

Upcoming Events

August	Sat 18 – Sun 19	Waikato Open	Hamilton
	Thu 23	Entries close – NZ Championships	
	Sat 25 – Sun 26	Wellington Open	Wellington
September	Sat 1 – Sun 2	Counties Manukau Open	Manurewa
	Sun 2	H V Junior Development Open	Petone
	Sat 8	Golden Bay Open Tournament	Takaka (Nelson)
	Sat 15– Sun 16	Hutt Valley Open	Petone
	Wed 26 – Thur 27	NZ Schools Teams Champs	North Harbour
	Fri 28 – Sat 6 Oct	New Zealand Open	Auckland
October	Sat 20 – Sat 27	Australian Veterans Champs.	Perth
November	Sat 24	AGM – TTNZ	Wellington

WORLD RANKINGS

NZ Players

(as at 2 July 2001)

Women

Li Chunli	40
Karen Li	111
Sarah Finch	345
Tracey McLauchlan	394

Men

Peter Jackson	179
Aaron Li	209
Shane Laugesen	295
Andrew Hubbard	330
Aaron Winborn	376
Malcolm Darroch	477
Jared Smith	486
Ying Yang	488
Chris Herlihy	491
Wayne Gear	503
Simon Wallace	504

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TABLE TENNIS INFO

Issue: 18

August 2001



Silver Medal at Commonwealth Championships.....

Li Chunli wins a Silver Medal in the Women's Singles.

Bronze medal also to Chunli with sister **Karen Li** in Doubles.

centre pages

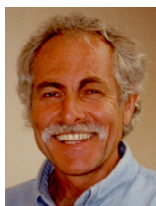
Medal chance goes begging. *Page 25*

Major changes to the rules on the way

- ◆ Length of games to change – *page 4*
- ◆ Service rule change – *page 3*

Ratings, Results and a range of INFO More Funding – *page 3*

More high performance funding!



My Serve

from James Morris

I'm really excited as I have just heard that the NZ Sports Foundation is contributing significantly more funding to our sport's ongoing development for the year 2001/2002. The high performance funding reminds me of a table tennis match: NZ players performed well at the Commonwealth Championships in India, which put the ball firmly in the Sports Foundation's court. (I had been told directly that funding would be based on achievement) Now the Sports Foundation has returned the ball to us with a portion of funding allocated to the Commonwealth Games preparation, which will now enable effective and concentrated quality preparation. Sound planning for these games needs to take place and hopefully the ball will then be back with the funders! Money has also been tagged for junior development in the form of support for junior international competition.

Of course the real plus for table tennis is that it takes the pressure off TTNZ's high performance budget so money can be channelled into other areas.

Reassurance that TTNZ and the Board are on the right track came from the NZ Olympic Committee recently when they identified TTNZ's extra high performance funding needs by allocating \$US5400 to be spent on Commonwealth Games preparation. This news was a real boost for me as Coaching Director.

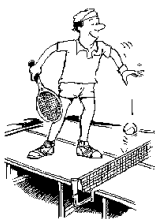
Presently I am working with the NZ Olympic Committee to bring a qualified overseas coach to NZ for 6 months to continue developing our coaching structures from the grass roots up. This would be totally funded but we are competing with other sports so the Olympic Committee would decide our needs.

I dearly would like to see the day when we have a pool of dedicated coaches, committed to upskilling and capable of taking our sport into the future. The funding gravy trains are directed towards coaching structures, which then have a snowball effect. Having more effective coaches on the ground therefore means more players playing table tennis.

For me this funding is clearly an indication on how the Sports Foundation views our performance as a Sport. We need to keep the momentum going and hopefully soon we will become a carded Sport.

I wish to thank Hagen Bower, the Butterfly supplier, for donating a resource pack to regional coaches. This is indeed a generous offer and it will be utilised well.

James



Bjorn Borg should have been a Table Tennis Star

Five times Wimbledon Champion **Bjorn Borg** (1976-1980) was the victim of a serious error when he took up tennis at the age of nine. The 1980 Wimbledon souvenir programme published a profile of him and tells that he took up tennis when he was given a racket that his father won as a prize in a (wait for it) *table tennis* tournament.

Why wasn't it a table tennis bat ?????!!!!

VOTE OF CONFIDENCE IN TABLE TENNIS

When the **Hillary Commission**, the **Sports Foundation**, and the **Olympic Committee** all decide independently of each other to increase funding assistance to table tennis for the next financial year, it can only be a sign that our sport is being viewed in a positive light. The new money is tagged for Commonwealth Games preparation, international competition in China and Oceania, and general operating costs. This frees up other money and leaves a healthy proportion of the funds collected in affiliation fees available for coaching and development programmes. But more importantly, the increased funding generates confidence, and the knowledge that what we're doing is showing results.

We compliment all those involved in producing these results: increased numbers of coaches, increased membership, increased training camp participation, new umpires, and, especially, good competition results. It's all been a team effort – and the effort is being recognised.

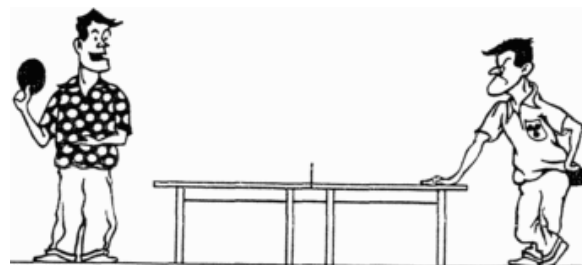
Our **Hillary Commission** funding has increased by \$5000; **Sports Foundation** from \$29,000 to \$43,000 (\$16,000 carried forward from the previous year); and the **Olympic Committee** is offering a \$13,000 one-off grant from Olympic Solidarity funds. Table Tennis New Zealand is indebted to these organisations and expresses its sincere gratitude for their assistance.

Service Rule Changes

Effective internationally on 1st September 2002, the service rule changes are:

1. The service will start with the ball resting freely on the server's open palm.
2. The ball, until it is struck, must be above the level of the table surface and behind the end of the table.
3. When the ball is struck, no part of the server's (or doubles partner's) body or clothing will be allowed between the ball and any part of the net.

New Zealand has yet to announce its intended date of introduction but it is likely to be the day after the 2002 New Zealand Championships.



"My lucky shirt-never lost a game with it on!"

Want to be a National Selector?

Your Association will soon be advised of the application process. Stay in touch with them, or write to TTNZ, PO Box 867, Wellington to find out how to apply.

From 21 up to 11 up – Big Change to Game length

The AGM of the International Federation passed sweeping changes to the length of games and subsequent necessary changes to serving etc.

The new rules provide that a game will be up to 11 points only, still retaining the required 2 point winning margin. A match will be the best of any odd numbers of games, and decisions will be required by associations and TTNZ as to how many games will comprise a match in association contests and interclub matches.

Players will each have 2 serves (in lieu of 5) and at 10 all, each will serve once in rotation.

There are also consequential changes to the expedite rule, (to apply after 10 minutes) and to continuous play exceptions (towelling will be allowed after every six points).

The amended rules come into effect internationally on 1 September, 2001 and domestically in New Zealand on 7 October, 2001 (the day after the conclusion of the New Zealand Championships). The actual wording of the new rules has already been circulated to all Associations and to the Umpires Committee. Anyone can request a copy as long as they enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Write to TTNZ, PO Box 867, Wellington. The amended rules are also on the TTNZ website.

TABLE TENNIS LEADS RACKET SPORTS

On 1 May the World Badminton website published an eight paragraph news item headed: "Racket Sports put Pressure on Badminton to Change". Six of the eight paragraphs were devoted to Table Tennis's landmark change to the 11 point game, and its likely consequences. Then came a paragraph on tennis's proposed change to a four game set and playing only one point at deuce.

The article concluded: "...the pressure is on the International Badminton Federation to act fast if it wants to keep up. IBF tested a new scoring system at its World Junior Championships in China last year and has a further period of "testing" with its Grand Prix circuit events in the second half of this year. However, since such a change has been discussed for more than 10 years now, for many the speed of change is far too slow. No definitive decision is expected by IBF at its AGM this year and signs of frustration amongst the players and event organisers are creeping in."

Hey, Badminton! Be like Table Tennis. Bite the bullet, and *do it !!*

China Visit for Young Players

New Zealand has been honoured by an invitation to the Taiyuan International Junior Table Tennis Championships in Taiyuan City, China.

Six players have been selected to compete in the event:

Chris Erskine, Nelson
Andy Huang, Auckland
Nathan Lowe, Auckland
Simon Wallace, Canterbury
Jack Wells, Nelson
Binbin Zhu, Hutt Valley

Sadly, only one girl (Sophie Shu, Manawatu) was available from the originally selected pool of girls, which meant we could not send a girls team.

The team, managed by Aaron Li (Canterbury) and Helen Codlin (Hawkes Bay), will depart on 23 August and return on 1 September. Play will consist of Under 17 and Under 14 team and individual events.

