



# International Lawn Tennis Club of New Zealand Founded 1956



An occasional newsletter to keep in touch with NZ and Overseas Members.

**MAY 2023**

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**Link to IC Council website** [www.ictennis.net](http://www.ictennis.net)

Have a look through this website and click the flags to see news of the other countries.

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## **67<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting and the Annual Dinner**

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May at 6pm**

**This will be held in the same lounge at Carlton Cornwall Bowling Club as our recent events.**

**126 Market Rd Epsom Auckland**

**This will be preceded by a Mix and Mingle from 5pm -5.45 and followed by the Dinner.**

All financial members and partners are invited.

Numbers limited to the first 100.

Once again we mention our sincere thanks to **Brian Woolf** who has offered to cover the cost of this dinner. Brian has resigned from the committee after serving many roles since 1965.

We also thank Jill Bignell who has resigned after 25 years.

The agenda and details were emailed to members on the 8<sup>th</sup> April.

**Please reply to [secretary.icnz56@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.icnz56@gmail.com)** (with partner's name if coming accompanied), no later than Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May.

AGM apologies can also be sent to Angela.

***We encourage our men members to wear their club tie and the women their pendant.***

We especially welcome members from out of Auckland.

This year our guest speaker will be long time member and former Davis Cup player and Captain Jeff Simpson who will have a Q & A with Greg Long.



***Parking will be via Puriri Drive or a limited amount off Market Rd.***

## Next Brian Woolf Trophy match

This year's Brian Woolf trophy match will be held at the Mission Bay Tennis Club on **Sunday 21st May .**

Play will commence at 10.30 and finish around 2.30/3pm to enable enough time for players to get to the AGM.

Sal's Pizza have kindly offered to sponsor lunch.

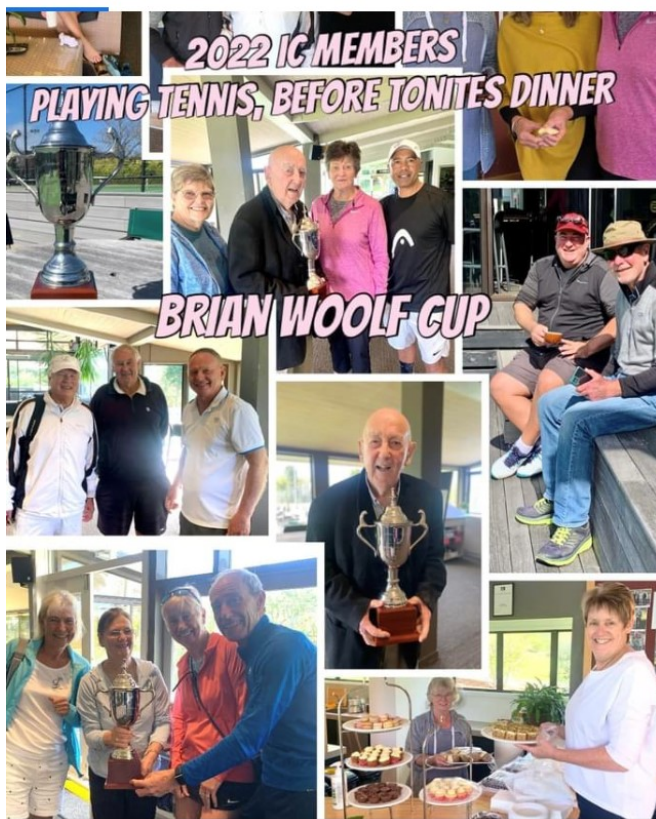
Teams will be divided on a North/South basis. **All entries accepted.**

Please email your entries to [secretary.icnz56@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.icnz56@gmail.com)

or phone Sam 021 766 507 or Peter 021 241 200

Looking forward to seeing you all there.

All players are welcome including partners who would like to play.



*Brian, above, and Feleti's great compilation of photos from the last challenge in September.*

## The second Sedgman Tills Trophy Challenge.

After 2 years having to postpone the return match between the NZ IC and the Australians a very successful challenge was held in Wanaka .

The weather was glorious, the match which ended in NZ's favour again was closer than the 6/1 sounded but very friendly once the play finished.

Thanks in particular to Don Turner and Peter Stokes and the Australians who made the trip over. Their numbers were not as high as they would have been last year, but the Sedgman Tills Trophy stays in NZ hands.

Don's report follows....



