

LOOK WHAT IS COMING UP THIS YEAR~

Sat	April 18	Nthn Round Robin for Developing Players	Nth Harb.
Sun	April 19	North Harbour Junior Open	Nth Harb.
Sat	April 25	Auckland Anzac Day Open	Auckland
Sat	April 25	Wanganui Senior Open	Wanganui
Sun	April 26	Wanganui Junior Open	Wanganui
Sun-Fri	April 26- 1 May	OCEANIA CHAMPIONSHIPS	Bendigo
Sat-Sun	May 2-3	Marlborough Open	Blenheim
Fri-Sun	May 15-17	TTNZ Coaching Conference	Nelson
Fri-Sat	May 15-16	Southland Open	Invercargill
Sat-Sun	May 16-17	Wellington Regional Open	Wellington
Sat	May 23	Wairarapa Open	Carterton
Sat-Mon	May 30 - Jun 1	SOUTH ISLAND OPEN	ChCh
Sat	June 6	Hutt Valley Seniors Open	Hutt Valley
Sun	June 7	Hutt Valley Juniors Open	Hutt Valley
Sun	June 14	North Taranaki Open	Hawera
Wed-Sat	June 17-27	World Veterans	Manchester
Sat	June 20	Northern Districts Junior Round Robin	Auckland
Sat	June 20	Hawkes Bay Open	Napier
Sat-Sun	June 20-21	Nelson Open	Nelson
Sun	June 21	Otago Open	Dunedin
	July	Next issue - TT INFO	
Sat-Sun	July 4-5	Waitemata Open (Senior & Vets)	Waitemata
Sat-Sun	July 18-19	South Canterbury Open	Timaru
Fri-Sun	July 10-12	NORTH ISLAND OPEN	Auckland
Sat-Sun	Aug 1-2	South Island Teams Tournament	Timaru
Sat-Sun	Aug 8-9	Auckland Open	Auckland
Thurs-Fri	Aug 20-21	NZ INTERNATIONAL (Proposed)	Wanganui
Sat-Sun	Aug 22-23	Wellington Open	Wellington
Wed-Sun	Aug 27-30	Australian Open	Melbourne
Sat-Sun	Sept 5-6	North Harbour Open	Nth Harb.
Sat-Sun	Sept 5-6	Hutt Valley Open	Hutt Valley
Sat	Sept 12	Waikato Open	Hamilton
Sun	Sept 13	Waikato Junior Open	Hamilton
Sun	Sept 20	Hutt Valley Juniors Open (U12, 14, 16)	Hutt Valley
Wed-Mon	Sept 30 -Oct 5	NZ JUNIOR OPEN	Auckland
Tues-Sat	Oct 6-10	NZSENIOR OPEN	Auckland



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Articles and letters published herein do not necessarily reflect the views of Table Tennis New Zealand Inc.

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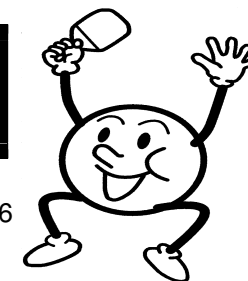
TABLE TENNIS INFO

APRIL

1998



Issue: 6



GREEN LIGHT FOR NEW ZEALAND / AUSTRALIA TEST SERIES



Table Tennis Australia has agreed to play an annual test series against New Zealand. The first series will take place in New Zealand in October this year. Thereafter each country will host the event in alternate years.



The idea was part of Executive Director Mike Brown's new High Performance plan for NZ table tennis and was put to Australia after resounding approval of the idea by New Zealand's top players. Australia's Executive Director and High Performance Manager both favoured the concept and the Table Tennis Australia Board's approval was granted early in March.

It will be a series of three tests, each played in a different location. The number of matches per test will be either five or seven. The teams will consist of a maximum of four men and four women, and a minimum of three men and three women. The five match format is a men's singles and doubles, a women's singles and doubles, and a mixed doubles. Seven matches is the same plus an extra men's and women's singles.

The series is to be played within nine days. This year's series is planned to commence immediately after the New Zealand Championships which conclude on Saturday, 10 October. It would become the climax of a

three week period of international play for the top players of both countries most of whom will compete in the Asian Senior Championships, the New Zealand Championships, and finally the Australia / New Zealand test series.

New Zealand's top players see the event as potentially becoming more prestigious in the eyes of the New Zealand table tennis public than more distant events such as the Commonwealth Championships. It will be happening right here in this country every two years, and will maintain the strong trans-tasman rivalry that already exists.

Ken Wilkinson's Memory Honoured

Both countries have agreed to the presentation of a trophy for the event and it has been decided to name it after the late Ken Wilkinson whose monumental contribution to New Zealand and international table tennis was acknowledged in this magazine when he passed away in May last year.

Tracey McLauchlan of Hutt Valley was named **Junior** of the 1997 year. The selection had not been made when we last published. This, the Ballinger trophy is earned for playing results, sportsmanship, potential, dress, personality, enthusiasm and interest in table tennis affairs. Tracey was named Junior player of the 1996 year which is selected under slightly different criteria. (see Nov 96 issue)

From the Executive Director

At the TTNZ Board meeting of 26 March we faced a dilemma. It concerned, as most things seem to in Table Tennis, money, and in particular affiliation fees from Associations and the introduction of Individual Member Registration (IMR).

