

## 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	<b>New Zealand Open</b>	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

**Table Tennis appreciates the support given by:**



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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*

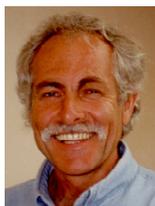
Medal chance goes begging. *Page 25*

## 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.

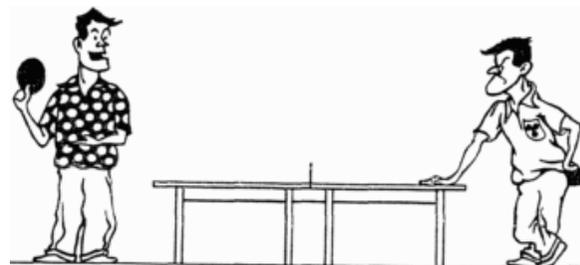
Our **Hillary Commission** funding has increased by \$5000; **Sports Foundation** from \$29,000 to \$43,000 (\$16,000 carried forward from the previous year); and the **Olympic Committee** is offering a \$13,000 one-off grant from Olympic Solidarity funds. Table Tennis New Zealand is indebted to these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

## Service Rule Changes

Effective internationally on 1<sup>st</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:dennis.galvin@xtra.co.nz)

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

Here are the first two:

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### **HAWKE'S BAY**

**Kevin Bird**

**E-Mail:** [kebird@clear.net.nz](mailto: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.



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### **OTAGO**

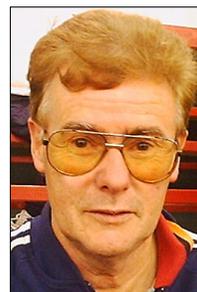
**Samara Collins**

**E-Mail:** [samaracollins@hotmail.com](mailto: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.

**DONIC**  
New Zealand

Joachim Kusche  
327 Coldstream Rd, Rangiora 8254  
Ph: 03-313 3449 Fax: 03-313 3412  
<http://www.donic.de>

### **DONIC Blades and Rubber sheets**

**If you like to play the 40mm ball as fast as the 38mm ball.**

**Also for the 40mm ball (and the 38mm) ROBO PONG 2040 \$1495 – all included.**

Always rubbers, blades and made up bats on special. Give us a call.

## **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](mailto: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.

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## 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 Lillieroos 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.

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## 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.