***The Challenge, hosted by ICNZ on March 19 in Wanaka, was a most successful event!***



***ICNZ retained the Trophy (first contested in Gold Coast in 2019), and more importantly, the Wanaka Tennis Club proved to be a wonderful venue, with beautiful weather, while the social functions were well attended and made for a further strengthening of the bonds between our two ICs.***

***The tennis involved 8 representatives from each IC, with one Women's Doubles, Two Mixed Doubles, 5 Mens Doubles, with one singles played due to the injury sustained by one of the ICA men, Andrew Shimmins. The Australia Team was captained by World Number 1 (70s Singles and Doubles) Player Andrew Rae, and included ICA president and former ranked player and Broadcaster Kerry***

***Pratt. Don Turner was ICNZ Captain, with World Number 1 Mixed (65s) Peter Hampton leading the kiwis. Each of the matches were keenly contested, and our side came home ahead in them all. We conceded the Women's Doubles, however, since we included Felicity Oxvenad, who is not yet an ICNZ member. The second Mixed Doubles was a "friendly" also, with NZ loaning Carolyn Oakley-Brown to Australia.***

***Peter Hampton's form was impressive in his doubles and mixed, while Greg Long played an excellent set of singles and Tie Breaker to win a great match against Ken Barton, who hit the shot of the day with a full stretch backhand volley which came over the net and spun back to his own side.***

***The Meet and Greet venue was the Wanaka Tennis Club, with plenty of Pizza and NZ wine!***

***At a wonderful Match Dinner in Wanaka, ICNZ invited Andrew Rae into honorary membership of our Club, (Keryn is already an honorary member), and Don Turner was invited into honorary membership of ICA.***

***The Dinner was attended by the teams, and their partners, as well as several supporters including Celia Patrick, Wanaka TC Chair Jeanette Hatten, former NZ number 1 Alistair and Melanie Hunt, and ICNZ Executive Committee Member Graeme Lidell and Jackie.***

***The wonderful Margaret Borland at 96 also made the trip up from her home in Dunedin.***

***All the Australians spent time after the tie touring around the Queenstown, Arrowtown and Te Anau area, with some of them travelling up country also.***

***Don Turner***

***There are many more photos on the ICNZ Facebook site, posted on 31st March.***



PIC•COLLAGE



## PARIS Invitation to IC France Cocktails

The attached document, which has already been sent to our members is an invitation from the IC of France, inviting any IC member throughout the world to attend a cocktail function during the 2023 French Open.

This will be on **Sunday MAY 28<sup>th</sup>** 6 pm at the restaurant “Le Club des Loges-Le 1928 “

This invitation, received annually, is one of the benefits of belonging to the ICNZ especially if you are planning a trip to the first week of Roland Garros.

You will receive a Gate Pass to watch the tennis before the cocktail function at 6 pm, but you can't go in and out of the ground during the day as the Pass entitles you to go into the stadium only once.

You may go accompanied by a family member. This is the first day of the tournament .

Members must remember to wear their club tie ( men) or their badge /pendant (women)

If you wish to accept the invitation, please reply directly to Patrick (See the attachment with this newsletter) no later than May 4th. [patribk@gmail.com](mailto:patribk@gmail.com)

### Obituary



Members were advised of the passing of Wellington member Betty Knight, who as Betty Nelson played in the 1950s. Betty took an active part in our IC functions held in Wellington and often came north to our AGM and Dinners. The last many of us saw of her was in September when she came to the dinner, staying with Jill Bignell.



*Betty is on the left with the late Marion Law at an afternoon at Graeme and Jackie Liddell's in 2014.*

### Our Touring Members

At the WTA Porsche Tennis Grand Prix tournament in Stuttgart Germany last week, **Erin Routliffe** and her Chilean partner Alexa Guarachi lost in the semi-final of the doubles to the eventual winners after beating the 4<sup>th</sup> seeds earlier.

 **Michael Venus** +  **Jamie Murray** have beaten Aleksandr Nedovyesov + Francisco Cabral 7-5, 6-2 to win victory in Banja Luka!



**Michael Venus** and Jamie Murray have ended a lean patch by winning the final in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Their closest match was in the quarter-final when they won the 3<sup>rd</sup> set tiebreak 13-11.

**Rubin Statham** has had an amazing doubles run in recent weeks, making a semi-final and two finals at ATP Challenger Tour events in Mexico.

As a result, Rubin has been moving steadily up the world doubles rankings. He is currently ranked 227.

**Artem Sitak** is playing in a Challenger in Rome, where his partner will be Piotr Matuszewski from Poland.

Unfortunately the curse of the bad draws has returned, as they will face the French top seeds, Sadio Doumbia and Fabien Reboul, in the first round.

**Cameron Norrie** is the 11th seed in singles for the ATP Masters 1000 tournament in Madrid, which means that he gets a bye through to the second round.