At issue for some Associations was the amount of affiliation fees they had been set. At issue for other Associations was the cost of the proposed \$5 IMR fee – they believe it should cost nothing. At issue for the Board of TTNZ was how to resolve these concerns with their responsibility to operate a national sports body.

It seemed that there were two alternatives. The Board could demand that all fees were to be paid and enforce sanctions against those Associations who did not pay theirs in full. Or it could bow to the demands of the vocal Associations, accept what they were prepared to pay, and cut the budget of TTNZ accordingly.

The first alternative is a divisive one. If adopted, some Associations may well have withdrawn from TTNZ, a move I believe neither the Association or TTNZ would profit by. Once a sport of the small size we are starts splintering, it is extremely hard to resurrect. The second alternative is the one adopted last year. It is not something we can afford again for two reasons. Last year we accepted reduced fees from five Associations in good faith because we accepted their arguments that they could not pay without seriously financially jeopardising their Association. Since that decision, several other Associations have pointed out that they too were stretched financially in 1997, but had made strenuous efforts to raise the money. They have now come to us with the argument that since you let other Associations off last year, you should let us off this year. A more important reason for not taking this alternative is that there is very little left to cut in the budget. We are at a level where to expect any more cuts in the budget of TTNZ is to seriously undermine any ability we have to function as a national sports body.

Consequently, the Board has taken what I believe to be a bold positive move. It has taken neither of the two alternatives above, but rather tried to move beyond them with the proposed National Table Tennis Week. There is a clear recognition by the Board that some Associations are hurting financially, but there is equally a resolve that retrenching TTNZ would not be in the best interests of the game. We believe that the Table Tennis community can work together in this week and that an outcome from this will be increased money flowing into the sport.



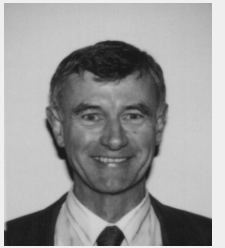
What the national week will do is spark a renewed vigour in Table Tennis. It's an opportunity to attract new members to the game, to publicise Table Tennis in your community and to raise money through a variety of fundraising initiatives.

TTNZ will be working hard on this initiative in the coming months. We'll be involving Regional Sports Trusts, volunteers, sponsors and the media. Keep in touch with your local Association and check out our web-site for more information as we get closer to the event. This is an exciting event for New Zealand Table Tennis. I look forward to your support in making it a success.

Michael Brown
Executive

At the **Olympic Games** in Atlanta, **table tennis** was the second sport to completely sell out. Every seat was sold for each session. Although the venue only held 5,500, there were 17,000 requests for tickets to the finals. So be warned for the 2000 in Sydney!

John Kiley - The friendly face and smile you do not see when you ring the National office. Always helpful and cheerful, John is a tower of strength to the office. He provides top class information to and checking of the magazine and we are grateful and lucky to have his services.



From the BOARD



NATIONWIDE PROMOTION RECOMMENDED

The Board recommended that the Executive Director prepare a paper for circulation to all Associations advising of preliminary plans for a co-ordinated nationwide table tennis promotion. A wide range of ideas were put forward relating to the format of such a promotion (eg public participation and prize-winning opportunities). Support for the promotion would be sought from Regional Sports Trusts, who are set up to offer guidance, assistance and possibly leadership in any form of initiative which promotes local sport and leisure activity. Publicising the sport, signing up new members, and creating fund-raising opportunities will be the prime aims of the promotion.

PLAYERS' REPRESENTATIVE ON BOARD

The Board approved a series of recommendations from the Executive Director relating to the possible appointment of a player to fill the existing vacancy on the Board. The Executive Director is to work with the Players Committee in identifying and approaching a suitable person, and to establish an appointment process for the position in future years.

TABLE TENNIS HALL OF FAME

The Board approved a suggestion that the achievements of players, administrators and coaches from earlier years be recognised and a "Hall of Fame" established. Several people would be inducted initially at an appropriate ceremony and each year one or two more would be inducted. Posthumous inductions would be included.

COST OF NITTAKU BALL

The Executive Director expressed concern that the wholesale and retail prices of the Nittaku ball are considerably higher than was indicated in the Ball Adoption Agreement negotiated with the importer. Exchange rate variations had increased the price. It was agreed to approach the importer with an offer to retail the ball to all clubs and associations through a table tennis outlet (a club or association) at a price below the average retail (\$4 per ball) to ensure the ball is used for local competition and club play. In the absence of such an arrangement clubs and associations are likely to purchase other brands of ball.

TTNZ are committed to using the Nittaku ball for all open tournaments (available at wholesale prices), and will receive free balls for all national tournaments.



Hey look!
We got him to smile!

Director

HIGH PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

The establishment of a High Performance Committee was approved in principle. A Convenor is to be sought who would have the power to appoint the committee with set provisos (eg the inclusion of the National coach and a representative from the Players Committee). The appointments would be subject to final Board approval.

The Committee would be responsible for the development and implementation of a High Performance Programme, along the lines predetermined by the TTNZ Strategic and High Performance Plans.