Coaching Structure Revitalised

New Zealand Director of Coaching and Coach Education, James Morris, has recently taken steps to revitalise and streamline our coaching structure, particularly in relation to junior players. Previous attempts in recent years to link junior coaching at Association level to National training camps by way of a regional coaching structure, while successful in some areas, have been short-lived.

Four regional coaches were appointed early in the year, each with an associated coaching administrator. Already camps have been held in Auckland, Manawatu, Hutt Valley and Southland, with excellent attendances.

To ensure the work done at regional level is co-ordinated, and to relieve James Morris of part of his extraordinarily heavy workload, a National Junior Development Officer has been appointed. **David Cook** (pictured) has conducted national junior coaching schools in the 1980's and has been coaching at Association level for more than 20 years. He also authored the comprehensive NZTTA Coaching Manual. In his new role as TTNZ's Junior Development Officer he will work

closely with regional coaches and Associations to implement pathways for young players. His three main aims are:

- To enable junior players to reach their potential
- To retain junior players in the game
- To identify talent and build on it

"It seems that we need to give younger players clear steps towards whatever goals they may have", he said. "We can only retain players who feel involved and satisfied, whatever these words mean to the individual player."



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Table Tennis Info,

Here is a gem conducted under the control of TTNZ. It was only because it affected me in the South Island Champs that I became aware of it. It happened to me twice. How many other times in the tournament did it happen?

I explain: playing in the over 60 men's singles - eight players, 2 pools of 4. I win Pool B outright, defeating the 2nd seed. Two to go through. When the semi-finals are put on the notice board, the winner of Pool A plays the winner of Pool B (me). The second seed retains his place in the lower half of the draw and plays the runner-up from pool A. Both those who had finished 2nd in their pool contest a place in the final. I protest. Surely I should play the 2nd place-getter from pool A. Not so. According to conduct under control of TTNZ, the 2nd seed, even though he is beaten, retains his position in the lower half of the draw. The "idiot element" has taken over NZ table tennis! What other sport would tolerate such a barking mad format? What's the point in defeating a first or second seed when their loss means nothing? Had it been a knockout draw the second seed would have been eliminated. But no! He is artificially propped up and most likely accumulated additional ranking points along the way.

I protested in the strongest way possible and withdrew. Playing on would have meant endorsing the Mickey Mouse system.

This scenario happened at least three times. It has to be changed. At least at the "Masters Games" we try to be fair. Sometimes it is better not to follow what TTNZ decree.

Barrie Kendall

(Masters Games Co-ordinator, Dunedin).

Note from editor:

A decision was made some years ago to allow seeded players to retain their seeded positions throughout any event until eliminated if their seeding had been officially declared and published. Prior to the arrival of this letter the Technical Committee was reviewing this policy in the light of several similar experiences at the South Island Championships. They are recommending that only one player per group advance to the knock out-stage in the future.

TTNZ Board Chairman Meets with North Harbour Association



Recently I took the opportunity to meet with as many of the North Harbour Association committee members as were available, to discuss three major items that have been of concern in recent months.

I advise that:

- 1. North Harbour Stadium**
On behalf of TTNZ, I unequivocally retracted any inference that the North Harbour Stadium is "quite inadequate" for national type tournaments.
- 2. North Island Championships 2003**
The 2003 North Island Championships will be allocated to North Harbour. This is in accordance with one of the recommendations of the Appeal Tribunal and has the support of the majority of the TTNZ Board members.
- 3. New Handbook**
North Harbour Association raised a number of concerns about the new Handbook. It has been agreed that their appeal against the new Handbook is withdrawn and that it will stand for the remainder of this season. I have agreed to chair a workshop at the 2001 AGM to review a number of rules that are of concern, not only to them, but to other Associations, and to incorporate any agreed changes at this workshop as amendments for 2002.

Alan Hounsell

Player Appointed to Liaise between Players and Board

Tracey McLauchlan has agreed to act as a liaison person through whom players, particularly top players, can communicate their concerns to the Board of TTNZ.

Tracey can be written to at 152 Kings Crescent, Lower Hutt.

Snuggled in the north-western corner of the South Island, Golden Bay is an unspoiled area of New Zealand where the simple pleasures of life prevail. Among these pleasures is table tennis.

GOLDEN BAY BECKONS

Betty Wilson, of the Puramahoi Table Tennis Club (north of Takaka), has written to *Table Tennis Info* with news about her club, its history and the history of table tennis in Golden Bay where there were once 13 clubs. She also invites entries to the Golden Bay Open to be held in Takaka on 8 September.

Dear Table Tennis Info,

Puramahoi Table Tennis Club has 12 members. It is a small club who meet on a Tuesday night at the Puramahoi Hall. We are trying very hard to get juniors along as we only have one. Because of very little employment in the area the younger ones leave the district. It is hard for us to travel to Nelson for interclub as it is a two hour drive. We have 4 tables. There were seven of us who went to the Marlborough Open and Nelson Open. Even though we are small and don't get a lot of competition we do well at tournaments and enjoy the challenge. We are holding our Golden Bay Open on the 8th Sept. Last year's was a great success and this year is looking even better with people from Christchurch, Blenheim, Coast, and Nelson coming. It will be a great time. The Puramahoi Club has been going for 52 years. In those days there were up to 13 clubs in the Bay. Sadly we are all that is left. Our oldest member, 82 year old Mavis Sara still plays and has been with the club since it started.

We get great support from Bryan Keane of the Nelson Association who is brilliant with the kids and has a lot in Nelson.

The Golden Bay Open will be held in the Golden Bay High School Hall, Takaka, on Saturday, 8 September, 2001, commencing at 9 am. There are open events and age groups from Under 13 to Over 60 with good prizes to be won. Entries close on 3 September with Betty Wilson, Tukuruu, RD 2 Takaka, Golden Bay, phone 03 525 9526.

MULTI-TALENTED PING PONGERS

Otago may not be top of the pops at ping pong but how about a challenge at bridge? Three returned players, Martijn Prent, Christiaan Prent and Johnnie West, have been selected to represent New Zealand in the World Bridge Youth Championships in Rio De Janeiro. Rudi, the father of the Prents and an ex-player of ping is also a top Premier bridge player and with Ben Hurr well up in the bridge ranks, Dunedin is a bridge force to be reckoned with. Clive Adamson from Invercargill is another great bridge player. Can there be a link? Bryan Foster of Dunedin used his golf round as training for table tennis – every time he hit the ball he would RUN to it. Was this the start of the modern day fastest round game? Brian Lara of cricket fame was reported as being an excellent table tennis player. Are there any other ping players that play other sports or pastimes at a high level?

BEN HURR (Otago)

How about the late Fred Perry? - Ed.

PUBLICITY OFFICERS

We will be featuring the names and addresses of all association Publicity Officers in the Info so every player and official can play a part in spreading the table tennis news. TTNZ will also be producing a booklet on how you can use publicity for the benefit of the sport. Let me, or TTNZ, know who your Publicity Officer is so we can put together a register and possibly arrange seminars.

Dennis Galvin,
TTNZ Director Publicity
E-mail: dennis.galvin@xtra.co.nz

PO Box 21-386, Henderson,
WAITAKERE CITY.
Ph/Fax: 09-835-0993

Here are the first two:

HAWKE'S BAY

Kevin Bird

E-Mail: kebird@clear.net.nz

Kevin Bird has taken over the PO job for Hawke's Bay and brings with it more than 20 years, (half his lifetime), in table tennis. He began playing as a third former and his administration career began in Wellington where he served on the executive of the Karori club in its first two formative years. He joined the Bay executive in the mid-1980s, went overseas for four years in the early 1990s, and returned to the Bay where he was president in 1997-98 and delegate to the NZ AGM in 1998. Kevin is a steel detailer at Napier's Reinforcing Steel and Mesh Ltd.



OTAGO

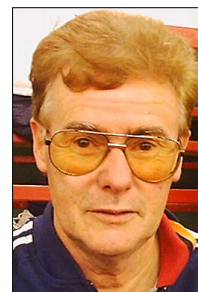
Samara Collins

E-Mail: samaracollins@hotmail.com

Ph 03-473-9028
Mobile: 021-414-353



Otago has chosen well. Samara, 20, is an ideal choice for a publicity officer. She is now into her third year of a media communications degree at Otago University. Her table tennis background is fairly well known in New Zealand and she has been always highly ranked. She has won regional titles and a couple of national titles, represented NZ at Oceania and Australian championships. If you are in the Otago region give her a call with your information. It may be national, provincial or club news; it may be ideal for the weekly throwaways, the provincial daily, New Zealand dailies, TTNZ Info, or radio. Let Samara know at any of the above addresses, so she can let us know.



End of an Era

Bob Lassen Stands Down

“Table Tennis Stadium - Bob Lassen speaking.” For a quarter of a century the rich, laid-back voice became familiar to countless Aucklanders as they phoned the Auckland Table Tennis Stadium, day or night. From January, 1976 to October, 2000 Bob Lassen was employed full time by the Auckland Association and was in attendance at the stadium for virtually all its opening hours, often seven days a week and many times late into the night. And this

quarter century is only part of his total contribution to the sport. John Kiley glances back at a remarkable 37 year career:

Singling out highlights from Bob Lassen's table tennis career is like choosing from a wall-to-wall smorgasbord at a well-stocked restaurant.

