



AUCKLAND NORTHLAND REGION MAY 2025



NEWSLETTER



Eds: Lysandra Zheng, Jane Stearns

The squad to represent **Auckland Northland Region** at the **Regional Championships** in November are:

Open:

Michael Cornell and **Geo Tislevoll** (Akarana/Akarana)
Brian Mace and **Malcolm Mayer** (Akarana/Akarana)

Senior:

Grant Jarvis and **Jonathan Westoby** (Franklin/Akarana)
Barry Palmer and **Neil Stuckey** (Auckland/Auckland)

Women:

Linda Cartner and **Glenis Palmer** (Auckland/Auckland)
Steph Jacob and **Lysandra Zheng** (Akarana/Akarana)

Intermediate:

Heather Robertson and **Joy Zeng** (Auckland/Howick)
Freddie Chan and **Alex Meyer** (East Coast Bays/Mt Albert)

Congratulations to our intermediate team who won through in their trial against 11 other pairs. Owing to lack of entries selection took place in the open, senior and women categories. The feedback received is being collated and sent to NZB to help understand player viewpoints.

Find out more about our Intermediate team on page 2-3!

Auckland KING'S BIRTHDAY CONGRESS

Early entries encouraged!

Enjoy three days of bridge over the long weekend from Saturday 31st May to Monday 2nd June

INT/JUN 5B + OPEN 10A PAIRS
OPEN 10A TEAMS
3A WALK-IN PAIRS

SEE FLYER PAGE 10



*Morning & Afternoon
Tea included*



Heather Robertson



Joy Zeng

HEATHER ROBERTSON & JOY ZENG

Heather and **Joy** formed an ad-hoc partnership to participate in the trials. Having never played together before, unfamiliarity with system was well compensated by good cardplay and judgement throughout.



You are first seat, vulnerable against not.

What do you open?

Heather opted for 2NT – a descriptive bid that tells her partner about a mostly balanced hand, while avoiding the “self-preempt” of 2♣. Joy transferred with 3♦ and rebid 3NT to show a 5-card heart suit. Heather, noting that her partner failed to bid Stayman and therefore would not have many spades, pulled 3NT to 4♥ – two top honours must be about as good as the “normal” three-card support!

The fears of a spade weakness were well founded when Joy’s dummy tabled with just ♠J5. If Joy had the ♥J, hearts would have been a far superior strain while 3NT is likely to lose five cashing tricks off the top.

As the cards lay, South opted to lead a trump. If Heather had 3 hearts and a weak doubleton, a trump lead might be necessary to stop her from taking ruffs.

Can you see what defence takes the contract down? The answer is a little unintuitive – on a spade lead, North must play three rounds of spades. Easy enough to cash your AKQ? Not necessarily – remembering that the East hand is hidden, if North-South are playing some form of count leads, North may well become aware of their partner’s 4-card spade holding. Under more “normal” circumstances, this might just give declarer the opportunity for a ruff and sluff, discarding a crucial club loser from the dummy.

Every other table at the trial opted to open 2♣. At some tables North interfered with 2♠ over the waiting 2♦, sending E/W into the doomed 5♣ contract. Heather’s 2NT opening had the unusual benefit of pre-empting the opponents out of a relatively safe 2-level “lead-directing” bid – 3♠ is a scarier proposition when the opponents have both shown shape and strength, and may be in a good position to penalty double.

Congratulations

Heather and Joy achieved a total of 136.43 VPs over 11 matches to win the trial by 3 VPs over their now-teammates.

♠ AKQT8

♥ J962

♦ 84

♣ 84

♠ J5

♥ KT874

♦ QJ63

♣ T6

♠ 73

♥ AQ

♦ AT5

♣ AKQJ92

♠ 9642

♥ 53

♦ K972

♣ 753



FREDDIE CHAN & ALEX MEYER

Freddie and **Alex** (Alexandria) may have been the only two Juniors to play the trial – but they’re proof that rank isn’t everything! Both members of the partnership went into the trial with no real expectations, just looking for a fun weekend of bridge. Their total partnership experience extended only to a single club session on the Wednesday prior to the trial weekend – so their admirable performance must have been a surprise to everybody, including themselves!



Freddie Chan



Alex Meyer



You opened 2♣, and your partner bid 2NT

What do you do?