FORMAT OF SCHOOLS TOURNAMENTS TO CHANGE

It was decided to discontinue the Association and Regional qualifying tournaments which up till now schools have had to compete in to win their way through to the National Finals of our three schools championships. The decision was made in response to an offer from North Harbour Association to host an open National Schools Championship played over two days prior to the New Zealand Championships. The event would be played in the same three sections as before (Open Secondary, Girls Secondary, Primary/Intermediate).

Entry fees would be charged and split between the host association and TTNZ, who would publicise and co-ordinate the event. North Harbour will host the event in 1998 and in future applications from any association to host the championships will be considered.

FURTHER INVESTIGATION NEEDED ON PERSONAL COACHES

While the opinions of a wide range of people had been sought, including most top players, the Board called for a closer look at the pros and cons of allowing personal coaches to accompany players selected to represent New Zealand. They suggested that a representative group of players be again approached in the light of some of the Board's concerns. The concerns include the fact that the travel and accommodation costs would have to be met by the player or the personal coach denying a personal coach to those with insufficient resources; and possible dissension between personal and team coaches.

The issue will not be finalised prior to the NZ team leaving for the Oceania Championships so personal coaches will not be permitted at that event.

ADMINISTRATION OPTIONS

The Executive Director has not yet prepared a report on the various options for reducing administrative costs presented at the Annual Conference workshop. Meetings have been held to discuss possible mergers with other racquet sports. Auckland TTA has offered to prepare a paper outlining their views on the option of operating out of a district association office.

4

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & CONFERENCE

This annual event held in early December was attended by delegates from Associations and Board members.

Ron Menchi paid tribute to the late Ken Wilkinson (BEM), TTNZ Life Member, who passed away on 26 May. Mention was made of Mr Wilkinson's 36 years of service to TTNZ; his years of service to the ITTF and Oceania TTF; his management of NZ teams overseas, and the high personal esteem held of him by overseas officials. The meeting stood in silence as a mark of respect.

ANNUAL REPORT

Speaking to the adoption of the Annual report Executive Director Mike Brown summarised the accomplishments of 1997:

- 21,000 extra funding on top of our main operational grant from the Hillary Commission
- Successful Olympic Solidarity Course
- National Coach appointed
- Individual Member Registration ready for introduction in 1998
- All but two district associations visited in 1997
- Players Committee established
- Strategic and High Performance plans developed and approved
- Work done on improving communication with elite players, coaches and Assns.
- Updating of Office equipment

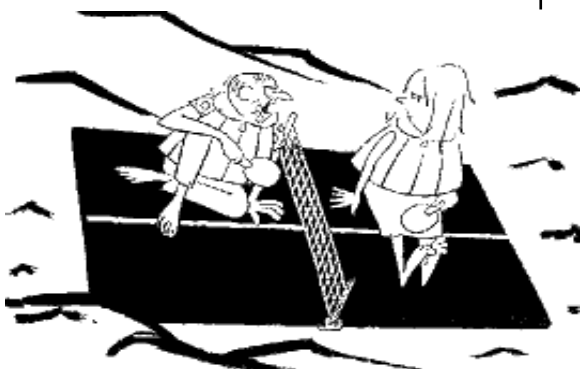
Changes were made to the rules to satisfy the requirements of the Inland Revenue Dept.

Mr Graham M Quirke ACA AIINZ ACIS was elected Auditor.

An attempt by Hutt Valley Association to change the rating system to one of points only going to the event in which a player has played and that the appointment of selectors be carried out by the AGM were defeated.

General Business discussed various topics and during this time Sandra Millar from the Hillary Commission addressed the meeting. She urged Associations to utilise the services offered by regional Sports Trusts and to capitalise on the high profile nationwide publicity campaigns run by the commission.

for conference details see page 12



"If you remember correctly, the last thing I said before the ship went down was, 'Don't forget the ball!'"

Hong Kong Youngsters No Slugs!

On a recent visit to Hong Kong I had the opportunity of watching the Primary and Secondary schools Championships which were held over a period of two days.

The playing conditions were good but no better than many of our venues. All matches were controlled by two umpires.

It was obvious that players were well coached. Overall a good championship to watch and interesting from a New Zealander's point of view. All players served from the

backhand side. Very good footwork and fast movements were apparent. Players had that all important good service receive stance. It was a revelation to see the 11 and 12 year olds, boys and girls, very mobile and mature in their games, many with quite a professional approach. The girls appeared to be several notches above the New Zealand standard. Approx 85% of players used the shakehand grip, no choppers, all playing constructive attacking games.

Generally the main difference between Hong Kong juniors and ours is their superior mobility.

Trevor Flint

5

OCEANIA TEAMS NAMED

The 1998 Oceania Championships will take place from April 26 - May 1, in the town of Bendigo, north-west of Melbourne.

