

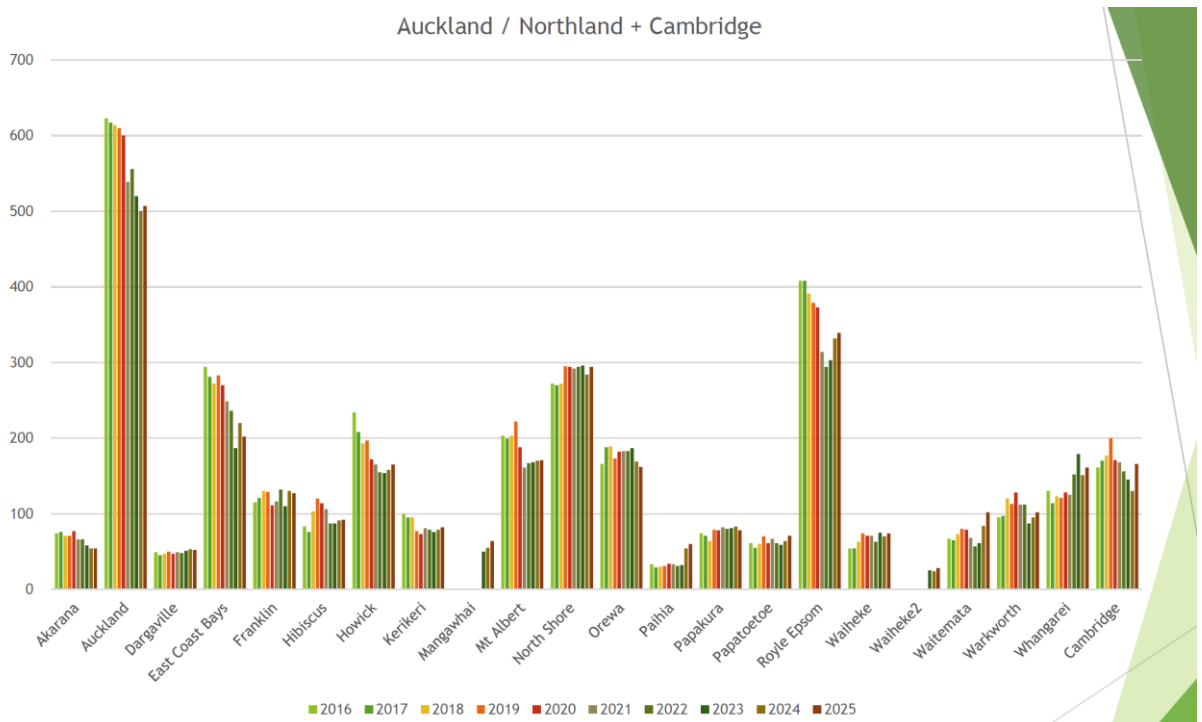
## Report on the Regional Hui held at the East Coast Bays Bridge Club on 27 July 2025

### 1. Clare Coles – President Cambridge Bridge Club

Clare’s keynote presentation was titled “Helping your bridge club grow”. While she had good ideas as to what clubs could do in this space, I noted there was a significant decline in her club membership over the period 2019-24 but this has largely been reversed in the current 2025 year (see below). The reason for the reversal is not clear to me, but they must be doing something differently. I will email Clare on this.

Other takeouts from her presentation, and my brief review of the Cambridge club website:

- Cambridge is a slightly smaller club than us (although the numbers below show home club members only, and I suspect we are a bigger club than it appears because of the number of associate members we have).



- Clare made a big thing about the need to spread the load across the membership base. However, Cambridge has a system where, instead of sending out a monthly newsletter like we do, it updates the club website with the latest news three or four times a week. Given that almost all these updates are provided by Clare, I’m not sure that the load is spread as evenly as she indicated.
- Cambridge do not pay members any honoraria. Claire’s view is that once a club starts paying members for their contribution, the trouble starts! I assume all directors are playing directors.
- Cambridge uses Bob Fern’s Compass scoring system rather than Bridge NZ. It uses Bob’s Compass\$\$ platform, which allows members to pay table money and other club payments in advance, similar to the Hello Cub platform run by the Auckland Bridge Club and also by NZ Bridge. Compass also provides a handicapping system that Cambridge uses as the basis for handicap events. The

disadvantage (I assume) is that Bob is based in the US and so presumably can't provide the IT support we get from Martin Oyston

# All About Us

Clubhouse at 14 Fort St, Cambridge 3450

**Our Mission:** To provide an enjoyable bridge playing experience for all levels of players and to encourage all players to further develop their skills in a friendly, competitive and challenging social atmosphere.

