

## **UIC News**

*Issue No2 2007*

Please join me in congratulating Wiremu Tamaki on his appointment as plate umpire to the Grand Final of the ISF Junior Girls World Series, Holland and Lance Brown and Cass Seeling on their ISF appointment to umpire at the South Pacific Games, Samoa.

The new season is coming up fast. I can confirm the following dates for Regional preseason clinics. Auckland, Lower Hutt and Dunedin (15/16 Sept) and Nelson (22/23 Sept). Further details are available from your Regional Director.

All members of the National and Regional Umpiring staff were in attendance at the annual NUS meeting held recently at Softball headquarters in Lower Hutt. Having all the expected Local Associations' and RDU annual reports available certainly made a difference. Here are a number of key outcomes from the meeting:

- A full set of meeting minutes can be down loaded from the left hand margin.
- Matters arising from your National Tournament feedback to the NDU have been addressed and are minuted.
- Distinguished services awards will be reviewed annually. Contact Daph Turner or Bill Smith.
- The annual grading review has been completed and last seasons grading list is posted on this website and is available from Local Umpire Associations. Congratulations to all who have earned their new grading. New minimums have been introduced to retain an active grading for Level 5, 6 and 7. Refer to the policy page on this website.
- The New Zealand Umpire annual registration fee of \$25 plus GST will continue. Accounts for last season will be sent shortly to Associations for all active umpires recorded on the new grading list who were Level 3 and above at the commencement of the 2006/2007 season. Accounts for the 2007/2008 season will be sent by SNZ in December.
- The lower and upper South Island regions have been merged. Nicky Ogier will be the RDU and will be assisted by Dawie Sutton (OG) and Rikki Thompson (CO).
- International Umpiring opportunities will be posted on the International page on this website. Notifications will be processed as and when applicable.
- A New Level 7 Group has been established to provide mentoring and knowledge transfer for our elite umpire. Lindsay Edwards will convene this group and will be assisted by Mark McFarlane and Michael Smeath.
- The scheduled date for the Rules Examination/Refresher is 15<sup>th</sup> October. For the first time this examination will be emailed direct to Level 1 umpires.
- National Tournament Application forms will be sent to Local Association contact in early September and are to be returned by Friday 5<sup>th</sup> October. A list of tournament dates and appointed TCU's are listed in the meeting minutes.

I would like to think that you take the time now to revisit your **SMART** goals for the coming season (**S**pecific, **M**easurable, **A**chievable, **R**ealistic and **T**ime based).

Asked, if selected as the UIC, what was the most important contribution I would like to make to umpiring. My answer was: **To actively contribute to the development of an improving environment, to make umpiring membership a pleasant experience.**

I hope you share my view and contribute also.

**Wayne Saunders**  
**Umpire-in-Chief**