## BLAST FROM THE PAST

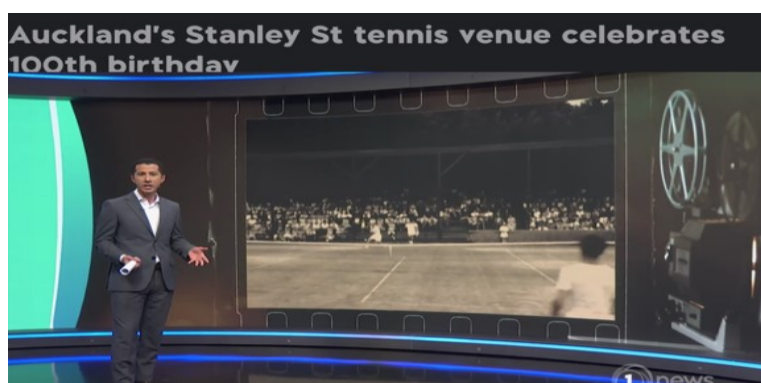
Auckland Tennis Centre at Stanley St is 100 years old and recently some old footage was unearthed ....never seen by current Tennis people.



*Our past and present Hon Secretaries, Pam Sowter and Angela Hart were on the TV News being shown the films.*

Also shown....In 1947 NZ sent its first Davis Cup team away since 1939.

Jeff Robson, Ron McKenzie and John Barry sailed on a cargo ship to play in the European Zone . NZ defeated Norway 3/2 then lost to Czechoslovakia 5/0...a team which included the well known Jaroslav Drobný.



## Club subscriptions

We mentioned 2 years ago that the subs would need to be increased but Zoom AGMs made this difficult to discuss so it was postponed until this year.

The \$50 has not been changed since the days when the AGM was alternated between Des and Jeannette Shaw's and Brian and Margaret Woolf's lounges, with members bringing a plate of food to share !

The last increase was 20 years ago and now through the generosity of Brian our annual Dinner costs have been included for all financial members and Tennis Auckland has given us a seat to watch the opening day's play during the January Tournament.

We pay an affiliation fee to the IC Council and also help to subsidise local get togethers arranged by areas outside Auckland. We hope to have more visiting IC teams to look after in the future.

The Subscriptions Subcommittee will bring a recommendation that the general subscription should rise to \$75 to be approved at the AGM. There may be some subsequent downwards variations for out-of-Auckland memberships but these are still drafts and subject to approval by the new Executive.

## Drop Shots

### Wimbledon remove unique 139-year-old tradition for 'greater certainty

**Wimbledon have announced that they will join the other Grand Slams, by having men's doubles as a best-of-three format, rather than the traditional best-of-five. This brings to an end the 139-year-old tradition, dating all the way back to 1884.**

The All England Club released a statement last week, detailing the reasons for following the Australian Open, Roland Garros and the US Open,

This change was recently approved by the main board and members of the committee of management."

"The decision was made following a wide-ranging consultation and the change brings Wimbledon into line with the other grand slams which stage the gentlemen's doubles in a best-of-three format."

The statement continued, "This update will provide the referee's office with greater certainty when scheduling matches during the event and we hope it will encourage even more players to enter doubles at Wimbledon as a result.



The controversial Davis Cup Final era could be nearing its end as the International Tennis Federation is set to announce a format change later this year

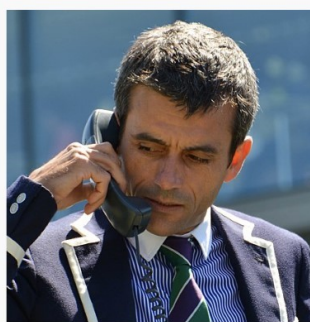
The ITF will announce a Davis Cup format change this northern autumn, according to a Slovak Tennis Association source. No details on the extent of the changes yet but \*something\* will be different.

Most likely the change coming from the ITF will not be as severe as fans may imagine at first.

It could simply mean a tweak to the qualification process, shifting World Groups 1 and 2 back to regional to save on costs for federations, or the return of a full 16-team tournament at the end of the season.

Since the ITF signed a \$3billion deal with Gerard Pique's Kosmos, Davis Cup has shuffled through a number of formats over the past five years, all ending with the Davis Cup Finals. Pique petitioned the ITF to move to Abu Dhabi for five years in 2022 but the partnership was ended by the ITF in January 2023. The ITF claimed that Pique could not keep up with the payments and that they were considering suing for damages. Kosmos filed a multimillion-dollar lawsuit for "unjustified termination of the contract between both parties for the organization of the Davis Cup for 25 years, and for damages to the company" with the Court of Arbitration for Sport just days later.





