

Table Tennis appreciates the support given by



TABLE TENNIS INFO

Issue: 11

July 1999

Important Dates

August	Sat 7 – Sun 8 Sun 8 Sat 14 – Sun 15 Fri 20 – Sun 22 Sat 28 – Sun 29 Sat 28 – Sun 29	Wellington Open Warkworth Open Auckland Open Canterbury Open Waikato Open Manawatu Veterans	Wellington Warkworth Auckland Christchurch Hamilton Palmerston North
September	Wed 2 – Wed 8 Sat 4 – Sun 5 Sat 4 – Sun 5 Sat 11 – Sun 12 Sat 11 – Sat 18 Sat 18 – Sun 19 Mon 20 – Thu 30 Sun 26 – Sat 2 Oct	Olympic Qualifying Tournament Hutt Valley Open Waitemata Junior Open Aotearoa Maori Championships Australian Veterans Open NZ Schools Tournament New Zealand Championships Australian U14 & U16 Open	Auckland Hutt Valley Waitemata North Harbour Gold Coast Hutt Valley Palmerston North Townsville
October	Sun 3 – Sat 9	Australian Senior & U18	Townsville

HUGE BOOST FOR KIWI TABLE TENNIS

MAKING TABLE TENNIS EVEN MORE FUN

The new Kiwi TT manual, launched last month, is the most practical resource table tennis has seen in many years. It has been developed in response to the views and needs expressed by grass roots players and coaches. It's been tested, and it works!!!

It's major achievement is that it makes the game fun for beginners right from the start - eliminating the problem of having to introduce new players to the game by matching them against those with more experience. The manual places great emphasis on fun and novelty games – games that can be played by large groups of new (and not so new) players to keep them entertained and convince them that table tennis is fun long before any thought is given to playing a game up to 21.

The manual is the culmination of months of work by former Development Officer **John Stapleton** and a group of other experienced consultants. It has resulted in a resource that extends far beyond the normal expectations of a Kiwi Sport manual. They are usually thought of as a resource for teachers with minimal table tennis knowledge who are placed in the position of having to teach table tennis to children. This manual does that, but much more:

It suggests twenty different novelty games, with multiple variations - suitable for people of all ages.

It teaches the basics of coaching beginners in a way accessible to all.

It covers the needs of disabled players and instructs on how to coach them.

It relates the activities to the latest school health curriculum – a huge incentive for teachers to opt for table tennis in preference to others sports.

In short, it assists all table tennis organisers in New Zealand to go out to schools, older adults clubs, corporate social groups, etc and offer table tennis as a fun package. Most sports and leisure activities only become fun after a bit of perseverance. We can now sell our sport as fun right from the start.

See the middle pages for a closer look....



Joachim Kusche
327 Coldstream Rd, Rangiora 8254
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More and more players go for **DONIC** – Why not you?

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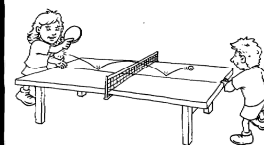
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Articles and letters published herein do not necessarily reflect the views of Table Tennis New Zealand Inc.

Kiwi Table Tennis Manual

Table Tennis New Zealand

A resource for introducing Table Tennis to beginners





This issue of Table Tennis Info focuses on coaching, and I'd like to thank all those who have contributed to it.

In many ways coaches are the life-blood of a sport. Whether it's parents teaching their children how to hit the ball over the net, or a top coach passing on some tactical advice in the middle of a tense World championship game, the passing on of knowledge from a coach to a player is vital to the continued health of the sport.

In Table Tennis we are not over endowed with coaches, in fact, to be honest, we're short of coaches at all levels. But the ones we do have do amazing work with limited resources. They work at all levels, often to the detriment of their own coaching ambitions, because they know there's no one else to do the job. They give up their own time, spend their own money, to be at tournaments and competitions, to be down at the hall on a Thursday night taking the new bunch of beginners.

With this issue, we'd like to pay tribute to all those coaching Table Tennis at whatever level. We mightn't say it enough, but on behalf of all players – Thanks!

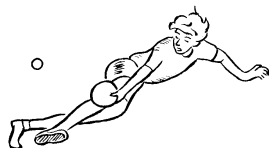
What I'm sure would be the best thanks of all to our current coaches, would be an influx of new coaches. This issue is also an opportunity to encourage anyone interested in starting to coach Table Tennis. TTNZ and your local Association can help you learn to coach and make opportunities available to go as far as you want in coaching. If you've been thinking about it, make the decision now, and call either TTNZ or your local Association for more information.

As you all know we had planned for a tour to New Zealand by a Chinese National side last month. Unfortunately, at almost the last moment, we got a call from China cancelling the tour due to the unavailability of their top players. This was a bitter disappointment as the tour was a great chance to promote Table Tennis and for you to see the best Table Tennis in the world right here in New Zealand.

The only bright note is that the door hasn't been completely shut, and we will look at the possibility of trying to organise a similar tour next year.

As we move into the depths of winter, and the halls never seem to heat up at night, I hope everyone is enjoying their Table Tennis and looking forward to achieving whatever goals they may have set themselves this year.

Michael Brown



WORLD RANKINGS	
NZ Players	
(as at 14 July 1999)	
Li Chunli	30
Karen Li	126
Peter Jackson	133
Shane Laugesen	305
Sarah Finch	379
Andrew Hubbard	402
Aaron Winborn	425
Hagen Bower	444

Executive Director Leaving

It is with regret that I have to announce that our Executive Director Mike Brown has resigned effective 1 September 1999.

When Mike changed to part time employment in March in an effort to save money, it was not hard to foresee that it may have only been a temporary measure. Lack of money and being a part time employee combined to erode any possible job satisfaction, and Mike is leaving to pursue other interests.

The Board has considered the resulting situation long and hard and is now looking at some options for the future. I am unable to say more at this stage pending some outcomes, but we hope to be in a position to announce a satisfactory resolution as regards the National Office by mid August.

Meanwhile we wish Mike the very best in his future endeavours. He brought to Table Tennis some fresh ideas, worked hard to secure and maintain funding, and brought us into the electronic world. It was unfortunate that his hard work to produce the Chinese tour eventually came to nothing as a result of China cancelling out.

Alan Hounsell – Chairman

XX

Board Vacancies

There are currently two vacancies plus a further two with John Beatson retiring from the Board and in accordance with the Rules, Dennis Galvin is standing down but is offering himself for reappointment.

Nominations to the Board are being sought, which must be with the National office by October 8th. Nominations have to be accompanied by a CV.

Belgrade Bombs Explode Tour Chinese visit cancelled

The cancellation of the world championships in Belgrade and subsequent rearrangement of the international timetable, meant the Chinese players were not available to tour New Zealand as planned.