Have you ever picked up a 28-count? Well, it’s certainly too strong for another off-shape 2NT opening. Freddie opened 2♣, but it’s far from clear how to proceed over partner’s expected negative 2♦ response. Fortunately – no need to think about that now!

What do you need from partner? Many slams are – perhaps misguidedly – bid after asking partner how many aces and kings they hold. While it’s certainly important to not lose two cashing aces and therefore usually reasonable to at least check, 4 aces and 4 kings is neither a necessary nor sufficient condition to make a grand. Eight tricks are quite a bit short of thirteen, while having a running suit or two means that you don’t need a *second*-round control in every suit.

Freddie was put to a tough decision. He knew Alex had at least 8 HCP, but which ones? He started with optimism. Could Alex have *more* than 8 HCP? If she did, they would need very unfortunate distribution (such as Alex also having a doubleton major) to fail to make 7NT.

What about “lesser” hands? Freddie reasoned that many combinations of 8 HCP would be enough for grand. With his extra length in the minors, something like the Q♦ in partner’s hand will have more value than the 2 HCP it is nominally worth. Even in the worst case, when Alex has ♠KJ and ♥KJ, the slam will rely on a finesse.

With trepidation, Freddie bid 7NT, to an amused shake of the head from Alex! He was well rewarded when Alex showed up with the perfect filler cards and was one of only two tables to bid the grand.

Congratulations

Freddie and Alex achieved a total of 133.38 VPs over 11 matches, coming 2nd with a respectable 13-VP advantage over 3rd place.

♠ 8763
♥ K964
♦ 9642
♣ 9

♠ K52
♥ J52
♦ Q83
♣ Q654

♠ AQ
♥ AQ
♦ AKJ75
♣ AKJ8

♠ JT94
♥ T873
♦ T
♣ T732



Easter CONGRESS CHAMPIONS



Hugh McGann, Michael Ware, Matthew McManus, and Mike Doecke

Easter Congress saw success for some of our “podium regulars” for Team MCMANUS (Hugh McGann, Michael Ware, Matthew McManus, and Mike Doecke), who came out with an impressive scorecard and lost only one out of nine matches through the Teams qualifier and final to score 117.53 VPs. They were followed by runners-up Team FISHER (Blair and Elizabeth Fisher, Jo and Sam Simpson) and bronze medalists Team PAN (Tim Pan, Lysandra Zheng, Zachary Yan, and Jeremy Fraser-Hoskin).

In the meantime, the concurrent 3A Walk-In Pairs saw an impressive performance from **Monica Cheng** and **Andrew Michl**, who *almost* won both their sessions with 66.16% in the first and 57.91% in the second. They finished the event with approximately a 2-board lead over runners-up **John Buckleton** and **Pamela Marsland**.

Intermediate 5B Pairs	
1 st	Bill Leach & Kerri McCrae
2 nd	Steve Moore & Ross Longney
3 rd	Graeme Duhs & Andrew Robertson
.....	
Open 10A Pairs	
1 st	Jenna Gibbons & Julian Foster
2 nd	Matthew McManus & Michael Ware
3 rd	GeO Tislevoll & Faith Tislevoll
.....	
Easter Monday 3A Pairs	
North-South	
1 st	Monica Cheng & Andrew Michl
2 nd	Brett Glass & Emma Russell
.....	
East-West	
1 st	John Buckleton & Pamela Marsland
2 nd	Carol Joseph & Barbara Imlach



Andrew Michl and Monica Cheng

COMING UP AT AUCKLAND



10A Open Pairs & Teams @ AKBC
19th / 20th July 2025

Auckland Northland Regional Tournaments
SEE FLYER PAGE 11



PAIHIA

QUAIL RIDGE TWIN SALVER TOURNAMENT

16 tables came along to the Opua Hall to do battle for the beautiful Twin Salvors. The club runs all of its three tournaments to ensure good entries from its primarily junior and intermediate players.

The tournament welcomed a variety of players, with a stratified format celebrating accomplishments from players of all skill levels.

Winners overall this year were **Margaret Hooson** and **Neil Ruddell** from Whangārei. Runners-up

overall were also the winners of the Hearts section, **Neil Hearn** and **Peter Ball** from Dargaville. Third overall were **Anna Chappell** and **Marilyn Kennedy** from Kerikeri.