It all started routinely enough. Like most of us, he first tasted the serious side of the sport by playing interclub. His first season was in 1964, playing for Auckland's Hornets club. It was a modest start, in E Grade, but he signalled his intentions as a player that year by dropping only one match all season and winning the E Grade singles title.

The very next year Bob was elected to the Hornets Committee and the following year, 1966, became Secretary - but not before the Auckland Association had also elected him to their Management Committee at the end of 1965. Not satisfied with just the two positions, he was Secretary of the Northcote club in 1966 and became their President the following year.

A year later again (1968) he demonstrated another of his administrative talents: setting up new clubs. He formed the Point Chevalier club which quickly became Auckland's, and one of New Zealand's, strongest. Seeing that club well established and through to national club titles in 1974 and 1976, he moved on to the Eastern Club whose junior membership included a young man with potential called Barry Griffiths.

In 1969 Bob was elected to the position he became best known for - Secretary of Auckland Association. There was no time to find his feet - 1969 was the year in which the Auckland Stadium was built. While still holding down a full-time job, Bob launched himself into seven years of voluntary service for an Association which was not just managing and maintaining its own stadium, but also administering an average of 90 interclub teams and a rapidly increasing flow of casual players. The tasks grew more and more numerous and time-consuming and eventually Bob was given the opportunity to elevate his voluntary status to a full-time paid position, officially designated Auckland TTA Secretary/Recreation Officer. He took the bold step and assumed the new position from 1 January, 1976.

Co-incidentally or not, after Bob's full-time appointment Auckland proceeded to win the NZ inter-association A Grade men's and women's teams competition every year from 1976 to 1985. Improvements to Auckland's facilities also rapidly followed Bob's appointment: the stadium was extended to accommodate 22 tables in 1979, and in 1981 the car park was sealed and a new lounge, canteen and bar opened.

Each major development led to others. Regular Saturday night "Housie" evenings began in 1985 committing Bob, and Auckland's fundraising convenor Jim Coad, to organising it every week. The venture ran for twelve years and raised a total of \$210,700.

Bob's next enterprise was the setting up of the Central Club – a year-round operation which began in 1990. Then in 1994 arose what was arguably his biggest challenge – taking over the rapidly escalating interschool competition. This peaked in 1997 at 163 teams, with a separate 155 team competition taking place later the same year.

A spell as Auckland selector and multiple trips to tournaments managing Auckland teams can also be added to the mix.

So far we've touched, and only superficially, on Bob's administrative career. Coupled with it is an eye-opening and full-on playing career which began as noted in 1964 and is still going. At one stage while still a voluntary administrator he was competing in as many as three separate interclub competitions at the same time. He has always been an avid competitor at local, provincial and national tournaments and has frequently played in Australia.

Highlights of his playing career include:

1974: Ranked 10 in New Zealand

1975: Ranked 10 in New Zealand

1975: Lost narrowly in 5 games to Canada's No 3 player (P Gonda) in the Commonwealth Championships, after leading 2-1

1975: Won South Island Men's Doubles title with his brother, the late Graham Lassen

1976: Reached quarter-finals of Australian Open Singles

1977: Beat NZ Representative Robert Blair in the final of the East Waikato Open

Another memorable moment in Bob's career was when he and Joyce Harris beat James Morris and Neti Traill in the Northland Open Mixed Doubles.

Since moving into the Veteran ranks he has amassed numerous more singles and doubles titles and he is currently one of Australasia's best Over 50 players.

Bob Lassen isn't just a good table tennis player and energetic administrator. He isn't just a table tennis stalwart. He's a table tennis professional! New Zealand's first, and by far New Zealand's longest serving.

In March, 2001 he relinquished the part time job with ATTA that he had occupied since October when his former position was expanded to include coaching, development and executive responsibilities.

It was the end of an era.

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HAWKES BAY

Our 2001 season has been progressing well. We have already staged a successful Open Tournament and are almost half way through our Interclub season. Our Residential Champs happen in early August. To date the following are noteworthy:

The Open saw a large entry from junior boys as has been the trend in recent years. The overall number of entries was slightly up on last year.

The Junior Development Squad. Following on from **Helen Codlin's** successful work last year, an advanced group was chosen from last year's participants. Six eager candidates (**Jessica Lunnon, Taira Te Rito, Anthony Norris, Michael Swindells, Tom Primrose** and **John O'Malley**) have spent a lot of time under Helen's coaching with valuable experience and gradual improvement evidenced by their results at tournaments outside the district. All participated in a Central Districts training clinic early in July.

The Club Scene has seen a revamped and relocated Hastings Club. With two new rollaway imported tables and the return of young local player **Alan Keighley** added to former Chinese Club players **Jason Ho** and **Jiang Zhang**, all bodes well for a resurgence. (The Chinese Club is in recess as their school hall venue has been closed.) Hastings are currently under the direction of **Richard Bayley** our Association Secretary. Both the Napier Club and the Taradale Club share the greater membership numbers. Napier's **Russell Winkley** and **Paul Solt** won events at the North Island champs while **Helen Codlin** cleaned up the Ladies Singles events at the Wairarapa Open and Hawkes Bay Open.

The Interclub and Schools Competitions are well under way. 2 grades and 12 teams make up the Interclub. St Pats lead the 'A' Grade and Awatoto the 'B' Grade. The schools contest comprises 6 Secondary teams and 8 Intermediate teams. Unfortunately the Interclub and Schools competitions have been intermittently disrupted by either school holidays or venue unavailability.

The Inter-firm Competition held in the first week of the season saw teams from Heinz Watties, Hawkes Bay Regional Council and State Insurance do well.

Kevin Bird

Lincoln University

Table Tennis Canterbury Sports Scholarships 2002

Information can be obtained from Lincoln University now - Call 0800 10 60 10 - or Freepost 36, PO Box 36, Lincoln University.

email: liason@lincoln.ac.nz

webb: <http://www.lincoln.ac.nz>



"Take my tip
- watch his
footwork —."

RADICAL RE-VAMP FOR INTER-ASSOCIATION TEAM REGULATIONS

Initiated by a lively debate at the last AGM, two major changes have been adopted for inter-Association teams contests, coming into effect at this year's New Zealand Championships.

The AGM set up a review committee, chaired by Andrew Gordon, to examine the existing rules relating to eligibility, transfers, and composite teams. Their recommendations were submitted to the Board in March and, given the radical nature of the proposed changes, referred on to Associations for comment. Of the few Associations that responded, a clear majority favoured the adoption of the recommendations. Consequently the Board authorised a re-drafting of the Handbook to encompass the new rules and advice of the changes was circulated to all Associations on 28 May. They became operational on 1st August 2001.

What's Changed?

Eligibility Rules

In place of the previous requirement for players to either live, study, or play interclub in an Association's area before they could represent that Association, a player may now register with, and represent, any Association at all. They can live and play interclub in Northland and represent Southland if they so choose - provided of course that the Association of their choice selects them. The new rules do not prevent District Associations from imposing their own selection criteria and, if they wish, selecting only from their own interclub players. Control is also retained over mid-season transfers, and players must remain for the rest of the year with the Association they are registered with on 1 May unless a transfer is applied for and granted by TTNZ.

Composite Teams

Composite teams have been done away with. In their place is a "drafting" system. Associations offer players to a Drafting Pool if they have only one available player in a particular age-category, or, if they have at least two, may apply for one or more players from the Drafting Pool. Any team formed in this way plays under the name of the Association that had two or more players to start with and made the application for the extra player/s. Players who are offered to the Drafting Pool are in effect being "lent out" by their Association just for that tournament. They retain their registration with their original Association.

Not everyone approves of these changes and some strongly worded opposition has been expressed – particularly in regard to the eligibility rule change. Others, however, see the changes as liberating and capable of enlivening and invigorating the inter-association competition. Time will tell.

Barry Wynks And The Paralympics

WORLD BODY REPLIES

On seeing our article from the November, 2000 issue outlining the insurmountable difficulties encountered by Barry Wynks in qualifying for the Sydney Paralympics, the Chairman of the ruling body for Disabled Table Tennis players (ITTC), Mr Christian Lillieroo has offered the following comment:

"ITTC uses 30% of its slots for regional selection and that is from the FESPIC Table Tennis Championships for New Zealand. Barry Wynks could have qualified in Taiwan if he got good enough results, but he did not. He could also have received a wild card which is specifically designed for cases like his. I cannot recall his name being discussed in the wild card situation. If I do not remember incorrect I do not think that the New Zealand Paralympic Committee applied for his wild card, which means we are not allowed to select him even if we want to based on his results. I can remember this incorrect but we had several 100 applications that we dealt with."

Not entirely satisfactory. No mention of the inadequacy of the points system; no comment on our suggestion that one or two slots should be reserved for Oceania players; and Barry had little chance of getting the required results in Taiwan unless he got a reasonable draw (catch 22). The wild card option (never pointed out to him by any of the bodies he dealt with in NZ) at least leaves one possible route available to him in the future. On that basis, continued good results against able-bodied players in New Zealand could be enough to qualify him for the next games.