TTNZ has selected teams for the open and Under 20 events as follows:

- Men: Peter Jackson (Auckland), Shane Laugesen (Auckland), Aaron Winborn (Auckland), Andrew Hubbard (Hutt Valley)
- Women: Li Chunli (North Harbour), Karen Li (North Harbour), Sarah Finch (Waikato), Tracey Epps (Auckland)
- Under 20 Men: Chen Lei (Nelson), Jason Ng (Auckland), Paul Innes (Waikato), Vincent Ho (North Harbour)
- Under 20 Women: Tracey McLauchlan (Hutt Valley), Samara Collins (Otago), Catherine Danby (Auckland), Anna Danby (Auckland)

The team will be accompanied by National Coach, Zhu Hui, with Murray Finch and Stacey Hooper. New Zealand will be clear favourite to win the women's team event and on current form the men's team stands an even chance against main rivals Australia. Chunli will be unbeatable in the women's singles while Peter Jackson will start as favourite in the men's. Both are the current title holders, and both swept all before them at the Oceania Olympic Qualifying Tournament in April 1996.

The Victorian Closed Championships (re-named the City of Melbourne Tournament) is scheduled for the weekend after the Oceanias and all Oceania competitors are invited to participate. The team leaves on 24 April and returns on 4 May.

TABLE TENNIS TABLES

By

FREDMAN



Compact Model

\$399

- * NZ made
- * Regulation bounce
- * Painted in regular Blue
(Green available on request)
- * Folds up and wheels away
- * Playback feature (half table up for volley) for technique
- * Plated tube steel legs fold up inside the frame and legs are held open by positive locking hinges
- * 4 models available including club model
- * Send for free brochure or phone 09 2757214

6

WELLINGTON REGION TABLE TENNIS REVIEW

The Hutt Valley Table Tennis Association held an open meeting in late March to discuss the future of table tennis in the Hutt Valley and the wider Wellington region. Anyone with an interest in the sport in the region was invited to attend. Thirty five attended.

The open meeting was led and facilitated by Darren Scott from Sport Wellington. The first hour was spent undertaking a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) analysis.

Some of the main strengths identified were:

- game for life
- good people
- good programme for juniors
- large number of older participants
- different clubs with different strengths

Some of the main weaknesses were:

- participation declining
- expenses and lack of sponsorship
- facilities
- personality clashes
- location of national tournaments
- lack of appeal to women and young adults.

There was a general agreement that the sport needs to attract more "customers" and to do this need to offer more attractive "products". Ideas were advanced regarding schools competitions, interclub, tournaments and social nights.

Another important issue discussed was the possibility of merging of the Wellington, Hutt Valley and Kapiti associations. Some argued that it would be much more effective to co-ordinate and combine activities like promoting the sport, coaching and administration. Others said there may be problems with ownership of property and with spreading resources too thinly. Representatives of the three associations agreed to meet again to consider the issue in more detail. Any proposal would of course need to be approved by each association.

Alan Boaden and Merv Allardyce.



"Now in this final game use your intelligence - but only as a LAST resort".

Our Apologies

We humbly express our regrets at a couple of errors in the November 1997 issue:

Page 13 in the text "Under 13" reference was made to Jaimee Collins - this should have been **Jaimee COLVIN**.

Page 14 in the opening text we said that **Peter Jackson** had beaten **Aaron Li** in the teams events - not so! **Aaron** beat **Peter** in the teams also .

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Table Tennis Week

In June Table Tennis New Zealand is committed to an exiting new initiative by leading a nation-wide week of Table Tennis.

It will be an opportunity to promote the game of Table Tennis both within the sport and to the wider public.

There will be three main aims of this week; to raise the profile of table tennis, to attract new members and to allow associations to tie in with their own fund raising initiatives.

Expect lots of fun, excitement and Table Tennis related activities coming your way in June.

If YOU have any ideas for promotions or activities, contact the TTNZ office *please*.

Remember this (tables in street) from our March 97 issue? —

> *Food for thought?*



Overheard at Wellington's Café Doria in Feb.

"People don't belong to sports clubs much any more. Club loyalty seems to be a thing of the past. These days they are sports "consumers" or "grazers."

"So what's the problem? All sports have to do is shift from cultivating "club loyalty" to cultivating "brand loyalty." When consumers get satisfaction from purchasing a product they become habitual purchasers of it and thus form a loyalty which can be cultivated in the same way as club loyalty. Not a loyalty to the sport but a loyalty to their habit and their expectation of continuing to feel satisfied."

"But how would a sport as low-profile as table tennis create a "Brand Image" of itself?"

"Who says it's low-profile. Sports create their own profile. Their "profile" is their own self-image. Why do people willingly pay a golf or tennis coach \$30 an hour, or pay similar amounts to spend an evening at an indoor leisure facility, but object when asked to pay more than \$3 to play table tennis all evening?"

"Because people pay almost anything if the provider of the service is *professional*, or employs professionals to run the facility."

"Where are all the professional table tennis service providers? They'd be worth the same sort of money provided they *are* professional (earn their entire living from table tennis) People want the best, and only a pro can provide it."

"How does table tennis hold its head up alongside other professional service providers?"

"By providing highly visible facilities, for Example,"

"A table tennis "Theme Park". A stadium with:

- ⇒ Interactive novelty activities (eg, a table linked to a computer which registers when certain target areas of the table are hit – with a robot machine projecting balls)
- ⇒ Variants of the game (eg, three tables joined side by side and three players to a team – you hit only balls which land on "your" table)
- ⇒ An area set aside for top players to practice, with spectators welcome
- ⇒ An area set aside for social doubles play, with spectators welcome
- ⇒ A coaching wing – several professional coaches in residence.
- ⇒ Videos running continuously of top international play, exhibition play, humorous novelty table tennis road shows.
- ⇒ Special events and exhibitions
- ⇒ A comedy table tennis live show at set times.
- ⇒ No charge for admission but every activity costs money, and lots of it. Watching everything, including videos, is free...."