After all the hard work by the Executive Director and others, advice was received from the Chinese Association that the tour was off.

A big disappointment to all concerned, but events beyond the control of the table tennis fraternity has upset the touring plans.

DONIC Joachim Kusche
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Mail Orders taken - free DONIC catalogue (60 pages).

My Serve

by **James Morris**



In writing my first article for TT INFO I have decided to make **YOU MARKET Table Tennis!** I have many concerns about Table Tennis but the low number of registered players is the most important at this time.

The reason is obvious as **Individual Member Registration** is an important factor this year in securing funding from the Hillary Commission. Below is a starting point to get you thinking and acting. If every registered person secured one other person to register the numbers would double overnight!

Let's Market Table Tennis.

Why will you market Table Tennis?

- survival of the sport - increase membership.
- more competition/increased tournament entries.
- more people playing.
- more money for development.

How will you market Table Tennis?

- visit schools - KiwiSport, demonstrations.
- follow up on school visits.
- stimulating and visual presentations - targeting new sectors.
- through public awareness - advertising, promotions, tours etc.
- attract new players (bring along a friend).
- coach education.

Who will market Table Tennis? YOU!

- Players - past and present.
- coaches/parents.
- associations.
- administrators.

Where will you market Table Tennis?

- at schools.
- public displays- shopping malls etc.
- in newspapers and TV.
- the workplace.
- clubs and stadiums.
- working men's clubs.

What areas of Table Tennis will you market?

- as a sport in schools.
- as a KiwiSport.
- social / recreational.
- active in age - veterans.
- competitive playing.

When?

NOW!

John F Kennedy said:

Ask not what your country can do for you but what you can do for your country."

It's time we adapted these words for our sport - Table Tennis.



"So what! He's just helping me with the net shots."

HALL OF FAME

The March issue gave some background to this new initiative and at Easter at the conclusion of the Veteran Championships the first personalities were inducted into the "Table Tennis Hall of Fame".

The first Inductees (alpha order) were:

**Russell Algie
Murray Dunn
Margaret Hoar**

**Bob Jackson
Alan Tomlinson
Neti Trail**

In later issues it is hoped to publish profiles.

About 150 people attended the prizegiving for the Veterans Championships and Hall Of Fame Function.

James Morris (TTNZ Board member) was Master Of Ceremonies for the Hall of Fame and did a great job of making everyone feel at home. James said a few words about the players concerned, a video was played and then they were asked to come up and receive their plaque which was presented by Errol Cheal (first NZ Men's Singles Champion in 1934).

Alan Tomlinson, Russell Algie and Murray Dunn attended the function and regrettably the other inductees were unable to be there. Neti Trail was interviewed by John Stapleton and the video of it was played. Margaret Catasis (nee Hoar) was presented with her plaque by the Australians who very nicely put on a special function in Australia in her honour.

It was a great evening listening to how it was for them at the top. Murray Dunn told about how long it used to take some of the trips overseas because they had to travel by sea.

A Function well organised by the North Harbour Association.



Hall of Fame presentations:

L to R: James Morris (Master of Ceremonies) Murray Dunn, Alan Tomlinson, Russell Algie, Seated: Errol Cheal (Presenter).

CATHAY PACIFIC North Island Championships Auckland

Open

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

Winner

Shane Laugesen (A)
Maxine Goldie (A)
A Hubbard & A Winborn (HV/A)
M Goldie & T Hefferan (A/NH)
A Winborn & M Goldie (A)

Singles Runner Up

Andrew Hubbard (HV)
Raewyn Young (HV)

B Grade

Men's Singles
Women's Singles

Adrian Soh (N)
Jill Murray (NH)

Craig Dye (A)
Anna Danby (A)

C Grade

Men's Singles
Simon Wallace (C)

Mike Liu (A)

Over 60 years

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

Nam Hang Lee (A)
Margaret McGregor (WT)
M Lee & N Lee (A)
P Keene & M McGregor (WT)
B Otene & M McGregor (WT)

Man Tin Lee (A)
Pamela Keene (WT)

Over 50 years

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

William Weinstock (A)
Val Beaver (NH)
M Lee & N Lee (A)
V Beaver & A Roberts (NH/HV)
B Lassen & C Cunningham (A/NH)

Nam Hang Lee (A)
Jill Murray (NH)

Over 40 years

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

Sean Chen (A)
Anne McLean (A)
S Chen & J Yang (A)
V Beaver & A Roberts (NH/HV)
D Jackson & V Beaver (A/NH)

Bob Lassen (A)
Val Beaver (NH)

Over 35 years

Men's Singles
Men's Doubles

Sean Chen (A)
S Chen & J Yang (A)

Kevin Barry (CM)

Under 21 years

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

Peter Craven (NL)
Tracey McLauchlan (HV)
P Craven & V Ho (NL/NH)
T Burgess & M Neal (NH)
P Craven & A Danby (NH/A)

Paul Stewart (C)
Anna Danby (A)

Under 19 years

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

Peter Craven (NL)
Rachel Griffiths (NH)
P Craven & V Ho (NL)
J Brewerton & D Morrison (A/SC)
J Vinicombe & L Boaden (HV)

Adrian Soh (N)
Deborah Morrison (SC)

Under 17 years

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

Andy Huang (A)
Deborah Morrison (SC)
O Elwell & A Huang (A)
L Boaden & R Griffiths (HV/NH)
S Wallace & D Morrison (C/SC)

Adrian Soh (N)
Jenny Brewerton (A)

Under 15 & 13 —>>

Men's Open

- Aaron Li
- Peter Jackson
- Shane Laugesen
- Andrew Hubbard
- Hagen Bower
- Aaron Winborn
- Hu Binqun
- Sean Chen
- David Jackson
- Chen Lei

Women's Open

- Li Chunli
- Karen Li
- Sarah Finch
- Maxine Goldie
- Sabine Westenera
- Tracey Phillips
- Tracey Epps
- Tanya Hefferan
- Yvonne Fogarty
- Val Beaver

Men's Under 21

- Chen Lei
- Paul Innes
- Jason Ng
- Peter Craven
- Shane Warbrooke
- Vincent Ho
- Yi-Sien Lin
- Ben Collins
- Adrian Soh
- Stephen Hirst

Women's Under 21

- Tracey McLauchlan
- Samara Collins
- Anna Danby
- Melissa Beazer
- Amber Johnson
- Catherine Danby
- Belinda Beazer
- Tanya Daly
- Lisa Boaden
- Rachel Griffiths

