

Upcoming Events

May	Sat 5 – Sun 6	Marlborough Open	Blenheim
	Sat 12	Manawatu Hard Bat Tournament	Palmerston North
	Sun 13	North Harbour Junior Open	North Harbour
	Sat 19	Northland Open	Whangarei
	Sat 19 Sat 26-Sun 27	Southland Open Wellington Autumn Open	Invercargill Wellington
June	Sat 2 – Mon 4 Sun 10	South Island Championships Hutt Valley Junior Development Hutt Valley Seniors Open	Dunedin Petone Petone
	Sat 16 – Sun 17 Sun 17	Nelson Open Auckland Junior Open	Nelson Auckland
	Sat 30	South Canterbury Open	Timaru
July	Sun 1	Wairarapa Open	Carterton
	Sat 7	Hawkes Bay Open	Napier
	Tue 10 – Wed 11	North Isl. Teams Championships	Palmerston North
	Thu 12 – Sun 15	North Island Championships	Palmerston North
	Sat 21 Sat 28-Sun 29	Otago Open North Harbour Open	Dunedin North Harbour
August	Sat 4 – Sun 5	Manawatu Open	Palmerston North
	Fri 10 – Sun 12	Canterbury Open	Christchurch
	Sat 11 – Sun 12	Auckland Open	Auckland
	Sat 18 – Sun 19 Sat 25 – Sun 26	Waikato Open Wellington Open	Hamilton Wellington
September	Sun 2	H V Junior Development Open	Petone
	Sat 8	Golden Bay Open Tournament	Takaka
	Sat 15 – Sun 16	Hutt Valley Open	Petone
October	Fri 28 – Sat 6 Oct	New Zealand Open	Auckland
	Sat 20 – Sat 27	Australian Veterans Champs.	Perth
November	Sat 24	AGM – TTNZ	Wellington

TABLE TENNIS INFO

Issue: 17

April 2001



Why do our young table tennis stars drop out?
Special report Page 2



Table Tennis Appreciates the Support given
by



Published by **TABLE TENNIS New Zealand Inc.**

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Teams Battle Opposition, And Mosquitoes

Bronze Medal At Commonwealth Championships

Just as we go to press, word has come through that the New Zealand Women's team won a bronze medal at the Commonwealth Championships in India. They had earlier lost a tight match to the eventual winner, Singapore. The men finished fifth, beating Canada 4-0 in the 5th/6th play-off. (Full report next issue. Earlier stories on the championships are on pages 2, 6 and 11)

Team manager James Morris reports that play is taking place amid clouds of mosquitos (not the malaria variety), requiring team supporters to wrap themselves fully in clothing to watch the games through small peepholes.



Amalgamation in Central New Zealand
Hutt Valley and Wellington getting together

Tracey McLaughlan (pictured) was selected to play for New Zealand at the 2001 World Championships in Japan. On 22 April, the team landed at Osaka – without her. Her opportunity to compete at this two-yearly glamour event disappeared when another player withdrew early in the year and the TTNZ National Selection Panel decided none of the available replacements reached the required standard. Olympic player Li Chunli would compete in the Women's Singles and Mixed doubles but with Karen Li unavailable, New Zealand would have to withdraw from the Women's Teams event. This left Tracey selected, available, ultra fit and ready to go - but without a team to play in. Greatly disappointed, she asked the obvious question: **“What is TTNZ doing to address this serious shortage of top women players?”**



Murray Finch has escorted many teams overseas and has been involved in coaching and playing for many years. *Table Tennis Info* invited him to investigate Tracey's question.....

Young Table Tennis Stars - Why Do They Drop

Out ?

When Sarah Finch pulled out of the New Zealand Women's team to travel to this year's World Championships, the selectors decided that there were no suitable replacements available and withdrew the team. Regardless of the merits of this decision, it clearly brought into focus what we already knew – that there is a lack of depth in the women's game. This situation begs the question - where are the juniors of recent years that should be filling the void?

“All the focus is on the senior teams, which seem a long way away.”

My original brief from TTNZ in writing this article was to explore the drop out of our promising junior girls from the game in recent times. The list of those who have represented their country at junior level but are currently not playing table tennis makes depressing reading: Vicki Garrett, Laura-Lee Smith, Melissa Beazer, Belinda Beazer, Anna Danby, Catherine Danby, Clara

So, Kirsty Giles, Aroha Tam, Andrea Winstanley and Stacey Hanson to name a few.

As I started working through this issue it occurred to me that the top males of the same period, Chen Lei, Jason Ng, Paul Innes, Stephen Hirst, Vincent Ho and Kirk George, are also no longer playing table tennis at national level. These players are not so immediately missed because there is a little more depth in the junior boys than girls. However some of these players were competing with (and occasionally beating) members of the men's team 2 to 3 years ago. It is not unreasonable to assume that the men's team would be a noticeably stronger unit if these players were still competing seriously.

So what is the problem? The issue of player drop-out in the late teens and early twenties is a problem common to all sport. If we look below our elite junior players we find that the drop-out rate is just as high. That issue is outside the scope of this article.

I have attempted to find out why our best juniors have given up and what table tennis can do to increase the chances of retaining more of these players in the future. I contacted many of the players and it will be no surprise that for every person asked “why aren't you playing seriously now?” there is a different answer.

However there were some common themes:

- **Demands on time.** As players reach their late teens they are generally leaving school for either further education or full-time employment. This is also the age of emerging adulthood, relationships and a huge range of social options impact on priorities and disposable time.
- **Future prospects in the sport.** Players leaving the junior ranks lack immediate goals to motivate them to continue training hard. All the focus is on the senior teams, which seem a long way away. It was also noted that while the men had the option to try their luck playing semi-professionally in Europe, eking out a living playing table tennis and working part time, this is not a realistic option for women. Most players commented on the lack of communication from TTNZ regarding their standing within the sport and what was expected of them if they were to progress.
- **Costs.** As players reach an age of financial independence the issue of cost looms larger in their lives. The dollar value of equipment, travel and lost earnings soon mount up if players are to remain competitive and improve their national and international standing.
- **Key relationships.** A disturbing number of players identified the breakdown of key table tennis relationships (with coaches, administrators and others) as a significant part of the reason for their loss of interest in table tennis.
- **Politics.** The politics of selection were also commonly brought up. While the players want input and direction from the selectors they also expect them to maintain professionalism. Two players specifically identified rumours of a young player telling people of his selection for the Commonwealth Championships well before the team was announced as an example of the leaks that have happened too often in the past. This type of thing distracts players from their primary tasks - training and competing, and often disrupts players' relationships with fellow players making the table tennis environment unpleasant and training difficult.

What can we do to improve the situation? With the limited human and financial resources available there is only so much that can be done for this sector of the table tennis family, and the players were sympathetic to this. Here are some of their suggestions:

- **Communicate.** If players have been identified by selectors and coaches as a key part of the future plans, then tell them. And find out their thoughts and plans. Players are not mind-readers, they need support, direction and encouragement if they are going to continue to make the sacrifices necessary to achieve their potential. One current player was unaware of what TTNZ's strategic plan was – especially in relation to high performance.
- **Provide shorter-term objectives.** Once ‘targeted players’ are out of the junior age-groups they need incentives to strive for as part of their table tennis career development and motivation. These would be development type tours of countries with a strong table tennis infrastructure, combining competition and training.

From a coach's perspective, I see this as being particularly advantageous because it will shorten the time between when players becomes a part of the national team and when they become competitive at international level.

Continued page 5

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From page 3

- **Make it easy to play.** The most important aspect of developing our prospective senior representatives is making sure that they play table tennis, and lots of it. Once TTNZ has identified the players it sees as important to the high performance future then it needs to work with each player's local association to ensure that it is as easy for the player as possible to get access to quality training facilities (at a reasonable cost) and training partners. This may be as simple as encouraging players from neighbouring associations to train together. The players were unanimous in identifying training camps, and especially early season camps, as an important part of their planning and motivation.