There was home success for Paihia in the Diamonds section won by **Carolyn Nicholas** and **Heather Stringer**. The Clubs section winners were **Jillian Kearney** (Paihia) and **Ron Bywater** (Kerikeri).



1st Overall: Margaret Hooson & Neil Ruddell



2nd: Peter Ball & Neil Hearn



3rd: Marilyn Kennedy & Anna Chappell



Clubs : Jillian Kearney & Ron Bywater



Diamonds: Heather Stringer & Carolyn Nicholas

PAIHIA

BARFOOT THOMPSON & SIXES

Enter as a **Team of Six**
2 Open, 2 Intermediate, 2 Junior

Paihia is hosting their inaugural tournament also at **Opua Hall** on **Saturday July 12th**

Join the fun – heaps of **bridge** with 3 simultaneous Swiss Pairs events, a **dress-up** competition, and an ongoing **quiz!** Enjoy a fully **catered lunch**.

See flyer page 12



HOWICK BRIDGE CLUB

INTERMEDIATE/JUNIOR 5B PAIRS

One of Howick's staple annual bridge tournaments is a competition where Intermediate and Junior only partnerships have their chance to shine!



1st Overall: **Andrew Robertson & Graeme Storey**

An enthusiastic East Coast Bays contingent cheered for **Andrew Robertson** and **Graeme Storey**, who secured their victory with a tremendous 67.57% first session – enough to overcome a rather less exhilarating 50.96% in the latter. Andrew and Graeme led by approximately half a board over **Henriette Annabel & Carol Moore** from Franklin.

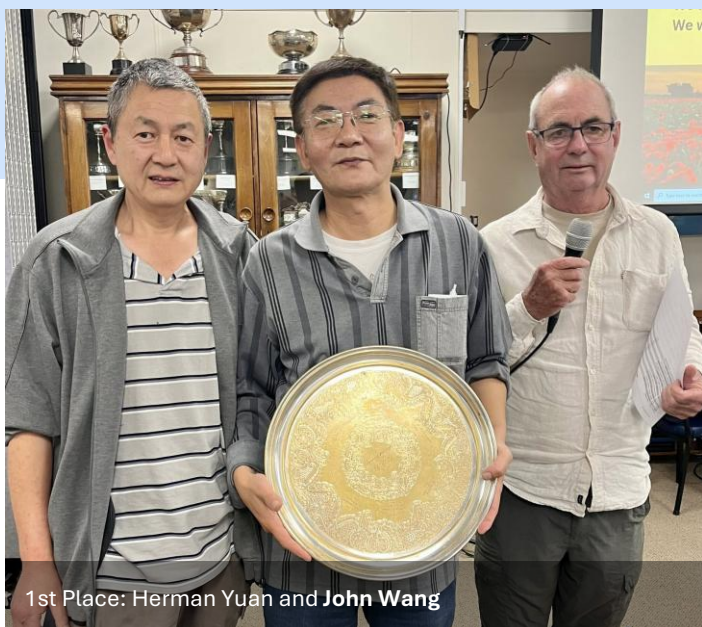
The J/J prize was extremely competitive with three Junior pairs in the top 10. It was ultimately won by two Youth players **Yilin Qi** and **Jimmy Cao**, both currently students at Macleans College – a narrow victory over fellow Youth player **Niccolo Nustrini** playing with Howick member **Geraldine Rose**.



1st Junior: **Yilin Qi & Jimmy Cao**

Kindly supported by **Boutique Audiology & Ear Care**, Auckland Bridge Club's annual ANZAC 8B Pairs hosted 18 tables of players to commemorate the occasion.

Herman Yuan and **John Wang** scored above 60% (including a near-70% in S1) in both sessions to be victorious over runners-up **Setsuko Lichtnecker** and **Peer Bach**. They were presented with Auckland Bridge Club's ANZAC Salver.



1st Place: **Herman Yuan and John Wang**

Auckland ANZAC DAY TOURNAMENT

LEST WE FORGET



BRIDGE PLAYERS CARE

Two upcoming events aimed at supporting our community are the **Auckland Bridge Club Breast Cancer Brunch and Bridge** on **May 20** and the long established (and very successful) **Totara Hospice South Auckland** event on **June 19** at **Howick Bridge Club**.