Men's Over 40

- Sean Chen
- David Jackson
- Bob Lassen
- Kevin Barry
- Maurice Burrowes
- Lindsay Ward
- David Hall
- Pat Low
- William Weinstock
- Warren Evans

TOP 10 SENIOR Ratings

as at
11 July 1999

Women's Over 40

- Yvonne Fogarty
- Val Beaver
- Ulrike Kusche
- Lynley Barker
- Anne McLean
- Chris. Cunningham
- Jill Murray
- Averil Roberts
- Pat McArthur
- Linda Wynks

Men's Over 50

- Bob Lassen
- Pat Low
- William Weinstock
- Warren Evans
- Alan Tomlinson
- Doug Pattinson
- Alan Alabaster
- Nam Hang Lee
- Bruce Connolly
- Chip Eade

Women's Over 50

- Val Beaver
- Lynley Barker
- Anne McLean
- Chris. Cunningham
- Jill Murray
- Averil Roberts
- Pat McArthur
- Val Scarr
- Joyce Coleman
- Kaylene Findlay

Men's Over 60

- Alan Tomlinson
- Nam Hang Lee
- Albert Roberts
- Gerry Doyle
- Man Tin Lee
- John Lelliott
- Bill Otene
- Colin Tipper
- Norm Parsons
- Colin Neutze

Women's Over 60

- Pat McArthur
- Joyce Coleman
- Margaret McGregor
- Jean. Wharehoka
- Margurette Green
- Annicc Robottom
- Phyllis Hoete
- Elsie Spooner
- Gladys Halford
- Kath Thompson

Under 15 years

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

Andy Huang (A)
Sacha Welsh (NL)
H Bunce & K Fagan (NH/WT)
J Lo & E Schwab (NH)
S Wallace & J Lo (C/NH)

Simon Wallace (C)
Eileen Schwab (NH)

Under 13 years

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

Nathan Lowe (A)
Sandy Wang (A)
J Chen & B Zhu (C/HV)
F Li & S Wang (A)
N Lowe & S Wang (A)

Jonathan Chen (C)
Florence Li (A)

NEW ZEALAND v AUSTRALIA VETERANS TEST MATCH

Hosted by North Harbour Association on 1 April 99

<u>OVER 40 MEN</u>	NZ - David Jackson, Sean Chen AU - Ken Cole, Igor Klaf	NZ 4--0
<u>OVER 40 WOMEN</u>	NZ - Lynley Barker, Ulrike Kusche AU - Lorraine Baker, Kay Crowell	AU 5-0
<u>OVER 50 MEN</u>	NZ - Bob Lassen, William Weinstock AU - Michael Ede, Mick Wright	NZ 3-2
<u>OVER 50 WOMEN</u>	NZ - Val Beaver, Averil Roberts AU - Betty Bird, Carol Hughes	AU 4-1
<u>OVER 60 MEN</u>	NZ - Nam Hang Lee, John Lelliott AU - Case DeBondt, Geoff Nesbitt	AU 4-1
<u>OVER 60 WOMEN</u>	NZ - Pat McArthur, Margaret McGregor AU - Beryl Davies, Prisca Rosario	AU 4-1

Test Match won by Australia 19 matches to 10



New Zealand Vets team who played Australia.

L to R – Sean Chen, Nam Hang Lee, John Lelliott, David Jackson, Val Beaver, William Weinstock, Averil Roberts, Bob Lassen, Lynley Barker, Ulrike Kusche, Nellie Milich.
Front Row – Pat McArthur, Kaylene Findlay (Manager), Margaret McGregor.

Top 10~JUNIOR Ratings

As at 11 July 1999

Boys Under 19	Girls Under 19	Boys Under 17	Girls Under 17
1. Chen Lei	1. Samara Collins	1. Yi-Sien Lin	1. Lisa Boaden
2. Paul Innes	2. Lisa Boaden	2. Adrian Soh	2. Rachel Griffiths
3. Jason Ng	3. Rachel Griffiths	3. Andy Huang	3. Jenny Brewerton
4. Peter Craven	4. Jenny Brewerton	4. Simon Wallace	4. Deborah Morrison
5. Vincent Ho	5. Deborah Morrison	5. Oscar Elwell	5. Jiani Hu
6. Yi-Sien Lin	6. Monique Neal	6. John Cordue	6. Alison Thomson
7. Adrian Soh	7. Tamsyn Burgess	7. Greg Burton	7. Laura-Jane Young
8. Paul Stewart	8. Jiani Hu	8. Andrew Hovey	8. Claire Dimmock
9. Andy Huang	9. Clara So	9. Allen Tsai	9. Leanne Wight
10. Guy Williams	10. Alison Thomson	10. Kelsey Fagan	10. Andrea Gosney

Boys Under 15	Girls Under 15	Boys Under 13	Girls Under 13
1. Andy Huang	1. Jiani Hu	1. Jonathan Chen	1. Jiani Hu
2. Simon Wallace	2. Sacha Welsh	2. Nathan Lowe	2. Sandy Wang
3. Kelsey Fagan	3. Sandy Wang	3. Chris Erskine	3. Florence Li
4. Josh Alexandre	4. Eileen Schwab	4. Philip Thompson	4. Kelly Samson
5. Kurt Strid	5. Janice Chen	5. Steven Moore	5. Leanne Ridder
6. Frank Tsai	6. Jennifer Lo	6. Adam Ryland	6. Anna Chan
7. Anthony Wilson	7. Jaimee Colvin	7. James Silverwood	7. Sophie Shu
8. Hadleigh Bunce	8. Kelly Winkley	8. Martin Lau	8. Katie Stretton
9. Ian Loubachevskii	9. Florence Li	9. Rhys Van Stipriaan	9. Suzannah Judson
10. Scott Ridder	10. Jacqui Wood	10. Bordan Chao	10. Jessica D'Audney

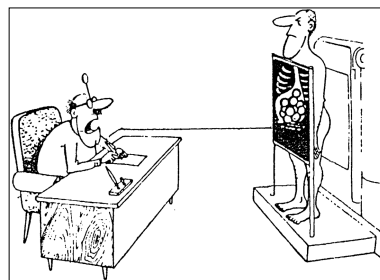
Registration Statistics

(as at 15 July 1999)



From these figures it can be appreciated why James Morris is so concerned. (see page 4).

The National office is aware there are some more on the way, but there must be many yet to register.



"Next time you play table tennis it will be better to keep your mouth shut!"

Aotearoa	3
Auckland	290
Bay of Plenty	17
Canterbury	295
Counties-Manukau	6
Hawkes Bay	8
Hutt Valley	172
Kapiti	29
Manawatu	39
Marlborough	14
Nelson	124
North Harbour	131
North Taranaki	7
Northland	131
Otago	112
South Canterbury	49
Southland	120
Waikato	172
Wairarapa	70
Waitemata	86
Wanganui	46
Wellington	32
West Coast	11
Total	1964

INTERCLUB is VITAL!