A very positive move in the combining of education and table tennis has been made by Table Tennis Canterbury and Lincoln University with the table tennis scholarship programme. This initiative targets precisely the age-group represented by this article. It must be fully supported and utilised. It should also act as a catalyst to TTNZ and major associations to explore similar possibilities.

In addition to this it is important that TTNZ monitors the player's environment. If a player falls out with a 'big player' in their local scene it can often seem too difficult to carry on. TTNZ can help mediate problems in this area.

It is also important to understand that there may be times when players find that table tennis is a very low priority as they develop their education and careers. This doesn't necessarily mean that they are lost to the game. If they can be encouraged to play at some level for a period of time, they may well be able to resume their competitive table tennis career when the demands on their time reduce.

In summary, if we expect players that are targeted as potential future senior national representatives to stay in the game long enough to do so we have to help them. Spend resources (mainly time but also money) to support them, give them direction and encourage them to strive for excellence.

This brings into focus the use of resources within table tennis, an issue that is and should be constantly under review. As we all know there is only so much time, so many skills and so much money to go around. The Board is charged with making decisions on the use of the resources, and each decision to apply resources to one area comes at the sacrifice of another. The Board appears to have a policy of pursuing short-term international results above all else at the high performance level. This means the majority of the resources (the hours of those with the skills and time available in this field as well as funds) are being applied to a very small group of elite players that are widely acknowledged to have only a short-term future in the sport. Therefore there are few resources available for emerging players. The Board presumably hopes that good results from these players will bring a profile to the sport that will make it much easier to attract funding and players to the sport and solve many of the problems that we have. This may well be right (I hope so), but if it's wrong the players represented by this article and similar players in the near future will have been lost for nothing.

The final word should go to the player who said "the waste of the loss of so many talented players will be nothing compared with the total waste if 'they' (TTNZ and local associations) don't listen to the players' reasons why."

My thanks to players and former players who spoke so openly with me as I researched this article.

Murray Finch



Commonwealth and World's Preparation

My Serve

from **James Morris**

A discussion with the Sports Foundation last year made me realise that for our low profile sport to obtain funding to prepare for international events, the money has to be self-generated. But I believe that, for a team to perform to their potential, this money needs to be raised to create the right pre-event environment.

In October I sought sponsorship to fund a professional approach to our elite players' preparation for the Commonwealth and World Championships. I developed a comprehensive proposal outlining the needs of the players, including physiotherapy and massage, fitness testing and team building sessions. Players from overseas were sought to assist our players on the tables. It culminated in a 10-day training camp, in Whangarei, from 1 – 10 April.

The successful outcome of the sponsorship enabled the players to travel to the camp at no cost. It was disappointing that due to overseas commitments Shane Laugeson and Peter Jackson could not be part of the build-up as their match play and variety was missed. Whole team building is difficult without all members.



L to R: Front row: **James Morris, Karen Li, Aaron Li, Li Chunli, Andrian Soh**. Back row: **Tracey McLauchlan, Samuel Coutolleau (England), Peter Craven, Mark Addis (Fitness Trainer)**.

The camp was held in Whangarei to serve the sponsor: Rhynos, a large restaurant linked to the southern region charitable trust. The Northland Table Tennis Centre is ideal for elite camps because it is adjacent to a large fitness facility and sports park. With the extension built in 2000, live-in accommodation is available and comfortable. The players worked hard and feel prepared to perform. When you read this article the championships will still be in progress. The team returns on 9 May.

Positive feedback from the players who attended the camp reinforced to me the benefits and the need to create an environment where players can focus on the performance task ahead. These camps should be non-negotiable. Finding a solution to the cost is a worry but with the players prepared and ready, the medals may come and the flow-on is that the Sports Foundation will recognise us with more funding.

I have realised how much this camp cost for 10 people. Similar camps for rugby and cricket players with experts must run into hundreds of thousands of dollars. It's been hard work, but I'm satisfied that I have given the players the opportunity to focus on performing at these two international championships. It's now up to them.

Cheers

James

AMALGAMATION PROCESS BEGINS

At the Wellington TT AGM and a Hutt Valley TT Special General Meeting held simultaneously on March 13, similar resolutions were overwhelmingly passed enabling the amalgamation of the associations' executive committee. A number of administrators have been working hard on this over the past 12 months, and should the initial arrangement work successfully, the associations should be fully amalgamated in the next two years.

Both associations have weighed up the positives against the negatives and have realised that not only is amalgamation a way of securing the survival of table tennis in the region, but it creates opportunities for the sport to grow like never before. The intention is that both committees can utilise the skills of the members of the other association. The more active administrators there are, the less each of them has to do. This enables every person to specialise in areas of their expertise, developing that portfolio to its maximum potential. With seventeen collective members, the combined committee has already established sub-committees in the categories of interclub, tournaments, publicity/fundraising, coaching/training/development, amalgamation, and several others. It is hoped that the successful consultation strategy with clubs can continue, so that all clubs' concerns can be taken into account and dealt with throughout the amalgamation process. A larger committee makes communication far easier.

A major advantage of having a larger body is to have more weight when dealing with other institutions and media. There has already been a close relationship with Sport Wellington, who are regularly dealing with the Wellington City Council. Both are in favour of dealing with regionalised bodies as opposed to independent and isolated associations. TTNZ have also expressed their support for a merger. The benefit of having only one regional association has proved successful early on (as was the expectation), with one publicity officer appointed for the region getting a chance to meet the sports editor of the Evening Post. With two articles and a large photo already appearing in the newspaper in the first two weeks, as well as guarantees for coverage of all news and tournaments, things are looking promising. With a variety of other campaigns and a serious search for event sponsors planned, the profile of table tennis could rise dramatically in the area.

The successful junior development policy that has seen Hutt Valley clubs grow substantially in the past 18 months, will be gradually implemented in the Wellington suburbs that have little table tennis infrastructure. Funding for this is obviously now easier to co-ordinate and far more likely from certain sources. It is proposed that the same launch of table tennis into schools will occur in the northern suburbs (from Porirua to Paraparaumu) in 2002 and 2003. Interclub is already combined in the top grades, and now tournaments could benefit from having more personnel.

Generally, the mood is positive, and the partial amalgamation has further strengthened what was already a close relationship between the two associations. It provides an example how differences and individualistic pride can be put aside, and a cohesive administration can be adopted for the overall benefit of the sport. This is hopefully the beginning of a new era of table tennis in the Wellington region.

Greg Smith
Table Tennis Wellington



Between fifty and sixty thousand volunteer support workers attended the Sydney 2000 Olympic and Paralympic Games. **Val Scarr** was one of them...

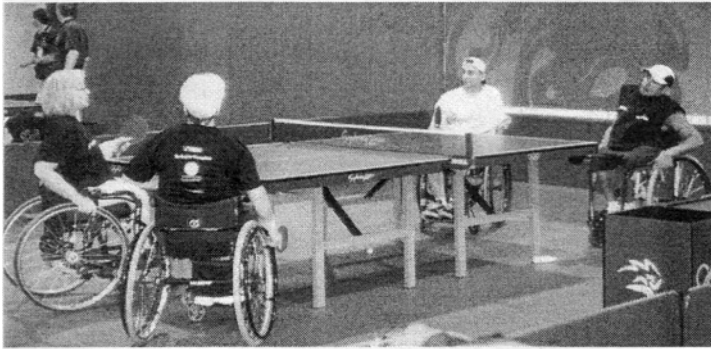
An Experience of a Lifetime

What memories I have, and what an experience to be part of the Olympics and Paralympics!!