They left the café and disappeared down the street.

CHASE THAT GUY. OFFER HIM A JOB !!

TEST YOUR UMPIRING SKILLS.

Player A has played hard smash. As player B chases it towards the edge of the playing area, his friend, watching the match from behind the moveable barricades, moves one of them back to allow the ball more time in the air. The extra time allows B to reach the ball and make a good return. A is furious and insists that after such blatant interference B should lose the point. "I didn't move the barricade, the spectator did; the ball didn't touch anything; why should I lose the point?", countered B.

Would you call a let; award the point to A; or allow the rally to continue?

(Answer on page 19)

Graeme Windley writes about

KIWIS TO

CHINA

In the middle of December Graeme Windley and Ben Collins left New Zealand to live in Shandong Province, China for two months.

Graeme writes: The adventure was organised by Chen Lei, Nelson's junior import, and he set us up in his home with hostel accommodation, meals and first class training with top players under top coaches, including his father.

After recovering from the massive culture shock (it's very different from New Zealand), including three hours hot water per day and not being able to order your own meals, I really enjoyed my time there. We were training with some of the best players in China. The amount of depth they have in quality players is awesome, but after you see the amount of training they do it's not that hard to believe. We were playing six hours per day while we were there, but these guys do that for fifty weeks per year!

The trip cost a lot of money, but I'm glad I went, as the whole Chinese culture is something worth experiencing. I am thankful to Chen Lei for organising everything and to Cathay Pacific, Waterloo Club and the Hutt Valley Association for their financial assistance. Please do not hesitate to ask Ben, myself or Chen Lei anything about the place, as I really recommend it to anyone interested in improving their table tennis or looking for an adventure.

DISTANCE NO OBJECT, OR IS IT?

The Problems facing a New Zealander

by Peter Jackson

Peter Jackson started to play table tennis at the age of seven in Franklin, South Auckland. He moved to live in Europe in 1987 and played for Ashford in the British League from 1987 to 1989. Ashford won the British League in the season 1988-89. The following season he represented Logis of Brussels in the Belgian League and one year later joined Diest whom he represented until 1995 before moving to France to play for Amiens. He played for Amiens until 1997 when he joined his present club Bruille; recently married he is studying French with a view to teaching the subject. Peter returns to New Zealand whenever possible and represents NZ whenever appropriate.

Sport is very important in New Zealand with rugby number one, followed by cricket. Table tennis has to assume a minor status with minimal television coverage and thus little sponsorship. The mighty All Blacks rugby teams have been extremely successful: they attract the media and therefore the sponsors. It's the same in any country; the sport at which the nation excels becomes high profile and success attracts more people to that particular sport.

The coaching structure in table tennis in New Zealand is not as well developed as in sports such as cricket and rugby. It seems to be a vicious circle: money flows into sports in which a country is successful but you cannot achieve that success without a well developed coaching structure and the basic necessity for developing such structures for improving the standard of play is money!

The problem is somewhat exaggerated in New Zealand, in that we are geographically isolated. New Zealand's a long way away from anywhere. It's expensive for teams and players from New Zealand to travel to Asia for competitions and even more expensive to travel to Europe. It's very difficult for players from New Zealand to gain international experience; if you live on the continent of

Europe it's much easier: you can drive from France to Belgium or Germany and within Europe you can be virtually anywhere by plane with three hours, usually much less. I think people forget that Australia's quite a distance and most members of the Oceania Table Tennis Federation are very small islands where facilities are limited and development programmes are the necessary priority.

Equally, it's expensive for foreign teams to tour New Zealand. Top table tennis players on tour in New Zealand could well provide a major boost for the sport: a showcase event or series of events would be tremendous. The public in New Zealand rarely, if ever, has the opportunity to see top class table tennis. They really have no idea of the skill and athleticism of the world's best players. Such a programme would bring the sport more to the public eye but players expect to be paid. Quite rightly, they are professional. Add this to travel expenses and hospitality and costs escalate.

I'm pleased to see that we are making progress in Oceania with the Australian Open once again being part of the ITTF Pro Tour for 1998. That certainly helps the sport in the Southern Hemisphere and I hope we can maximise the benefits of the event with good media coverage, especially television.

Any sport benefits from having a well developed professional structure for players. In Germany and other parts of Europe there are large clubs run on very professional lines. In New Zealand, as in many other countries of the world there are few professional players and those who wish to make a living from the sport

must play abroad. New Zealand's leading players tend to play for foreign clubs. Shane Laugesen plays in France, Steve Hirst in Germany and the star of the recent Acer Women's World Cup, Li Chunli, plays in Japan. It's not easy for New Zealand players to find clubs abroad.

The problem is that New Zealand doesn't have a reputation for producing high class table tennis players; you tell a club manager that you are from New Zealand and he's not impressed. It's much easier for the Chinese as clubs presume they are good players simply because they are Chinese. It's the reverse if you are a rugby player!

