



# Across the Table

Newsletter of Table Tennis New Zealand

28 February 2009

Issue 6

## 75th Anniversary of Table Tennis New Zealand

### **The beginning:**

In 1934 some forward looking people got together and formed the national body - New Zealand Table Tennis Association.

The foundation Associations were:

Auckland  
Wanganui  
Manawatu  
Wellington  
Otago

In 1936 the association was incorporated and in 1938 was affiliated to The International Table Tennis Federation.

**The National body is seeking contact details of players** of years gone by, to enable communication regarding the celebrations.

Can you help? - advise the National office.

### **NZ Veterans Open Championships**

Christchurch  
9-13 April 2009

**Entries Close 9 March 2009**

**Be in - enter now and arrange to come to the 75th Anniversary Dinner on Easter Monday night 13 April**

All details at:

[http://www.tabletennis.org.nz/75th\\_anniversary.htm](http://www.tabletennis.org.nz/75th_anniversary.htm)

**2009 signals a significant milestone of achievement for the table tennis fraternity in New Zealand. This year marks the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the creation of the New Zealand Table Tennis Association (now known as Table Tennis New Zealand).**

To celebrate this memorable event there are two functions arranged for members of the TTNZ family to attend.

The first event is a **Dinner and Dance at the Riccarton Park Raceway Function Rooms, Racecourse Road, in Christchurch on Monday evening the 13<sup>th</sup> of April.** The timing of this is to coincide with the visit by many of our Australian Veteran players and friends who will be competing in the New Zealand National Veterans Table Tennis Championships over the Easter Weekend.

There are no eligibility criteria to meet – if you wish to come and join in the celebration please contact Table Tennis Canterbury for tickets at Phone 03 341 5561 or email [tabletenniscanterbury@xtra.co.nz](mailto:tabletenniscanterbury@xtra.co.nz). Tickets are \$60 per head and the fun starts at 6.30pm.

There will be an inspirational speaker and entertainment to fill your evening with enjoyment spent in the company of friends old and new.

The second event is to be held in **Northland during the weekend of 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of November. There will Dinner and Hall of Fame induction on Saturday evening the 14<sup>th</sup>** and we would love to have a good gathering to witness the inductions and to show appreciation for the efforts of those who are to be recognised by inclusion into the TTNZ Hall of Fame.

More details of this event will be announced later. If you intend attending contact Northland Association – Ph 09 402 7695 or email [biandi@xtra.co.nz](mailto:biandi@xtra.co.nz)

I look forward to seeing you there at whichever, or both, of these events. I know you will always be pleased you joined in.

Let's work together to make 2009 another good year for table tennis throughout our fair country.

**Alan Moore**  
Executive Chairman Table Tennis New Zealand



## **What is Table Tennis Participation?**

I always thought (and still do) that participation involved everyone from raw beginners to top international players.

But my trip round the country proved I had the wrong view. Many people feel that only interclub players count – so that means associations without interclub do not exist. Others feel that if players are not part of a coaching group and take part in championships then they don't count- so that means about 85% of our registered players (plus a lot of unregistered ) do not exist. Some associations do not register their mid week or social players- so they do not exist either.

OK, I have exaggerated a bit, but the point I need to make is that anyone who holds a bat ( or a volunteer or parent who does not play) is a participant in table tennis and should be given the same opportunity and be recognized.

Let us briefly look at different levels of participation:

a. **National and International Players.**

Top seniors and juniors who are dedicated to reach their best potential.

They need to be given support by their associations. Support does not necessarily mean money- it helps, but table tennis is not in rugby player category. Support means opportunity, coaching, training avenues etc. Publicity and recognition given also has flow on effect to the sport. Local Gaming Trust funding is easier at local level- yes I know, someone needs to do the paperwork.

b. **Provincial Players**

These are the top players in each association.

All progressed through schools competition or interclub play, then into coaching groups. These are the players others look up to and publicity round their performance can bring others into the sport.

Again associations need to support and provide opportunity. Junior coaching exists in 80% of the country, but drops off a lot when it comes to seniors - many players keep developing past 18.

c. **Inter- club Players**

This can take the form of winter, summer, autumn, spring, business house and 90% of players will be in the group that wish to play once or twice a week because they enjoy it. These are the ones who keep the associations going financially and where most of your volunteers come from.

Do not take them for granted- ask them how to improve the presentation etc. Do not assume what you have been doing for last thirty years still works today. It doesn't – lifestyles have changed, shorter competitions and shorter nights are more in vogue- people don't want 3 to 4 hour nights

d. **School Children**

This is the area of opportunity for all and associations need to come up with new ideas to make table tennis attractive and beat other sports. These players are your future seniors and their parents are your volunteers if handled correctly.

