



The Big Serve

TABLE TENNIS SOUTHLAND

October 2025

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING WITH TTS - WAYNE MCEWAN

We have been getting good numbers on club nights - if you have a friend - introduce them to the game of table tennis. If you want any rubbers, contact me - I have some upstairs in the office window.

CLUB NIGHTS

The Eagles Club is open from 7 to 9pm on Monday and Lindis Club is open from 7 to 9pm on Tuesday. (Anyone is welcome to come along to Eagles and Lindis Clubs). Cost is \$5.00 per player.

HELLO CLUB

Access card holders must book their times through Hello Club and a reminder it is for off-peak times only. Hello Club has a full listing of TTS events online.

Hello Club has recently updated TTS to Hello Club V2. As part of this process, TTS members need to provide their email and update their password to activate their accounts.

NZ NATIONALS - 20 TO 28 SEPTEMBER 2025

Results: Of the Teams Events

Men's A Team (E Grade) finished 8th

Women's Team (B Grade) finished 6th

Men's B Team (F Grade) finished 6th

U13 Girls Team finished 6th equal with Northland

COMMENTS FROM TEAM CAPTAINS AND CHRIS ROUT

Southland Men's No. 1 Team – Richard Cavanagh

Our Men's No. 1 Team played in the E grade (5th grade out of 8 grades being played). I teamed up with old comrades from the past Mark Corson and Nathan Kennedy. It was great to have our team back together again after a long interval - well over two decades.

The level of competition was extremely tough with the depth in the Auckland area phenomenal. Auckland Open Men entered 16 teams for example. The conditions were a lot different from Invercargill and a lot of humidity around the stadium made it quite warm playing with not a lot of ventilation depending on where you played.

Our results are as follows:

1. We played North Shore Open Men 8 losing by 5 matches to 2. These were boys training most days at the Tornado Club in Auckland where they train 4 to 6 hours most days and skill level was incredible. Mark and Richard had wins over the third player. We had some other close games in matches.
2. We lost 7 to 0 to New Caledonia Men's 1, the true result does not show the whole picture here with both Mark and Nathan going down in their 5th game narrowly 10-12 and 9-11 in thrillers. There were also some other close games, and it was enjoyable to have an international component to the competition.
3. We lost by 6 matches to 1 to a strong Waikato No. 1 team with some great games. Nathan had one win by default.

This took us into 4th place in E grade, we then played off for positions 5 to 8.

4. We lost by 4 matches to 0 to Counties Manukau 4.
5. We lost by 4 matches to 2 to Marlborough Men's 1. Nathan had a good first up win in winning by 3 games to 1 and I had a great comeback win being two games down changing my game and taking the match 12 to 10 in the 5th. Nathan and myself had a close loss in doubles and a bit of luck the result could have gone the other way.

It was great being able to see other players in action from our other teams and also catching up with friends from other associations too. The one thing that shines out here is that the depth is very high especially in the Auckland and Canterbury areas but also a great learning curve for all players in our Southland teams. The more practice you can do and experience you gain from tournaments like this is invaluable.

Craziest moment for Nathan and myself was trying to find Mark on the first day, he got lost taking the wrong turn where the stadium is only around 50 metres from our motel. Luckily, he found the stadium in the end, but the detour must have been more like a km for him. (A very stressful moment for both Nathan and myself).

Favourite item - Would have to be the dairy free gourmet ice-creams at the top of the New Market mall.

Thank you

A big thank you to our main sponsor Aotearoa Trust (Glasino's) which helped with a good portion of our accommodation bill at Alexander Inn. Thank you to Table Tennis Southland as well for organising behind the scenes with various things to make it happen.

Thanks too to Nathan who put a lot of effort in with coaching the juniors as well. The tournament was very enjoyable and congratulations to Auckland Table Tennis on a well-run tournament.

Southland Women's Team - Megan Parkinson

The Southland Women's Table Tennis team - Megan (captain), Emma, and Yuliya - competed in the Women's B Grade at the NZ National Tournament in Auckland and finished in 6th place.

Knowing the other B Grade teams were strong opponents, the team's goals were set on gaining maximum experience, proudly representing the province, and challenging themselves against a higher standard of play.

Battle Highlights: Wins and 5th-Set Thrillers

The Women's B Grade featured a tough round-robin draw against five other teams, including multiple entries from Auckland, North Shore, Waikato, and Canterbury.

The team's greatest success was the match against Canterbury 3. While we took a 5-2 loss, Emma and Yuliya both secured fantastic singles victories.

Megan and Emma both took an opponent from Auckland 3 to a decisive 5th set in their singles, only to narrowly miss out on the win. In the doubles, Yuliya and Megan fought brilliantly against Waikato, taking their marathon match to a 5th set before narrowly losing.

Off-Court Fun and Team Spirit

Away from the table, the team embraced the social side of the trip. The players enjoyed exploring the local mall, trying different cuisines, and strengthening connections with friends from other provinces.

The atmosphere was positive and fun, with the team enjoying the official photography coverage (despite some intense "game-face" shots). Megan even secured an unofficial but prestigious victory: winning the title for **Most Outstanding Hairstyle of the Tournament!**

This national experience was invaluable. The team finished the tournament wiser, stronger, and incredibly proud of the high level of fight they brought to their matches.