The advantages of being from Oceania? There's one definite advantage and that's being invited to such tournaments as the World Cup. I've played in the World Cup six times. The recent Perrier World Cup in France was a tremendous experience. Very few players in the world have the opportunity to play in such a prestigious event; the tournament was well presented, thoroughly professional and an example for all to follow.

It would certainly have been harder for me to have competed in such a prestigious tournament if I was European and Asian! I'm sure that the fact the World Cup has been held in France for

the past three seasons has boosted the sport in that country: certainly, the French have a very good group of players and the French National League is becoming stronger each year.

Perhaps, one day, the event or one similar could be staged in New Zealand. Extensive television coverage and widespread media exposure would certainly be a major boost not only for New Zealand but for the whole of Oceania.

This article by Peter Jackson was originally published in the International Table Tennis Federation magazine "Table Tennis Illustrated" and is reproduced by their and Peter's kind permission.

NEW ZEALAND'S PROFESSIONAL PLAYERS AVAILABLE FOR VISITS

Peter Jackson and Shane Laugesen are available to visit district associations when they return from the Oceania Championships on 4 May. They will travel the country from 5 - 15 May and will fit in with any activities or promotions the local association is able to organise.

Associations were advised of this opportunity some weeks ago and several have taken it up. There is a cost involved but the associations showing interest have been encouraged to apply for funding through the Hillary Commission's local funding scheme.

Peter Jackson returns to France on 16 May but if sufficient interest is shown the offer could be extended with one or more replacement players.

WORLD RANKINGS

(as at Jan 98)

Li Chunli	28	
Peter Jackson		124
Shane Laugesen		337
Aaron Winborn		399
Andrew Hubbard		425

Table Tennis appreciates the support given by



WHY DON'T MORE JUNIOR GIRLS PLAY TABLE TENNIS ?

Waitemata doesn't need to ask that question....

Recently the Waitemata Association has been attracting unprecedented numbers of junior girls to its coaching groups and playing activities. Entries in regional tournaments last year indicate that some other areas are not enjoying the same level of success in this area.

Association Coach **Brian Keach** shares some of the principles that Waitemata follows when recruiting juniors:

- Target them as early as possible through the schools, primary if possible.
- Make it known to the girls that they can and should compete with boys and win.
- Select mixed training squads, on merit.
- Involve a girl when doing school demonstrations.
- Never neglect the girls. Take every opportunity to assist and promote them.
- Recognise talent; talk to the girls concerned; tell them of the opportunities open to them; talk to the parents; talk to any one that can help you help them; arrange special coaching for them; look after them.
- Give them competition at their own level; introduce them to competition against seniors as soon as possible.
- Offer a friendly place to train.
- Develop a healthy spirit of competition between your girls, boys, seniors, other clubs and other associations.

TELL THEM THEY ARE SPECIAL FOR THEY ARE! WE NEED THEM!

Some comments from the girls themselves:

It's fun; good coaching; lots of encouragement; special relations with North Harbour; we're given lots of information; travelling to places like the Academy in Nelson; lots of visits to other associations; no parental pressure but lots of support from everyone; lots of praise when we have any sort of win....

Congratulations to Waitemata. Food for thought for everyone.

INTERNET WEB SITE

The Table Tennis New Zealand web page is now operative. It's contents include:

1. Association contacts
2. Tournament dates
3. Tournament results
4. The text of all the articles from the most recent Table Tennis Info magazine
5. Personal profile of our "Player of the Month" - not necessarily a top player
6. A "What's New" column
7. Information about TTNZ

the address is:

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

There is scope for Associations to put up information in our web page about themselves.

One thing we are short of is Table Tennis photos. If you or anyone in your Association has any photos they would be happy for us to have, please send them to us. We'll scan in the photos and send them back. Close-up action shots seem to work best, and we're especially keen to get photos of Juniors and Veterans playing.

This years **NATIONALS** at Auckland will be combined - that is the Senior will immediately follow the Juniors. The decision was made to revert to the previous method following widespread comment.

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NATIONAL COACHING CONFERENCE

from Zhu Hui

Table Tennis New Zealand is organising a National Coaching Conference. The aims of the conference are:

- To improve the standard of coaching
- To allow coaches to share their experience
- To involve more people in coaching
- To offer advanced knowledge in coaching
- To discuss the future development of coaching in New Zealand

WHEN: 16 - 17 May (participants should arrive on the evening of 15 May and the conference will end at lunch time on 17 May)

WHERE: Table Tennis Academy, Nelson

ATTENDEES: National Coach
Association Coaches
Administrators

Anyone interested in coaching table tennis. Entry is open to anyone and all are welcome to participate and share their opinions.

COSTS: \$50, which includes two nights accommodation and all meals

Already the response has been very positive. The following subjects will be presented and there could be more added:

The Role of the Coach Trevor Flint (Nat. Coach in the 1970's)

Style and Technique Murray Finch (Waikato)

My Experience in Coaching Juniors Stacey Hooper (Wanganui)

The Difference between Coaching Beginners, Developing Players, and Top Players
Zhu Hui (National coach)

What Top Players Expect from Coaches Andrew Hubbard (Hutt Valley)

How to Improve Players' Footwork and Generate Power Efficiently
Aaron Li (Nelson)

Coach Education in Germany Joachim Kusche (Canterbury)

The maximum time for each subject is 45 minutes, followed by 15 minutes question and discussion time. Each person may present more than one subject.

