



Across the Table

Newsletter of Table Tennis New Zealand

30 November 2008

Issue 5

TTNZ Annual General Meeting Weekend

Table Tennis Manawatu hosted the **TTNZ Annual General Meeting** over the weekend 15th and 16th of November. A very good turnout of delegates from Southland to Northland and all places in between were treated to typical Manawatu hospitality and all enjoyed a fine meal at the AGM venue, the Kingsgate Conference Centre.

A very useful presentation was made by Lynette Fischer of the NZ Inland Revenue Department. Her advice on matters such as payments to volunteers and honorary positions was most enlightening (albeit a little intimidating) and a timely reminder that everyone must be very aware of the regulations surrounding remuneration and of course GST.

Tim Seaholme presented a plan for invigorating our major provincial championships and encouraging our top players to attend more events further afield in future. Group discussions enabled a range of views to be expressed to Tim and he now has a great deal of information with which to tailor his programme to better fit the needs of our tournament system.

Andrew Palmer kindly gave the delegates a brief description of the ratings system he has developed. It is intended that following a successful trial period through 2009 that TTNZ will be able to purchase and fully adopt this new system.

The remainder of the day was devoted to a presentation of elements of the 2008-12 TTNZ Strategic Plan by **Alan Moore**. He outlined the challenges facing table tennis both at Board level as well as around the country. The plan stressed the importance of district associations and their role in producing the best outcome for players at all levels of the game, participation to elite.

Gina Connell gave an update on her progress through the review of TTNZ administration systems and operations.

At the dinner on Saturday evening the diners were treated to a most entertaining speech delivered by **Mark Leishman**. Mark is a very highly ranked off-road triathlete on the international Xterra circuit. This involves swimming, often in rivers rather than flat water, mountain biking and a trail run. The sport is very demanding and requires extreme fitness and high degree of fearlessness and skill. Mark related some of his experiences in Europe and the USA where he competed over the years in a variety of different cycling events. He finished his speech with a quote which was most appropriate, "life is a journey, not a destination"

Awards presented at the dinner were:

TTNZ Player of the Year: **Karen Li**
TTNZ Veteran player of the Year: **Jong Eub Han**
TTNZ Junior of the Year (Ballinger Cup): **Natalie Paterson**
TTNZ Coach of the Year: **ATTA Coaching Team, James Han, Shane Laugesen and Lu Jufang**
TTNZ Volunteer of the Year: **Robin Radford**
TTNZ Most Improved Player of the Year: **Jennifer Tseng**

The AGM on Sunday saw some lively debate on a number of issues. After these discussions the delegates were able to satisfactorily reach consensus on all matters put before them. The election of Board members resulted in a return to the Board of **Ron Garrett** and **John Stapleton**. Congratulations to both Ron and John - your contributions to the Board will be much appreciated.

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Summer Nationals - 2009

Nelson - 24 -28 January 2009

Entries Close 13 December 2008

More details incl accommodation at:

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

Table Tennis New Zealand is proud to be sponsored by:

SPARC
New Zealand Community Trust
Lim Brothers Import and Export Company Ltd

First Sovereign Trust
The ASB Trust
Pacific Sports & Community Trust
The Southern Trust

Lion Foundation
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Thanks must be extended to the outgoing Board members, **Paul Solt** and **David Jackson** for their input over the past several years. Thanks also to **Bruce Northover** and **Steven (Zhu) Hui** who both tendered their resignations from the Board during the weekend.

John Stapleton spoke of the need to formally celebrate the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the New Zealand Table Tennis Association. He very kindly presented two immediately accepted suggestions as to how this could be done. Firstly that there should be an anniversary dinner to be hosted by Table Tennis Canterbury during the NZ Veterans Championships at Easter 2009 in Christchurch. The Canterbury delegate readily agreed to this. Secondly that there should be a Hall of Fame induction at the AGM dinner on the 14th of November 2009 to be hosted by the Northland Association.

At the TTNZ Board meeting which followed the AGM **Alan Moore** accepted nomination to continue as Chairman and thanked the Board members for their continuing support and confidence. **Tim Seaholme** was duly nominated and elected Deputy Chairman.

