Dates Coming Up

April	Thu 1 – Mon 5 Sat 17 – Sun 18 Sat 24 – Sun 25 Sun 25	NZ Veterans Championships Aotearoa Marae Tournament Wanganui Open Anzac Day Open	North Harbour Port Waikato Wanganui Auckland
May	Sat 1 – Sun 2 Sat 8 – Sun 9 Sat 15 – Sun 16 Sat 15 – Sun 16 Sat 15 – Sun 16 Sat 29 – Sun 30	Marlborough Open Manawatu Open Northland Open Southland Open Wellington Autumn Open North Harbour Open	Blenheim Palmerston North Whangarei Invercargill Wellington North Harbour
June	Sat 5 – Mon 7 Sat 12 – Sun 13 Sat 12 – Sun 13 Sat 19 – Sun 20 Sun 20 Sat 26 Sun 27	South Island Open North Taranaki Open South Island Teams Tournament Nelson Open Auckland Junior Open Hawkes Bay Open North Island Teams Tournament	Invercargill Hawera Christchurch Nelson Auckland Napier Napier
July	Sat 3 – Sun 4 Sat 3 – Sun 4 Sun 4 Fri 9 – Sun 11North Sat 17 – Sun 18 Sun 24 – Sun 25	Waitemata Open Otago Open Wairarapa Open Island ChampionshipsAuckland South Canterbury Open Counties Manukau Open	Waitemata Dunedin Carterton Timaru Manurewa
AugustSat 7 -	- Sun 8 Wellin Sun 8 Sat 14 – Sun 15 Sat 21 – Sun 22 Sat 28 – Sun 29 Sat 28 – Sun 29	gton Open Wellii Warkworth Open Canterbury Open Auckland Open Waikato Open Manawatu Veterans	ngton Warkworth Christchurch Auckland Hamilton Palmerston North
September	Sat 4 – Sun 5 Sat 4 – Sun 5 Sat 11 – Sun 12 Sat 11 – Sat 18 Mon 20 – Thu 30 Mon 27 – Sat 2 Oct	Hutt Valley Open Waitemata Junior Open Aotearoa Maori Championships Australian Veterans Open New Zealand Open Australian Junior Open	Hutt Valley Waitemata North Harbour Gold Coast Palmerston North To be advised

Published by TABLE TENNIS New Zealand Inc.

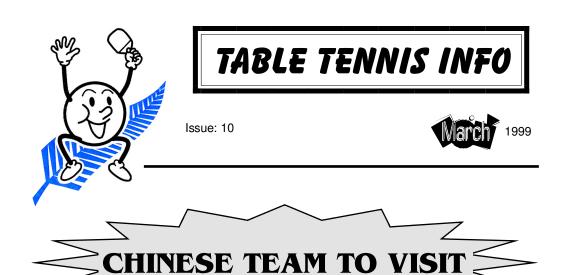
Phone (04) 8014160 Fax (04) 4712152 P O Box 867 Sports House, Central Library, Level 4, 65 Victoria St WELLINGTON EMAIL - ttnz@tabletennis.org.nz World Wide Web - http://www.tabletennis.org.nz



Compiled and edited by:

Robin Radford and John Kiley Ph 04-232 5672
16 St Edmund Cres Tawa Fax 04-232 9172
Wellington E-Mail rradford@paradise.net.nz

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



Great news from the Executive Director:

"Mention China and Table Tennis and you get the same reaction as Brazil and Soccer, or the Dream Team and Basketball. No other country has consistently dominated the modern era of Table Tennis like China, and no other country commands the same respect and excitement when they play.

In a major coup **Table Tennis New Zealand** is very pleased to announce that a Chinese National side will be touring New Zealand **early June**. The six player side has still to be finalised, but one player definitely confirmed is current number one ranked woman in the world, **Wang Nan**. In a recent conversation, the Chinese Table Tennis Association said, "We will need to send our strongest side as we know how good Li Chunli is!".

Continued page 2







Executive Director

Make sure YOU reregister. The next issue will only be sent to those who register for 1999. At the Table Tennis New Zealand AGM in December last year, a significantly reduced budget for TTNZ was approved. We presented a budget to our member Associations that reduced their affiliation fees to TTNZ and dropped the \$5 Individual Membership fee. These two measures have effectively meant that income from our members has dropped by \$15,000.