XX

KiwiSport News to feature Table Tennis

KiwiSport News, the Hillary Commission's brightly coloured, glossy publication will devote a double page feature to table tennis in their October issue.

The publication is distributed to every primary, intermediate and secondary school in New Zealand, and also to all Regional Sports Trusts and to other education-related organisations such as teacher training institutions. The national offices of all sporting organisations also receive an allocation for distribution. This is great publicity and something for every table tennis association and club to pick up on. Contact schools in your area, say you are following up on the table tennis article in *KiwiSport News*, and either arrange for school visits from a club or association coach, or invite school children to join existing clubs.



The material to be published includes simple rules, equipment, basic strokes, fun games, diagrams and photographs. When it's due out, inquire at your local sports trust and ask for a copy. A limited number will be sent to Associations by TTNZ.

Above -The forehand stroke: turning, contact, follow-through. These and other diagrams drawn by Bevan Fidler (graphics illustrator), will be featured in *KiwiSport News*.

Right - **Chloe Stewart**, age 9, learns ball control by bouncing the ball on the bat. This exercise can be used in fun games such as relay races. Each player runs the length of the hall and back while bouncing the ball on the bat. If the ball hits the floor, the player starts again.



North Island Open

Palmerston North – July 2001

<u>Open</u>	<u>Winner</u>	<u>Singles Runner Up</u>
Men's Singles	Shane Laugesen (A)	Malcolm Darroch (C)
Women's Singles	Karen Li (MN)	Sun Yang (BP)
Men's Doubles	H Bower & S Laugesen (A)	
Women's Doubles	L Gardner & Sun Yang (C/BP)	
Mixed Doubles	S Laugesen & T McLaughlan (A/HV)	
<u>B Grade</u>		
Men's Singles	Shane Warbrooke (A)	Greg Burton (NH)
Women's Singles	Linda Wynks (MN)	Lisa Boaden (HV)
Men's Doubles	B McConnochie & P McConnochie (W)	
Women's Doubles	S Shirriffs & L Wynks (MN)	
<u>C Grade</u>		
Men's Singles	Jack Wells (N)	Tim Hanna (HV)
Women's Singles	Robyn Harding (MN)	Hanna Squire (HV)
Men's Doubles	P McConnochie & P Solt (W/HB)	
Women's Doubles	R Harding & C Lowndes (MN)	
<u>Over 60 years</u>		
Men's Singles	Chip Eade (WT)	Albert Roberts (HV)
Women's Singles	Gladys Halford (MN)	Nellie Milich (NL)
Men's Doubles	J Jarmin & E Millard (MN)	
Women's Doubles	G Halford & A Robottom (MN)	
Mixed Doubles	B Penberthy & A Robottom (A/MN)	
<u>Over 50 years</u>		
Men's Singles	Pat Low (A)	Bob Lassen (A)
Women's Singles	Val Beaver (NH)	Chris. Cunningham (NH)
Men's Doubles	D Scott & W Weinstock (NH/A)	
Women's Doubles	V Beaver & J Murray (NH)	
Mixed Doubles	W Weinstock & S Shirriffs (A/MN)	
<u>Over 40 years</u>		
Men's Singles	William Weinstock (A)	Pat Low (A)
Women's Singles	Val Beaver (NH)	Lesley Gardner (C)
Men's Doubles	P Low & B Wynks (A/MN)	
Women's Doubles	V Beaver & A Roberts (NH/HV)	
Mixed Doubles	B Wynks & A Roberts (MN/HV)	
<u>Over 35 years</u>		
Men's Singles	Malcolm Darroch (C)	Russell Winkley (HB)
Women's Singles	Hilary Low (CM)	Sabine Westenra (HV)
Men's Doubles	R Winkley & B Wynks (HB/MN)	
Women's Doubles	L Gardner & H Low (C/CM)	
Mixed Doubles	B Wynks & A Roberts (MN/HV)	
<u>Under 21 years</u>		
Men's Singles	Andy Huang (A)	Simon Wallace (C)
Women's Singles	Jiani Hu (N)	Lisa Boaden (HV)
Men's Doubles	K Samson & S Wallace (C)	
Mixed Doubles	M Jones-Middleton & L Boaden (W/HV)	

Under 19 years

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

Simon Wallace (C) Andy Huang (A)
Sun Yang (BP) Lisa Boaden (HV)
J Cordue & M Jones-Middleton (C/W)
S Ho & W Zheng (WK/A)
M Jones-Middleton & Sun Yang (W/BP)

Under 17 years

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

Andy Huang (A) Simon Wallace (C)
Wendy Zheng (A) Florence Li (A)
J Alexandre & B Warbrooke (A)
S Ho & W Zheng (WK/A)
S Wallace & K Samson (C)

Under 15 years

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

Binbin Zhu (HV) Jack Wells (N)
Jiani Hu (N) Florence Li (A)
C Erskine & J Wells (N)
J Hu & K Samson (N/C)
J Wells & J Hu (N)

Under 13 years

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

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



Enjoying the moment – Manawatu participants **Paul Richards** (L), and **Blair Paterson** (R), (runners up in the Under 13 Boys Doubles) with **Andrew Gordon**.

The atmosphere was great and the organisation was the tops at the North Island Open Championships at Manawatu.

Tournament Manager **Andrew Gordon**, Tournament Secretary **Shona Cudby**, computer worker **David Jackson**, and the team are to be congratulated on a well run tournament.

Shane Laugesen took the Open Singles title for the 4th consecutive year, adding the Men's Doubles with **Hagen Bower** and defending the Mixed Doubles title with **Tracey McLaughlan**.

Much talk centered on **Sun Yang**, a new player in the Bay of Plenty (see page 23) who lost the final of the Women's Singles in 4 games to **Karen Li**. She however enjoyed success in the Women's Doubles with **Lesley Gardner** and took the Under 19 Girls Singles.

Triumph in New Delhi

Commonwealth Championships

Perfect Timing For A Silver Medal

Heartiest congratulations to Li Chunli on winning the women's singles silver medal at the Commonwealth Championships in New Delhi, India, last April. The success could not have come at a better time. TTNZ was preparing its application for Sports Foundation funding and its main focus was our build-up to the Commonwealth Games in 2002. Our medal chances at the Games multiplied instantly when Chunli's result came through and, quite rightly, medals are what the Foundation's funding policy is all about.

There's more on Chunli's performance in an article by Simeon Cairns on page 18.

Bronze Medal As Well

With her sister Karen, Chunli also collected a bronze medal for the women's doubles, and reached the last eight in the mixed doubles with Aaron Li, who in turn reached the men's singles last eight. Other quarter-finalists in the doubles were Peter Jackson and Aaron Li; Peter Jackson and Karen Li ; and Karen Li also reached the last eight in the women's singles.

Best Ever

So with NZ players reaching the quarter-finals in every event, winning a silver and a bronze medal, another bronze medal in the women's team event; and an improvement of one place (to fifth) for the men's team made this NZ's best ever overall performance. The team merits the acclamation of every table tennis stalwart in New Zealand.

No Medals for Transport and Organisation

There's more than just table tennis in any overseas tour. The team also has to sleep, eat, and be transported about. While the accommodation was adequate, the half hour bus trip between the stadium and the hotel over rough roads and often without enough seats tested the endurance of our players and officials. The bus schedule was a work of fiction and the general organisation well short of ideal with officials in a constant state of confusion.

The stadium itself and playing conditions were good except for swarms of mosquitos. Lighting was inadequate in the practice hall.

The hotel food was okay but not the stadium food and arrangements had to be made to transport hotel food to the stadium. There were cases of dysentery among the team members.

The Team

Men: **Aaron Li, Peter Jackson, Shane Laugesen, Adrian Soh, Peter Craven**
Women: **Li Chunli, Karen Li, Tracey McLauchlan**
Coaches: **James Morris, Simeon Cairns**

Results at a glance

Womens Team: Officially fourth, but awarded bronze medal as semi-finalist

Men's Team: 5th

Men's Singles: **Aaron Li** reached last eight, lost to G Herbert (England) 24-26, 18-21, 12-21

Peter Jackson reached last 16, lost to S Raman (India) in four games

Shane Laugesen reached last 16, lost to R Jenkins (Wales) 18-21 in 5th game

Adrian Soh reached second round, lost to A Bagley (England)

Peter Craven reached second round, lost to T Prydasa (Sri Lanka)

Women's Singles: **Li Chunli** reached final, lost to Li Jia Wei 21-23, 21-18, 16-21, 19-21

Karen Li reached last eight, lost to Li Jia Wei 9-21, 18-21, 17-21

Tracey McLauchlan lost 1st rnd to M Paul (India) 18-21, 21-23, 16-21

Men's Doubles: **A Li/P Jackson** reached last eight, lost to top seeds

S Laugesen/A Soh lost first round

P Craven/S Jenkins (Wales) reached second round

Women's Doubles: **Li Chunli/K Li** lost in semi-final to Zheng XL/TP Fern 17-21, 12-21

T McLauchlan/Zheng PP (Canada) lost first round

Mixed Doubles: **A Li/Li Chunli** reached last eight

P Jackson/K Li reached last eight

S Laugesen/T McLauchlan lost first round

A Soh/P Erica (Canada) lost first round



L/R:

James Morris (Coach)
Karen Li
Tracey McLauchlan
Li Chunli
Simeon Cairns (Coach)

At the Commonwealth Championships.