Kids are competitive, therefore associations need to ensure that competitions are available for all ages from primary, to intermediate, to secondary. Coaching will follow for a smaller percentage of players but must be offered. Being able to represent your province in a match, no matter what level is also something to look forward to.

e. **Social, Mid-week, Retired people**

There is a big group of people in this area - housewives - shift workers- retired and semi- retired people who just want the opportunity to play a sport in all weather. Many to keep fit or lose some weight.

Associations must be pro active in this area, only have to provide the starting point and they will run themselves. These people are a great resource for one off help when you need it.

f. **Coaches, Umpires, Referees, Administrators, Other Volunteers**

While some are paid, the majority are not and do it for the love of the game and to put something back into the sport. They are all participants and if it was not for them the sport would not progress. Unfortunately most of our administrators are getting into the older age bracket and their replacements do not exist. Wrong- they do exist but they need to be handled differently. Time is a big factor, meetings are boring. Why have more than two or three meetings a year- fully plan the year then let people go ahead and run the particular event- Give full details to a volunteer- do not assume that what has taken you years to handle can be undertaken by someone with no data. Don't overload volunteers, give them a small task- use more people- give them rewards, shout them an end of year dinner etc. etc.

All the above are participants in some form or another to help the Sport of Table Tennis.

I would like to hear some comments on how to increase our playing base particularly in the female area. Presently 37% of players are female.

**Ron Garrett**

([ron@tabletennis.org.nz](mailto:ron@tabletennis.org.nz))

### **Table Tennis Memorabilia**

Do you have any, you can give to the care of TTNZ or lend for display at the 75th Anniversary events - Christchurch and Whangarei? Photos welcome which can also be included in the archives web.

Any donated will be carefully preserved in the archives and any lent will be looked after. Contact National office.

## Association Development Officers

In my trip around the country I have been recommending associations look at employing Development Officers, either full or part time. Full details will be given in my report back to associations but some brief details are offered here to gain some comment from people who did not attend any of the meetings.

Progress is not being made in many areas because of lack of volunteers or in many cases organizing volunteers. A Development Officer will make all the difference.

This person must have a clear contract covering most of the following; basic coaching, umpiring, administration, finances and budgets, good understanding and relations with schools, clubs, players, funding agencies, city councils, other administrators, organizing volunteers

It is not likely you will get one person to do all the above, without some training. It is important that any appointment does not add further work on to a Secretary or Treasurer who are presently volunteers. They would throw in the job and I would not blame them.

Funding is the only problem and in the present economic climate it will not be easy, however Gaming Trusts still have funds. Have a chat to them – no harm done. Also talk to nearby associations- you may be able to share a person.

With less volunteers available the employment of a Development Officer may be the only way to go. If you do not have people you cannot run things and you can guess for yourself what will then happen. If every player did something to help it would be brilliant- sadly it is not the case.

While funding is a problem, the present economic climate with people being made redundant or working less days, the opportunity may be there to gain a number of volunteer helpers even if part paid.

**Ron Garrett**  
Participation Manager

## World Veteran Championships 2010 China

Hohhot City will host the 2010 World Veteran Championships from 7 June to 12 June.

If you are interested in being part of a tour being organized by Zhu Hui (Steven) please contact him ([zhuhui@xtra.co.nz](mailto:zhuhui@xtra.co.nz)) or Ron Garrett ([ron@tabletennis.org.nz](mailto:ron@tabletennis.org.nz)).

Provisional schedule; Fly direct Auckland to Beijing, to Hohhot.

After Championships fly to Beijing- spend four or five days seeing the sights of Beijing, then fly or train to Shanghai - , site of World Expo 2010 for four or five days and home ( or wherever )

Zhu Hui will make all internal arrangements in China through his contacts in Beijing.

Expression of interest based on (a) very keen to go and (b) could be interested would be appreciated by end of June to enable accurate costings to be obtained.

## Definition of a Club Person

A lot of club members are like WHEEL BARROWS	No good unless pushed
Some are like CANOES	They need to be paddled
Some are like KITES	If you don't keep a string on them they fly away
Some are like FLOORBALLS	You can't tell which way they'll bounce
Some are like TRAILERS	They have to be pulled

Some like you, thank heavens, are like a GOOD WATCH, open faced, on time, good, quietly busy and full of good works.

By Anon.

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