganui and Hawkes Bay. The three largest Clubs in Central Districts are New Plymouth (256), followed by Wanganui (203) and Havelock North (158). Four clubs have memberships between 100 and 150, six clubs have memberships between 50 and 100, and four clubs have fewer than 50 members. In the past five years, two CD clubs (Pahiatua and Wairoa) closed due to low membership. Clubs in CD, as in other areas, rely primarily on volunteer contributions to function, and to maintain membership levels through recruitment of new players.

**Budget Priorities**

Our budget priorities are concentrated in two areas:

(a) Enhancing the sustainability and competence of g CD clubs and CD members through support of lessons/training and attendance at relevant local, regional or national seminars

(b) Encouraging junior/intermediate/youth players to attend tournaments and assisting CD players to participate in national events.

We also allocate a small proportion of our annual budget to the maintenance of Regional Committee operations.

**Part One: Enhancing Sustainability and Competence of CD Clubs and CD Members**

**Lessons and coaching $2615**

The Regional Committee will allocate $1500 to support beginners’ lessons, as these are the primary conduit for the recruitment of new members. Club will be asked to apply by 28th February and the 1500 will be split amongst the clubs which apply up to a maximum of $300 per club.

The Regional Committee also supports, on application by a club, requests for Improvers or Advanced lessons, and Scoring and Director training. $1615 is allocated for this.

Clubs can apply for grants to assist with

* Beginners lessons
* Improvers lessons
* Advanced lessons
* Club-level Director training
* Training for Scorers

**Total Budget for Part One: $2615**

**Part Two: Encouraging and Assisting Participation by CD Players in Tournaments and Events**

**Championship Leagues $1000**

The region runs Junior and Intermediate Championship Leagues, to encourage participation by less experienced players in tournaments. The region collates the results based on the top six placings overall in the tournament. The tournaments that are eligible are all the standalone Junior and Intermediate Tournaments, any combined Intermediate/ Junior Tournaments and Junior and Intermediate Regional Congress events (which count for double points). For 2024 the region has decided to allocate $500 prize money to each of the junior and intermediate championships. The $500 will be spread over the top 5 Placeholders.

**Youth Bridge $500**

The Regional Committee subsidises youth players to enter CD tournaments and may consider applications for funding of travel for National/International events.

**Rubber Bridge Travel Subsidy $700**

The Regional Committee provides a subsidy for travel costs for a Central Districts Pair to participate in the Rubber Bridge Final at the National Congress.

**Regional Championships Trials $1800**

The Regional Committee funds the cost of conducting the Reigonal Championships Trials in the CD region. This includes payment for Directing, Scoring, and Board Dealing ($700); venue hire and catering ($400); and Master Points ($700). Costs are offset by an entry fee of $20 per player.

**Regional Championships Participation $2700**

The Regional Committee provides a subsidy for its four teams (four members per team) plus its chef de mission to attend the Regional Championships. Costs vary from year to year, depending on location of the event. The budgeted amount of $2700 represents a subsidy of $158 per member (4 person teams) toward accommodation and travel. NZ Bridge meets provides this subsidy.

**Total Budget for Part Two: $6700**

**Part Three: CDRC Operations**

The Regional Committee allocates $2615 to cover the costs of its own activities. These include

* CD Website $430
* Zoom licence $225
* Sundry expenses $400
* Honoraria for Chair and Secretary/Treasurer $1560

**Total Budget for Part Three: $2615**

**Total Budget for 2024: $11930**