

December
2024

Levin Bowls



**Xmas Greetings to
all of our Members**

Club Achievements of 2024

- The club is now 118 years old and thriving and we have enjoyed the fruits of 33 years of BHB
- We continue to attract new members to the club with our strong, inclusive club culture
- We lost prominent members Jim Bagnall and Bill Clelland, and our former Patron and Life Member Wynne Bullen, at age 106.
- A number of our players represented the Centre - Adam, Iraia, Brian, Elisabeth, Mary, Janet, Chloe and Erica, as well as Bob, Rob and Bronwyn at the Masters
- We hosted the Centre Awards where Brian and our Division I and III Pennants teams took home prizes
- We swept the competition in the Y 1-10 Carrell Knight and Bill Gibbons trophies with dominant performances
- The Godfrey Bowen Mixed Masters teams were runners up with Bronwyn and Duncan winning the pairs
- Brian Hoy won the Centre Year 1 and 2 Singles
- Adam Batty was runner up in the National Yr 1 - 8 singles
- Brian Hoy established a great new club website - many thanks Brian
- We attracted a number of new sponsors for our events and new signage advertisers
- There was a very successful opening gala for the TigerTurf sponsored by Ross Galloway
- There was a very full and well supported winter programme
- New rules were established for playing attire for championships and there is a new club jacket in the near future
- There was a great Xmas dinner with entertainment from the Ukulele group

With grateful thanks to all the volunteers who made all these things possible.

Club Executive 2024-25

Patron	Margaret Griffin
President	Les Galloway
Vice President	Duncan Mann
Secretary	Grahame Law
Treasurer(s)	Dave Grigg Chris Hogan
Elected Members	Brian Hoy Bruce Prescott Jim Winter
Club Captains	Bronwyn McMahon Brian Cooper

Match Committee 2024-25

Convenor	Pat Brown
Members	David Bond Richard Cowles Wayne Judd Bob Liddall Ken Sterne Graham Stevens Erica Whittaker

What's coming up?

December

Sun	1	Men's & Div III Interclub
Tue	3	Women's Agg.. & C C Triples
Wed	4	Rotary R 3: Central
Fri	6	Horowhenua 5's: Central
Sat	7	I C Mark Xmas Hams Gala
Sun	8	LBC Christmas Dinner
Tue	10	Pennants Day 3
Thu	12	Waitarere Beach Men's Hams
Fri	13	Waitarere Beach Women's Hams
Sat	14	C of C Triples: Raumati
Sun	15	C of C Triples: Raumati
Sat	21	Centre Reserve Day
Wed	25	Christmas Day
Thu	26	Boxing Day
Sat	28	New Years Mini Gala

Club Championships

With Centre Open events and Interclub dominating the November programme the only championship events played were the Men's Pairs qualifying (on the last day of the month), and the Bowls3Five. There were 15 men's pairs entered which meant Byes with 2 pairs of the 8 qualifying after having to pay only one game - not much fun for those who had to play three to qualify. There were 8 qualifiers for post section play, but that's 6 weeks away.

Anyway it was great to see **Arnie Taiaroa** back in action after a few years away.



The Bill Clelland Memorial Kia Motors Gala

A rainy Tuesday in November meant that Bill's gala had to be cancelled. Bill put a great deal of thought and work into this event and was able to attract great sponsorship from Kia Motors. Bill had originally wanted it to be a three-day event played by club selected fours teams. He was persuaded that two days would be ample for the ageing members of our club. This year the event was moved to November because the autumn programme was bursting at the banks, and it was reduced to one day by popular demand. So, where do we go from here?

Perhaps the best way forward will be for Bill's gala to replace one of our other galas instead of being an extra to be fitted in where we can? It would save having to find another sponsor, and might find a more permanent home in our programme. Food for thought for the programmers.

Interclub Progress

Our club teams are doing well in the BKC Interclub competitions with two of the three days completed.

Women

Premier I 2nd of 7 teams
3 wins 2 losses + 29
Leaders: Raumati

Premier II 2nd of 4 teams
Competition completed
Winners: Paraparaumu Beach

Men

Premier I 4th of 7 teams
7 wins 8 losses
Leaders: Paraparaumu Beach

Premier II A Levin A 2nd of 6 teams
6 wins 3 losses
Leaders: Raumati Navy

Premier II B Levin B 2nd of 4 teams
4 wins 5 losses
Leaders: Raumati Blue

Division III A Levin A 5th of 6 teams
Won 3 lost 7
Leaders: Paekakariki

Division III B Levin B 1st of 5 teams
Won 5.5 Lost 2.5
Leaders: Levin B

In most divisions there are Byes still to be played which will affect the leaders positions.



All ready for the Foxton and Beach Challenge

Other Sports - This Month's Offering. First Class Cricketers from our District

There have been very few cricketers from the Horowhenua district who have represented their country, or even their province. Only four players have represented Central Districts in first-class cricket while living in the Horowhenua.