ENTRIES WILL BE CLOSED ON FRIDAY, 8 MAY

For more information, contact Zhu on (phone) 09 570 9768, (fax) 09 570 9528, e-mail zhu.hui@extra.co.nz. If Zhu is unavailable, call Mike Brown or John Kiley at the National Office, (phone) 04 801 4160, (fax) 04 471 2152.

LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT THE CONFERENCE

CONTRIBUTORS Still waiting to hear from you! - Next Issue **TABLE TENNIS INFO** - July '98

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New Rules and Structure for Petone Club

The **Empire** Table Tennis Club is based in Petone, and with a membership of 255 in 1997 is one of the larger clubs in New Zealand.

The Club recently adopted a new set of rules which made significant changes to the management structure. The traditional structure of president, vice presidents, secretary, treasurer, club captain plus a committee of about seven persons has been replaced by a Board comprising a chairperson and five members all elected at the annual meeting. Board members have a term of two years with half retiring each year but eligible for re-election. The other major change is that the members of the Board are elected to specific portfolios so that it would be possible for more than one nomination for a portfolio and none for another!

The initial portfolios and broad responsibilities are **Activities** (covers the playing activities of the club -running club nights and days, selecting inter-club teams, coaching etc), **Promotions** (publicity, newsletters, special promotions, sponsorship, membership servicing) and **Services** (secretarial services, stadium and table hire, canteen purchasing and staffing, stadium cleaning). The chairperson has an overall responsibility with emphasis on strategic planning, monitoring the strategic plan and liaising with other Board members.

It is not intended, nor is it practical in many cases, for Board members to personally carry out all the functions contained in their portfolio. As appropriate they will appoint persons to sub-committees to achieve their objectives.

The rules provide that the number of Board members and the exact portfolios can be varied by a recommendation to and on approval of an annual meeting so there is the flexibility to make changes as and when appropriate.

Merv Allardyce

KAPITI is a rather small association struggling to survive in the Northern Wellington (Tawa), Porirua and Kapiti coast areas. It covers parts of 2 cities and a district council.

Administrators are as scarce as hen's teeth and those trying to keep it alive have been around for a long time.

1998 however has seen a revival, albeit a small one and judging from the enquires received there are lots of people wanting to play the game out there, if only the facilities and coaching resources were available.

This year the association purchased 4 new, blue, wheelaway, foldaway tables, so with almost with as much effort as a flick of the wrist, they can be folded up and wheeled in and out each night by one person in the school hall where the leagues are held.

Through the efforts of John Beatson, Pam Sutton and Caron Watson a large volume of past, present and potential members were contacted with the result league teams numbers increased significantly and a second night is used.

Two person teams is the option and is proving popular as our mainly social culture seem to prefer a short period of play. Finance and fees are still a problem and the association takes tickets from a Nationwide raffle to boost funds. Fees (table and entry) were increased this year without any problems.

There could be good reasons for Wellington, Kapiti and Hutt Valley associations to merge and Kapiti are happy to take part in any study of such a move to see if it would have any reasonable advantages.

New Zealand Masters Games:

SEVEN GOLD MEDALS TO JOHN LELLIOTT

John Lelliott's clean sweep in the Over 55 and Over 65 events plus a win in the Over 65 teams (partnered by Neil Tapper) ensured that he topped the table tennis medal count in this annual event.

Held in Dunedin at the end of January, the table tennis section attracted solid support from Southland and Otago players. Other singles gold medal winners were (Over 35) Maurice Burrowes, Yvonne Fogarty; (Over 45) Barrie Kendall, Ruth Foster. Other team winners were (Over 35) Yvonne Fogarty, John Fogarty, Peter de Boer; (Over 45) June King, Allister Rapley; (Over 55) Barrie Kendall, Colin Neutze.

NATIONAL SELECTION POLICY

Players for Senior and Junior New Zealand Teams shall be selected taking into account the following criteria:

1. playing standard
2. attitude to training and competition
3. personal discipline and presentation
4. style of play conducive to international competition
5. philosophy of players towards team members and officials
6. fair play attitudes
7. availability
8. attendance at area and national training camps

Players who have played and trained overseas shall be considered on their merits.

Table Tennis 2000 Sydney Olympics Qualification System

172 (86 men & 86 women) will take part in Table Tennis. The singles events 64 men and 64 women will qualify as follows:

- 20 top players from ITTF Ranking
- 40 Continental Qualification system
 - 1 Host NOC direct entry
 - 3 top players from world qualification (decided by International Federation)

Changes in NZ mean last Olympics farce whereby Peter Jackson was not allowed by the NZ Olympic selectors to participate even though he was the no 1 Oceania player should not re-occur. It will be up to the sports to decide representation and not the Olympic committee.



Dear table tennis friends,

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Joachim Kusche

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SUMMER NATIONALS

"I've never been involved in such a laid back, relaxing and on the other hand exciting tournament," said Bryan Keane, organiser of the inaugural Summer Nationals held in Nelson from 17-20 January.