The Board would like to extend thanks to all delegates who attended the AGM weekend and to their district association management committees for providing the opportunity.

To everyone involved in table tennis at any level we wish you all a very happy festive season and hope you will experience a successful and fulfilling year ahead in 2009.

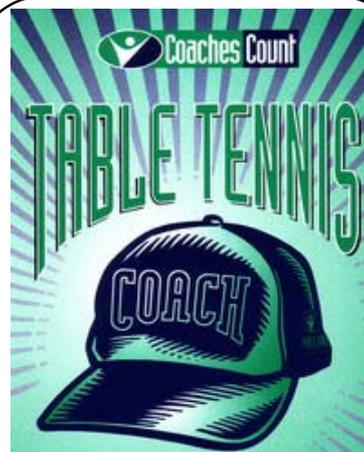
Merry Christmas everyone.

Alan Moore
Chairman TTNZ Board

NZ Team to World Junior Championships - Madrid

TTNZ is pleased to announce the Under 18 girls team to represent New Zealand at the 2008 World Junior Table Tennis Champs in December. On behalf of the TTNZ Board, Affiliated Associations and all players we wish the girls all the best for success and to enjoy this wonderful experience.

Villa Yan, Auckland
Jessica MacAskill, Southland,
Angie Guo, Auckland
Julia Wu, Auckland
Sally Ho, Auckland - non-travelling reserve



LAST CHANCE

TTNZ still has a large supply of the above. This small booklet was put out by the Hillary Commission some time ago, and is mainly directed at helping coaches. There is lots in it to help learner players also.

Why not order some and distribute in your club or player group.

This is the last chance - the supplies will be disposed of soon.

Apply: rradford@paradise.net.nz or
ttnz@tabletennis.org.nz

The International Federation has a **Table Tennis Museum** and publish a TT Collectors Newsletter.

The latest can be seen at:
www.itf.com/museum/TTC50.pdf

Interesting Stuff.

Photo Archives

TTNZ web site has photo archives - access from: Galleries/Archives-Photos.

Feel free to peruse and advise us re missing info.

75th Anniversary

Table Tennis New Zealand

2009 will see the National body celebrate 75 Years of operation.

Keep up to date at:
http://www.tabletennis.org.nz/75th_anniversary.htm

Anniversary Dinner at Veterans Champs in Christchurch - Easter 2009

Visits to Associations by Participation Manager

from Ron Garrett

I have been appointed to the role of TTNZ Participation Manager, taking over from Marc Nichol. This position is funded by a New Zealand Community Trust Grant for the next four months.

Participation comes in many forms. The aim is to increase player numbers across all sectors, including interclub, school competitions, coaching, social, business teams, veterans, disability ("No Exceptions"), tournaments, ethnic groups, high performance.

Some associations do well in many of these areas, others have tried but with less success. Human nature being what it is we're always told about things which are not successful but rarely hear of the good things.

One of my roles is to identify and learn about the good programmes already operating in associations and provide information to others.

I will also be looking at budgeting, templates for event management, strategic planning, available help from Regional Sports Trusts, help with funding applications, support for volunteers and setting up more professional organizational structures, not necessarily involving payment or salaries.



Some discussion points will also include:

1. What is expected from TTNZ and vice versa
2. TTNZ Strategic Plan and how it will work in your area (some parts may be organized regionally)
3. Participation Agreement
4. "No Exceptions" programme
5. Promotion by various media and adapting to suit
6. Increasing volunteers.

To cover all areas I need to visit associations and since TTNZ does not have funding I will be paying my own way.

I have given associations a timetable for visits starting in Northland on 1st December followed by the four Auckland region associations, Waikato, Manawatu and Wellington by 15th December. Hawke's Bay, Wanganui, North Taranaki and all South Island associations will be visited late January/February.

