

## 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	<b>South Island Championships</b> 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	<b>North Island Championships</b>	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	Waikato Open	Hamilton
	Sat 25 – Sun 26	Wellington Open	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
	Fri 28 – Sat 6 Oct	<b>New Zealand Open</b>	Auckland
October	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



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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...

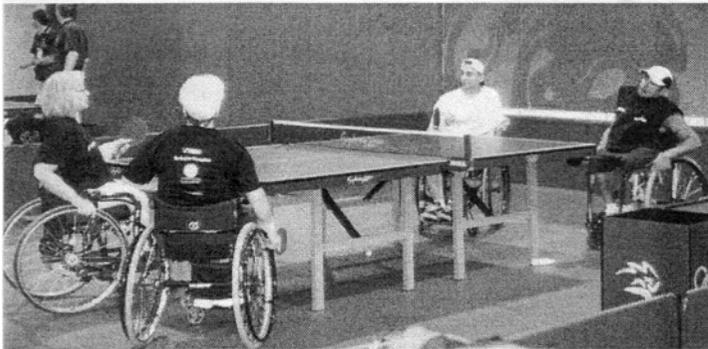
## An Experience of a Lifetime

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 18<sup>th</sup> 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 – 19<sup>th</sup> – 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.

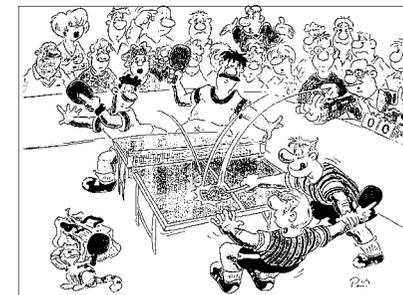


## Novelty Table Tennis

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.