Southland Men's No. 2 Team -Tom Giller

Overall, we played well together and while we didn't have any wins, we were still very competitive and played with a great team spirit.

Issac won a game in the teams' events and I won a game in the individual event in D grade.

This national experience was invaluable. The team finished the tournament wiser and stronger and were glad of the opportunity to go to the Nationals.



Southland Girls' Team - Nathan Kennedy, Head Coach

Our U13 Girls headed to Auckland for the NZ Table Tennis Nationals which started for them on 24 September 1.30pm against Canterbury.

I could see the nerves building but so was their excitement. It was lucky to see them the day before and also to introduce our draft player Emma Zhou who was only 9 but already a wee handy player and surprised our girls when we finally had a warm-up just before we played our games.

Athena and Evie had already played Canterbury in the South Island Teams two months prior, so they knew it was going to be hard.

Canterbury won 5-2 but the scores didn't reflect how close the games were. Evie and Athena played amazingly well in the doubles and nearly pulled off an upset win. The girls took a lot from that match and it showed beating Northland 4-3.

Evie played such a gutsy game and nearly pulled it off, playing some of her best table tennis going down 11-9 in the 5th game. Team scores were tied 3 all ... now it was up to our doubles. Our wee draft player played a blinder combining with Athena to win the doubles giving us the win and the match 4-3. The girls' faces showed what it meant to them ... what a wonderful moment!

Next it was Auckland, and that was a level up losing 7-0. Evie and Athena played great together scoring some terrific points and not making it easy for Auckland at all.

The following day we played for positions 5-7 where we came 6th, losing 4/0 to Waitemata. Once again, we showed determination to the end.

The real highlight was Evie and Athena stepping up and playing some of their best table tennis I've seen, also their support towards each other - a true friendship.

A special thanks to our draft player Emma Zhou helping our girls out and I'm sure the girls have a lot to think

about after seeing the difference between the North and the South Island Teams.

As for myself they made me so proud as their Coach.
Thank you Southland - bring on 2026. 😊

NZ Open Teams Tournament - Southland U13 Girls - Chris Rout

Athena and Evie were joined by Ella from the North Shore club, to round out the Southland U13 girls' team. They were focused on learning from the tournament experience, trying to pick up points and games and a match if possible.

Their first game against Canterbury on Wednesday was competitive, picking up a couple of games for Athena and Ella and coming close in one more, but going down 5-2.

In their second match against Northland they fared much better, winning 4-3. There were a lot of close games which could have also gone their way. Athena and Ella won 2 and 1 game respectively, and also winning the doubles game together.

Thursday morning saw a much tougher game against Auckland's 2nd team. The focus of these games was to score some good points, the team came through this positively despite losing 7-0.

Friday morning saw the team play off for 5-7th in their pool against Waitemata, they lost 4-0 as Waitemata frustratingly pulled the pin on the final games after securing their place in the tournament. The team secured joint 6th place with Northland.

New Zealand Open - U13 girls Individuals and pairs

On Friday Evie and Athena also participated in the U13 girls individuals and doubles tournament.

Athena had a good run which saw her winning 2 of 3 games in her pool and progressing to the top 16 stage. Evie had some tough games, not being able to progress from her pool.

In a smaller doubles pool Evie and Athena were knocked out by Auckland in their first and only game.

Attending the tournament was a great opportunity and experience for Athena and Evie. They, along with their families are grateful for the contributions and to our supporters including Table Tennis Southland who have all helped make this possible. Thank you also to Nathan for his commitment helping building the girls' skills over the past year and providing support during the tournament.

CONSTITUTION

TTNZ has approved its constitution. We will be shortly getting a copy of the document and Maurice and the committee will be working on our constitution shortly.

COACHING

Nathan has done a sterling job of coaching. He is having a well-deserved break from coaching for the rest of the year, so Wayne will be filling in for him - mobile 0274 363 322 (in the afternoons and evenings only) or email office@tabletennissouth.org.nz

Nathan has also resigned from the committee, so if anyone is interested in joining the committee, please let Maurice or one of the committee members know.

END OF YEAR CHRISTMAS FUNCTION

We are having an end of year function / prizegiving on **Sunday 16 November at 4pm**. A separate invitation email will be sent out in November closer to the event with more details. Mark your calendar.

CARD HIRE

Remember card hire options are available. If interested, contact Wayne McEwan for details. Mobile 0274 363 322 (in the afternoons and evenings only) or email office@tabletennissouth.org.nz

ANY QUESTIONS

First point of call is Wayne McEwan but if you have any questions, you can ask the Committee members who are:

Maurice Rodway (Chairman), Richard Cavanagh, Deborah Cooper, Nathan Kennedy and Kevin Toomey.



Cheers from operations manager Wayne McEwan and the TTS management committee team.









CALENDAR FOR 2025

Sunday Group Coaching	Cost \$5 - 12 pm to 1 pm. Wayne: 0274 363 322 (in the afternoons / evenings only)
Tuesday Group Coaching	Cost \$5 - 5.30 pm to 6.30 pm. Wayne: 0274 363 322
Tue 14 Oct to 2 Dec	Table Toppers Term 4 - 4 to 5 pm, 5 to 8 year olds
Thu 16 Oct to 4 Dec	Table Toppers Term 4 - 4 to 5 pm, 9 to 11 year olds
Thu 16 Oct to 4 Dec	Secondary School High School competition
19 December	Term 4 school holidays