COACH'S VIEW OF THE BIG FINAL

Apart from the players and the umpire, nobody is more directly and intimately involved in a match than the coach. With New Zealand in the exciting position of having a player in the Commonwealth Women's Singles final, we now know what it feels like to be sitting alongside the table, living and breathing every point, as New Zealand's biggest ever match is played out. Women's team coach **Simeon Cairns** tells the story.....

In the semifinal, **Chunli** had won an epic five set battle with a Singaporean, Zhang Xue Ling, 21-8, 23-21, 19-21, 22-24, 21-19. After Chunli dominated early on, the Singapore girl changed her tactics to draw level at 2 games all. However, a tremendous fight by Chunli, more than anything else, brought her a close victory. This was an extremely satisfying result for Chunli but also an energy sapping performance. How this was going to influence her final that afternoon was unknown.

After a brief rest at the hotel Chunli returned for her final. The practice tables which were available in the morning prior to her semifinal had disappeared, but after discussion with officials I managed to get the lights turned on in the adjacent practice hall which was less than ideal. But a warm-up was achieved and Chunli was prepared. At this stage my main concern was just how fatigued Chunli was after the morning contest and whether her lunchtime rest was sufficient.



Li Chunli and Simeon Cairns

Her opponent was another Singaporean, Li Jia Wei, ranked 23 in the world – 17 places higher than Chunli. The first game was a crucial one. Jia Wei initially employed the same service strategy used by her team-mate in the semifinal. Nevertheless, this was successfully countered. Indeed, Chunli actually held a game point at 20-19 on service, but Jia Wei won this most crucial point, then sneaked home. Chunli started the second game on fire and raced to a seven point lead hitting many spectacular winners. However, Jia Wei was smart and changed her game to slowly recover. At 19-18 in Chunli's favour some sunlight entered a stadium window to focus itself on Chunli's face. In consequence, play was held up for over 10 minutes while a screen was erected to block the sunlight. Chunli came over to the bench but she couldn't relax and continued to move around anxiously for the majority of this break. On her return to the table Chunli was extremely focused and won the next two points rapidly. One game all. The third and fourth games involved many long rallies with Jia Wei blocking back several crucial smashes which on any other day would have been point winners for Chunli. Not much in it

but huge points were won by Jia Wei. As match point was approaching in the fourth game, play was once again held up as one of the scorecard umpires requested expedite to be introduced. This was not upheld and Jia Wei went on to win the contest 23-21, 18-21, 21-16, 21-19. These scores really did reveal the closeness of this match. Chunli showed little signs of tiredness and there were some superb rallies – perhaps helped in part by the use of the larger ball!! Chunli was the aggressor for the majority of the match displaying tremendous power with numerous backhand and forehand smashes using her penhold grip. Jia Wei, a shakehand grip player, spent much of the match countering Chunli's attacking play with considerable tenacity.

All credit to her for smart play in the big points to win this match. She certainly is a worthy champion but NZ can take much credit from the play of Chunli.

Chunli had earlier beaten Li Jia Wei in the teams event. This leaves no doubt that Chunli is a gold medal prospect for the singles event at the Commonwealth Games in Manchester 2002. For the moment, however, we should extend our congratulations to her for a great performance in winning New Zealand's first ever singles Commonwealth Championships silver medal.

☒☒



World Rankings – Lots of NZ'ers on it?

The latest World Rankings (see back cover) has an increased number of New Zealand players listed since our last issue. Wonder why?

There is no need to play overseas to get a ranking as open singles and A Grade team results from our National Championships are included. Players have to beat two persons already on the list to make it, so the newly ranked players must have done this over the months since our last issue.

It's interesting that Sarah Finch, who is not currently playing, moved up the table. This has been put down to players being removed following the World Championships. They are removed after 12 months of inactivity.

We'll give a detailed explanation of how the world ranking system works in a future issue.

BENCH-WARMING ROLE DISAPPOINTS

Adrian Soh was unhappy to be left on the bench throughout the Commonwealth Championships team events.

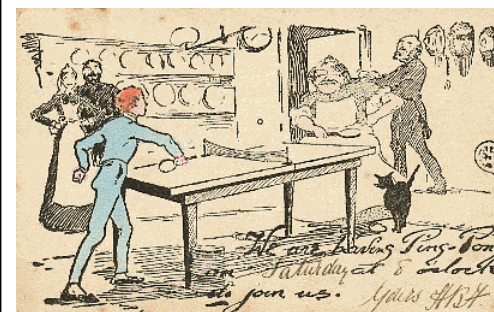
Clearly selected as a future prospect and attending the Championships for a taste of the atmosphere and to experience the pressures of major international competition, the situation was a disappointment nonetheless for both Adrian and team manager James Morris.

"It was disappointing not to be able to play Adrian, our fourth player, in the team events," said Morris. "Our placing for funding purposes was crucial. Our strongest team had to play."

It could have been a different matter if the team had been languishing in 11th or 12th place, but the top three players proved New Zealand was a genuine medal prospect by losing only to the two teams who contested the final – India and Nigeria.

Adrian played in the individual singles and doubles events which followed the team competition.

Most of our top players will recognise Adrian's situation and some will have been there themselves. The message from them all is: *hang in there!!*



100 year old postcard invitation to a tt evening.

Team Manager's Reflections

Commonwealth Championships

This tour was part of a build up for the Commonwealth Games in Manchester in July 2002. Strong international competition is essential for NZ to achieve at these games.

This was my third visit to India with a table tennis team but my first to New Delhi. It's quite a humbling experience to go outside a 5 star hotel with a full stomach, travel by bus to the stadium and engage in pursuit of winning matches by hitting a ball across a table, which we deem as very important, after seeing from the bus window the reality of the situation for the masses in India. It makes one think of the values of life. For example, hundreds live under jute sacks and plastic shelters, and the beggars and dirty squalid pollution leaves much to be desired. But the country is rich in culture, tradition and history. Unfortunately one of my greatest wishes was to see the Taj Mahal but time was not on my side.

India was a first experience for some members of the team and some had to cope with Delhi belly. Not to mention the mosquitos who haunted the stadium in their droves. Although local organisers tried their best, cohesive organisation was lacking. I remember one example where a management meeting changed the teams draw and some teams who were not present at the meeting were not informed!

Chunli and Karen Li both won individual medals (Chunli's silver was a real triumph); and our players excelled to gain a last 8 placing for NZ in all individual events plus a bronze for the women's team and 5th placing for the men's. All looks well for the Commonwealth Games preparation.

I was satisfied and proud of all players and their performance in one of the most challenging environments.

World Championships

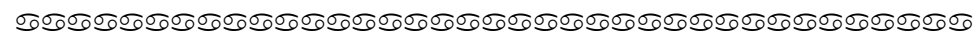
The three table tennis stadiums used were in a huge sports complex. The main stadium was magnificent. This in fact is the last world championship where the team events and the individuals are played together. From now on they are to be held separately.

Japanese efficiency was evident throughout with buses and scheduling running to precision. The organised, affluent society was a contrast to India.

It was disappointing not to have a women's team attend with Li Chunli only playing in the individuals. The men's team finished 44th, one place ahead of Australia! NZ's men's placing at the last world's was 57th. The team system was such that the winning teams went up to winners and losers went down to losers in section play. When I look at the final results and see teams like Finland, Indonesia and Armenia finishing behind us, I think our results were credible. There were 92 countries competing and 126 nations represented at the AGM. It's one of the biggest sporting events outside the Olympic Games.

Well done team.

James Morris



NZ stars fall to Koreans at WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Four men and one woman represented New Zealand in the 2001 World Championships in Osaka, Japan from 23 April – 6 May.

Our best hope was undoubtedly Commonwealth silver medallist **Li Chunli** whose world ranking earned her a direct place in the main draw of 64. In the first round she beat Nanthana Komwong of Thailand 21-12 in the fifth game, and then lost in four (21-19 in the fourth) to Kim Yun Mi of North Korea. As Chunli had the higher world ranking this would seem a disappointment but when Kim went on to defeat the second seed and Olympic silver medallist (Li Ju) in the next round and then win the next two matches to reach the semi-final, Chunli's performance became perfectly respectable.

The four men all had to compete in qualifying rounds with **Aaron Li** and **Peter Jackson** both reaching the final of their sections but prevented at the last hurdle from entering the main draw by Korean players. Aaron lost to Kim Bong Chul of South Korea, 14-21, 18-21; and Peter went down to Jong Kwang Hyok of North Korea, 21-15, 5-21, 16-21. **Peter Craven** lost in round one to a Singaporean player, 8-21, 19-21; and **Shane Laugesen** lost 12-21, 17-21 to a Russian player in round two. There were eight players in each section and qualifying play was a straight knock-out.