Both are single session events where social enjoyment and the charity take priority over the results.



**BREAST
CANCER
AWARENESS**

[ENTER HERE](#)



**TOTARA
HOSPICE**

[ENTER HERE](#)

DIRECTING ISSUES

ALLAN JOSEPH

Revokes, calls out of rotation, lead implications

SCORING ISSUES

MICHAEL NEELS

Diagnose and fix common Compass issues

FOULED BOARDS

ALLAN JOSEPH & MICHAEL NEELS

Identifying, fixing, and re-scoring boards

ADJUSTED SCORES

ALLAN JOSEPH & MICHAEL NEELS

Awarding artificial, weighted, and split scores

MOVEMENTS

ALLAN JOSEPH & GREG DAVENPORT

Go beyond Mitchells and Howells – Webb, Hesitation, Twist and Bungee, etc.

ACCREDITATION

ALLAN JOSEPH

What help our trainee Directors need?

DIRECTORS AND SCORERS FORUM SUNDAY JUNE 8th

The **Waikato Bays Region** is hosting the Directors and Scorers Forum at **Rotorua Bridge Club**. Running from 9:30am to 4:00pm, the programme includes talks from Allan Joseph (National Director and directing teacher) and Michael Neels (Compass scoring guru), supported by Waikato members Nick Saunders and Greg Davenport.

This event is for people interested in directing and scoring for their home club or at more senior levels. Register online by **Wednesday 4th June**.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

REGIONAL CONFERENCE

We have a packed programme planned to support and engage with all of our clubs across the Region.

SAVE THE DATE! 27th July @ East Coast Bays BC

The Conference will place a strong focus on the roles of:

- ❖ **President**
- ❖ **Vice-President**
- ❖ **Club Captain**

Join us for interactive workshops led by successful club players and a talk by Jan Cormack on The State of the Game: International Women's Bridge. We hope to have an instructive and informative day!

NZB TEACHERS' CONFERENCE 2025

With the support of NZ Bridge, the Teaching and Learning Committee will be hosting a **Teachers Conference** for all Club Bridge Teachers.

This is a fantastic opportunity to connect with fellow teachers from across the country, share ideas, and learn more about how the Committee can support you. [View more information here.](#)



When: 18–19 October

Saturday 10:30am start and finishing by 2pm Sunday



Where: Wellington BC

17 Tinakori Road, Thorndon, Wellington



Stay: Atura Hotel

Affordable and just a short walk from the venue.

REGIONAL CHAMPIONS

Congratulations

Auckland Restricted 8B Pairs

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 1 st | Heather Robertson & Jeremy Fraser-Hoskin |
| 2 nd | Kerri McCrae & Michelle England |

North Shore Open 5A Pairs

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 st | Christine Wilson & Douglas Russell |
| 2 nd | Dwayne Crombie & Neil Stuckey |

**LOOKING FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN?
CHECK OUT OUR UPCOMING EVENTS...**

UPCOMING *Tournaments*

AUCKLAND NORTHLAND REGION

**17
MAY**

WHANGAREI

GRUNDY FAMILY PAIRS

INTERMEDIATE 5B
JUNIOR 3B

EAST COAST BAYS

ECB PAIRS

INTERMEDIATE 5B
JUNIOR 3B

**20
MAY**

AUCKLAND

BRIDGE & BRUNCH

CHARITY 40C

**24
MAY**

FRANKLIN

RESTRICTED PAIRS

RESTRICTED 8B

WHANGAREI

YOVICH & CO PAIRS

OPEN 5A

**31
MAY
01
02
JUN**

AUCKLAND

KING'S BIRTHDAY CONGRESS

INT/JUN 5B PAIRS

OPEN 10A PAIRS

OPEN 10A TEAMS

OPEN 3A PAIRS (WALK-IN)

**07
JUN**

WHANGAREI

PAIHIA SWISS PAIRS

OPEN 5A

**08
JUN**

PAPATOETOE

RESTRICTED PAIRS

RESTRICTED 8B

**12
JUN**

AUCKLAND (ONLINE)

THURSDAY PAIRS

OPEN 8B

Please record in your diary a **date change** for the very popular **Akarana 5A Swiss Pairs** from **August 26** to Sunday **June 15**. This avoids a clash with the World Teams where several members are participating.

