

MERRILEES REGAINS TOP SPOT

2018 Professional Bowls Association NZ number one Craig Merrilees has regained his spot at the top of the pile after the conclusion of the 2023 NZ PBA season. Merrilees has a commanding lead over two more Southlanders Craig Tinker and 2022 number one Sheldon Bagrie-Howley. In a tight scramble for the fourth spot which decided a place in next year's NZ PBA Trans Tasman team to play the Australian PBA Taranaki's Aidan Zittersteijn pipped Clare Hendra and Gavin Hamlyn by one match win. Ninth-ranked Oliver Mason as the best performed kiwi in the 2023 Trans-Tasman will also play in the 2024 team.

Hendra retained her spot as the top NZ ranked woman for the fourth year running while the top rookie was Southland's Jason Wheal.

The next PBA action will be our 16-year old NZ representative David Motu in the Scottish Open Singles in Edinburgh at 2am on November 8th NZDT. Motu will be the youngest ever NZ qualifier to the World Bowls Tour is in his third year of PBA. He struggled to make an impact in his first two seasons with just one singles match win in each of his first two years but had a stellar year in 2023 with 11 match wins winning the Scottish Singles national playoffs in Invercargill and leading Auckland to retaining the Inter-branch trophy.

Motu has a tough opening match against Scotland's world number three Stewart Anderson . Coverage is available on the World Bowls Tour's facebook and Youtube channels. Anderson has previously accounted for NZ entrants Bagrie-Howley in 2017 and Stephen Zino in 2014 in the first round in Scotland.

Information including an application form, entry forms, dates and venues for the NZ PBA can be found on the [worldbowlstour dot org](http://worldbowlstour.org) site under PBA – New Zealand.

2023 NZ PBA End of Year Rankings:

(2022 rank)	2023 rank	Player	(Centre)	Points
(5)	1	Craig Merrilees	(Southland)	474
(3)	2	Craig Tinker	(Southland)	366
(1)	3	Sheldon Bagrie-Howley	(Southland)	359
(13)	4	Aidan Zittersteijn	(Taranaki)	343
(12)	5	Clare Hendra	(Wellington)	342
(38)	6	Gavin Hamlyn	(Wairarapa)	340
(33)	7	Natarsha Grimshaw	(Hawkes Bay)	328
(7)	8	Murray Wilson	(Dunedin)	310
(15)	9=	Thomas Cockerill	(Southland)	309
(6)	9=	Oliver Mason	(Southland)	309
(17)	11=	Bevan Clark	(Southland)	296
(59)	11=	Russell Dawe	(Dunedin)	296
(61)	11=	Murray Glassey	(Hawkes Bay)	296
(35)	14	Brent McEwan	(Dunedin)	277
(3)	15	Ross Ellery	(Manawatu)	271
(8)	16	Richie Muir	(Central Otago)	265

(9)	17	Colin Rogan	(North Harbour)	260
(19)	18	Dave Bean	(Southland)	258
(21)	19	Garry Cotter	(Waikato)	253
(118)	20=	Ethan Flynn	(Central Otago)	246
(29)	20=	Kaylin Huwylar	(Whanganui)	246

Notable others:

(new)	33=	Jason Wheal	(Southland)	200
(278)	75	David Motu	(Auckland)	146