New Ideas needed!

Richard Lee has written to TT INFO at some length on the declining popularity of interclub participation.

He is most concerned, as he feels that numbers have dropped to the point where many associations must be questioning the viability and purpose of conducting their interclub competition.

Richard believes that what is happening in TT as well as in many other sports, is that there is a trend towards the American way, where there is a complete split between the recreational and the competitive side of the sport.

New Ways

With the number of interclub players declining, so too are the tournament players and he is most concerned with the competitive side of the sport. For the competitive side to survive, it is essential that interclub is kept running in some form, as it is the glue that binds that side of table Tennis together. His view is that new methods must be tried to keep the interclub system intact.

Innovation

Richard has been instrumental in introducing a Swedish innovation into the Auckland preliminary Premier competition and feedback from players has been promising. The new idea is the playing of a third set tie-breaker. The scoring system is exactly the same as used in tennis. The third game is played up to 7 points with a two point advantage required to win. The player who served first in the first game, serves first in the third game with one serve. Each player then has two serves until the game is decided. Ends are changed after every 6 points.

His perception of the benefits from the third set tie-breaker are:

- A shorter interclub/league contest without reducing the number of matches. For a 3 person, 11 match contest it certainly would reduce an otherwise long contest.
- The underdog has more of a chance of winning the third game.
- The sudden death nature of the tie-breaker would be more watchable by spectators.

Experimentation such as the above may see some revival of player interest and it is worth trying, especially in the top grades.

Chas Wong Table Tennis Tables

A new Chas Wong table is being developed with a particularly hard-wearing, non glare surface.

The new table will be of international standard construction with the option of a foldaway – wheelaway type. Colours blue or green.

The price range will be \$760 up to \$1400 (for the top foldaway, wheelaway, 25mm thick top model).

Economical models from \$365.

Enquiries and more info: **Chas – 04 – 4774898 (evening) or 025 262 0625**

UNDER 17 “TOP 12” ATTRACTS BLAZE OF PUBLICITY

Table Tennis's **Under 17 “Super 12”** outshone its rugby equivalent in the Nelson Mail newspaper on 12 April. A banner advertisement for the Crusaders/Golden Cats match featuring a smiling Todd Blackadder was crushed into obscurity by two colour photographs of the table tennis action in the Under 17 Top 12 tournament.

The coverage of this event, featuring a selected group of New Zealand's best, was typical of the publicity generated by the Nelson Mail over recent years. A few days earlier it had published a double column preview of the tournament, accompanied by another large photograph.

The tournament, held in conjunction with an intensive training camp, was notable for strong performances from two of the youngest competitors. 9 year old **Jiani Hu** (Nelson) finished 2nd in the girls section, separated from the winner by a tie-breaking count-back; and Canterbury's **Simon Wallace**, aged 13 at the time, came third in the boys. The respective winners were **Lisa Boaden** (Hutt Valley) and **Adrian Soh** (Nelson). **Yi-Sien Lin** (Canterbury) was the boys runner-up after a spectacular final.

The players were accommodated in the Nelson Table Tennis Academy throughout the five days of activities. Hutt Valley participant **Tim Hanna** commented that the event was well run and everyone accepted the rules laid down to keep 24 teenagers living in close quarters manageable. “There was always plenty of food which **Bryan (Keane)** and **Mrs Alino** prepared. Everyone had to be in bed by 10.30 pm. No-one ever got bored because there was plenty of people and plenty to do. The coaching was good.”

Final Placings were:

BOYS

- 1 Adrian Soh (Nelson)
- 2 Yi-Sien Lin (Canterbury)
- 3 Simon Wallace (Canterbury)
- 4 Greg Burton (North Harbour)
- 5 Oscar Elwell (Auckland)
- 6 Andrew Hovey (Wanganui)
- 7 Kurt Strid (Nelson)
- 8 John Cordue (Wellington)
- 9 Tim Hanna (Hutt Valley)
- 10 Tony Chang (Canterbury)
- 11 Silas Xu (Canterbury)
- 12 Ian Alino (Nelson)

GIRLS

- 1 Lisa Boaden (Hutt Valley)
- 2 Jiani Hu (Nelson)
- 3 Alison Thomson (Wang)
- 4 Rachel Griffiths (Nth Harb.)
- 5 Deborah Morrison (SthCanty)
- 6 Andrea Gosney (Canterbury)
- 7 Laura-Jane Young (Waite.)
- 8 Meena Chang (Canterbury)
- 9 Leanne Wight (Wanganui)
- 10 Sacha Welsh (Northland)
- 11 Jaimee Colvin (Nelson)
- 12 Jacqui Wood (Canterbury)

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313 3412

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A TANTALISING DIP...

...INTO THE NEW KIWI MANUAL

Pages 4 – 6: Three pages to light up any school teacher's eye – ten specific curriculum objectives are related directly to fun activities within the manual.

Page 9 Dealing with disabilities involving sight, mobility, hearing, intellectual capacity, and respiration.

Pages 11-24 Fun games involving bat and ball skills. Fourteen different games to play before a single stroke is taught.

Pages 25-29 Detailed instructions on teaching the four basic strokes and the service.

Pages 30-35 Six more fun games involving the service and basic strokes.

As an appetiser, just two games are reproduced: ("BOUNCER" and "BUCKET BALL")

Other games utilise things as varied as hoops, mini-ball courts, benches, and drink cans. Quite a number don't even require a table.

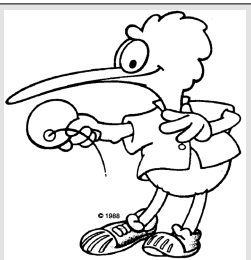
See also "Making Table Tennis Even More Fun", on front page.

The KIWI SPORT TABLE TENNIS MANUAL

has been produced by TTNZ and a copy sent to all Associations and Regional Sports Trusts.

Copies are available at \$10 from TTNZ (address details on back cover) or your local association.

It will eventually be on the TTNZ web site.



Bat and Ball Co-ordination Games

Bouncer

Suitable for beginners and above.



Equipment needed:
1 ball and 1 bat per player

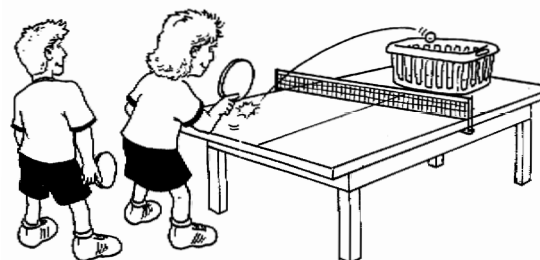
Numbers:
Limited only by the number of bats and balls.

