**23 January 2019**

**2019 Handicaps – how they were calculated**

The object of handicaps is to achieve a tie of first, between unequally skilled players!!

This year, the handicaps for Rotorua Club members have been calculated using the Bridge computer system itself. This is in-line with other clubs in New Zealand, where the system calculates a rolling handicap based on each player’s actual results from their last 25 sessions.

The main changes for Rotorua Club members are

1. The handicaps range in value from minus 10 to plus 10, instead of zero to 20 in previous years
2. People are likely to have a different handicap for each session. For example, a person’s handicap may be higher when playing on a Thursday night, when more Open level players are competing.

The advantages of the new system are

* The system automatically calculates the handicap based on actual results from each player’s last 25 sessions
* When people play more than one session, their handicap will be calculated on the results of that particular session only
* This system brings the Rotorua club in-line with other clubs in New Zealand. This will become even more important as clubs move to a national handicap system in the future, based on X-Club (national) results

Please note the following

* The format of the handicap may be a decimal e.g. 5.2
* There may be some fluctuation where a player has played fewer than 10 sessions

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