In the men's doubles **Peter Jackson** and **Aaron Li** were pipped 18-21, 21-16, 21-23 in the first round by a pair from the Czech Republic, and **Shane Laugesen** and **Peter Craven** lost in the first round to an Israeli pair 18-21, 16-21. In the mixed doubles, **Peter Jackson** and **Li Chunli** lost 21-11, 17-21, 18-21 to a pair from Belgium, also in the first round.



New Zealand men's team at Osaka, Japan for the World Championships in the Butterfly sponsored tracksuits. The main colour was light grey.
L/R: **Aaron Li, Peter Jackson, Shane Laugesen, Peter Craven, James Morris** (Manager/Coach).

Earlier, New Zealand had finished 44th in the men's team event, improving 13 places on our previous world ranking.

(See also "Team Manager's Reflections" on page 20)

BUTTERFLY DONATES GEAR

The New Zealand team at the World Championships paraded in new tracksuits kindly sponsored by Butterfly.

The supply of the smart grey and black attire was initiated by New Zealand Butterfly agent, Hagen Bower. Each team member also received four shirts, two pairs of shorts, a sports bag, towel, socks, a pair of shoes and a shoe case. It was an extremely generous sponsorship.

TTNZ and the players thank Butterfly for this gesture.

UMPIRING FOR THE BEST PLAYERS IN THE WORLD

Fresh from the Sydney Paralympics, International Umpire **Averil Roberts** has now added the Osaka World Championships to her portfolio of experience. She was the only New Zealand umpire there. This is her perspective on the glamour event:

The first day we travelled by courtesy bus to the main playing hall to orientate ourselves. This proved to be a very valuable exercise as three separate halls were used. Number 1 Hall was a huge complex with 12 tables, No. 2 was a smaller venue but also had 12 tables and No. 3 was quite small and had 8 tables. All were within about 500 metres of each other, so easily walked. The huge food hall which catered for all officials and players was between Hall 1 and Hall 3 so everything was easily accessed.

The Umpires briefing meeting was very confusing to say the least. It was in Japanese and the 'interpreter' had a very limited knowledge of English, and less of table tennis. A number of the daily briefings were also conducted in Japanese. Still, overall I think things ran fairly smoothly. There were 150 International Umpires: 80 from Japan and the others from all around the world.

The first day of competition dawned and wouldn't you know it – my first World Champs umpire was in the first session and on Show Court No. 2 – a TV table. It was a women's team match between Croatia and Italy. A marvellous match. The score was 3-2 to Croatia with the final match going to 21-19 in 3rd. Needless to say the match went overtime and unbeknown to me at the time, delayed the whole Opening Ceremony by ¾ hour!! Whoops, good start! My second match for the day was on Show Court 1 – the main TV table. There were two huge TV screens at either end of the Stadium. While umpiring or assisting it was impossible not to catch sight of your match on the screen. My umpiring partner for these matches was a Japanese lady who was a reasonable umpire, but didn't speak English so communication was difficult. I think my sign language has improved! Being the only New Zealand umpire meant I was paired with Japanese umpires for the entire teams competition. For the individual events I was paired with various English speaking umpires. Mick McShane and I teamed up to umpire the ¼ final men's singles match between Ma Lin and Liu Guozheng (won by Ma Lin 21-19 in the 5th), and I teamed with Nicole Rischard-Hengen of Luxembourg to do a semi-final women's doubles match between two Chinese pairs. The winners won the title.

Spare time was rare but on my one full day off (out of 14) a few of us, accompanied by Kimie, a lovely Japanese lady who could speak some English, went by train to Kyoto for the day. Thank goodness for Kimie. Otherwise we would have got lost in the Osaka Railway Station! That did happen to some of the other umpires.

I managed to watch a few of the New Zealand Men's team matches and to catch up with them in the food hall.

The Championships were a valuable and most enjoyable learning experience for me. It was also great being able to talk to the other umpires from around the world. Most of us would socialize for an hour or so at the end of each day in the foyer of our hotel.

Thank you to Hutt Valley T T Association and Waterloo Club who contributed towards my considerable expenses, also the Mayor of Hutt City.

Averil Roberts

BAY OF PLENTY'S SHINING SUN

By John Lea

Spectators at the recent North Island Championships saw a new star on the women's scene. Bay of Plenty's **Sun Yang** reached the open final, losing to Karen Li in 4 games; won the women's doubles with Lesley Gardner; and also won the under 19 girls and mixed doubles events. This performance lifted her to third in the New Zealand ratings, behind Karen and Li Chunli, after just two tournaments.

'Sunny' swept aside her opposition in the Auckland Junior Open, her first tournament appearance in New Zealand, and was grateful to find tougher competition in Palmerston North. Her speed of foot, and ball control from well behind the table, caused many to take notice when she pushed Karen Li in pool play. The ability to chop and float well from both wings is rarely seen nowadays and prompted Karen's team to review video footage of the match, in expectation of a rematch in the final.

The only disappointment was that Sun Yang knocked out Bay of Plenty's other leading player, Kadia Keller-Rice, in the first round of the main draw. This was their first ever meeting, and had the effect of pushing a determined Kadia out of the national top 10.

Six Months Only

The Bay of Plenty Association is hosting Sun Yang for six months, as part of a sister city exchange with Yantai in China. The exchange was planned from 1999, and she was originally intended to arrive in mid-March. After a series of problems with visa's, and communication problems with the foreign affairs ministry in Yantai, she arrived on May 27th, with the Association only being given four days notice of her pending arrival!

The Tauranga District Council, who obtained substantial sponsorship from the Hillary Commission, initiated the visit. Additional funding has been provided by Pub Charities, leaving only a minimal cost for the overall project.

Coaching Experience

Sun Yang is 18 years old, and had been training at the Table Tennis Academy in Yantai, where she coached juniors. During her six months in New Zealand she hopes to expand her coaching experience at intermediate and senior levels, and improve her English language skills. She is a quiet, pleasant lass with a ready smile, and is known in the Bay as 'Sunny'. Sun Yang has formed a good rapport with local players, and she impressed greatly on her first school visit to Western Heights College in Rotorua.

Open to Offers

After the North Island Championships she commences weekly junior squad training on Monday nights, and is looking to secure more visits to schools in the region. She will be kept busy in Tauranga, Rotorua and Whakatane until the National Championships. However, the remaining six weeks before her mid-November return to Yantai are open to offers.



Continued over page

Sun Yang from previous page.

The Bay of Plenty Association intends to run 'train the trainer' workshops later in the season. This aims at increasing the number of people actively encouraging table tennis in the region, and hopes to provide support for the current coaching force of Ron Sheridan, Ricky Smith and Kadia Keller-Rice. Targets will include teachers, parents and players.

Positive Publicity

With more people to organise clubs and encourage players to seek higher competition, the short-handed Bay administration can secure an income base capable of supporting dedicated leasehold premises. The population is large enough, and with the positive publicity generated by Sun Yang, the Association has hopes of achieving this goal in the next two or three years, and becoming a force in New Zealand table tennis.



MEDAL CHANCE GOES BEGGING AT COMMONWEALTHS

At a crucial stage of the mixed doubles quarter-final when **Aaron Li** and **Li Chunli** were playing Singaporeans Sen Yew Fai and Tan Paey Fern, there was a sudden change in Chunli's approach to the match. The NZ pair were one game up (best of three) and leading 18-12 in the second. Surely a cake-walk from here to the semi-finals and a guaranteed bronze medal? But from that point Chunli ceased playing her aggressive style and changed to a more passive approach well back from the table. The opponents moved in and quickly caught up. This continued in the third game which was lost. Aaron demonstrated his dismay over the situation by leaving the final three services of the match unplayed. Chunli explained afterwards that she had suddenly felt overcome by tiredness but the incident created a severe rift between the two and they did not play together at the World Championships.

WHO INVENTED TABLE TENNIS?

This remains the great unsolved table tennis mystery of all time.

An article in a croquet magazine claimed that we were dreamed up by John Jaques and Son (makers of croquet equipment). We quote: "The firm was founded in 1795 and it launched the modern game (of croquet) by displaying gear at the Great Exhibition in 1851 at Crystal Palace. It also invented Snakes and Ladders, Tiddly Winks, Ludo, Happy Families and Table Tennis, which was first known as "Gossina" and then Ping Pong."

Just when we thought the mystery was solved and that we shared the same unflattering ancestry as a clutch of children's games, a stalwart was ferreting among old newspaper cuttings and unearthed a report claiming that Mr James Gibb, a Cambridge engineer, invented the game in 1891. "Champagne corks were knocked from one side of the table to the other with cigar box lids. He then improved the game by using celluloid balls and sticking a rubber mat on the box lid. The game was patented as ping-pong, after the sound made by the balls, but its name was later changed to table tennis."

So the mystery remains. Who *did* invent table tennis? Can any reader throw light on this monumental puzzle?