***A special presentation was made to retiring Portuguese Umpire Carlos Ramos at the recent Estoril Open.***

***He chair umpired the London Olympic Men's Final making him the only umpire to do this at all four Grand Slam Singles***

***Finals and the Olympics.***

***He has been a familiar sight in Auckland over the years.***

***Daniil Medvedev and Andrey Rublev have been friends and rivals since junior days. Recently Andrey became the godfather to Daniil's baby daughter. Daniil won the final in Dubai when they played in March.***



***Young Andrey***



***Fabio Fognini with his son Frederico***



***In the centre, Julian Tatum, an Hon ICNZ Member with Mark Hadley our UK Representative with a young lady at the All England Club***

## Drop Shots cont...

Don has added something to the agenda for the AGM about 'Beyond the Tour' which is an initiative by the Australian IC. They have far more resources than we do but if you would like to read about it click on this link.



[australia.ictennis.net](http://australia.ictennis.net)



**ROLAND-GARROS**  
22 MAY - 11 JUNE 2023

The French Open Tournament Director Amelie Mauresmo says night sessions at this year's event will start 30 minutes earlier than previous years.

Tickets for € 10 are being sold for the early days from 22nd May to watch the qualifying rounds and the stars training on Philippe Chatrier.

The opening singles will be Sunday 28th May.

### Russians and Belarusians have signed declarations to compete, Wimbledon says.

Several Russian and Belarusian players have already signed personal declarations that will clear them to **compete as neutrals** at this year's Wimbledon championships, the All England Club said on Tuesday. Wimbledon announced last month that it had lifted its ban which prevented athletes from the two countries playing last year following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

Speaking at the club's pre-tournament Spring media conference, Club chairman Ian Hewitt said the U-turn had been the hardest decision of his four years in the job.

Congrats to **John Isner** and his wife Madison on the birth of their fourth child 🥰❤️



John has been a frequent visitor to the ASB Classic in Auckland, winning the title twice,

He came with his family this year but was disappointed that the awful weather which hit Auckland in January meant his match was transferred indoors without spectators for his farewell here.





*I ran out of room in the DropShot pages in the February Newsletter, but I think our members will find this interesting.*

**Ken Rosewall delivered the Australian Open trophy to Novak Djokovic — 70 years after his own first Grand Slam title, back in 1953.**

In an era when the debate about the Greatest Of All Time has been restricted to Djokovic and Nadal (and Federer?), let's look at 'Muscles' career: he won four Grand Slam titles between 1953 and 1955; he then turned professional, which meant that he could not play in 45 Grand Slam tournaments when he was in his prime between 1956 until the advent of the Open Era in 1968, when finally Grand Slam tournaments were open to professionals;

In that 12-year period, Rosewall won 15 Pro Slams (the equivalent of the Grand Slam tournaments but only 3 per year and just for the professionals, who actually were the best players in the world back then). The advent of the Open Era finally allowed him, Rod Laver and other greats to play Grand Slam tournaments again and Rosewall won four more Major titles. He even lost two Grand Slam finals in 1974, at 39 years old!

Do the math: 8 Grand Slam titles + 15 Pro Slams = 23. More than Djokovic & Nadal's 22. That puts the GOAT race in perspective, right? That's why it is so f\*cking unfair to compare eras or generations... especially in tennis, with all those years of 'shamateurism' ruining any kind of pertinent comparison. Long live Kenny!

**Scott McNaughton/The Age**



*Our IC Team was so pleased to meet both Ken and Frank Sedgman when we played the Australians in 2019.*

*Ken is an Hon Member of ICNZ and here he is with Angela Swinkels, Paul White and Helen Litt.*

**The Women's Tennis Association is set to announce that they will end their boycott of China this year, according to The Daily Mail.**

All relationships between the WTA and China were suspended in December 2021 amid concerns about the welfare of former world No.1 doubles player Peng Shuai. There are concerns that Shuai is being censored by authorities after making allegations of sexual assault against a former Chinese official. The tennis star has since said her allegation was a misunderstanding but most of her public interactions have been through the state-control media. It is unknown where she is at present or if she can leave China if she wants to do so.



*Well known member Brenda Perry has been the Co-Director of the Wuhan Open for the WTA since 1999 until the suspension.*

As mentioned in the AGM Agenda I am stepping down as President after 5 years, with Don Turner to take over.

Lynette Duncan will become Vice President and Russell Tills will be the new Vice President Philanthropy.

I will continue editing the Newsletters so please send any news you have to share with the members both in NZ and overseas.

The previous Newsletters can be found on the [IC Council website](#). on this link or via the Noticeboard after clicking on the New Zealand flag.

Don't forget to reply if you are coming to the AGM and Annual Dinner before Thursday 11th May. AND if you wish to play in the Brian Woolf Trophy match on Sunday 21st.

For the committee [Cecilie](#)