We did this because it has become clear that, right now, Table Tennis as a sport does not have the money to keep affiliation fees at last year's level. Numbers have fallen at club and Association level, income has not risen in many Associations, and we have had to recognise those facts and adjust our operations accordingly. The drop in affiliation fees was well received by Associations as an indication that TTNZ is receptive to their financial position.

So, where does this leave TTNZ as an organisation? The most obvious impact will be on the National office. From now, I will be working three days a week rather than full-time, as this is where the bulk of the money is being saved. This will mean we can achieve less as an organisation than previously, but I'm confident that much of the slack will be able to be picked up by volunteers.

It does, however, mean that TTNZ will need to continually look at ways of

CHINESE TOUR contr

continued

An exciting programme of test matches is planned, combining matches against New Zealand and exhibition matches by the Chinese players.

New Zealand's top players, Li Chunli and Peter Jackson will be pitted against the Chinese team in what promises to be the best Table Tennis ever seen in New Zealand.

The tour itinerary is:

2 June Bru 3 June Mid 5 June Chr 6 June Aud

Bruce Mason Centre, Takapuna. Michael Fowler Centre, Wellington. Christchurch – Venue to be advised. Auckland – Venue to be advised.

Interest in the tour from both media and sponsors has been strong, and confirming sponsorship soon, is essential to the tours success.

Keep an eye on your local paper and TTNZ Web Site for more details.

This is a rare opportunity to see Table Tennis at its best. Make sure you don't miss it!"

meeting our budget and that we will have to be very focused on the activities we carry out as a national body. At the TTNZ Board meeting earlier this month, clear priorities were set for the office and we'll be working hard this year to achieve those.

I believe the decision to make membership of TTNZ free is a positive one. It is crucial for the sport that we can accurately show the numbers playing our game and to do this we need to register all players. Enclosed with this magazine is a membership renewal form. Please fill this out and return it to your local Association immediately. This will ensure your continued membership of TTNZ and we can then get your new membership card out to you.

Finally, I believe 1999 promises to be an exciting one for Table Tennis, especially with the tour by a Chinese side in early June. I hope you continue to enjoy your involvement with Table Tennis.

Michael Brown Executive Director

EIGHT COLOURFUL SPEAKERS AND A CREATIVE MINUTE

It's a delightful subtitle for a conference. The actual name was "How to make table tennis more attractive for spectators and the media." It was held in Copenhagen and featured eight speakers with each speech followed by one minute of rapid fire creative ideas from the floor.

We haven't got room for all eight but can summarise two of the best. Mikael Andersson from the ITTF spoke about the possibility of making the ball bigger (40mm diameter instead 38mm). A huge amount of research has gone into this, with the end result that the larger size makes very little difference when the ball is hit really hard, but when it's hit at the speed that most of us would hit it, the ball slows down up to 20% faster. The "creative ideas" segment included the suggestion that the ball is heavily printed with large shapes, or even divided into two colours, so that the amount of spin shows up better – useful for both spectators, television, and players.

Henrik Saaby, TV Producer with Denmark's DR Sport, open his remarks with some nice positive euphemisms (eg, "Table Tennis is a sport on standby for more TV coverage and better exposure") His message was very clear: "Adjust your sport to what producers and viewers want." And the adjustment has to be big. What seems big to us (eg, a scoring system change) is negligible to a TV audience. His suggestions included:

- allow time for super slow-motion replays on a large screen using red and green lights to signal when the players should restart play
- adjust the presentation of the sport to the needs of TV no dead spots
- create interesting events which involve the players in entertaining challenges
- create stars (personalities among players and coaches) and divulge as much information about them as possible to make them interesting
- get people *emotionally* involved in selling the sport (be passionate about it).

The conference agreed that, at the moment, other sports are winning the contest for TV viewers – and they're doing it by making major changes to their sports, changes specifically designed to attract the TV audience. It's time we did the same, and did it better.

Table Tennis Electronic Mailing List

TTNZ has set up an e-mail mailing list as a way of starting and facilitating discussion on all Table Tennis matters of interest to members.

This is something new, but TTNZ thinks it has a lot of potential as a way to communicate, as information sharing, and as an opportunity to meet other Table Tennis people around the country.

It's free to join, all you need is access to the Internet and an e-mail address.



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

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

and follow the instructions. You will need to become a member at OneList by giving your e-mail address and a password, and you will then be able to subscribe to the TTNZ mailing list. 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.

Look forward to seeing you online!

- Sports Trusts don't want to help us they're only interested in the major sports like rugby...
- Schools don't seem to care about table tennis they're all major sport oriented too......
- Unaffiliated Clubs don't want to join our Association they're happy doing their own thing and they think we just want their money...

