

ANRC April 2024 NEWSLETTER

GROWTH ACROSS OUR REGION

The Region is delighted to report at the end of the financial year 2024 **GROWTH of 2.6%** in membership numbers across the Northland Auckland Region. Congratulations to all of our Region's clubs for the effort they made during the 2023/24 season and thank you for updating your records.

NZB Membership Analysis		
RegionName	2023 Mar	2024 Mar
Auckland/Northland	2846	2920
Waikato Bays	1921	1921
Central Districts	1705	1718
Wellington	1877	1837
Canterbury	1626	1600
Otago Southland	1394	1389
TOTS	823	797
	12192	12182

Growing a club's membership doesn't happen by luck or chance. It comes through:

- Planning a recruitment campaign for lessons
- Club committees and Region providing the money to support that campaign at a realistic level
- Maximising the number of students at lessons to support tutors and their time invested
- Providing a safe landing space for beginners to thrive within the club post-lessons.
- All club members owning responsibility for nurturing and encouraging new members.

As a Region we highly value all of our clubs. We are here to support you in growth of your membership. Meeting regularly with online catch-ups and our annual regional hui provides a wider team approach to growing the game in our Region. We are committed in our plan to bringing membership levels back to pre-Covid levels of 3,000+ by end March 2025. We wish success to all our clubs currently undertaking lessons and with their retention work.

Congratulations

Winning a tournament playing with a parent is always satisfying but the achievement is very special when your father is using braille cards and relying on memory to recall the bidding and dummy. Well done to **Jeremy Fraser-Hoskin** and Dad, **Peter Hoskin** on their win (Peter's first tournament success) in the Auckland 8B Restricted Pairs with an average exceeding 60%. A very popular result.



TOURNAMENT NEWS

Tournament Participation

We are delighted to see a widespread increase in face-to-face tournament participation. With the exception of two clubs - who reached room capacity - every event this year has enjoyed increased patronage adding to the enjoyment for all.

Easter Congress

With thanks to the hard-working Auckland Bridge Club team, this long weekend fixture ran smoothly and competitively. Last year we had 132 event entries and this increased to 164 for the three days. We hope players are already looking towards Kings Birthday weekend.

Congratulations to the winners:

Easter Intermediate Pairs

Winners: **Carol Bearsley** and **Kerri McCrae**

Easter 10A Open Pairs

Winners: **Mike Doecke** and **Michael Ware**

Easter 10A Teams

Winners: **Tom Jacob, Steph Jacob, Kevin Hu** and **Jerry Chen**

Easter 3A Open Pairs

Winners: **Bradley Johnston** and **Graeme Tuffnell**

Interclub Teams

We have enjoyed another very pleasing entry from 52 teams (10 in open, 22 in intermediate, 20 in juniors) confirming the popularity of this on-line event. We hope participants enjoy meeting so many new players.

We are particularly delighted to see three school teams entering due to the encouragement of Paul Coleman (Mt Albert and past NZ Youth facilitator). Auckland Grammar is mentored by Paul and two Maclean's teams - Red and Blue - are supported by ex-students Kevin Hu (Akarana), Tim Pan and Lysandra Zheng (both Howick). Those three mentors are all very promising youth players who have enjoyed winning success in recent A point tournaments. And full credit to the event organisers Auckland Bridge Club who only charge these young players a token \$1 table money to participate. We are confident that all opponents will make these young players feel most welcome.

Regional Championship trials

The trials for our Regional Championship (formerly Inter-Provincials) teams (open, senior, women, intermediate) are very near. They will be on-line on **May 4-5** and we are hoping for more entries to both strengthen our team and provide a meaningful trials contest. The top two pairs must be available for the three-day finals from **30 November - 2 December*** in Wellington. *note change to dates
Details of funding and arrangements for successful trialists later in this newsletter.

Dates for your diary

- Kings Birthday weekend (1-3 June) which has the same format as our successful Easter event
- Main Region Pairs and Teams (both 10A) to be hosted by the very hospitable Whangarei Club 20-21 July
- Auckland/Northland Regional hui 11 August in Orewa
- National Pairs F2F 9 November in Auckland

REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Information for trialists

Change to finals dates:

The finals will be held F2F in Wellington **Saturday 30 November to Monday 2 December**. These will commence with Chef-de-Mission meeting at 10am, and start to play at 10.45am on Saturday 30 November.

Play is expected to finish with the medal ceremony at 1.45pm on Monday 2 December with a shared lunch to follow.

Funding

The Region wants to be upfront and alert all trialists and potential trialists of their personal financial liability should they qualify for the finals.

Please note Region is unable to fund from its budget any items connected with costs for this final. NZB are providing Region with a sum towards transport costs. Each finalist and Chef-de-Mission are likely to receive around \$200 as a contribution towards travel costs.

In addition, NZB are funding the following:

- Travel costs as above
- The Region may apply to NZB for an additional subsidy for Regional players that qualify (eg. Northland players) where the cost of flights is higher than direct from Auckland
- Transport to and from hotels to Wellington Bridge Club and from the airport
- Morning and afternoon teas and lunch on Monday
- No entry fee for the finals event - all administration fees covered by NZB

What NZB are **not** funding:

- Accommodation for players or Chef-de-Mission
- Player or Chef-de-Mission uniform - t-shirt
- Food costs other than as stated above

Recent communications from the Chair of NZB (available on the NZB website) and to clubs give information on the cutbacks necessary in producing what is still an overall deficit budget this financial year.

Costs not covered above will be met by team participants. The region has booked accommodation if players wish to take advantage of it at the Atura Hotel near the playing venue.

The Region intends to make every effort to try and source additional funds to support our finalists but if unsuccessful the costs will need to be borne by the player.

At the time of going to print the Region learned of the sad news of the passing of Derek Evennett, long-time Chef-de-Mission of the NZ international team. A tribute to Derek will appear in our May edition. Our sincere condolences go to his family and members of his home club Orewa.