The first was **Herbert Rice** who began his career in 1937-38 with Wellington. Then came the Second World War and Herb served overseas. Back in NZ he played one more season captaining the Wellington team before a work transfer brought him to Otaki. He played club cricket for Otaki for many years and represented Horowhenua many times. In 1950-51 Central Districts was formed as a new first-class province and Herb Rice was selected for two games by which time he was in his late 30's and was not called upon again. In all he played only 9 first-class games for the two provinces with a top score of 77. It was Herb who first encouraged me to play cricket for the Otaki club as a primary schoolboy in the 1950's. Often when they played at home Otaki had only 10 men for their team. Herb would give me a shout over the fence and I would race home to get my gear.

Next, **Ray Stewart** arrived from Dunedin where he had studied dentistry and made a few appearances for Otago. With a dental practice in Levin he played for the Weraroa club and represented Horowhenua with distinction as a top order batter. On a few occasions he represented Central Districts though he played only ten first class games in all before he moved to the Bay of Plenty.

The latest is **Mikaela Greig**. Last season Mikaela, from Levin, added to her Central Districts Hinds achievements when she starred for the New Zealand A team which resulted in her being called into White Ferns for the first time. The current Hinds captain, the ex-Waiopahu College student played one T20 international game and was selected for the tour of England in the winter of 2024, though she did not play a game.

English-born **Roger Twose** played for New Zealand in all three formats including 16 tests and 87 ODIs. While living in Levin he played cricket for Levin Old Boys and Central Districts. He married a Levin girl and later moved to Wellington.

There is one other home-grown first-class cricketers from Levin. **Chris Lee** went to Horowhenua College (1985-89) and qualified as a lawyer at Victoria University. He played first-class cricket for both Wellington and Auckland as an opening bowler and capable lower order batter. He played only 9 first-class matches, taking 18 wickets, but his highlight was 111 not out batting at No 10 for Auckland.

Another former New Zealand test player with a Levin connection was **Peter Petherick**. Peter played only 6 test matches as an off spin bowler from Alexandra in Central Otago. He had the distinction of being the first New Zealander to take a test hat-trick in Pakistan in 1976, one of only three world players to have achieved that feat on test debut. Later he had a tyre shop in Waikanae and then retired to Levin. He became a top lawn bowler for the Central club and made a New Zealand pairs final. He died in Perth in 2015.

A test player who retired to Levin was **Don Cleverley**. He played 30 first-class games taking 99 wickets but only two tests. Later he died in Queensland at 94 being the oldest living test cricketer at that time.

An even longer survivor was **Tom Pritchard**. Though he never played for New Zealand he stayed on in England after WW II, qualified for Warwickshire, and in the 1950's was among the top few fast bowlers in English cricket. He retired to Levin, lived here for 30 years before his death, age 100, in 2017.

OK so I had to fill a fourth page but I enjoyed researching this topic and hope some of you read it. What's next? Olympic medals? Hockey?

Constitution Review

The new Incorporated Societies Act is making it necessary for all Incorporated Societies, including ours, to review their Constitutions in order to conform with the new requirements. Our club is beginning the review with the prospect of a new Constitution being presented to the membership for approval sometime during 2025. The changes need to be in place by 2026 and many of the changes will be quite significant. More on this early in 2025.

The Nationals 2025

Summerset National Pairs & Singles

2 - 9 January North Harbour

h/q Brown's Bay B C

Summerset National Fours

20 - 23 February

Canterbury

Summerset National Mixed Pairs

24 - 27 February

Canterbury

A Concerning Trend

Club entries in the BKC Interclub competitions continue to fall. Last season there were 43 teams entered. This season there are only 39. The most obvious is the Women's Premier II division where there were only four entries - from Levin, Waikanae, Paraparaumu Beach and Raumati. If this trend continues Premier II will not be viable. This year they had to play each other twice which is not ideal.

At present Paraparaumu Beach is the only club which does not enter Division 3. Otaki which previously had women's teams this season had three teams in Division 3. If Women's Premier II does not survive a revamped Division 3 might be the only way forward.

Total Club Entries in 2024-25

Waitarere Beach	3	Central	5
Levin	7	Otaki	4
Bowls Waikanae	6	Raumati	6
Paraparaumu Beach	5	Paekakariki	3

Our club members want to take part in Interclub competition. This is not true of all clubs.

End of Year Events

Xmas Hams Gala

Looks like there will be the usual big entry in the IC Mark-sponsored Xmas Hams gala. They have generously sponsored this event for many years. The Marks have sold their business and the new owners may not continue to sponsor our event.

Xmas Dinner - it's FULL !

Many thanks to Kaye and Liz and their helpers who have the evening under control. And, it looks like there might be a record attendance for the dinner. The Ukulele group will be providing the entertainment again. See you all there.



Bye now. Not sure if I'll be back in 2025? There probably won't be enough snow for my sleigh unless we all cut our emissions drastically.