How to play:
Players are given one ball each and asked to count the maximum number of bounces they can do in 30 seconds.

Integrating Basic Ball Skills into Fun Games

Bucket ball

Suitable for beginners and above



Equipment needed:

1 table per group, 1 bat, 1 ball for each player, 1 clothes basket or similar object.

Numbers:

Up to 15 per table

How to play:

Place the basket on the far side of the table. The players line up and take turns at trying to hit their ball into the basket.

If the ball bounces out of the basket, then the shot doesn't count. Players then retrieve their ball from wherever it goes and go to the back of the line.

Game is played either to a time limit or each player is given a set number of attempts.

Variation:

Players qualify for a "final" by scoring a set number of baskets in qualifying.

In the final, all players go at the same time and are given one minute to score the most baskets they can. A counter is appointed for each finalist to count their baskets.

After retrieving the ball from the basket or the floor after each shot, the player must return behind the start line before starting their next shot.

Did YOU notice? – the North Island Open progress results were on the Web site each morning over the weekend of July 10-12th. It is expected that this will happen also for the New Zealand Championships in September.

UNDER 14 ROUND ROBIN TOURNAMENT

A selection from the country's top Under 14 players competed against each other in the North Harbour stadium early in July, just prior to the North Island Championships

The two winners, both unbeaten, were Sandy Wang (Auckland) and Simon Wallace (Canterbury)

Final Placings:

BOYS

- 1 Simon Wallace (Canterbury)
- 2 Josh Alexandre (Auckland)
- 3 Hadleigh Bunce (North Harbour)
- 4 Jonathan Chen (Canterbury)
- 5 Nathan Lowe (Auckland)
- 6 Shaun Poh (Auckland)
- 7 Ben Warbrooke (Auckland)
- 8 Adam Ryland (Wairapa)
- 9 Philip Thompson (Poverty Bay)
- 10 Billy Lam (Auckland)
- 11 Geoffrey Smart (North Harbour)
- 12 Josh Walker (Hutt Valley)

GIRLS

- 1 Sandy Wang (Auckland)
- 2 Eileen Schwab (North Harbour)
- 3 Jennifer Lo (North Harbour)
- 4 Florence Li (Auckland)
- 5 Michelle Fox (North Harbour)
- 6 Jessica D'Audney (North Harbour)
- 7 Katie Stretton (North Harbour)
- 8 Sophie Shu (Manawatu)

RICHARD LEE'S ARTICLES KEEP ON COMING



A major article in the North Island Championships Programme by Auckland's head coach Richard Lee is the latest offering by a man who has been writing a wealth of material on coaching and other technical matters for a variety of publications, notably the Auckland Table Tennis Association's "Cathay Pacific Newsletter", for several years.

In his latest piece he challenges one of table tennis's long-standing traditions, the junior "bench-coach" (that interested adult spectator who calls his/her player to the edge of the playing area and offers advice at the change of ends during important matches).

Lee points out that all coaches in this situation are confronted with a dilemma: do they insist that the player perseveres with correct techniques which could result in this particular match being lost as a price for longer term gain; or do they advise tactics which could win the match but have no chance of working at higher levels? Lee's recommended escape from the dilemma is to abandon bench-coaching altogether where players under the age of 15 are involved. "Before the game, advise the player on what methods to use and leave it at that," he says. "The moment you start advising in a match, the winning element will come into it, no matter how much you try to avoid it. It can be argued that any coach worth their salt *should* be concerned with winning that particular game. Probably table tennis would be better off if bench advice was banned totally as it takes away from the individual nature of the competition and also because of the many problems encountered policing the regulations concerning it.

"However, it is in the rules and has to be endured. By discouraging it in the young age groups I am convinced that the standard of play will rise as those juniors are likely to make use of techniques and tactics which can succeed at higher levels rather than those that can't and I believe also there will be less of a drop-out rate in older age groups because of that factor."

Lee's article also challenges the modern "holistic" trend in coaching. He believes such things as nutrition, mental and physical exercise, goal-setting, etc, all have their place but priority should always be given to ensuring the trainee is thoroughly grounded in the basics of table tennis skills and techniques before introducing factors he sees as peripheral or of concern to the more advanced player. He feels that intensive table and stroke work are themselves adequate to meet physical training needs, and they also help the trainee develop mentally through belief in their own strokes and ability.

The article also encourages coaches to:

- Integrate technical/tactical/decision-making aspects of the game rather than teach them separately.
- Teach correct techniques right from the start rather than lesser ones that might be more effective earlier but have to be changed as the trainee advances. Don't be too "results" focused in the early stages.

- Be, within reason, autocratic and dictatorial. Only with advanced trainees should an element of "democracy" creep in.

An examination of Richard Lee's earlier articles, some of which date back as far as 1994, reveals an wide variety

The service

Ways to vary it:

- Loosen your grip on the bat
- Hit the ball with different parts of the blade – this varies the spin without any recognisable change in the action
- Hit the ball at different stages of your service swing – this too varies the spin
- Disguise your follow-through to mislead your opponent on the spin direction

Ways to practise it:

- Use a box of old balls and serve repeatedly with as much variety and imagination as possible
- Play practice matches where one person serves throughout
- Play practice matches where the server must win the point
- Play practice matches where the server keeps serving until they lose two points in a row
- Play a practice game where the same service action is used for every serve, but with as much deception, variation, changes of speed and spin as you can think of.

The importance of the wrist

It's the most adaptable and fastest moving joint in the arm, and the only one capable of making last minute corrections. It's a good servant but a bad master. It needs to be controlled.

Muscle use

In power shots, (obvious example, the forehand drive) large muscles should be brought in first (eg leg, hip, trunk) before the arm and the wrist. The arm is a lever, not the major source of power.

Acceleration is improved if the backswing and forward swing are a continuous movement.

Linking the strokes

The importance of footwork, anticipation and recovery.

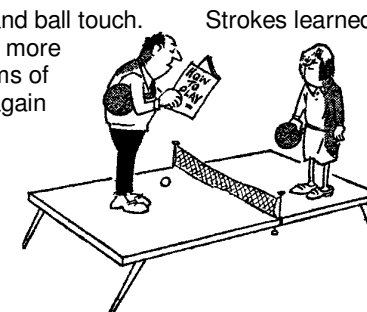
Precision

The importance of precision in shot rhythm, bat angle and ball touch. Correctly can be steadily improved and made more and more precise; badly learned strokes can't be improved in terms of precision without dismantling them and learning them again correctly.