Despite the absence of the NZ representative players and a lower than expected total entry, the introduction of the Summer Nationals is a milestone in table tennis's history and the event could well become an annual tradition programmed to fit in with the summer holidays of players of all ages and standards.

Teams Championships results:

Winning team:

<u>OPEN MEN'S A</u>	Nelson 1 (Aaron Li, John Gan)
<u>OPEN WOMEN'S A</u>	Canterbury (Samantha Palmer, Sandra Moore)
<u>OVER 40 MEN'S A</u>	Canterbury (Stephen Craw, Stuart Wallace)
<u>UNDER 20 MEN'S A</u>	Canterbury (Yi-Sien Lin, Paul Stewart)
<u>UNDER 17 BOYS A</u>	Auckland (Adrian Soh, Allen Tsai)
<u>UNDER 14 BOYS A</u>	Canterbury (Simon Wallace, Andrew Howell)
<u>MIXED DOUBLES TEAMS:</u>	Nelson (Binquan Hu, Jiani Hu)

Individual Events

OPEN EVENTS

Men's singles	Aaron Li (Nelson)
Women's singles	Samantha Palmer (Canterbury)
Men's doubles	Binquan Hu & Aaron Li (Nelson)
Women's doubles	Lisa Boaden & Rachel Griffiths (HV/Waitemata)
Mixed doubles	Aaron Li & Jiani Hu (Nelson)

SECOND GRADE EVENTS

Men's singles	Adrian Soh (Auckland)
Women's singles	Rachel Griffiths (Waitemata)
Men's doubles	Stephen Craw & Stuart Wallace (Canterbury)
Women's doubles	Morea Cameron & Jiani Hu (Marlborough/Nelson)
Mixed doubles	David McBride & Sandra Moore (Canterbury)

OVER 40 YEARS

Men's singles	Stuart Wallace (Canterbury)
Men's doubles	Stephen Craw & Stuart Wallace (Canterbury)

UNDER 20 YEARS

Men's singles	Paul Stewart (Canterbury)
Women's singles	Rachel Griffiths (Waitemata)
Men's doubles	Kirk George & Guy Williams (Nelson/Wanganui)
Women's doubles	Lisa Boaden & Rachel Griffiths (H V/Waitemata)
Mixed doubles	Yi-Sien Lin & Rachel Griffiths (Canterbury/Waitemata)

UNDER 14 YEARS

Boys singles	Kurt Strid (Waitemata)
Boys doubles	Andrew Howell & Simon Wallace (Canterbury)



OBITUARY:

Francis Joseph O'Gorman

We regret to advise the death of Frank O'Gorman at the age of 76.

Timaru born and a life-long stalwart of South Canterbury table tennis, Frank was widely known throughout New Zealand and beyond. He travelled the world as an observer of major table tennis events; he was a familiar face at New Zealand Championships for decades; and was a three-times winner of the South Canterbury Men's Singles between 1940 and 1950. He won two South Island doubles titles and numerous titles as a veteran. He was an able administrator, heavily involved in South Canterbury's bid to build their own

stadium in the early 1970's; elected a TTNZ Life Member in 1975; and was a prolific writer on table tennis issues in the Timaru Herald, Sunday news- papers and other publications.



He loved taking photographs, and he built up a comprehensive library of records on the early history of New Zealand table tennis. In earlier years he also excelled at athletics.

A diminutive, energetic man, always busy, always interested in what's going on, always ready for a chat, always ready to acknowledge the hard work put in by others - Frank O'Gorman's contribution to table tennis was significant and he will be missed by many.

OVER 50'S WILL STAR AT VETERANS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Remarkably, the top four seeds in the Women's Over 40 singles are also the top four seeds in the Over 50's. And the top and third seed in the men's Over 40's occupy the top two positions in the Over 50's. This highly unusual situation is partially due to entries from top Australian Over 50 players, but New Zealanders **Val Beaver**, **Jill Murray** and **Bob Lassen** are also among those seeded in both age groups.

Twenty Australian players have entered from as far afield as Western Australia. Interest was generated by the vigorous promotion of the event by Tournament Secretary **Averil Roberts** at last year's Australian Veterans Championships in Darwin. "We might have had as many as 40 more had it not been for the World Veterans in Manchester this year. Many people weren't able to make two trips in one year", she said.

The championships take place in Lower Hutt over Easter. 64 teams will compete in eleven separate teams contests, and 114 competitors have entered 26 individual events in age-groups ranging from Over 40 to Over 75.

Summer Nationals results continued.

UNDER 17 YEARS

Boys singles	Yi-Sien Lin (Canterbury)
Girls singles	Rachel Griffiths (Waitemata)
Boys doubles	Adrian Soh & Allen Tsai (Auckland)
Girls doubles	Lisa Boaden & Rachel Griffiths (Hutt Valley/Waitemata)
Mixed doubles	Kurt Hawkins & Rachel Griffiths (NH/Waitemata)

Answer to Page 9 Question

If the umpire is certain the ball would have struck the barricade if the spectator hadn't moved it; the point could legitimately be awarded to A. If there is any doubt, a let should be called (law 2.9.2.4 requires a let to be called if the conditions of play are disturbed in a way which could affect the outcome of a rally).

