

Auckland Ultimate Regional Report For 06/07 Year.

Over the last exec term the Auckland region has had mixed performance but overall I feel Auckland is in a better position to grow after this year than I did at the end of last year.

The major achievement of this terms' exec has been to launch open training sessions on Wednesday nights' over summer. These sessions have been consistently well attended (more people have been coming to the training sessions than Sunday pick-up) with coaching being provided by "senior" and experienced ultimate players. As a direct result of these training sessions, Auckland Ultimate has been able to send an official men's team (the Ginga Ninja's) and an official women's team (Snatch) to each of the WaM tour events and one official mixed team (Ginga Snatch) to the mixed tour event – a major step forward in closing the gap between our regions top players (almost exclusively on BlueFish) and those intermediate players that wish to improve.

The formation of a second ultimate club in Auckland has also meant that BlueFish and the Ginga Ninjas have been able to scrimmage against each other regularly. This has been good for both teams.

This summer has also seen the introduction of a series of monthly Double Disc Court (DDC) tournaments. These have been a lot of fun and have added another disc sport played by (normally only) ultimate players.

A number of contacts have been made with schools enquiring about coaching for ultimate. AU will probably address these requests by doing what WDS has done, that is, getting university students to provide coaching to schools as they have the flexibility to provide the coaching during normal working day hours. AU is fortunate that an enthusiastic PE teacher has started playing and he has indicated he is keen to try and get the schools in his area to start playing ultimate and possibly form a league. He is also investigating what is required to produce an accredited "professional development" module that other PE teachers can attend to learn to play ultimate while getting credits for their professional development requirements.

AU ran all of the "core" leagues that are normally run: winter indoor, winter outdoor, social spring, and social summer. Unfortunately attendance in the winter indoor and outdoor spring and summer social leagues dropped with few new players coming out to give ultimate a go. This is obviously an area of concern and it may be that AU will have to promote itself more vigorously through it's members to potential new players.

AU did not run any beach tournaments this summer and did not run Taupo Hat but gave the running of that tournament to WDS for 2006 (who did an excellent job). This is due to a lack of people available to run the tournaments – the exec members have been too busy. This means that AU did not provide as many benefits to it's members in terms of tournaments to attend as it has in previous years. Hopefully this next exec term will see more people volunteering, which will mean more capacity to run a complete ultimate schedule throughout the year.

Sherif Ibrahim
Auckland Ultimate President