Phone: 07 827 9392

e-mail: [ccbc144t@gmail.com](mailto:ccbc144t@gmail.com) (copy/paste into your e-mailer or click [here](#))

Website: [www.cambridge.bridge-club.org](http://www.cambridge.bridge-club.org)

Annual Subs: **\$60**

Affiliate (2nd club) Members: **\$35**

Table Money: **\$4**, Director exempt. Members pay in advance through Compa\$\$.

Joining Fee: **\$15** to cover the cost of an official CCBC name badge

Learners pay **\$80** to attend lessons and this includes club membership for the year and course materials

Visitors: Visitors are welcome to play for up to 3 sessions before joining the club. Unless agreed prior with the President their scores cannot be counted in club competitions.

## 2. Breakout Workshops

We then broke out into two groups, one for club presidents run by Anne Barrowclough and one for club captains run by Clare Coles.

Takeouts from the club presidents' session.

- Anne made the distinction between governance and the day-to-day management of the club and suggested that the president should focus on governance, whereas the day-to-day management should be the responsibility of other committee members.
- The constitution should provide the basis for the way the club is governed.
- Clubs should have a planning and strategy session at the beginning of each year, that should determine what the club is trying to achieve in the year and set written and measurable goals.

The club captains' session focused on the job description and role of the club captain. At the Cambridge club, the club captain is responsible for all matters pertaining to the playing of bridge at the club. This would include:

- Club programme.
- Directors.
- Protests and appeals.
- Tournaments and special events.
- Library.

- Beginners and improver's lessons.
- Prizegiving.

Under this model the club captain would convene a bridge or playing committee separate from the club committee, which would focus on governance issues such as finance and building maintenance. This is a very different approach from the one we currently operate – this year our director resignations have come to the president in the first instance, whereas under this model they would go to the club captain.

**3. Lysandra Zheng gave a presentation on newsletter and poster design.**

**4. Sue Brown gave a presentation on the new financial reporting requirements for incorporated societies.**

Mt Albert fully complies with these requirements.

**5. Jan Cormack gave a presentation on her experiences as a woman representing New Zealand internationally**

**6. Ken Dixon from Waitemata gave a presentation on how Waitemata has become a “retentive” club.**

- Membership has grown from 57 members mid-covid to 115 members now.
- I noted that Waitemata will rescind the membership of players whose behaviour is considered detrimental to the culture of the club.
- Emphasis is given to promoting a non-confrontational playing environment, teaching, and to helping beginners transition from lessons to club play.
- In my view, Ken gave the best presentation of the day.

**7. Hamish Brown sought the views of attendees on whether the Auckland/Northland teams for the Regional Championships (formerly the Interprovincials) should be chosen through trials or selected.**

- The structure of this event is being changed to save money. The event will now be held online with the top two teams fighting it out in a grand final immediately before Congress.
- This year the ANRC held a trial for the intermediate section but decided to select for the other sections because of a lack of entries. We offered our clubrooms free to the ANRC this year for face-to-face trials (as the rent wanted by Auckland was considered excessive) but in the end it was decided to move the intermediate trial online.
- There appears to be mixed views on the status of the event. It was described as the “Ranfurly Shield” of NZ Bridge, which implies that we should select the best of the best, but others see it a just another competition that anybody should be able to enter. (This reduction in status is a bit like the real Ranfurly Shield, I guess).
- I think in future any Auckland/Northland trials will be held online.

**8. Anne Barrowclough gave an overview of the club toolkits that have recently been developed by NZ Bridge to assist clubs in the management of their operations.**

- Each toolkit comprises only 1-2 pages.

- The toolkits cover a wide range of topics including:
  - Governance
  - Policies and procedures
  - Operations
  - Marketing materials.
- Personally, I haven't had time to go through them but am sure they will be a useful resource.

**9. Julie Atkinson gave a presentation on the new Fair Play Committee established by NZ Bridge**

- This is one of several new subcommittees resulting from the reorganisation of NZ Bridge.
- The idea is to support club in the promotion of fair play and integrity, rather than simply relying on an appeals process as the ambulance at the bottom of the cliff.

**10. Alan Grant gave a video presentation from Wellington on the new teaching materials for beginners that have been developed by NZ Bridge.**

- These materials have been comprehensively restructured and redeveloped.
- The new materials will be discussed in detail at the NZ Bridge teachers conference at the Wellington Bridge Club on 18-19 October.
- We have already asked our teachers if they are interested in going to this, but nobody has expressed interest. Having heard Alan speak, I suggest the club revisit this and send one or both of the Marys to this conference, expenses paid.

**Geoff Brown**  
**President**