GETTING A FOOT IN THE DOOR

Even the most progressive thinking people sometimes become despondent when they feel they're being denied assistance in accessing large bodies of potential new members.

There's a way around this problem – starting at the bottom rather than at the top. If a Sports Trust doesn't want to help, it could be simply because the Chief Executive Officer is major-sport oriented – not the Sports Trust as a whole. Solution – talk to someone else. Somewhere in that organisation will be a person whose targets and responsibilities are closely aligned to table tennis's needs, and helping us would also help that person meet their own targets. It's simply a matter of identifying the right person.

A school principal or Head of Sport might be unaware that table tennis exists, but somewhere in that school there could be a teacher, or even a student, who would be more than happy to take the lead in setting up table tennis as a new activity.

The leader of the unaffiliated club might want to remain fiercely independent, but what about the players? Wouldn't they like the opportunity to play different people, in a different environment, and participate in a variety of different activities?

If there are players out there keen to appreciate what we can offer, we do both them and ourselves a service by identifying them.

INTERCLUB - IT MAY NEVER BE THE SAME AGAIN.

Even in some of our strongest associations, interclub team numbers have fallen by as much as 50% over the past three years. Either this means table tennis is in serious trouble, or interclub is no longer our sport's key activity.

Clearly it's the latter - trends in other sports unmistakably bear this out. Research indicates that 60% of all people participating in sport now do so on a casual basis, without any form of commitment to a regular competition. And even the competitions that do exist often run for no more than 4-6 weeks, to minimise the commitment. Not too many years ago participants in whole-season weekly competitions totalled as high as 80%.

All this suggests:

- 1 That we don't panic when our interclub team numbers drop.
- That we introduce activities that fit in with the new trend (emphasis on casual play, or fun rather than competition; more one-off events and more "user-pays" activities)
- That we become more "participant" focussed rather than "membership" focussed.
- That on-going competitions should be kept as short as possible, open to everyone and then re-started before interest lags.

How does all this fit in with Individual Membership Registration (IMR), if we lose our "membership" focus? Easily. Now that IMR registration is free, we should record every participant in every activity and register them. This will finally give a true picture of the number of people participating in table tennis.

Falling interclub numbers aren't a threat. They're an opportunity.

NAPIER TABLE TENNIS CLUB

A club with over 50 years of history continues to provide the locals with a venue to test their table tennis prowess.

the locals with a

Our club nights are Thursdays and are held at the local St. Pats school hall. Usually a minimum of 4 tables are put up from April through to September.

Tables are set up at 7pm and by 7.30pm competitions and organised activity commence. Some of the activities we conduct include opposite - hand, round robin, handicap, 'donkey', short 3 point games using old style poor quality bats, placing small targets on the tables, singles and doubles. Towards the end of the season we hold our club champs. The club continually searches for new forms of events to keep members satisfied.

We have maintained a steady membership, albeit having our share of gains and losses in players annually. We have a good mix of regulars who vary in talent, age and ability.

Each year we endeavour to organise exchange visits with other clubs.

The club is well served by coaches at all levels. Two of our members, Maureen Slater and Sue Downing conduct school time clinics.

The club's (and more often than not the district's) top local player, Russell Winkley has often represented and accompanied teams to the nationals.

Our current most promising juniors are Michael and Kelly Winkley. Kelly has received a nomination for "A Passport to Gold' and has been ranked nationally in the top 10 for her age group.

As one of the strongest clubs in the district we have been able to enter several teams in the local interclub competition. Local support from Suvic Engineering and the Eastern & Central Community Trust have enabled interclub teams to be well looked after and equipment kept up to date.

Our administration has a wealth of experience, several members having also served many years on the Hawkes Bay executive.

Perhaps the most important aspect of the club is the opportunity to get together for a good social evening where conversation brings out the best of individual experiences and laughter.

FUN GAME

Cricket

Players form two teams - any number from two to eight in a team. The fielding side spreads round one end of the table, several paces back from it.

The first person in the batting team stands at the other end of the table, drops the ball on the table and hits it with a forehand stroke to bounce on the "fielders" side. If it bounces on the fielders side, a run is scored. Fielders try to catch the ball before it touches the floor or the wall. If they fail, 4 runs are scored.

The batter is never dismissed. Each has a set number of strikes (say, 10) and then retires for the next one to have a turn.

The team scoring the highest number of runs in the winner.

