



Canterbury Regional Committee of  
New Zealand Bridge Inc

## **Canterbury Regional Committee Interprovincial Report – June 2014**

Following on from the discussion at the National Conference in February 2014 on the Interprovincial Tournament and its future, the Canterbury Region surveyed its players to gain feedback on the topic.

Attached are the survey results. They include a link to the full survey with graphs.

From the results of this survey, discussion with players and within our committee, we have the following comments to make.

- To the people who usually play in the IP trials and final, the IPs is an important competition within NZ Bridge. We believe the IPs should be continued. People in our province feel proud when we do well at the finals. This can only be good for the game.
- While it was mostly agreed that anyone can trial for the IP team there are problems with the perception of the IPs. Although those who participate generally regard it as a prestigious event, it is also viewed as a somewhat elitist event. We believe that there is room for improvement in communicating the IPs to the wider base of players. More information needs to be communicated on explaining what the IPs are, who can play, how they work, who pays for them etc and celebration of those who succeed. This can be done at all levels.
- More players need to be encouraged to participate in the trials. This can be done at club and regional level. Shoulder tapping by clubs, regional committee members and international selection committee members to those who could take part should be actively encouraged along with greater distribution of information regarding the trials and finals. This attitude would foster players over time and improve the image of and participation in the IPs (and International).
- NZBridge needs to be committed to improving/ bringing back the prestige of the IP finals. We believe the IPs should be a stepping-stone to International representation. The finals should be a way for players to show their ability with a view to being noticed and fostered by the International selection committee. To this end NZBridge needs to enable and encourage participation by International players in the IP trials and finals. This could be done by having a locked in IP trials date for all regions early in the year that does not conflict with any International competitions or commitments. The IP finals should be used as one of the tournaments upon which International selection is based. This would be in keeping with the way many sports do their International selection.
- While we understand NZBridge is under financial pressure we believe there should be an IP Junior section.
- Most people acknowledged that while they believe that the IPs are well worth retaining and should have some funding it should not be a priority for NZBridge funding. This is reflected in the fact that 85% of people in our survey are willing to contribute towards the costs of attending the IP finals.

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## **In Conclusion**

The Canterbury Regional Committee believes, in consultation with players in our region, that the IP trials and finals should definitely be retained. Improvements can be made at national and regional level to expand the base number of players participating, and improve the prestige and value of the IP finals. The cost to NZBridge is acknowledged and therefore we recommend players cover part of their costs from 2015.

## **Some additional statistic information from the survey**

Combined results of funding distribution. Below is the percentage of people who believed these areas should receive more than average funding.

Marketing 72%

Teaching 65%

Membership and recruitment 65%

Club Support and development 62%

Director development 55%

National Congress 53%

Junior Tournaments 51%

Technology 47%

IP Finals 44%

Website and Social Media 38%

International 32%

57% agreed the IPs is a prestigious event

46% agreed the IPs were not for a select few, 38% thought they were select but 74% said anyone can trial.

80% are proud if the region does well

63% *strongly* disagreed with having no Ips, (76% total disagreed overall).

53% thought the Ips is worth the money, 19% neither way and 27% said not worth cost. Value for money no 27%, yes 34%, neither 21%.

59% an important event in NZ bridge, 19% no

Fostering bridge in Canterbury 40% yes, 44% no

Stepping stone to international 46% yes, 36% no

More players should trial 66% yes

Fiona Temple

(For Canterbury Regional Bridge)