Speed glue

The adjustments to stroke execution, especially the forehand drive, that are required since the introduction to the game of speed glues.

[More page 16](#)



Mental considerations

- focus entirely on the opponent and the ball – not inwardly on yourself
- observe your opponent's behaviour and demeanour before the match and between points; learn to interpret what they mean and react appropriately to them.
- be "here and now" focused and forget about the previous point and future points.
- remember that every match is another step to fulfilling your potential, whether a win or a loss.
- remember it's a game

Surprising statistics

Example: The ball spends 1/500 of a second in contact with your bat. When your bat hits the ball it takes 1/20 of a second for the signal to reach the brain. So by the time you feel the ball hit the bat it's well on its way over the net. (Or into it !! – Ed)

All these and many other subjects have been given in-depth investigation by Richard over the years. His material is always thought-provoking and informative and comes from a seemingly bottomless pit of technical knowledge.

John Kiley

New Selector PROFILE

AVERIL ROBERTS

Table Tennis New Zealand has announced the appointment of a new Selector – Averil Roberts, to fill the longstanding vacancy.



Averil tells us that she was born in Springston - 20km South East of Christchurch - "a long time ago". At 15 she joined the Springston Table Tennis Club and immediately made the Springs Sub-Association Representative team. At 17 became Secretary/Treasurer of the Sub-Association for 4 years until she left Christchurch to get married and live in the Hutt Valley. During 28 years in Hutt Valley she has been on both Waterloo and Belmont Club Committees, helped to set up the Belmont Club in 1976 and was Belmont Club Secretary for 22 years. For the Hutt Valley Association she has been Recording Secretary, Secretary, Executive Member, Chairperson and President. She also served on the New Zealand Executive Committee.

She has represented Hutt Valley at senior level for many years and was a member of the 1st Hutt Valley team to win the Women's 'A' Grade shield at the National Championships in 1997. Averil also represented New Zealand at Veteran level at the Australian Veteran Championships since 1991 and in a Test Match against Australia at Easter 1999. With Val Beaver, she was, on two occasions the runner up in the Over 40 Australian Women's doubles. The North Island Open Women's Doubles became hers with Sabine Westenra in 1994.

There is a lot of table tennis experience in Averil, she has obtained her National Umpires badge and tells us she has aspirations to become an International Umpire.

An Approach to COACHING BEGINNER PLAYERS

Merv Allardyce

This is not intended to be a coaching manual for beginners but rather some hints on helping beginners to become competent players in a relatively short time.

Whether the beginner is a young person or an adult the primary aim is the same: to help them gain some control over the ball and to help them "read" what is going on.

The following is a suggested order of coaching with the emphasis on keeping it simple (to eliminate as many variables as

Table tennis is a game of spin and racket angles so it is important to have a good grip.

possible), with an orderly progression and at a pace which suits each player. Do not dwell on one stroke until it is perfect. The length of each session will vary according to the learner's attention span but for children 30 minutes will probably be enough.

1. Grip. Table tennis is a game of spin and racket angles so it is important to have a good grip. This is the first point covered.

2. Timing point and length of stroke. Timing point is striking the ball as near as possible to the peak of the bounce; length of stroke is quite short with half the stroke before contact with the ball and half after contact; the bat will point in the direction the ball has taken at the end of the stroke.

3. The backhand push. Demonstrate the stroke - put the ball into play by dropping the ball on the table rather than "serving." The learner catches the ball and copies what the coach has done. If the learner has difficulty (eg "stabbing" at the ball) work from the side of the table until a better touch is obtained.

Progression: The coach puts the ball into play and the learner returns. Coach catches the ball and repeats until a rally can be achieved.

4. Forehand Drive. Again the coach demonstrates by dropping the ball on the table and playing the stroke and the learner catches the ball and copies what the coach has done. Good results can be obtained by using the side of the table initially. Emphasis on turning the shoulders and the basics of a good stance (knees bent, weight on front of feet and leaning forward to lower centre of gravity.)

Progression: The coach puts the ball into play and the learner returns. Repeat until a rally can be achieved. Movement of right foot (for right handed players) to return shorter and/or wider balls.

5. Backhand Drive. Demonstration by coach by dropping the ball on the table and playing the stroke; the learner catches it and repeats what the coach has demonstrated.

Emphasis on head, bat, ball and belly button in line and stroke produced from elbow. Think "frisbee."

Progression: The coach puts the ball into play and the learner returns. Repeat until a rally can be achieved. Movement of left foot (for right handed players) to return shorter and/or wider balls.

6. Alternate forehand and backhand drives. Coach places ball to backhand and then forehand side then stops. Repeat and then set up rally.

7. Further Development:

- ◆ Service Spin: The basics of a good service. Introduction to spin and its effects
- ◆ Learning to "read" what is going on - general body language of opposing player, where opposing player's racket is starting from etc.
- ◆ The development of speed and spin into drives - banana shape stroke.
- ◆ The elements of backspin and how to play it using same teaching principles as for topspin strokes.
- ◆ Further progression to develop individual's needs - regular and irregular routines, power etc.

South Island Championships

Invercargill

Open

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

Winner

David Jackson (A)
Debbie Garrett (S)
S Fenwick & L White (C)
T Daly & D Garrett (S)
S Fenwick & D Garrett (C/S)

Singles Runner Up

Peter Craven (NL)
Ulrike Kusche (C)

B Grade

Men's Singles
Women's Singles

Yi-Sien Lin (C)
Tanya Daly (S)

Stuart Wallace (C)
Ngairé Garrett (S)

C Grade

Men's Singles
Women's Singles

Simon Wallace (C)
June King (S)

Kurt Strid (N)
Sandra Mitchell (S)

Over 60 years

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

Colin Neutze (S)
Brenda Adamson (S)
C Adamson & C Neutze (S)
C Adamson & B Adamson (S)

Eddie Moore (C)
Doreen Humphries (S)

Over 50 years

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

Colin Neutze (S)
Ngairé Garrett (S)
K Armstrong & E Moore (C)
N Garrett & J King (S)
R Garrett & N Garrett (S)

Ron Garrett (S)
June King (S)

Over 40 years

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

David Jackson (A)
Ulrike Kusche (C)
J Fogarty & D Jackson (O/A)
S Chang & U Kusche (C)
J Kusche & U Kusche (C)

Stuart Wallace (C)
Ngairé Garrett (S)

Over 35 years

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

David Jackson (A)
Ulrike Kusche (C)
J Kusche & D Samson (C)
U Kusche & S Mitchell (C/S)
J Fogarty & Y Fogarty (O)