Jim & Reta Craig (Aussie Vets Table Tennis) kindly billeted me for the month so I was quite close to the Olympic Venue at Homebush Bay. Everything was very organised and my uniform was issued in an hour. Each working area throughout the Olympics had different coloured sleeves on their uniform for easy recognition. (Blue: field of play; Red: medical; Purple: transport; and Yellow: spectator services. Our ID, which we had to wear all the time, also gave us free travel. Security was very strict for the Olympics, but less formal for the Paralympics. To get to the State Sports Stadium, I had to go through four security checks.

I was the only Kiwi volunteer in the Table Tennis and my job was to help run the players lounge, making sure everything was available and that security for the players was maintained. The lounge overlooked the practise area which was set up exactly like the official playing area. My shift started at 3.30pm until late at night. Most countries arrived early, but the top players didn't arrive until a few days before the start as they were practising out of Sydney. Each country had time allocated to them for practise in the main area. We were able to see quite a few matches and to support our Kiwi players. On the final night we were all called in to act as security in the main stadium as the media were moving out of their allotted area.

I had a fortnight break before the Paralympics started and from the beginning this was full on. The atmosphere was electric and the players were overwhelmed with what the Australians had put on. Again my job was in the players' lounge, and boy, did they keep us working. My shift started at 8.30am through to 4pm - helping in the lounge, picking up balls in the practise area, and pushing wheelchairs



In the practise area.

up ramps so the players could watch the competition. It was a busy 18 days.

Many new friends were made. Most of us were given a Closing Ceremony ticket and mine was in the last row right up the top. Quite an achievement just getting to the seat. The organisation was great with 110,000 people cleared from Homebush Bay in 2 hours - a train every 4 minutes.

To see the world's best and to be a part of it has been a real highlight - one I will never forget.

Val Scarr

I was honored to be offered the chance to umpire at the Paralympic Games in Sydney from 18 – 29 October last year. My sincere thanks to TTNZ, Oceania TT Federation, The Waterloo Club and Lindsay Lewer and the staff of Resene Paints Ltd who helped make this possible.

I left on 15 October. Even though my accreditation hadn't arrived, once I touched base with a 'Paralympic Family' member at Sydney airport, I was fast tracked through. Along with Kate Brill from Fencing I was taken by car to the accreditation centre. After a slight hiccup (I wasn't in their computer) all was sorted and accreditation accomplished. We were then transported to the high security Olympic Village where we were to be accommodated. The Umpires were known as International Technical Officers (ITO's) and had our own Resident Centre in the Village. I checked in, was given my key and map and I set off to my room. That was a surprise. I found my room-mate was a man. For some reason I was not allowed to stay there, so back I go to the Resident Centre. They had me listed as MR. Averil Roberts!! Finally another room was found for me but unfortunately not with the table tennis officials. My new roomies were Swimming officials. Very nice too. I actually ended up with a double room to myself plus a bathroom I rarely had to share, which was great. Our building was situated almost in the centre of the Village, a 5-10 minutes walk one way to the International sector where there was a small dining hall, disco, gym, movie theatre, hairdresser, P.O., shops etc; and 5 minutes walk the other way to the main dining hall and the transport. There was also a shuttle bus circling the village which stopped outside our door every few minutes. We generally walked everywhere though as with all the food we were consuming we needed the exercise. The dining halls were open 24 hours a day and everything was complimentary. NOT good for the waistline I can assure you. The ITO's had a special seating area but we sometimes joined the athletes.

On 16 October I joined the procession to the uniform distribution centre to be fitted with my uniform. What a huge place. I was issued with a blazer, 2 pairs of trousers, shoes, 2 business shirts and a scarf which was the official umpiring uniform, plus 2 polo shirts, jacket, raincoat, sports bag, backpack, bum bag and other bits and pieces. Amazing. The rest of that day and the next couple were taken up with meetings, briefings and learning to use Assistant Umpires Swiss Timing Machines. These were little computers which projected the players numbers, names, country and scores on an electronic scoreboard for the audience to see. Only a few of the umpires had seen one of these contraptions before. Thankfully I managed them O.K but there were some funny stories from other umpires. The Stadium was the same as used for the Olympics and about a 10 minute bus trip from the Village.

The 18th was the Opening Ceremony which we all attended. Absolutely magnificent. Afterwards most of us ITO's and lots of athletes walked and wheeled our way back to the village. Amazing atmosphere. Everyone so friendly and happy even though it took some time to all get through security.

Next morning – 19th – our work began in earnest. Four days of team events and most of us did three sessions a day – about 9 hours. The first day I did 4 sessions. Very draining.

At the beginning of each session the umpires involved marched out to their respective tables and waited for the athletes to be announced. This looked very impressive as the uniforms were very smart. My first umpire was a Mens Class 4 Wheelchair. Scarey at first remembering the extra rules, but after that first one it became easier.

Classes 1-5 are all wheelchair events with 1 being the most disabled. You just have to admire the players. The standing events Classes 6-10 were mind blowing. With the deformities and disabilities some of these players had you would not credit they could play table tennis let alone to the very high standard they did. The class 10 players who are the least physically disabled, both men and women, would give our top players a fright. Class 11 was for the intellectually impaired. I umpired a couple of semi final teams events and a bronze medal class 8-9 men.

After the teams finished we had our only free day. One of the NSW based umpires organised a bus tour to the Blue Mountains region on which about 35 of us went and had a most enjoyable day.

The next two days were really busy with all the individual round robins and post section play. I umpired a few semi-finals, assisted in 3 bronze playoffs, then came my big one. I umpired the bronze medal match for Class 10 men between a Swede (Andersson) and Chinese (Lu). When the medal matches started the umpiring format was changed. Instead of the Umpire using flipcards, there were two corner flippers, the assistant using the Swiss Timing machines and the Umpire using hand signals. Panic time as I had never done that before. Only two tables were being used by this time. I had to lead the Umpires procession out, then we were announced, and then the players were announced. The match was a marvellous, close 3 setter with some incredible rallies, and what made it even better, I didn't make a mistake. Phew!! All of a sudden the Games were nearly over. The table tennis finished on the Saturday night.

In my spare time I managed to visit some of the other sports such as tennis, athletics, wheelchair basketball, sitting volleyball, goalball, and was able to see our New Zealand Wheelblacks beat Canada for the bronze medal in the wheelchair rugby. What an incredible game. Those guys were mad. I also visited the New Zealand House in the Village and introduced myself.

The Closing Ceremony was a very fitting finale to the Games. Afterwards again we all walked back to the village. Then there was a masquerade party being held in the International zone so most of us went but didn't dress up as there was no time. What a wonderful, sad, amazing evening. It was all over. I will never forget the athletes in wheelchairs, including a few table tennis players, dancing in their chairs at the dance club. What incredible people they all were.

The memories from this Tournament will stay with me for a very long time. It seem to me an awful shame more T.V. coverage wasn't accorded these athletes. I have the utmost admiration for all of them. It was a very humbling experience being involved. I thank all those who assisted me in any way to get there.



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COMMONWEALTH AND WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

New Delhi, India (14 – 20 April); Osaka, Japan (23 April – 6 May)

Andrew Sanders' splendid article on the back page of the Sunday Star-Times on 8 April gave the whole country a comprehensive preview of these two major international events from the New Zealand team's perspective. There is further reference to the team's build-up in James Morris's "My Serve" on page 6; and Murray Finch's investigation into junior player drop-out (page 2), mentions the circumstances surrounding the withdrawal of the Women's team from the World Championships.

In the next issue we will be able to report on the results but for the moment we can only wish the players (Li Chunli, Karen Li, Tracey McLauchlan, Aaron Li, Peter Jackson, Shane Laugesen, Peter Craven and Adrian Soh) and the coaches (James Morris and Simeon Cairns) the very best of luck. There are definite medal chances for both teams and several individuals at the Commonwealth Championships.