TABLE TENNIS PLAYERS DICTIONARY

Bat:

Device for fanning, grazing, clipping, and occasionally making direct contact with the ball.

Table Tennis appreciates the support given by







SOCIAL TABLE TENNIS FROM THE DEEP SOUTH.

In the November 1998 issue of TT Info, there was a report on Veteran Table Tennis players in Hobart. At the end of the report there was a message to younger players to stay with Table Tennis, as "there's plenty to look forward to".

There was also a report from a speech by Mr Hikosuke Tamasu in Bratislava in September 1998. He himself at the age of 78 was still playing and stated that his theory is that table tennis stimulates the brain more than any other sport. He gave several examples of people in Japan who had benefited by playing the game, many of them in the senior age group.

In Invercargill, Southland, there is a very active social club which was formed in 1993. The members play in the very good stadium in the city, which houses eight DONIC tables, which were purchased recently. There are 51 members, who play once or twice a week, on Tuesdays and Fridays, 10 am to 12 noon.

Among the social club members there are two over 80 still playing and many in their 70s. Most learnt their skills when very much younger, and have not forgotten them, although they admit they are not as quick as they used to be. There are also younger and newer players as well, who learn from playing with the more experienced players.

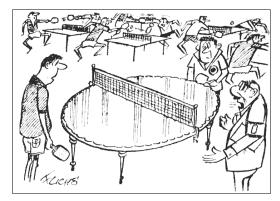
Another bonus some members have received is the help that the sport gives to those recovering from strokes or heart ailments and surgery. It is wonderful to see the physical improvement in these folk after some months of regular play.

Perhaps the most important benefit to all is the friendly way in which everyone mixes and enjoys the exercise, as well as the regular contact with other people interested in table tennis.

Social club activities further enjoyed are the mid-winter dinner and the Christmas luncheon. The Invercargill Table Tennis Social Club is very much a success story.

Doreen Humphries.

"The length of a progress report is inversely proportionate to the amount of progress."



"Sorry! This is the only table available."

CANTERBURY STADIUM

We hear that Canterbury are still battling on with their new stadium. They have sold Selwyn St. conditional on securing Blenheim Rd. which is 2 1/2 times larger. They now have to go to a planning consent meeting as 8 out of 11 neighbours have refused to give approval.

This means that they miss the next Lotto Grants round in April as they will not process an application for funding until planning consent is received.

The council and everyone is right behind Canterbury and although it is going to cost more dollars now for the planning hearing, they are confident of getting there.

Li Chunli who had previously been training in China for two weeks, recently played in the Tokyo Open finishing third.

Errol and Jean Cheal

We hear that Errol (92) and Jean (90) celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary in February.

Wonderful news – congratulations from the TT community.

Errol won the first NZ Open men's singles championships in 1934 and the NZ men's doubles in 1946 with Ken Cantley.

WHO is doing WHAT nationally.

Board: Alan Hounsell

John Beatson Dennis Galvin Ron Garrett James Morris (One Vacancy)

Staff: Mike Brown John Kiley

Technical Committee:

David Jackson Ron Menchi

Players Committee:

Sarah Finch Aaron Winborn

Selectors: David Jackson

Brvan Keane

(One Vacancy)

Chinese Tour: Mike Brown

Julian Chan Ron Garrett James Morris

National Development:

John Stapleton

Ratings and Computer Services:

David Jackson

Director of Coaching:

(Vacancy)

Magazine: Robin Radford

John Kiley

Web site: Mike Brown

Robin Radford

BARRY WYNKS invited to play overseas.

A tournament for disabled table tennis players is being held in Taipei this month and Paralympics New Zealand has invited Manawatu player **Barry Wynks** (pictured) to participate. It is part of a build-up which could culminate in Barry's selection for the Sydney 2000 Paralympic Games. His selection for the games depends on whether Paralympics New Zealand is able to arrange other overseas tournaments for him, and how he performs at them.

With scant regard for his disability (an artificial leg and an artificial lower arm), Barry Wynks has played regularly in Manawatu since the late



1960's, competing with able-bodied players and achieving creditable results against the best in New Zealand. In recent years he has been nationally ranked in the top five in his age group. He has also coached for many years.

TEST YOUR UMPIRING SKILLS.

