



27 October 2023

## **New Zealand International Bridge Teams 2024**

Call for Expressions of Interest to represent New Zealand in 2024

The Board of NZ Bridge, through the International Committee, (IC), invites applications from eligible bridge players wishing to be considered for international teams in 2024. To be eligible players need to be a paid-up member of an affiliated bridge club in New Zealand and be in good standing with New Zealand Bridge.

Players, prior to submitting an EOI must ensure that they meet the WBF residency criteria, which includes not having played bridge for another NBO during the past 2 years.

The target event for 2024 is The World Bridge Games which will be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina from 19<sup>th</sup> October to the 3<sup>rd</sup> November. There are four categories which NZ Bridge wishes to participate in:

- The Vanderbilt Trophy - The Open Teams
- The Torlantano Trophy -The Women's Teams
- The World Mixed Teams Championships
- The Seniors Teams

Players must be available to travel at these times and be eligible for visas (if required) for Argentina.

Trials for the NZ Open Team will be held early in February (up to four days around the weekend of 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Feb, another weekend if necessary). Trials for the other three categories (or selection as determined by the IC) will follow the Open trials, allowing players to enter more than one event.

NZ Bridge invites entries for the NZ Open Team in teams of four

The winning team will play with Matthew Brown and Michael Whibley who, with their agreement, have been pre-selected for the team.

NZ Bridge invites entries for the NZ Mixed Team, in teams of four.

NZ Bridge invites PAIRS entries for the Seniors and Women's Teams

The 100A point requirement is in place, as we are encouraging longer term partnerships. Newer partnerships could still be acceptable if the commitment to play together is strong.

The application form is attached. The playing history showing the A point events played is also attached. In addition, players are asked to provide details of their best five events in the last 12 months, in terms of the level of the event, size of field and final placings with their

current partner. Players may choose to enter in more than one category. Given the playing history requirement, this would usually be with the same partner, but the selectors may choose to accept a player playing with a different partner in more than one category if considered to be of sufficient merit.

The Board is keen that players will be selected on merit for The World Bridge Games, based on current performance and ability, with up to one team of six chosen in each of the four categories. To this end, recent results and results in higher level events will carry greater weight for the purposes of selection. Both face to face and online events can be considered. NZ Bridge reserves the right not to select a team in any category for a specific event if it is deemed there are insufficient suitable candidates.

Applications are to be emailed to Jonathan Westoby via [Jonathan@nzbridge.co.nz](mailto:Jonathan@nzbridge.co.nz) and will be considered accepted when acknowledgement of receipt is sent.

Following the close of applications, and potentially waiting for the conclusion of the Open Trials, consideration will be given to the need to hold trials in each or any category.

The closing date for applications is Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023. The order of events thereafter will be determined by the number of entries in each category, and the relative priority of each category.

For example, the order could be:

Early FEB	Open Trials	
Next	Women's Trials	(Possibly mid-late March 2024)
Next	Mixed Trials	(Possibly mid-late March 2024)
Next	Seniors Trials	

To be clear, the IC reserves the right to either select teams, OR to hold trials in any category as determined by the number and quality of entries.

Please contact me if you have any queries.

Jonathan Westoby  
Chef de Mission

The World Mixed Teams Championships