New Zealand table tennis owes a large debt to all the table tennis officials who spent an enormous amount of time securing Aaron Li's New Zealand Citizenship in time for him to participate in these championships. Having Aaron in the team for the first time is a tremendously exciting prospect. (See also "Send a Fax" page 16).

NATIONAL SELECTION PANEL

In a few weeks an official notification will be sent to all Associations advising that applications for positions on the three member National Selection Panel for the two year term 2002/3, are being sought. Applicants will be required to forward their CV to the national office, with a covering letter summarising their credentials, experience, and suitability for the job. The process of appointing the panel from the applications received will be determined by the Board at its next meeting.

The National Selection Panel selects teams to represent New Zealand at senior, junior and veteran level and also selects participants at national training camps. Its members need to be available to attend the NZ Championships, the North or South Island Championships, and a variety of district championships (the more the better).

Now is the time for anyone interested in applying to begin preparation. Anyone may write to the National Office of TTNZ, PO Box 867, Wellington, to express interest at any stage and they will be sent information on the application process and a job description. The positions are voluntary but budgeted expenses are re-imbursed.

LAW UNTO THEMSELVES

We now understand why the table tennis at the annual Masters Games, played alternately in Wanganui and Dunedin, does not wish to be conducted under the control of TTNZ – they have their own rules.

In Wanganui last February a player from Ohakune received a cellphone call during his singles match, went to his bag under the table, took out the offending utility and chatted for five minutes while a stunned opponent stood stock-still at the other end.



What was the umpire doing? Looking through his own bag for his rule book?

Remarkable effort by **Manurewa**

MARIE RAU reports on a remarkable effort from a table tennis club (yes, club – not an Association). Already the owners of their own premises (since the 1960's), the Manurewa Table Tennis Club has just completed a major building extension

WE HAVE DONE IT. We have extended our clubrooms. We have added on a \$300,000 addition which more than doubles our playing area, adds a new lounge, new kitchen and toilet facilities, and an impressive new entrance. All we need now is new tables (which are due in May), a little more volunteer labour to complete the upgrade of the old facilities, and all will be complete except the carpark.

How have we done it? We had a grant of \$111,000 from the ASB Bank Community Trust, a \$40,000 grant from the Lotteries Grants Board, \$3,000 from the Roadhouse Bar and Diner (for nets and chairs), and the rest we have accumulated over many, many years. We have been real little squirrels. We have also been able to save money by acquiring second hand carpet for the lounge and obtaining kitchen fittings being removed to make way for a new kitchen. And our volunteer help has been exceptional with many members spending hours and hours painting, repairing the old floor, repairing doors, etc.



Yes, we are going to end up with a small debt but we will try and eliminate this by selling advertising space on barriers, walls, etc, and by letting out the older part of our premises as it can be separated from the new by internal doors.

The Counties Manukau Table Tennis Association will be playing all its interclub and all tournaments in the hall and they too have been generous with their assistance by way of a loan.



"O.K. First thing we've got to do is get some of that weight off."

We applied to the Manukau City Council in 1984 to extend our clubrooms and were told not to go ahead as they could not guarantee the renewal of our lease (the land at the time was leased by the Council from Railcorp and sub-leased to us). After much discussion the Council then granted us another block of land and offered us a \$150,000 grant. We had to raise a quarter of that amount and pay back \$75,000 free of interest. Unfortunately, they would not accept our proposed building (a barn shaped construction) which, they said, did not fit in with their environmental concept of the area. Now, 17 years later, our extension has cost us twice as much and we are on the same block of land as we were at the beginning. We often feel that our Council owes us something.

We opened for this season on 3 April and have had more club nights since. If attendances at these nights are anything to go by we should be in for a really good season which will mean that our efforts have been really worthwhile.

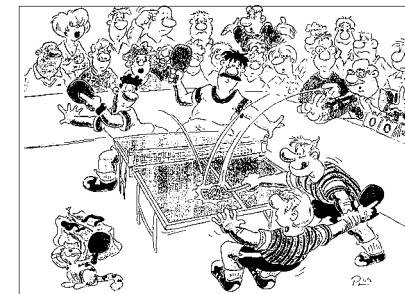


Novelty Table Tennis

Some more novelty and alternative ways of playing the game, to add to those published in the last issue. Further contributions are welcome.

"DOUBLES ONLY" TEAM CONTESTS

- **Three Person Teams:**
Three matches per contest
Each person plays two doubles
Matches best of 3 games to either 21 or 11
- **Four Person Teams:**
Six matches per contest
Each person plays three doubles
Matches best of 3 games to either 21 or 11
- **Four Person Teams (single game matches):**
Six matches per contest
Each person plays three doubles
Matches one game only, to either 21 or 31



Result sheets specially designed for these contests can be printed out from the TTNZ web site. They are also available from the National Office free of charge.

TARGETS

A flat target is placed at each end of the table. If the ball hits the target the striker earns a bonus point. Anything from a five cent piece to a dinner plate can be used depending on the skill of the players.

TREBLES

- Three tables are placed as close together as the net posts will allow.
- Teams of three players compete - one player behind each table.
- Each player must return the ball that lands on his/her table, but can return it to whichever table they choose.
- The only restriction is that the server cannot make consecutive serves to the same receiver.
- Scoring is the same as normal.
- After five serves (all serves are delivered from the table on the serving team's far right) the server moves to the table on the far left, and the other two players move one place to the right. The receiving team remain at their original tables. After becoming the serving team, they rotate in the same way after five serves.

"ANYTHING GOES" TABLE TENNIS

Players play with anything except a table tennis bat. The wide variety of sounds produced could make "The *Pang, Peng, Ping, Pong, Pung* Tournament" a more appropriate name.

BARRY WYNKS (QSM) MADE LIFE MEMBER BY **Manawatu**

Barry Wynks was awarded life membership of Table Tennis Manawatu recently for his contribution to the sport over many years.

Known by many names (Winkles, Wynksy, Baz and others that cannot be mentioned), Barry's involvement in Table Tennis has encompassed the entire spectrum. His contribution as a player, administrator, coach, spokesman and Table Tennis personality has been huge.

Most are reluctant to use words like "disabled" or "having a handicap" when talking about Barry. Yes, he has a short right arm and an artificial right leg but those of us that have competed with or against Barry never see that. What we do know is that he has a very good left leg and an extremely good left arm.

In 1972 he reached the last 32 in the National Championships only to be beaten by the then No. 1 James Morris. He also reached the last 32 in the 1973 National Championships.

He started playing Table Tennis at St Stephens Club at age 8 and after four seasons he switched his loyalty to the Takaro Club where he has remained for some 36 years. The most important job in any club is Club Captain and Barry has been that for 24 years. Along the way he has been the main organiser for fundraisers, social trips and recruitment man for Interclub teams and in charge of them. In 1972 he was the main organiser for the Ping-Pong-a-thon, a fundraising event which raised some \$1,700. He also played for the 100 hours and was largely responsible for the collection of the sponsorship money that had been pledged.

While it would be fair to say that Barry had the resolve, focus, drive and competitiveness to be a top player, he has always maintained an empathy with the beginner and the social player – making him the ideal club man he has so obviously been.

He was the most feared Manawatu player by outside opponents and at the National Championships Inter-Association teams events Barry was nearly always Manawatu's top performer. In 1973 he became the first Manawatu player to win the Manawatu Open Mens Singles and score a 100% record in Interclub. He has gone on to win many Open Singles, Mens Doubles and Mixed Doubles events and has carried on his winning way in recent years in the Veterans arena.

In 1982 Barry was awarded the QSM for his service and dedication to the community and Table Tennis.