I have asked associations to arrange a meeting of association management committees, development officers, coaches, top players (including juniors), any paid staff, volunteers, and parents of juniors. If any cannot attend the meeting but have some issues or recommendations which could benefit others, I will be happy to meet with them separately – time permitting. Please contact me directly on 027 2019 059

For numbers to increase the work must be done at local level. The wider the base, the higher the pyramid.

Since I have now returned to the Board table I am always interested in comments and suggestions from players, officials and others around the country. Email me at ron@tabletennis.org.nz

Editors note: *It would be really nice if visited associations could chip in with some fuel vouchers for Ron, rather than see his meagre pay eaten away by traveling expenses.*

Appreciation

On behalf of the TTNZ Board, and I am sure from all Associations and table tennis players throughout the country, I would like to express sincere thanks to **Ron Garrett** for his outstanding work over the past year. Despite initially agreeing to a short interim engagement of three months in April 2007 Ron has been involved in keeping the TTNZ ship on course through until concluding his service as Executive Director on the 30th of September this year. Ron's ability to cut to the chase and to recognise solutions to problems has enabled the Board to get through a very difficult year. The work is not over yet to return TTNZ circumstances to any sort of comfort zone, but we are on the way and this is due in no small way to Ron's efforts. He has now taken on the short term job as Participation Manager as outlined above.

Alan Moore Chairman TTNZ Board

Individual Member Registration

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.

Be currently registered - it helps TTNZ and Associations.

Contributions to the Newsletter Welcome

We expect to publish bi-monthly

Watch Your Temperament

Last year, Chinese Olympic table tennis champion Chen Qi lost his temper during a televised game and kicked a chair. As a result, he was sent to military boot camp and forced to do a week of hard labour on a farm. Having fed pigs, plucked cucumbers and irrigated fields, Qi says he now feels like "a new person".

(from Telegraph UK newspaper web site - April 2007)

For more interesting bits have a look at:
http://www.tabletennis.org.nz/files/interesting_tt.pdf

I glue up my bat each day,
In a very precise, exact way,
As I watch the sponge dry,
I sniff glue till I'm high,
And I often forget to go play.

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

You can unsubscribe - see below.

Letter to TTNZ Board from a Life Member

Thank you for the Annual Report which I read with interest. I regret I will not be able to attend [the AGM] although my thoughts will be with you.

The biggest plus in the report for me was the increased activity on the international front, despite the cost involved.

No doubt there are those who would not agree purely because of money?? However it is essential that our players get exposure to higher standards and while you may not immediately get the large improvements you want, it does take time to develop new techniques and put ideas into practice. I really hope that the young players endeavouring to represent their country get these opportunities.

The selector and coaching panel deserve great credit for the hard yards they must have put in. I am sure this would be the strongest panel ever in NZ's history. Not just one or two but several experienced administrators involved – great. I hope there is a follow up to their activities.

By raising our standard there is a good chance of getting a better hearing from the media. More "write-ups" on good overseas results does stimulate interest and gets more young ones involved in our sport. Newspaper coverage is so important. This cannot be emphasised too much.

All this leads me to an idea that may be worth developing. I am enclosing a cheque for \$100 with the idea that perhaps keen table tennis supporters may be willing to contribute a similar amount. It is not a large sum. If this idea was marketed it could get good results.

As persons involved in administration we should be prepared to act in a positive fashion and not just sit back and let things happen. Nothing ventured, nothing gained.

Trevor Flint (Involved in Table Tennis for 69 years)

Board Meeting 16 Nov 2008.

- **Alan Moore** was elected Chairman and **Tim Seaholme** Deputy Chairman.
- Decided that **Gina Stapleton** continue in current role with title changed to Administration Manager.
- Board Members area of responsibility agreed:
High Performance: **Tim Seaholme**
Finance: **Ron Garrett, Bob Inns**
No Exceptions & Coach education: **John Stapleton**
- Umpires & referees: **Alan Moore**
- Technical Committee: Board to appoint project teams as required.
- Board to remain at 5 members meantime and look at the future for new members with skills the board needs.
- Rating System: Approval for contract to be drawn up for **Andrew Palmer** to run a trial throughout 2009 with potential to purchase.

Produced by Robin Radford
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