Player A is playing spectacular defensive shots several metres back from the table. Player B executes a drop shot and player A sprints forward in an attempt to scoop up the ball before it bounces on the table a second time. When it looks like she's not going make it, she throws her bat at the ball. The loose bat makes contact with the ball and the ball crosses the net and lands on B's side of the table. The bat lands on A's side of the table without touching the net. B, thrown by what has happened, pushes the ball into the net. The point is triumphantly claimed by A: "Show me a rule in the book which says the bat must be held in the hand when it makes contact with the ball", she challenged.

Can you find such a rule?

(Answer on page 23)

7

\$3,000 Grant for Karen Li

NZ's No 2 woman player **Karen Li** (North Harbour) has received a \$3,000 **Fletcher Challenge Education Scholarship from the New Zealand Sports Foundation**. The scholarships are offered to assist top sportspeople with the cost of their education to allow them more time to train and compete in their chosen sport.

The money is strongly contested and only 34 scholarships were awarded from 148 applications. The value of each scholarship was either \$1000, \$2000, \$3000 or \$4000, so Karen did extremely well in obtaining \$3000.





"I Can Tell You Right Now That Isn't Going to Work".

ALL WORKING TOGETHER

Annual Meetings - where everyone is focussed on a common goal.

At least, that's the way it should be. But sadly, all too often sectional interests have prevailed and delegates have been divided over many issues. However, the 1998 AGM held last December embodied a delightfully fresh attitude and all present appeared to be mindful of the interests of all.

Not surprisingly the major topic of discussion was finance and an offer by TTNZ to reduce national office costs by \$15,000 set a conciliatory tone right from the start which others picked up on. Associations agreed that:

- to ensure everyone knows exactly where they stand, fees need to be finalised at this meeting;
- it's in everyone's interests to get our overall numbers up. As many players as
 possible should be registered (assurance was given that a sudden increase in
 registered numbers would not result in a proportionate increase in fees other
 factors would also be considered);
- IMR registration should be free of charge as an incentive to increase numbers;
- the percentage of the total fees allocated to each association should be reviewed each year;
- the money paid to TTNZ should be equal to value received;
- Associations should treat their activities as a business.

As the discussions progressed and specific problems being experienced by some associations were aired, it soon became clear that many associations had similar problems, and could apply similar solutions. The meeting also gave smaller associations a chance to appreciate some of the problems faced by larger ones, and vice-versa.

Overall, a positive meeting.

A NEW BREED OF ANNUAL MEETING

Annual Meetings have changed. Up till a year or two ago there were 20 or more remits put forward for discussion. This year there were none. This doesn't mean Associations are apathetic and no longer interested in putting forward new ideas. It means that ideas are being received via other means and from other sources.

We now have:

- A paid national development officer (first half of 1999), who travels about and can pick up good ideas from one association and introduce them to other associations.
- A paid national coach (most of 1998)
- Access to expertise through the Regional Sports Trusts
- Rapid communication through the internet, and direct communication with members through the magazine.

On page 3 there are details of a table tennis e-mail group, which anyone can join and exchange ideas through. Good ideas relating to national administration can be implemented immediately. Consultation with Associations can be much more rapid.

There will always be a place for annual meetings. The big difference between now and the past is that much more can now happen between annual meetings.

Let the whole team play in each match!!!

TEAM CONTEST WITH A DIFFERENCE

A player from each team start the match. After five points you don't just change serves – you also change *players*. The next two players play the next five points, and so on to 21.

Play best of three, best of five, or best of seven, or best of anything. It doesn't matter how many players there are in a team. It works whether you've got two, or ten, or any number.

Variation options:

- Change serves every point if you want to ensure each player has an even balance of serves and receives.
- Re-draw the order of play after every player has had one turn at the table if you want to avoid the same two players playing against each other every time they play.
- Have each pair of players play more than five points (say 10, 20), and play each game to higher total (eg 51, 101).

This variant of the traditional team event has obvious advantages. It would make a more genuine team contest, and the rest of the team would always be on hand for support, instead of wandering away and having to be called back when they're on.



It might even catch on at a more serious level. They've always done it in lawn and indoor bowls, Athletics, swimming and relay races.

Chas Wong Table Tennis Tables

A new Chas Wong table is being developed with a particularly hard-wearing 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 \$1100 (for the top foldaway wheelaway model). Economical models from \$365.

Enquiries and more info:

Chas - 04 - 4774898

Editorial Comment. I was fortunate enough to be asked to attend the last

board meeting when restructuring as a result of affiliation fees reduction, and the magazine, were discussed. Sooooo - here I am making some personal observations which may not necessarily represent board members views.