We are lucky that he chose our sport. At 10 he was playing halfback in a rugby team; he played cricket to the 4th Form at college; he played badminton (it was a toss up between badminton and table tennis); he played water polo; was the school diving champ and gained the second highest award for life saving. He has also played tennis successfully and has played off an 18 handicap in golf. He is now destined for representative honours in outdoor bowls. Indeed, an extremely accomplished sportsman!

Terry Curtis, Shona Cudby



TEAM GOES HI-TECH

The NZ team at the Commonwealth and World Championships will have the use of a Video Analysis Programme throughout both events.

James Morris spotted the chance for access to this hi-tech coaching tool when he met up with a former table tennis colleague, **Martin Dowson**, who now works at the Auckland University of Technology and was involved in the development of the video programme. James' fellow team coach, **Simeon Cairns**, lectures at the same university and could offer input combining his table tennis knowledge with his professional sport science expertise.

The analysis programme has been made available to Li Chunli as part of the support the New Zealand Sports Foundation provides for all "carded" athletes (Chunli is automatically carded as a recipient of a

personal grant from the Foundation).

Working with video recordings of on-table training and actual matches, and operated through an ordinary laptop computer, the programme isolates specific shots or particular rallies following a similar pattern, and allows the player and coaches to identify subtle faults and strong points far more efficiently than any other method.

TTNZ acknowledges the foresight and assistance of those named above, and also **Chris Bullen** of the NZ Sports Foundation - all of whom worked together to create this opportunity.



DEMOCRACY AT WORK

A recent appeal by North Harbour over a TTNZ Board decision to allocate the 2002 North Island Championships to Taupo created a chance for TTNZ's appeal procedure to be given its ultimate test. Although there has been precedent for a decision by the Executive Director to be appealed, this is the first occasion on which a decision of the Board itself has been challenged since the Board structure was set up in 1996.

The process involved setting up a three person tribunal to hear the appeal, with each of the three people making up the tribunal requiring the approval of both the appealing party and the TTNZ Board.

The tribunal members were presented with submissions from both parties and were given several weeks in which to consider their ruling and submit a report. In the event, the original decision was upheld but more importantly, the process demonstrated that there is no group or individual, not even the Board, that is not subject to the scrutiny of objective assessors.

The Tribunal requested that its report be given maximum exposure and recommended that it be published on the TTNZ website.

The whole issue demonstrated a willingness on the part of the Board to be as open and democratic as possible. This was further reinforced at last month's Board meeting when radical changes were proposed to rules relating to the representative eligibility of players in team events. A decision was deferred until all Associations had been consulted.

New Life Members of TTNZ

Trevor Flint

A well-deserved LIFE MEMBERSHIP was conferred on Trevor Flint at the December Annual General Meeting.



Deputy Board Chairman Ron Garrett summed up Trevor's remarkable career at the meeting, telling the gathering of delegates about the many years of selfless work and interest that Trevor had dedicated to the sport at national level and, for an even longer period, within the Canterbury Association.

He began playing in 1938 and after World War 2 was selected for Canterbury to begin a succession of 200 representative matches for that Association. 1953 saw him play in an unofficial team at the Vienna World Championships. The same year he won two titles in England and was runner up for the NZ singles title.

Over the years he won many Doubles titles and in 1953 with Neville Brightwell won the North & South Island Men's Doubles. A left-handed player, he used pimple rubber in his early years and was one of the few with a powerful topspin forehand attack.

Over many years (1964-1978) he was closely involved with coaching at local and New Zealand level, taking teams overseas and travelling at his own cost to other countries to develop his coaching knowledge. In 1968 he submitted a plan to the TTNZ Annual Meeting to improve the standard of play in NZ. He coached NZ teams from 1971-1978, travelling to Japan, China, Singapore, Australia, Guernsey, England and Yugoslavia.

A New Zealand selector from 1978 to 1980, he has also been a NZ Vice-President.

Trevor's whole life has revolved around Table Tennis, and he would have forgotten how many tournaments he has managed or assisted with. They include numerous NZ Open Championships, the 1983 World Deaf Games and the 1999 World Wheelchair Games (as Tournament Manager). Just recently he was also Tournament Manager for the 2001 NZ Veterans Championships in Christchurch.

Retirement seems to be an unknown word to Trevor and any one visiting the Canterbury Stadium will inevitably meet up with Trevor still working away for table tennis and its members.

from info prepared by George Hart



1903 Postcard

SEND A FAX

The individual events at the World Championships start on 29 April (and finish on 6 May). Five NZ players are competing. They are staying at the Miyako Hotel, Osaka, Japan. **Send a fax !!** The number is 00 81 6 6773 3322.

and

Robin Radford

The name of Robin Radford will be better known than any other to readers of *Table Tennis Info* – he edits the magazine. In addition to the painstaking task of juggling the wide variety of material to fit it all together, he also ferrets through table tennis publications the world over for items of interest, cartoons, drawings and anything that will make the magazine more visually interesting or entertaining.

But his work with the magazine is not the main reason he has just been elected a Life Member of Table Tennis New Zealand. Nor is his work with the TTNZ website, which he maintains single-handedly. It is in recognition of an unbroken administrative table tennis career spanning more than forty years.

The Life Membership was approved with generous acclamation from delegates at the December 2000 Annual General Meeting after Deputy Board Chairman Ron Garrett summarised Robin's impressive contribution to table tennis at all levels.

In brief:

- Since 1959 he has accepted major administrative roles in Waikato Association (later Hamilton), Kapiti Association, and TTNZ.
- He was active during the administratively complex period when Waikato Association split into three, with the central one re-named Hamilton.
- As Kapiti Secretary he was a principle motivator in the Association's move to a large new stadium, and a new semaphore board, barricades, and the introduction of a canteen were all Robin's initiatives.
- His involvement with TTNZ began in 1982 when elected to the Executive Committee and has continued ever since. Ron Garrett acknowledged Robin's ability to bring common sense to many a debate at TTNZ AGMs.
- As a player, Robin represented Waikato, Hamilton and briefly, Canterbury.

While a career as active and long term as this fully justifies well-earned retirement, the age of computer technology has stirred Robin's enthusiasm to the point where he is even more active today than he ever was when his voluntary table tennis work had to be fitted in with a long career in the insurance industry.

His present-day work on the website and on this magazine bubbles with energy and creativity. He also liaises closely with the national office and the Individual Member Registration data entry volunteer, suggesting many timesaving ideas and innovative ways of publicising and utilising the IMR data. He also holds an office key and steps in when extra hands are needed to keep the administrative wheels turning.

By combining an interest in modern technology with decades of administrative experience, Robin is able to make a unique contribution to our sport. A more deserving recipient of Life Membership would be hard to find.

John Kiley



Rankings for 2000

Men	Women	Under 19 Boys
1. Aaron Li (N)	1. Li Chunli (O/Seas)	1. Peter Craven (NL)
2. Peter Jackson (O/Seas)	2. Karen Li (MN)	2. Adrian Soh (N)
3. Shane Laugesen (A)	3. Sarah Finch (A)	3. Andy Huang (A)
4. Andrew Hubbard (HV)	4. Tracey McLauchlan (HV)	4. Yi-Sien Lin (C)
5. Aaron Winborn (A)	5. Sabine Westenra (HV)	5. John Cordue (W)
6. Wayne Gear (A)	6. Raewyn Young (HV)	6. Paul Stewart (C)
7. Chris Herlihy (A)	7. Lisa Astle (C)	7. Josh Alexandre (A)
8. Andy Huang (A)	8. Val Beaver (NH)	8. Simon Wallace (C)
9. Peter Craven (NL)	9. Jiani Hu (N)	9. Evan Kramer (W)
10. Jared Smith (HV)	10. Samara Collins (O)	10. Jeff Vinicombe (HV)