Good luck to our teams
competing in the 2025 APBF!

54th ASIA PACIFIC BRIDGE FEDERATION CHAMPIONSHIPS

MAY 17 - 25

OPEN

Lysandra Zheng & Tim Pan
Zachary Yan & Jeremy Fraser-Hoskin
Nick Jacob & Ashley Bach

MIXED

Ian Berrington & Fuxia Wen
Graeme Tuffnell & Jan Alabaster
Elizabeth Fisher & Blair Fisher

WOMEN

Carol Richardson & Andi Boughey
Candice Smith & Kinga Hajmasi
Mindy Wu & Kate Terry

SENIOR

Michael Cornell & GeO Tislevoll
Brian Mace & Malcolm Mayer
Anne Sommerville & Murat Genc

Follow results on
<http://www.gembridge.cn/score/Results?tourStart=2025-05-17&tour=32327&from=ccba>

AUCKLAND KING'S BIRTHDAY BRIDGE CONGRESS

Open Pairs	10A	start 9.30am	Saturday 31st May	69-75 boards	est. finish 6.30pm	\$60pp
Int./Jnr. Pairs	5B	start 9.30am	Saturday 31st May	50-54 boards	est. finish 4.15pm	\$40pp
Teams	10A	start 9.30am	Sunday 1st June	65 boards	est. finish 6pm	\$90pp
Walk-in Pairs	3A	start 9.30am	Monday 2nd June	52-54 boards	est. finish 4.15pm	\$40pp
Teams Final	10A	start 9.30am	Monday 2nd June		est. finish 4.15pm	N/C

Lunch please BYO

Entry Fees quoted are per person
Please ensure your HelloClub Account has a
sufficient balance to cover entry fees

Register via the NZ Bridge website
Entries close 6pm Friday 30th May 2025

The Teams final will be played on Monday 2nd June

Non-qualifiers have **free entry** to the Walk-in Pairs

Prize money paid to winners HelloClub Accounts

*Morning & Afternoon
Tea included*




CONTACT

US Auckland Bridge Club Inc.
273 Remuera Rd Auckland 1050
aucklandbridgeclub@xtra.co.nz
09 524-5562 www.akbc.co.nz





10A Open Pairs & Teams @ AKBC

19th / 20th July 2025

Auckland Northland Regional Tournaments

Register your pair or team on the NZB website

Entry Fee per player:

- 10A Pairs \$65
- 10A Teams \$75

Morning & Afternoon tea included

Please BYO Lunch

Start time
is 9:30am

*AKBC uses HelloClub to manage payments, scoring and prize money
If prize winners would like a bank transfer, please email the club at:
aucklandbridgeclub@xtra.co.nz by 9:30pm Sunday 20th July 2025
with your bank account details and instruction to payout*

Phone 09 524-5562 or email aucklandbridgeclub@xtra.co.nz



PAIHIA

BARFOOT
THOMPSON & LICENSED REAA 2008

SIXES

Enter as a **Team of Six***

2 Open, 2 Intermediate, 2 Junior

12 July
2025

9:00am Morning Tea
9:30am Fun Starts

Join us at **Opua Hall**



Quiz Time!

Prizes for the
winning team



Food & Drink!

Lunch included
NOTE: We are unable
to cater to special diets



Dress Up!

Prizes for the
best dressed

ENTRY
FEES

\$40 PER PLAYER
\$240 PER TEAM

Please pay for your team **online in advance**
Paihia Bridge Club 12-3102-0012890-00

*If you cannot make up a full team, please reach
out – we have players on hand to fill any gaps!

CONTACT US: Jane Stearns | janelawrence50@hotmail.com | 021 134 5560

WHANGAREI BRIDGE CLUB - CLUB ROOMS
17 NORTH STREET, WHANGAREI

24 MAY - 10AM

Yovich &Co *Tournament*

5A OPEN PAIRS

\$40PP

24 MAY - 10AM
CUTOFF WED 21 MAY
2 SESSIONS
MORNING TEA 9.30AM
BYO LUNCH

ENTER

ONLINE OR
whgtournament@gmail.com
CASH ON THE DAY
OR DIRECT CREDIT
06 0493 0005618 00
(INCLUDE NAME WITH PAYMENT)