Lyndon White (C)
Yvonne Fogarty (O)

Under 21 years

Men's Singles
Women's Singles

Adrian Soh (N)
Samara Collins (O)

Peter Craven (NL)
Tanya Daly (S)

Under 19 years

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

Adrian Soh (N)
Deborah Morrison (SC)
T Chang & K Samson (C)
M Chang & A Gosney (C)
P Craven & D Morrison (NL/SC)

Peter Craven (NL)
Andrea Gosney (C)

Under 17 years

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

Simon Wallace (C)
Deborah Morrison (SC)
Y Lin & A Soh (C/N)
M Chang & J Wood (C)
K Samson & A Gosney (C)

Adrian Soh (N)
Meena Chang (C)

Under 15 years

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

Simon Wallace (C)
Jacqui Wood (C)
J Chen & S Wallace (C)
K Samson & J Wood (C)
S Wallace & J Wood (C)

Anthony Wilson (S)
Leanne Ridder (S)

Under 13 years

Boys' Singles
Girls' Singles
Mixed Doubles

Jonathan Chen (C)
Leanne Ridder (S)
S Moore & L Ridder (O/S)

Steven Moore (O)
Kelly Samson (C)

Invercargill Licensing Trust ***SOUTH ISLAND OPEN***

report from **Ron Garrett**

Only four North Island players made the trip to Invercargill (two of these are playing for Nelson) to take part in the **Invercargill Licensing Trust South Island Championships**. Entries were low but the competition was keen with a number of great matches. Southland's **Debbie Garrett** and Auckland's **David Jackson** dominated the open singles. With the last minute withdrawal of **Karen Li** the competition became a little less even in the women's events.

In the women's singles final **Debbie Garrett** began by dropping the first set to **Ulrike Kusche** then found the table with her attacking shots, gradually gained control and with a devastating backhand, heavily topspun she kept in front of the great defence put up by Ulrike to win in four sets.

Debbie and fellow Southlander **Tanya Daly** won the women's doubles and the third title went to Debbie Garrett when she combined well with **Simon Fenwick** of Canterbury in the mixed doubles.

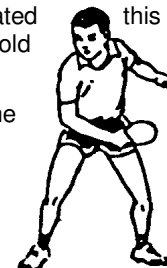
David Jackson did not drop a set in winning the open, over 35 and over 40 singles. **Peter Craven** who went very close to being eliminated in the quarter-finals by **Stuart Wallace** of Canterbury with the result going to young Craven 23-21 in the fifth set. Jackson did not have everything his own way in the final, Craven did all the attacking, slightly impatient at times which gave Jackson the narrow edge which he needed to win.

In the over 60 and 50 events Southland players were in command except in the men's doubles where **Eddie Moore** and **Keith Armstrong** of Canterbury took control. Ulrike Kusche took out the hat-trick in the over 40 events plus taking the over 35 singles and doubles. In the over 35 singles **Yvonne Fogarty** appeared to have the final under control then lost her own control when the balls kept coming back from the tenacious Ulrike Kusche to go down easily in the third set.

In the under 21 singles **Adrian Soh** upset top seed Peter Craven and repeated in the under 19 final. Soh met his match in the under 17 final when 13 year old **Simon Wallace** tipped him at the post 22-20 in the final set.

Wallace took all three titles available to him in the under 15 events and in the singles only **Scott Ridder** went close to taking a set.

Overall the championships ran smoothly, generally being ahead of time throughout with the Southland Association having a great team of workers.



1999 NEW ZEALAND VETERAN OPEN

North Harbour

<u>Over 40 years</u>	<u>Winner</u>	<u>Singles Runner Up</u>
Men's Singles	Sean Chen (A)	David Jackson (A)
Women's Singles	Kay Crowell (AU)	Lorraine Baker (AU)
Men's Doubles	S Chen & D Jackson (A)	
Women's Doubles	L Baker & K Crowell (AU)	
Mixed Doubles	D Jackson & V Beaver (A/NH)	
<u>Over 50 years</u>		
Men's Singles	Igor Klaf (AU)	Bob Lassen (A)
Women's Singles	Betty Bird (AU)	Val Beaver (NH)
Men's Doubles	K Cole & I Klaf (AU)	
Women's Doubles	V Beaver & A Roberts (NH/HV)	
Mixed Doubles	I Klaf & B Bird (AU)	
<u>Over 60 years</u>		
Men's Singles	Case de Bondt (AU)	Nam Hang Lee (A)
Women's Singles	Betty Bird (AU)	Prisca Rosario (AU)
Men's Doubles	C de Bondt & G Nesbitt (AU)	
Women's Doubles	B Bird & J Stephens (AU)	
Mixed Doubles	N Lee & B Bird (A/AU)	
<u>Over 65 years</u>		
Men's Singles	John Lelliott (HV)	Bill Otene (WT)
Women's Singles	Annice Robottom (WG)	Nellie Milich (NL)
Men's Doubles	K Armstrong & E Moore (C)	
Women's Doubles	D De Low & A Robottom (AU/WG)	
Mixed Doubles	J Lelliott & A Robottom (HV/WG)	
<u>Over 70 years</u>		
Men's Singles	Jim Coad (A)	Jim Delahunty (HV)
Women's Singles	Nancy Brant (CM)	Joy Ingpen (AU)
Men's Doubles	J Delahunty & J Lelliott (HV)	
Mixed Doubles	W Wilson & N Brant (WT/CM)	
<u>Over 75 years</u>		
Men's Singles	Harry Taylor (C)	Theo Sandberg (A)
Women's Singles	Dorothy De Low (AU)	Nancy Brant (CM)
Mixed Doubles	H Taylor & N Brant (C/CM)	

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

The ill-fated World Table Tennis Championships originally planned for Belgrade have been split into separate individual and team championships. The individuals will be in **Eindhoven, The Netherlands**, from 2 – 8 August, and the teams in **Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**, in February, 2000.

New Zealand will compete in both, but with a reduced entry. Peter Jackson and Li Chunli are confirmed participants in the individuals, with Andrew Hubbard and Karen Li also selected but whose participation depends on the availability of finance.

The teams for Malaysia will be named by 31 October.

The Championships have a web site which will be constantly updated and you can get to it via the TTNZ site at: <http://www.tabletennis.org.nz>.

VETERAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

North Harbour Association's new building is certainly impressive. Fourteen tables, good lighting and a sprung floor made for comfortable playing conditions at the New Zealand Veteran's Championships at Easter.

The scene was set for a great tournament by the excellently presented international - New Zealand versus Australia prior to the tournament, when the players were presented and anthems played. North Harbour had a capable team of administrators keeping the whole tournament moving at a steady pace. I was most impressed to receive my own schedule of matches and therefore had no reason to be late for any match.