Under 19 Girls	Under 15 Boys	Under 15 Girls
1. Deborah Morrison (C)	1. Simon Wallace (C)	1. Jiani Hu (N)
2. Andrea Gosney (C)	2. Josh Alexandre (A)	2. Eileen Schwab (NH)
3. Sandy Wang (A)	3. Nathan Lowe (A)	3. Sandy Wang (A)
4. Claire Dimmock (NH)	4. Binbin Zhu (HV)	4. Florence Li (A)
5. Eileen Schwab (NH)	5. Jonathan Chen (C)	5. Sophie Shu (MN)
6. Meena Chang (C)	6. Anthony Wilson (S)	6. Sarah Ho (WK)
7. Prathiba Kahatapitiya (A)	7. Scott Ridder (S)	7. Leanne Ridder (S)
8. Francesca Collins (A)	8. Hadleigh Bunce (NH)	8. Kelly Samson (C)
9. Jacqui Wood (C)	9. Jack Wells (N)	9. Michelle McCarthy (HV)
10. Florence Li (A)	10. Rhys Van Stipriaan (NH)	10. Katie Stretton (NH)

To qualify for a New Zealand ranking, players must have competed in a minimum of four rating events in any particular category, excluding B and C grades. Allowance is made for players who were unable to compete in rating tournaments due to overseas commitments.

The rankings are compiled by the Technical Committee. Age-group rankings were based on only results recorded in that age-group. Results from Under 18, 17 and 16 events were considered as well as Under 19 for the Under 19 list; and results from Under 15 and all younger age-groups were considered for the Under 15 list.

Obituary: **Roy Gregory**, stalwart of Waitemata Association, passed on last November. Roy, who was 73, won eight Auckland titles and 53 medals at New Zealand and North Island Veterans championships. He was a Life Member and, at various times, President, Secretary, Treasurer and Selector of the Waitemata Association. He was a qualified umpire and represented Waitemata at TTNZ AGM's for several years.

After retiring from the building trade Roy was responsible, along with another top player (George Robinson), for the building of the Waitemata Stadium in 1975/76.

Roy arrived in NZ about 30 years ago and was in his 40's before taking up table tennis. In England he was a road cyclist and a basketball player. He was also a keen golfer and gardener.

Our sympathy is extended to Roy's family and friends.

Dennis Galvin

Web Site Active.

TTNZ Web site at <http://www.tabletennis.org.nz> continues to be active with the latest Info on table tennis available including Championships, entry forms, results, ratings etc. The site attracted, on average, over 800 visitors a week in the latter half of 2000 in a steady increasing volume. Not a lot in web site terms but considerable for table tennis.

Table Tennis Canterbury is pleased with their pages and tell us they have a lot of response from top players and coaches around the world. At least 2 top class players have arrived in Canterbury as a direct result of their web pages. It pays to advertise! From the Canterbury pages visitors can see the stadium and what is offered in Christchurch. From the TTNZ pages, they also get a good idea about the sport in NZ.

Two more associations plus a club have expressed interest in participating.

People of the Year

Player of the year: Li Chunli

Junior of the Year (Ballinger trophy):
The criteria covers sportsmanship, dress, personality, enthusiasm, interest in club or association affairs and playing results.

Kelly Samson

Junior Player of the year:
(Russell Dickey Memorial Trophy)
Made to the junior player who brought most credit to NZ table tennis taking into account – Performance, Behaviour, Neatness of presentation, Co-operation, and Team Spirit.

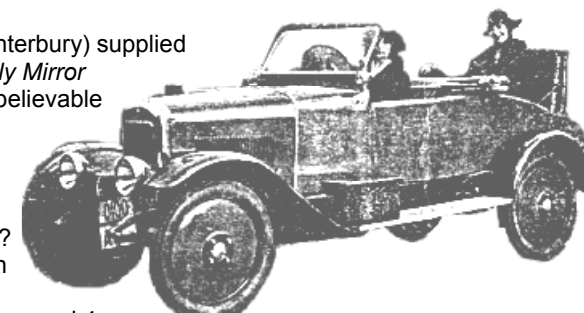
Sandy Wang

Those were the days!

“Daily Mirror” All-British Table Tennis Championships, 1923

First prize: Two Calthorpe motor cars (one for the man champion, one for the woman champion).

Bryan Thompson, (Kapiti – ex Sth Canterbury) supplied details of this event from England's *Daily Mirror* newspaper dated 1 May, 1923. The unbelievable first prize drew over 30,000 entries and thousands of matches were played throughout the UK over a three month period. The *Mirror* reported: “12 men and 2 women owed 5 points (Handicap? Playing for a car??). 84 survivors began their struggle for the All British Championships and continued until 4 men and 4



On the second to last day 64 men and 20 women battled it out in the premises of London's Selfridges department store (admission free) and on the final night play moved to the Stadium Club, Holborn, where four men and four women played the semi-finals and finals. Seven hundred seats were available to the public at five shillings, three shillings and two shillings (apply to Colonel C Bartlett).

We found no record of who won the two cars but did discover that the car manufacturer collapsed that same year. Perhaps the Daily Mirror got the Calthorpe cars for a good price!

Nathan Lowe – has plans and goals.

I am writing on behalf of Nathan Lowe. He would like to give some feedback and as his father and ex-coach (for 4 years), I am adding my bit as well to convey our plans, aspirations and goals.



Firstly we would like to thank TTNZ for recognising Nathan's talent and selecting him for the Oceania Championships last year. Oceania was an eye opening experience for both of us. It was a great time to observe the top senior players in Oceania. I spent an hour talking to the NZ number 1 Peter Jackson about the professional table tennis scene and found this very informative.

Initially, we parents all think our children might be future champions. We often have unrealistic expectations, especially if they have exceptional sporting talent at an early age. Parents also invest an incredible amount of time, money, and energy in the sporting careers of their children. If, like myself, the parent has some knowledge of the sport, it can become a two-edged sword on which both father and son can fall.

Nathan and I have been discussing and modifying our long term goals over the past 18 months. At the age of 9 (4 years ago), he was wanting to pursue a career in table tennis, and as a father I was creating the environment that could assist this. I now think that we are a little more realistic.

Nathan's medium term plans are to win a national singles title and his long term goal is to represent NZ at senior level. Therefore my job (and TTNZ's ?) is to maintain his interest in the sport. I have decided to balance his sporting career with an educational one and have attempted to maintain other interests outside table tennis. I have initiated this because of the dropout problem. Also I think top players need a profession to fall back on, as they really cannot make a good living in NZ from table tennis.

After having several sessions with Aaron Li and Barry Griffiths some years ago, I have difficulty finding a coach of international standard. However Nathan really did enjoy the [2000] Easter training camp held at North Harbour with some of the current NZ coaches, and he progressed significantly afterwards. He played the Anzac tournament a week later and comfortably beat an under 18 NZ rep. I have not seen him play as well and consistently since. I must wonder if juniors would be committed enough to train to a fraction of the Chinese standards. Practising more than 12 hours a week is quite difficult in today's modern lives, especially amongst older teenagers.

I trust this will give you some feed back from Nathan and myself.

Malcolm Lowe

Veterans Championships – report from Ron Menchi

OVER 65'S STEAL THE SHOW

One of the best matches in the 2001 NZ Veterans Championships in Christchurch over Easter was the Over 65 men's singles final between Case de Bondt (Victoria) and Tony Herbert (Queensland). It was a fantastic match and showed the dizzy heights these athletes can reach irrespective of age.

The Table Tennis Canterbury Stadium is a tremendous facility and will be difficult to equal once the tables have been standardised and upgraded.