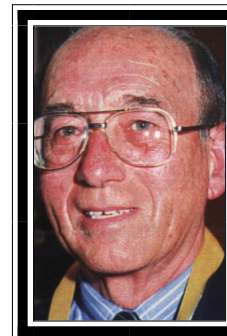
OBITUARY

JOHN LELLIOTT

8.5.28 – 27.5.01

John Lelliott, a man who stamped his indelible mark on table tennis in the Hutt Valley and nationally, died at the age of 73 on 27 May following a debilitating illness.

Born in Kent, England, on 8 May, 1928, he came to New Zealand in 1960. John wasted no time getting involved in table tennis - a sport for which he had developed a love as a boy and in which he had reached A grade level at the age of eleven. After spells in Canterbury and Southland, John commenced an attachment with Hutt Valley table tennis that spanned some 25 years. He held the positions of HVTTA President, Vice President, Chairman, Secretary, Selector and Life Member. He was also a loyal supporter of the Empire Club, and was Club Secretary, Assistant Treasurer and Selector.



As a member of the HVTTA Interclub Committee he relished the task of preparing draws and being hall steward at interclub even though others could have carried out this role. John simply enjoyed the table tennis atmosphere. Collecting table fees was always done thoroughly, and he made sure that all arrears were collected no matter how small, even if he had to wait until the beginning of next season to accost a tardy payer. As Publicity Officer, John would arrive home after interclub and often work until 2am writing out the interclub report to ensure he was able to deliver it to the media first thing next morning.

He became very experienced at organising major tournaments and was Manager of the NZ Championships in 1980, 1986 and 1990, and the North Islands in 1984 and 1994. In 1986 he took the initiative to have medals presented at national championships for the first time.

John spent 11 years on the National Executive and was a National Selector for 5 years. He managed the New Zealand team to the World and Commonwealth Championships in 1985. In 1989 he set up a National Veterans Newsletter Club, and organised annual trips to the Australian Veterans Championships.

John was particularly proud of playing at A grade level for 55 years, until the age of 71, which could be a world record. As a veteran he won a very large number of New Zealand titles and three Australian titles. His most memorable achievement was reaching the quarter-final of the 1998 World Veterans Over 70 Men's Singles, where he was narrowly beaten by the eventual winner.

In modern day terms John Lelliott could have been described as a table tennis junkie. He confessed to working up to 12 hours a day on table tennis work and up to 60 hours a week. He had a particularly strong personality and many in opposition to his argument may have regarded him as abrasive and obstinate on occasions. But if that's what it took to make his point, John was usually prepared to overlook diplomacy. Conversely, John was usually helpful to anyone who sought his assistance and ensured that any help offered was followed through. He earned the respect of many junior players and was sometimes sought to provide a reference for a job application.

John was a man of extremely rare quality who deserved the highest praise for his work in table tennis, his love of which was passionate to the extreme. It is perhaps a sad reflection that his efforts were not always recognised.

In 1997 John received a Civic Honours Award for voluntary community service to table tennis. He was also a member of the NZ Sports Hall of Fame.

Brian Pearson

TABLE TENNIS IDENTITY FEATURES IN QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS LIST

Within months of being elected a Life Member by Table Tennis New Zealand, Canterbury's **Trevor Flint** has been named in the 2001 Queens Birthday Honours List to receive the New Zealand Order of Merit.

This is an honour for the sport of Table Tennis, and a tremendous and well-deserved honour for Trevor, whose remarkable playing, coaching, and management career was summarised in our previous issue when we reported on his life membership.

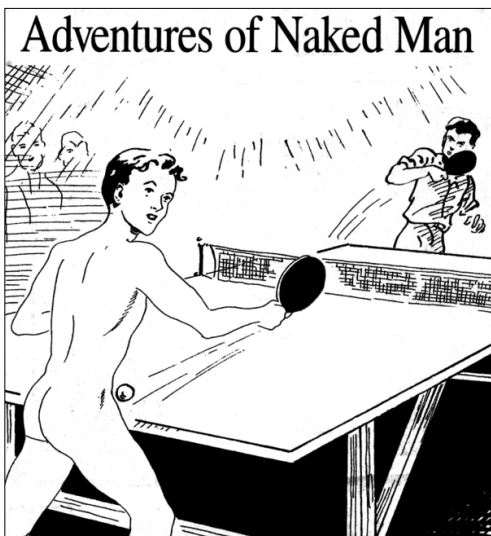


A Christchurch newspaper devoted half a page to Trevor's award, tracing his playing career from its beginnings at age 13 to its peak in the 1950's when he participated in the 1953 World Championships and won several national titles. It also covered his long coaching career and recalled the visit to China in 1974 when a New Zealand team coached by Trevor played in front of 18,000 people.

Trevor is still active in table tennis management at national as well as local level and sees his involvement with table tennis as a community service. That's exactly what it is - a thirty year community service! Worthy of royal recognition.

Wellington's "Naked Man" Takes Up Table Tennis

The **Evening Post** publishes the "**Adventures of Naked Man**" each week and invites its readers to submit captions, a selection from which are published the following week. With the kind permission of the artist, **Robert Gott** of Melbourne, we publish a recent effort featuring table tennis.



Some of the leading captions were:
"It was the strangest method of vasectomy that the other urologists had ever observed."

(This was the winner).

"Bill was suddenly glad he didn't play volleyball."

"It was at that moment Jacob was glad it wasn't archery."

"Temporarily distracted by the Mexican Wave, Naked Man paid a severe penalty."

"Roger misunderstood the coach, who had told him that to score a point in table tennis one had to keep the ball on the table."

There were several submissions of **"Ouch!"**

AUCKLAND INNOVATIVE APPROACH NEEDED

Since 1995, there has been a decline in the number of players in some provinces, including Auckland. In an attempt to buck this trend, Auckland created a new position this year encompassing both the coaching role and the promotion and development of the sport. Anne Noble, a former NZ Women's Champion, was employed in this role.

As part of the new initiatives undertaken by Anne and the Auckland "team" (including Bob Inns, Bruce Penberthy, Bill Burns, Jim Coad and Hagen Bower), Auckland now has a new coaching programme, run by Hagen Bower and Shane Laugesen; new tables, table barricades and scoreboards, as well as a revamped kitchen, an exercise room and robot machine. Seeing the fresh look Canterbury Stadium at last year's Nationals provided inspiration for Auckland to also "strive for better things". Hopefully, players from throughout the country will be able to experience a revitalised atmosphere at this year's Nationals in October.

Sponsorship has played a big part not only with prizes for this year's Nationals but also for the new equipment and stadium renovations. We are grateful for the continued support of our major sponsor, Cathay Pacific, and also to our new sponsors. Credit must go to Anne Noble and the Auckland Committee for making it all happen this year.

Table Tennis in NZ is reliant on sponsorship for its survival and growth and our experience this year has shown that money is available from the commercial sector, if people are prepared to go after it.

Good luck in your own endeavours to continue to promote the sport for the benefit of players and associations alike. See you at the Nationals.

Wayne Gear

Internet Service Provider

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.

South Island Open – Otago June 2001

<u>Open</u>	<u>Winner</u>	<u>Singles Runner Up</u>
Men's Singles	Aaron Li (C)	Malcolm Darroch (C)
Women's Singles	Linda Chen (C)	Laura-Lee Smith (C)
Men's Doubles	M Darroch & Simon Wallace (C)	
Women's Doubles	M Chang & L Chen (C)	
Mixed Doubles	A Li & R McKechnie (C)	
<u>B Grade</u>		
Men's Singles	Karl Samson (C)	Gahan Joughin (C)
Women's Singles	Andrea Gosney (C)	Maria Darroch (C)
Men's Doubles	C Erskine & J Wells (N)	
Women's Doubles	M Chang & S Chang (C)	
<u>C Grade</u>		
Men's Singles	Chris Erskine (N)	Neville Duggan (C)
Women's Singles	Claire Dimmock (NH)	Jacqui Wood (C)
Men's Doubles	C Erskine & J Wells (N)	
Women's Doubles	M Darroch & J Wood (C)	
<u>Over 60 years</u>		
Men's Singles	Alan Alabaster (C)	Colin Tipper (C)
Women's Singles	Brenda Adamson (S)	Alva Ingle (O)
Men's Doubles	A Alabaster & C Tipper (C)	
Mixed Doubles	B Kendall & A Ingle (O)	
<u>Over 50 years</u>		
Men's Singles	Alan Alabaster (C)	Colin Tipper (C)
Women's Singles	Raina McKechnie (C)	Sherry Chang (C)
Men's Doubles	A Alabaster & C Tipper (C)	
Women's Doubles	B Adamson & R McKechnie (S/C)	
Mixed Doubles	A Alabaster & R McKechnie (C)	
<u>Over 40 years</u>		
Men's Singles	Maurice Burrowes (O)	Peter de Boer (C)
Women's Singles	Lesley Gardner (C)	Raina McKechnie (C)
Men's Doubles	M Burrowes & J Fogarty (O)	
Women's Doubles	L Gardner & R McKechnie (C)	
Mixed Doubles	D Samson & R McKechnie (C)	
<u>Over 35 years</u>		
Men's Singles	Peter de Boer (C)	Lyndon White (C)
Women's Singles	Lesley Gardner (C)	Maria Darroch (C)
Men's Doubles	P de Boer & L White (C)	
Women's Doubles	M Darroch & L Gardner (C)	
Mixed Doubles	L White & L Gardner (C)	
<u>Under 21 years</u>		
Men's Singles	Simon Wallace (C)	Yi-Sien Lin (C)
Women's Singles	Samara Collins (O)	Andrea Gosney (C)
<u>Under 19 years</u>		
Boys' Singles	Simon Wallace (C)	Yi-Sien Lin (C)
Girls' Singles	Andrea Gosney (C)	Claire Dimmock (NH)
Boys' Doubles	J Cordue & Y Lin (W/C)	
Girls' Doubles	C Dimmock & J Wood (NH/C)	
Mixed Doubles	S Wallace & A Gosney (C)	