The weekend concluded with the inaugural Hall of Fame Inductions and tournament prizegiving.

My players of the tournament were Sean Chen (Auckland) with his great serving and devastating follow ups, Kay Crowell (Australia) who dominated the over 40 women and Igor Klaf (Australia) whose ball control was quite breathtaking.

Ron Menchi

OCEANIA DEVELOPMENT OFFICER TO VISIT

Following on from John Stapleton's visits to associations, arrangements have been made for a month-long tour of New Zealand by the newly appointed Oceania Development Officer, **Glenn Tepper**.

A former Australian representative player and now a specialist in coaching and coach education, Glenn is being offered to New Zealand Associations to assist them with coaching, coach education, the development of coaching systems or school work.

He arrives in Wellington on 21 July and his itinerary extends from Whangarei to Invercargill.



CANTERBURY STADIUM

Latest on our proposed new stadium at Blenheim Road is that we have now received Resource Consent to use the building as a table tennis stadium. This was in doubt with a large number of neighbours objecting, but a revised carparking and landscaping plan won the day.

We are very grateful to Keith Armstrong and Eddie Moore for the enormous amount of time and energy they have put in, and continue to put in, to the acquisition of this property and the sale of our Selwyn St stadium.

We now await with bated breath the outcome of our application for funding from the Lottery Grants Board, due to be heard in August. If this is positive you're bound to hear the whoops of joy in the North Island. Then the hard work will really begin, with extensive internal and external modifications necessary to bring the new premises up to standard.

Raina McKechnie (Canterbury Secretary)

Waterloo Club's 50th Jubilee

The March issue gave some brief details of the clubs Jubilee and it is pleasing to report that the club celebrated the event in fine style in early April.

A major highlight was the attendance of four foundation members: Coye Anderson – from Orewa (a former "A" grader and committee member), Ron Sandilands (also from Auckland), and Alan and Ken Joseph (who attended the inaugural meeting in March 1949), from the Hutt. Celebrations began with an informal get-together of over 90 members – past and present.



Secretary Chris Robb looking pleased with the celebrations.

An invitation Jubilee Singles Tournament was held at the Waterloo School Hall – our home for 50 years. Respective fields of eleven men and four women participated before an audience of over 50 spectators. The Men's event was taken out convincingly by Andrew Hubbard (Waterloo). The Women's Section was captured by Sabine Westenna. Two other former National Singles champions competed – Gary Murphy (Waterloo) and Richard Lee (special guest). These two, together with Mark Cullen, had also played in our special 25th Tournament in 1974.

A Jubilee dinner was held on the Saturday evening with speeches covering the 50 years by long standing members, Terry McDonnell (a club member since 1955) and Jim Harris. Chris Robb, Secretary, cut the Jubilee cake.

Festivities, music and dancing carried on long into the night! The weekend was a huge success!

from Chris Robb (abridged)

OLYMPIC Qualifying Tournament

The entitlement of Table Tennis regions is complex but it is expected that Oceania will have three players at the games and to ascertain the qualifiers, 4 men and 4 women from each of New Zealand and Australia will play a week-long singles and doubles tournament. The qualifiers will then represent their own country at the games.

The Tournament will be held in the Auckland Stadium from Wednesday 2nd to Wednesday 8th of September.

Table Tennis Electronic Mailing List

Remember this from our March issue. Come you internet and table tennis fans, join and spread your thoughts and ideas.

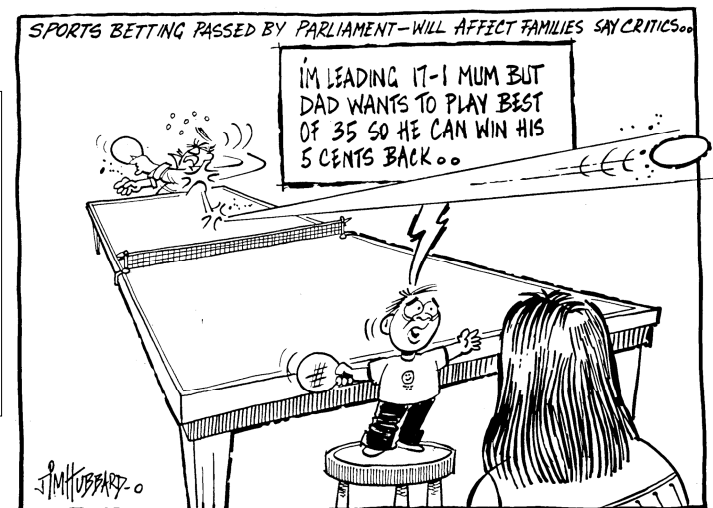
Go to: <http://www.onelist.com/subscribe/ttnz>

(Or go to the "What's New" page of the TTNZ Web site.)

Once you're a member, any e-mail you send to the list will be seen by all others on the list, and you can reply to any e-mail that you receive.



Cartoon by Jim Hubbard published with the kind permission of Alexander Turnbull Library and Jim Hubbard – Cartoon entry Qantas Media Awards 1994 – published in The Dominion Newspaper.



A letter from an enthusiast.

Thanks for the information contained in Table Tennis Info. I enjoy being able to read news of the organisation.

Two things in the bulletin caught my eye, and I offer my suggestions for what they are worth. I made remarks of a similar nature at the AGM of our club.

"Eight Colourful Speakers and a Creative Minute" "Table Tennis is on the Move".

Both these articles in your March issue addressed the question of bringing Table Tennis more into the public consciousness and increasing the involvement of schools, day clubs for older people, and corporate organisations. I am sure they would all enjoy participating if they once got into it.

The first thing a player needs is a bat - not just any old battered bat with "pimples" that has been dragged out of the depths of a cupboard at home, or in the clubroom, but a bat you can feel excited about - a status bat that is a conversation piece. I well remember my two sons buying bats 15 years ago. Even before they got proficient at the game, the bat was a source of peer interest and approval, with its neat cover and all the attention to what sort of rubber was on it.

When I resumed playing after many years, I was pleased to use one of these bats, as my sons are now living overseas. I thought that I would treat myself to a new bat, after a while, but found that there was not anything of similar nature in any shop I went to.

Where are the TV ads, the promotions in clubs, schools and day groups of interesting and exciting bats that encourage people to make a reasonable financial commitment, and therefore a mental commitment to the activity?

We want to skite about our bats, just as kids do with skateboards, surfboards, and adults do with golf clubs, sports shoes, etc.

Good luck with promoting the game.

Yours sincerely,

Jean Morris (Mrs) Hamilton