Continued bottom next page—>

Veteran Championships - Christchurch – April 2001

<u>Over 40 years</u>	<u>Winner</u>	<u>Singles Runner Up</u>
Men's Singles	Wayne Heginbotham (NSW)	Mick Wright (Vic)
Women's Singles	Kay Crowell (SA)	Alice Abbas (SA)
Men's Doubles	W Heginbotham & D Beaumont	
Women's Doubles	A Abbas & L Baker (SA)	
Mixed Doubles	W Heginbotham & A Abbas (NSW/SA)	
<u>Over 50 years</u>		
Men's Singles	David Beaumont (NSW)	Mick Wright (Vic)
Women's Singles	Lorraine Baker (SA)	Betty Bird (SA)
Men's Doubles	M Ede & M Wright (Vic)	
Women's Doubles	L Baker & B Bird (SA)	
Mixed Doubles	H Frohlich & B Bird (Vic/SA)	
<u>Over 60 years</u>		
Men's Singles	Case de Bondt (Vic)	Alan Alabaster (C)
Women's Singles	Betty Bird (SA)	Carol Hughes (NSW)
Men's Doubles	T Herbert & E Herman (Q/SA)	
Women's Doubles	B Bird & J Stephens (SA)	
Mixed Doubles	K Sands & B Davies (NSW)	
<u>Over 65 years</u>		
Men's Singles	Tony Herbert (Q)	Case de Bondt (Vic)
Women's Singles	Margaret McGregor (WT)	Joyce Woodward (Q)
Men's Doubles	T Herbert & E Moore (Q/C)	
Women's Doubles	E Spooner & J Woodward (MN/Q)	
Mixed Doubles	E Moore & J Prisk (C)	
<u>Over 70 years</u>		
Men's Singles	Mervyn Allardyce (HV)	P Bargh (MN)
Women's Singles	Joyce Woodward (Q)	Elsie Spooner (WG)
Men's Doubles	M Allardyce & P Bargh (HV/MN)	
Women's Doubles	E Spooner & J Woodward (WG/Q)	
Mixed Doubles	D Galvin & J Woodward (WT/Q)	
<u>Over 75 years</u>		
Men's Singles	Harry Taylor (C)	Bill Joker (C)
Women's Singles	Nancy Brant (CM)	A Stevenson (C)
Mixed Doubles	H Taylor & A Stevenson (C)	

With a large party of 27 Australians competing, a Test Match was held on Thursday night. It opened with a wonderful rendition of the NZ and Australian National Anthems by a choir from Burnside High School.

Superb Table Tennis was played in all age groups, with Malcolm Darroch and Wayne Heginbotham displaying marvellous skills in both the test match and teams competition.

Tournaments often provide us with "characters" and this one was no different. Albie Biddington never disappoints but one of my favourites is Brian Anderson whose service action was spectacular - extensive bat arm rotation followed by a quick strike of the ball.

Trevor Flint, Nanette White and all the members of the Management Team organised a Tournament which gave us that mix of friendliness and efficiency that is special at Veterans' Championships. Well done Canterbury.

DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR HITS THE MARK

"Listen to your players; make them feel they belong (identity, pride, loyalty); be flexible; review constantly; seek partnerships; track down past players; organise the occasional spectacular event for the media....."

Ideas flowed at a Development Seminar recently conducted in Palmerston North on the initiative of the TTNZ Board member responsible for development, Andrew Gordon.

It was a well-presented event, held over two days and conducted by professional facilitator Ian Farmer. Multi-talented and highly creative, Ian regularly adorns his presentations with live music (he is also a singer), and with a variety of audiovisual material.

The groundwork for the seminar was laid at a workshop preceding last year's AGM, also facilitated by Ian and Andrew, and the answers to questionnaires circulated then were summarised and discussed at the seminar.

Later sessions, including videos, covered Time Management, Chaos Management (an intriguing term which effectively means allowing change to evolve naturally and utilising the energy created – instead of keeping the lid on change to maintain "control"); and Stress Management. All three sessions doubled as valuable lessons in life skills as well as providing useful tools for administering and growing our sport. All three emphasised the need for people running sport to be at ease with themselves to maximise efficiency and to enable them to meet the needs of others.

continued top opposite page

Ping Pond Pondering

There has been a modest response to our invitation for suggested games to play on the Ping Pond table (four table halves with curved ends arranged around a square water tank adorned with water lilies and floating tt balls). But if you're planning to build your own, here are some ideas:

- Round the Pond: As in Round The Table, or Donkey. Three times off the table or once in the water and you're out. Balls should be left in the water to add artistic merit to the equipment.
- Multi-doubles: Four pairs, with their table segment and flip scorecard colour-coded, four umpires well out of the way – ball hit to any other table segment.
- Double-singles: Two singles matches played concurrently, with the umpire seated in the lotus position on one of the water lilies.
- Smash and Splash: Coach feeds high balls - trainee aims smashes at nominated ball floating in the water. A point for each direct hit. Short break after each five points for towelling down.



The second day featured a guest speaker from a regional sports trust; brainstorming sessions on development strategies, marketing and promotion, and a discussion on the best ways to submit funding applications.

The seminar was not a series of lectures – it was highly interactive.

The one major tragedy was that **only nine associations were represented**. This wasn't through lack of promotion - two flyers were distributed and calls were made directly to all associations who didn't respond. Many of the associations not there are the very ones who need the most help with development programmes.

Notwithstanding this, it was a valuable exercise and if some of the strategies which emerged are implemented, the value of them will filter through and may well still be picked up by those Associations who weren't there.

NORTHLAND HOSTS SUCCESSFUL MULTI-DISCIPLINE EVENT

Table Tennis Northland, in conjunction with Sport Northland, organised and hosted the "**Great Sports Challenge**" in the Advocate Stadium, Whangarei, on 27 March. The aim of the event was to find Northland's most versatile sportsman and woman.

Sport Northland, Kensington Tavern, Wynn Fraser, Adidas & KCCFM were the principal sponsors. This made the event a profitable fundraiser for Table Tennis Northland. The Challenge attracted 19 male & 15 female competitors from a wide range of sports codes. They rotated around 12 stations involving sport specific skills in hockey, basketball, badminton, cricket, table tennis, fishing, rugby league, darts, rowing, indoor bowls, a lightgate run and an obstacle course covering accuracy, speed, strength, balance, agility, endurance, ball co-ordination, and kicking and striking skills.

The fishing station had the competitors playing a marlin using a rod and reel while viewing the fish on a video!

The male winner was **Marcus Bourke** - ex Northland Junior table tennis player! The top female prize was jointly won by **Shannon Cochrane** (Triathlete) and **Cindy Johnson** (Volleyball).

It is hoped to make the "Great Sports Challenge" an annual event following the success of this year's inaugural competition.

Brent Davies




Table Tennis New Zealand has entered into a relationship with Ezysurf a new Internet Service Provider.

In exchange for promoting their service Ezysurf will donate a percentage of the subscribers entry and ongoing fees to TTNZ.

This is a wonderful way to raise funds for Table Tennis and we urge members to support the concept and join Ezysurf.

TTNZ does not have any control over the service provided which is entirely between Ezysurf and the subscriber.

To subscribe: <http://www.ezysurf.co.nz/>

Don't forget to select Table Tennis NZ Inc as the sponsored organisation.