<u>Under 17 years</u>		
Boys' Singles	Simon Wallace (C)	Anthony Wilson (S)
Girls' Singles	Jacqui Wood (C)	Leanne Ridder (S)
Boys' Doubles	S Ridder & A Wilson (S)	
Mixed Doubles	J Wells & J Wood (N/C)	
<u>Under 15 years</u>		
Boys' Singles	Binbin Zhu (HV)	Jack Wells (N)
Girls' Singles	Kelly Samson (C)	Leanne Ridder (S)
Boys' Doubles	C Erskine & J Wells (N)	
Mixed Doubles	C Erskine & K Samson (N/C)	
<u>Under 13 years</u>		
Boys' Singles	Binbin Zhu (HV)	Chris Erskine (N)
Boys' Doubles	C Erskine & B Zhu (N/HV)	

International Federation considers GLUING

NO RULE CHANGE – But.....

The International Table Tennis Federation's Board of Directors (formerly the ITTF Council) has said no to a proposition to ban fresh gluing – but there is no doubt that they would like to get rid of the use of speed glue in the future.

"We would like to eliminate toxic gluing, but this is not the time to make more changes", said the ITTF president Mr Adham Sharara, referring to the change of ball, scoring and service rule.

It was concluded from the discussion that the ITTF is now sending a signal to manufacturers encouraging them to develop rubbers and glue that eliminate the advantages of gluing several times every day of competition, and remove the toxicity.



Plenty of Jobs on Offer

This is the time of year when volunteers are sought for the next two years in some key positions at national level. Here's the list:

Board Member
National Selection Panel
National Senior Coach
National Senior Assistant Coach

Applications close on 15 October. Contact National Office, TTNZ, PO Box 867, Wellington, for more details.

Subscription Offer to the Butterfly World Report, an 8 page glossy publication containing colour photographs, tournament results and table tennis articles, is still available.

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.

Top 10 Ratings

As at: 29 July 2001

Men's Open

1. Aaron Li
2. Peter Jackson
3. Shane Laugesen
4. Andrew Hubbard
5. Malcolm Darroch
6. Aaron Winborn
7. Hagen Bower
8. Yang Ying
9. Simon Wallace
10. Andy Huang

Women's Open

1. Li Chunli
2. Karen Li
3. Sun Yang
4. Linda Chen
5. Sarah Finch
6. Tracey McLaughlan
7. Val Beaver
8. Angela Li
9. Hilary Low
10. Sabine Westentra

Men's Under 21

1. Yang Ying
2. Simon Wallace
3. Andy Huang
4. Adrian Soh
5. Yi-Sien Lin
6. Peter Craven
7. John Cordue
8. Paul Innes
9. Rong Chen
10. Josh Alexandre

Women's Under 21

1. Sun Yang
2. Lily Huang
3. Wendy Zheng
4. Jiani Hu
5. Samara Collins
6. Deborah Morrison
7. Lisa Boaden
8. Andrea Gosney
9. Sandy Wang
10. Meena Chang

Men's Over 40

1. Malcolm Darroch
2. Maurice Burrowes
3. Peter de Boer
4. Doug Pattinson
5. Bob Lassen
6. William Stewart
7. Pat Low
8. Alan Alabaster
9. William Weinstock
10. Chip Eade

Women's Over 40

1. Val Beaver
2. Yvonne Fogarty
3. Averil Roberts
4. Ulrike Kusche
5. Chris Cunningham
6. Anne McLean
7. Lesley Gardner
8. Helen Codlin
9. Lynley Barker
10. Raina McKechnie

Men's Over 50

1. Doug Pattinson
2. Bob Lassen
3. Pat Low
4. Alan Alabaster
5. William Weinstock
6. Chip Eade
7. Nam Hang Lee
8. Barrie Kendall
9. Alan Tomlinson
10. Stephen Craw

Women's Over 50

1. Val Beaver
2. Yvonne Fogarty
3. Averil Roberts
4. Chris Cunningham
5. Anne McLean
6. Lynley Barker
7. Raina McKechnie
8. Jill Murray
9. Sue Shirriffs
10. Linda Wynks

Men's Over 60

1. Alan Alabaster
2. Chip Eade
3. Nam Hang Lee
4. Barrie Kendall
5. Alan Tomlinson
6. Colin Tipper
7. Albert Roberts
8. Bruce Penberthy
9. Bob Hurr
10. Denver Glass

Women's Over 60

1. Margaret McGregor
2. Pat McArthur
3. Joyce Coleman
4. Gladys Halford
5. Annice Robottom
6. Kath Thompson
7. Elsie Spooner
8. Valda Smith
9. Pamela Keene
10. Nellie Milich

Boys' Under 19

1. Yang Ying
2. Simon Wallace
3. Andy Huang
4. Adrian Soh
5. Yi-Sien Lin
6. John Cordue
7. Josh Alexandre
8. Karl Samson
9. Greg Burton
10. Evan Kramer

Girls' Under 19

1. Sun Yang
2. Lily Huang
3. Wendy Zheng
4. Jiani Hu
5. Deborah Morrison
6. Lisa Boaden
7. Andrea Gosney
8. Sandy Wang
9. Meena Chang
10. Eileen Schwab

Boys' Under 17

1. Yang Ying
2. Simon Wallace
3. Andy Huang
4. Josh Alexandre
5. Binbin Zhu
6. Jack Wells
7. Ian Loubachevskii
8. Anthony Wilson
9. Frank Tsai
10. Kurt Strid

Girls' Under 17

1. Lily Huang
2. Wendy Zheng
3. Jiani Hu
4. Sandy Wang
5. Eileen Schwab
6. Sarah Ho
7. Sophie Shu
8. Florence Li
9. Jacqui Wood
10. Sacha Welsh

Boys' Under 15

1. Binbin Zhu
2. Jack Wells
3. Nathan Lowe
4. Chris Erskine
5. Jonathan Chen
6. Yazan Zainal
7. Adam Ryland
8. Vance Kelly
9. Geoffrey Smart
10. Blair Paterson

Girls' Under 15

1. Lily Huang
2. Jiani Hu
3. Sandy Wang
4. Sophie Shu
5. Florence Li
6. Leanne Ridder
7. Kelly Samson
8. Katie Stretton
9. Hanna Squire
10. Michelle McCarthy

Boys' Under 13

1. Binbin Zhu
2. Chris Erskine
3. Blair Paterson
4. Billy Lam
5. Matthew Lowe
6. Levi Welsh
7. Michael Ho
8. Johnathan Dixon
9. Peter Cameron
10. Luke Tough

Girls' Under 13

1. Jiani Hu
2. Sandy Wang
3. Sophie Shu
4. Hanna Squire
5. Sally Ho
6. Sarah Barrie
7. Rebecca Bourke
8. Ji Hyun Lee
9. Natasha Kok
10. Hayley Jones

Novelty Table Tennis

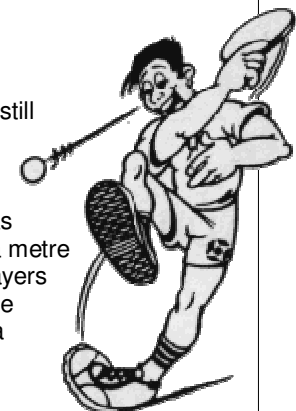
This is the last of our current supply of Novelty TT. Contributions are still welcome.

Cafeteria Table Tennis

If all the table tennis tables are occupied and your club or stadium has small cafeteria tables, arrange four of them in a square pattern with a metre gap between tables, and stand (or sit!) a player behind each one. Players gently hit the ball to land on any other table. It must be returned by the player guarding that table, to any other table. Anyone missing loses a point. Last person to lose 21 (or 11) points wins.

Siamese Doubles

The free arms of doubles partners are tied together at the wrists with soft material such as a scarf. Games then proceed as "normal. Serve with care – serving becomes quite intimate. Pairings of left and right handed players have a decided advantage in this game.



RULE BOOKS

The new rule book is still available. It contains the laws of the game, international regulations, and a summary of the rule changes over the past two years. Send \$5 and an A5 self-addressed envelope to TTNZ and you will be sent a copy.

