



Across the Table

Newsletter of Table Tennis New Zealand

30th March 2008

Issue 2

World Team Championships China

Alan Moore, TTNZ Chairman, attended these championships as an Umpire.

He has presented an interesting report to **Across The Table**. We decided to publish it on the TTNZ web site and you will find it to read at:

http://www.tabletennis.org.nz/world_team_champs.htm

Ratings - Progress Report

The replacement for the old rating system is still being worked though to ensure TTNZ has a good system.

While a new system is designed & created, ratings will be processed in, it is hoped, a temporary system which is still being discussed.

Wish to have a say on the new system? See page 2.

Entry Forms

Help the tournament organisers.

The computerised running of championships is now common - do your bit by showing your 5 digit registration number on all your entry forms. They are available at:

<http://www.tabletennis.org.nz/registration.htm>

From the Executive Director

Since the last newsletter we have seen some changes. place.



Peter Chard takes over as Administration Officer in our Wellington office and over time will take on much of the work I have been doing. This means my reference to stepping down in the previous newsletter has been extended a bit longer.



Shane Warbrooke takes on the part time job of High Performance Director this month and will be based in Auckland. This is a logical move when a big majority of the top players come from the Auckland region.

Brief details on the appointees can be found on the website in the Chairman's announcement.

On behalf of all table tennis players, officials and administrators I would like to thank **Averil Roberts**, who has been the backbone of TTNZ's office in Wellington since August 2003. To many it was a case of, if you wanted to know something, then ask Averil. We wish her well in the future.

Progress is being made on organizing the World Junior Championships in December at the North Shore Events Centre with the first visit by ITTF Officials, Glenn Tepper and Steve Dainton due in early April. The event will involve 16 boys and 16 girls teams from throughout six continents, totalling 128 players plus an extra 64 for the individual events. Over 50 Umpires and Referees will officiate throughout the week with more than half from overseas.

In a separate article I give my views on our National Championships. Feel free to comment, as I do not expect agreement on some of my suggestions.

Ron Garrett
Executive Director

NZ Open Veterans Championships

The results can be seen here: http://www.tabletennis.org.nz/results/nzvets_results_2008.pdf

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Views on the Future, by Ron Garrett

Before we go too far we need to ask ourselves why we have National Championships.

Obvious answer to that is to find out who is the National, North Island, South Island, and Veterans Champion in various ages or grades, with the Summer Nationals yet to find its feet as a major event.

While there can only be one Champion, others compete to win or in most cases just to take part in a major event because they love the sport.

Some facts to consider: from over 6000 players registered we have less than 400 who play in the major championships. This involves around 18-20 days of the season in which volunteers run events for less than 400 players in total. With less volunteers around we run into problems.

Is this out of proportion? I am suggesting it is. Local association events are receiving less entries and the South Island Championships has struggled to get numbers in recent years. How about if the number of association open championships were reduced to one per region, with associations in the region rotating the open event. This may encourage players to play in North's or South's if there are less open events in their area.

In recent years there have been complaints about the length of the National Championships from 7 to 9 days. I agree and suggest that even seven days is too long. So what can be done about it? If you wish to keep all events (and I am not suggesting we should) then the only option is to limit the number of events players can enter.

We must consider the costs of time away from work, university, and accommodation costs for a 9 day event. It is true you do not have to stay the full time but why (based on last year and expected timetable this year) do we have a one and half day gap between teams and individuals in open, 2 days between teams and individuals in under 15, 3 days in over 45, 2 in over 55. Other events also have gaps.

With fewer associations able to run a Nationals let's make a complete change.

- Run the Nationals in one venue (Auckland) every year.
- Run it as an international event (similar to NZ Tennis Open)
- Run it over 5 days with one NZ team from each of 6 regions based on strength and allowing drafting, with additional players in individuals. Allow for overseas teams. Once developed it may be limited to 4 NZ teams.
- Run a similar event for under 18 and under 15
- Run a National B grade, C grade, D grade event (teams and individuals) at smaller venues round country.
- Limit Veteran Events to NZ Vets at Easter.
- Delete under 21, over 35 events. They can all play in graded events.

