

PRESS RELEASE
International Lawn Tennis Club
'The IC Club'

Members of this prestigious club are international tennis players, men and women who have formed clubs around the world to promote tennis and renew friendships. There are 34 clubs throughout the world with a membership of around 4000. The IC Club of New Zealand has approximately 170 members including junior associates.

IC Clubs also have Honorary Members who are persons who have contributed considerably to the administration of international tennis.

The main aim of IC Clubs is the promotion of special unions and match play between players and teams from around the world, good fellowship among players, developing and encouraging the highest standard of sportsmanship and understanding among players of all nations and in particular junior players, welcoming and providing hospitality for teams and players from abroad, and providing contacts for its members to players and facilities around the world.

Over a number of years, teams of two 16 year old boys and girls from New Zealand and Australia have competed against each other annually in an IC run event with success being evenly shared. The concept was so successful that it attracted the interest of the world IC Council and in 2005 the event was extended to include 21 countries who played in their zones to reach a six team final which was played in Australia. New Zealand, managed by Kevin Woolcott an ex New Zealand Davis Cup player had a wonderful tournament winning this first international final.

It was decided that in alternate years the round robin zones would be played to find a finalist with the World Final being held the next year. The Australasian Zone in which New Zealand competed was won last year by Japan but as the holder of the title, New Zealand has automatic right of entry.

This World Junior Challenge Final is to be held at the ASB Tennis Centre, Stanley Street, Auckland from the 18th to 21st February 2008.

Eight teams will be taking part. Along with Japan will be Italy winner of the European zone, Argentina winner of the South American zone, Mexico winner of the North American Zone, South Africa winner of the African Zone, Uzbekistan winner of the Asian Zone and Great Britain as runner up in the European Zone.

Players will arrive for practice over the previous weekend with round robins each with four teams will begin on Monday 18th. Entry is free and spectators are invited to come along to the ASB Tennis Centre where they will see some magnificent tennis from the young people of the world who one day will grace their country's Federation and Davis Cup teams.

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