National Office. One thing that struck me was the amount of time spent on correspondence, phone calls and general communication. Now, on the one hand this is excellent because communication is one of the most important aspects of life. On the other hand however it takes up a lot of time, and as you know whilst you are on the phone, and it is constantly ringing, one does not get the "work" done. There is now a reduction of 40% in the ED's hours, and some office work has been outsourced, but not enough work reduction has eventuated yet.

As Associations have opted for lesser fees then they and members have to help. It was disturbing to note that following a request for e-mail addresses from associations, response has been zilch! Now - <u>e-mail</u> is more efficient, there is a record of the discussion, <u>it does not interrupt work processes</u>, <u>it is much much cheaper than tolls</u>, considered opinions and decisions can be later made, and it saves all that "polite weather - how are ya" talk, which is nice but for tt, achieves nothing. Also saves postage. Full marks to **Tracey McLauchlan** for recently initiating e-mail for Hutt Valley. Only 4 associations appear to have e-mail!

In comparative terms NZ is one of the most prolific users of PC's in the world, and any Secretary with a PC should be on the internet/e-mail (the low cost paid by their association) and if this is not possible then someone else closely involved should be. **Save the national office time, peoples - use e-mail!**

Magazine. A wide range of views on financing was apparent. The fee reduction means there is no budget increase and several options arose. If the expected increase in ttnz registrations eventuates as it is free, then magazine costs increase dramatically. Options ranged from "can it' and use the web page more, distribute via associations, reduce number of issues or charge a subscription.

The end result was that for the financial year to 30 Sept, the magazine would be issued to members free in March and July. Depending on registrations and the budget, a September issue may eventuate. (\$100 donation from 20 associations would almost guarantee a September issue!).

Direct dispatch to members is a must. This is fair to all as previously many missed out. Instituting a subscription is fine, but associations would have to really push it, and members support it. The downside is the work load increase to administer a subscription system needing to be part of the IMR system and money handling, so there is a chase your tail situation here at a time when work load reduction is vital. Overall sponsorship is the answer, but numbers may be against this at present. However readers - do not hesitate to contact us!

An immediate minor saving is that copy numbers can be reduced where several members live at the same address.

Robin Radford



327 Coldstream Rd, Rangiora 8254

Ph: 03-313 3449 Fax: 03-313 3412

THE NEW RUBBERS - DONIC Desto Fland F3 now available

VETERANS TEST MATCH

New Zealand will face Australia in a test match on the eve of the NZ Veterans Championships in North Harbour at Easter.

It will be a series of five match contests in three age-groups: Over 40. Over 50. and Over 60.

O40 men Sean Chen (Auc David Jackson (, , ,

O40 women Ulrike Kusche (Canterbury) Kay Crowell (Sth Aust)
Lynley Barker (Canterbury) Lorraine Baker (Sth Aust)

O50 men Bob Lassen (Auckland) Mick Wright (Victoria)
Doug Pattinson (Auckland) Michael Ede (Victoria)
O50 women Val Beaver (Nth Harb) Betty Bird (Sth Aust)

Averil Roberts (Hutt Valley) Carol Hughes (NSW)
O60 men Nam Hang Lee (Auckland) Case De Bondt (Victoria)

John Lelliott (Hutt Valley)
O60 women
Pat McArthur (Nth Harb)
Geoff Nesbitt (NSW)
Prisca Rosario (Victoria)

Margaret McGregor (Waitemata) Beryl Davies (NSW)

Australia

Predictions are that the men have a good chance of coming out on top but the women could struggle. The result of the test is decided by overall aggregate.

PLAY ON, PLAY THE GAME - NO LET UPS.

Players: Let, please. Umpire: Play on.

Teams:

Players: But there's someone crawling under the table retrieving

a ball.

Umpire: It's not *your* ball they're retrieving. Play on.

They play on.

Players: He's just bumped the main support and the table's

collapsed onto the floor.

Umpire (checking rule book): It's still horizontal, stationary, dark-coloured and matt.

Play on.

Players (rallying while sitting cross-legged on the floor): But there's a man trapped

underneath.

Umpire: He's an unmoving fixture. Play on.

They play on.

Players: There's thirty people around the table screaming for him to be rescued.

Umpire (consulting rule book): The noise is at a constant level. Play on.

They play on.

Players: Two ambulance officers have arrived with a stretcher and they're waiting to

administer life-saving first aid.

Umpire: Not illegal as long as they wait outside the playing area. Play on. Public address announcement: Morning tea is now available at the cafeteria.

Umpire: Let.

He leaves the chair.