Comments and views are welcome.

Rating System

Investigation and looking at the requirements of a new system has been continuing, with the objective being that TTNZ own and control a new system.

There is now a narrow window whereby views can be sought from associations and members, regarding the rating system, and here is your opportunity to have a say.

It cannot be held that everyone will ever be satisfied but good constructive ideas will be very carefully considered and investigated.

Our main constraint will be finance and we are determined to keep the system as simple and straightforward as possible with good reporting.

The main areas that may be of concern could be:

- The Rating calculations
- The Weightings calculations and tournaments applicable to.
- The overall concept of merging all rating points as against separate events calculations.

Current rating calculations here:

<http://www.tabletennis.org.nz/ratingcalc.htm>

Views do not need to be limited to these items however.

If you wish to express your thoughts, please keep them simple and short, with subject headings.

Email - **before April 11 2008:**

registrations@tabletennis.org.nz



New Technical Development

This and other cartoons can be found on the Humour page under Galleries on our website.

If this is your first issue of **Across the Table** it will because you have been registered by your association.

You can unsubscribe - see bottom page 3.

Membership Database

The **Individual Member Registration** system (IMR) is now in-house again and is being administered centrally.

All members must register through their associations.

Our web site page - <http://www.tabletennis.org.nz/registration.htm> gives details together with appropriate registration forms.

Please quote your new 5 digit number on all tournament entry forms.

Be currently registered - it helps TTNZ and Associations.

Contributions to the Newsletter Welcome

We expect to publish bi-monthly

Obituaries

We regretfully record the loss of the following:

Keith Barnes (HV) died 2/2/08
Bill Fogarty (Dunedin) died 2/2/08
Melissa Beazer (HV) died 3/3/08

Speed Glue and Frictionless Long Pimple Ban

As a player of long pimple and former speed glue player I wonder how TTNZ, players and officials will act or react after the changes to the TT laws that come into effect this July.

The ban on the use of glues containing volatile organic compounds comes into effect for all players on the 1 September, 2008. The ban for junior players at international junior events was effective from 1 January, 2008. On the 1 July, 2008 a quite substantial number of Long Pimple rubbers will be removed from the ITTF approved rubbers list. I have been a user of speed glue and am now a user of long pimple rubbers so I would like to know how players and officials will act, or react, to these changes once the dates for exclusion are passed.

There are lists of banned rubbers on the Internet including ITTF web site. The rubbers listed are mostly long pimples from Dr Neubauer and Hallmark but there are also some Chinese long pimples; RITC 755- faster and some short pimples like RITC 799-1 and Tango Ultra. I wonder if these lists will get printed and players' attention drawn to them.

I do understand that speed gluing was already banned in halls except in areas specifically designated for the purpose, but I recently played at a tournament where players glued in the hall and though the Referee was aware that this was happening he did not stop it. I believe that some players are aware of the change in rules and am quite confident that nothing will change without active enforcement. In the case that you are participating at a tournament or interclub and your opposition player is using illegal long pimple rubber or you can smell the glue from your end of the table, do you ask the umpire to call the Referee? The chances are that you will look like the villain no matter what you do.

"Where to from here?" I ask. Does each association print out lists of banned rubbers and notices about gluing or will we see no action unless enough people complain? Is it the player's role to be the policeman?

I can imagine the scene when you tell the other player that you know that they have used banned VOC speed glue or that they are using illegal pimples. The likely reply is, "yeah, so what ." In this case it is obvious that they can not "un-speed glue" and is most unlikely that they have legal pimple rubber in their bag so, do I win by default? Oh my goodness that is an ugly outcome. Do you just play the match trying not to let it worry you? Of course it will worry you and that will naturally affect the outcome of the match.

A separate matter regarding etiquette at tournaments is when a player defaults a match to avoid the risk of losing rating points. This appeared to be occurring at the Summer Nationals this year. I can understand the motivation which makes players do this, but it does make for a soft tournament and it is a bit disappointing for players looking forward to playing as many matches as possible and against as many opponents as possible.

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