Open

Men's Singles
Women's Singles
Men's Doubles
Women's Doubles
Mixed Doubles

B Grade

Men's Singles
Women's Singles
Men's Doubles
Women's Doubles
Mixed Doubles

Over 50 years

Men's Singles
Women's Singles
Men's Doubles
Mixed Doubles

Over 40 years

Men's Singles
Men's Doubles

Under 20 years

Men's Singles
Women's Singles
Men's Doubles
Mixed Doubles

Under 17 years

Boys' Singles
Girls' Singles
Boys' Doubles
Mixed Doubles

Under 14 years

Boys' Singles
Girls' Singles
Boys' Doubles
Girls' Doubles
Mixed Doubles

Winner

Simon Wallace (C)
Jiani Hu (N)
Simon Wallace & Stuart Wallace (C)
J Hu & M Zilinskas (N/C)
J Wells & M Zilinskas (N/C)

Tim Armstrong (N)
Sophie Shu (MN)
M Chan & T Chan (N)
D Grimes & S Shu (C/MN)
R Quayle & S Shu (N/MN)

Roy McLauchlan (N)
Marie Zilinskas (C)
R McLauchlan & L Wells (N)
P Bargh & B Russ (MN/N)

Stuart Wallace (C)
W Haszard & S Wallace (ML/C)

Simon Wallace (C)
Jiani Hu (N)
D Roddis & S Wallace (N/C)
D Roddis & S Shu (N/MN)

Simon Wallace (C)
Sophie Shu (MN)
M Rees & S Wallace (N/C)
D Battersby & S Shu (N/MN)

Binbin Zhu (HV)
Jiani Hu (N)
C Erskine & J Wells (N)
J Hu & S Shu (N/MN)
B Zhu & J Hu (HV/N)

Singles Runner Up

Ian Alino (N)
Sophie Shu (MN)

Jack Wells (N)
Deborah Grimes (C)

Lionel Wells (N)
Sally Williams (N)

David Watson (N)

Ian Alino (N)
Sophie Shu (MN)

Jack Wells (N)
Katie Roddis (N)

Jack Wells (N)
Sophie Shu (MN)

RULE BOOKS

A new rule book with a bright yellow cover has just been published. It contains the laws of the game, international regulations, and a summary of the rule changes over the past two years. One free copy has just been sent to all associations and they were invited to order extra copies for a reduced fee.

The book is available to any registered member. Send \$5 and an A5 self-addressed envelope and you will be sent a copy.

Qualified umpires are being issued with Rule Books free of charge through the Umpires Committee.

PLAYERS TO THROW OUT THE SPONGE IN **MANAWATU**

Competitors in a novelty tournament in Palmerston North on 12 May will leave their sponge bats at home and line up for their regulation issue spongeless, pimped rubber bats.

It's the annual Manawatu "Hard Bat" tournament – one of the few novelty events in the country that gets widely publicised, and well supported. Organiser Barry Wynks told us that the event will run in three sections with round robin singles, doubles and mixed doubles in each. The sections are:

- 1) People who think they can play (eg A grade interclub players)
- 2) People who hope to play better (eg club or lower grade interclub players)
- 3) Non-players, beginners, husbands, wives, partners, etc.

Matches will be one game to 31; doubles pairings will be controlled to keep the pairs of similar strength; and cash prizes ranging from \$5 to \$100 will be allocated on a lucky-dip basis, bearing no relationship to the results of the matches.

The entry fee is \$15. Barry Wynks can be contacted for more information on 06 356 2183 or 025 571 378.

Table Tennis Info has published articles in the past on novelty events, and novelty variations used in club play, but we would like lots more. Articles, however brief, on "table tennis with a difference" in your local area, would be most welcome.



Subscription Offer

Readers of Table Tennis Info have the opportunity of subscribing to the **Butterfly World Report**, an 8 page glossy publication containing colour photographs, tournament results and table tennis articles.

The offer is made possible by **HB Sports** who will supply the magazines for TTNZ to distribute. Six issues are published each year and two hundred copies of each are available for our readers to purchase by subscription.

The cost is \$8 for the year (6 issues). Write to **Table Tennis New Zealand, PO Box 867, Wellington**, enclosing \$8 and your name and address. Your copy of each issue will be mailed direct, enclosed with your Table Tennis Info magazine if publication dates coincide.



WORLD RANKINGS

NZ Players
(as at 2 April 2001)

Women

Li Chunli 42
Karen Li 111
Sarah Finch 369

Men

Peter Jackson 177
Shane Laugesen 289
Aaron Li 345
Andrew Hubbard 348
Aaron Winborn 400
Malcolm Darroch 512
Chris Herlihy 532

Letter to TTNZ from Life Member **BARRY BUTLER:**

It seems a long time since I have made contact with you and I apologise for this. I wish to acknowledge the life membership awarded to me - it was much appreciated. I felt very honoured. I received considerable enjoyment from my involvement in the game playing, coaching, administering, and working with a group of people with unified goals. I am still keen to follow what is happening.

My muscle illness makes writing and speaking difficult, so this is the first letter on my new computer which is meant to assist me not waste time and make life easier but that's a real joke at the minute. Thanks to all who have sent letters, cards and messages.

In my opinion New Zealand Table Tennis has gone full circuit since the change in having a Board instead of internal management. Several mistakes were made, unintentionally, for which the repercussions have been felt - too many on the Board outweighed the experienced input of the game's own administrators.

Another was the appointment of an outsider to the position of Executive Director with wide powers and no history of running such an operation. This is not a personal attack as the enthusiasm was there but unfortunately the noisy minority ruled. Plus some decisions that don't always follow as expected when put into practice, eg affiliation, as any businessman or politician could tell you.

Thus I feel that New Zealand Table Tennis has been the full circuit and paid the penalty in revenue and affiliated players playing. We need to remember and learn from this and build on the structure we are now forming.

I have observed some good signs:-

- Continued involvement of your chairman Alan Hounsell, the only surviving high-flyer left that was going to put NZ table tennis on the map,
- Having James Morris in my old position - a big job to develop a countrywide network, but it is needed and I think most of the critics for change have been silenced or died away.
- Some Associations progressing - like Canterbury's new stadium. Congratulations - great news. Also North Harbour, and the resurgence of interest in places like Hawkes Bay, Wairarapa and Hutt Valley.

The workshop I was most interested in was player retention and I have some strong feelings which include:

- To retain players each Association needs its own resident coach to work weekly with them.
- This person must possess good people skills
- This person must be available on training, coaching, and tournaments nights and weekends and should: arrange transport and playing equipment; promote table tennis in schools and make learning the skills fun. In other words just about be their second mum and dad.

In today's climate I think that Associations need to look for a resident coach on contract for three years on a job share basis from fifteen to twenty hours weekly. Therefore the Association sponsorship grants and playing fees would need to raise about fifteen thousand.

If the coach brought in sixty more children split into four groups and supported them for three years, one night a week coaching and weekend tournaments around the country, and they also play in their local competition once a week it would broaden the base and provide ongoing numbers. By introducing these children committee members and other helpers are picked up.

In today's climate voluntary adult help is declining therefore I feel that the above is the only way that Associations can progress.

While I don't condemn bringing in professional touring coaches it is only a help to the better players and coaches and it does not increase your player base. I firmly believe that it needs committed coaches to be available over a long period of time. This will gain the confidence of the children.

SUCCESSFUL SEASON FOR TABLE TENNIS IN **Southland**

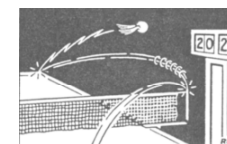
Teams finishing 3rd in two A Grade competitions at the 2000 NZ Championships (Women and Under 15 Boys), and local juniors winning both the girls and boys national umpiring awards gave Southland's end of season media release an impressive look.

Also reported was their Residential finals, in which 14 year old **Anthony Wilson** beat veteran **Ron Garrett** for the senior men's title; and two Japanese players based in Southland (**Akiko Kimura** and **Tomono Ozawa**) played each other for the women's title with Kimura winning.

The media release concluded with reference to the visit by overseas exhibition players Pansky and Orłowski, steadily growing school participation numbers, and plans to host the 2003 New Zealand Championships - leaving readers in Southland and beyond no doubt that table tennis is an active and vibrant sport in their area.

The Cost of Table Tennis

Readers may recall this article by John Kiley in our March 2000 issue, which raised the question of who pays for table tennis. You will be interested to learn that the article was reprinted in full by the magazine of the International Table Tennis Association – full marks to John.



That's (nearly) all folks!

