

Upcoming Events

| | | | |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| April | Sun 2 | North Harbour Junior Open | North Harbour |
| | Fri 21 – Mon 24 | NZ Veterans Championships | Palm North |
| | Fri 21 – Tues 25 | Senior/Junior Training Camp | North Harbour |
| May | Sun 23 – Mon 24 | Hutt Valley Easter Open | Petone |
| | Sat 29 | Anzac Open | Auckland |
| | Sat 6 | Hard Bat Tournament | Palm North |
| | Sat 6 – Sun 7 | Marlborough Open | Blenheim |
| | Sat 20 | Northland Open | Whangarei |
| June | Sat 20 – Sun 21 | Southland Open | Invercargill |
| | Sat 27 – Sun 28 | Wellington Autumn Open | Wellington |
| | Sat 3 – Mon 5 | South Island Open | Timaru |
| | Sat 3 – Fri 9 | Oceania Championships | New Caledonia |
| | Sat 10 | Hutt Valley Seniors Open | Petone |
| | Sat 10 | Teams Tournament | Palm North |
| | Sun 11 | Developing Juniors Open | Petone |
| | Sat 17 | Hawkes Bay Open | Napier |
| | Sat 17 | Nthn Junior Round Robin | Auckland |
| | Sat 17 – Sun 18 | Nelson Open | Nelson |
| July | Sun 18 | Auckland Junior Open | Auckland |
| | Sat 1 – Sun 2 | South Island Teams Tourn. | Timaru |
| | Sun 2 | Wairarapa Open | Carterton |
| | Fri 7 – Sun 9 | North Island Open | Taupo |
| | Tues 11 – Fri 14 | National Development Camp | Nelson |
| | Sat 22 – Sun 23 | Otago Open | Dunedin |
| | Sat 29 | North Island Teams Tourn. | North Harbour |
| | Sat 29 – Sun 30 | North Harbour Open | North Harbour |
| | August Sat 5 – Sun 6 | Manawatu Open | Palm North |
| | September | Sat 12 – Sun 13 | Canterbury Open |
| Sat 12 – Sun 13 | | Auckland Open | Auckland |
| Sat 19 – Sun 20 | | Wellington Open | Wellington |
| Sat 26 – Sun 27 | | Waikato Open (tentative) | Hamilton |
| Sat 26 – Sun 27 | | South Canterbury Open | Timaru |
| Sun 27 | | Hutt Valley Developing Juniors | Petone |
| Sat 2 – Sun 3 | | Waitemata Open | Waitemata |
| November | Sat 9 – Sun 10 | Hutt Valley Open | Petone |
| | Sat 16 – Mon 25 | Olympic Games Table Tennis | Sydney |
| | Sat 30 – Sun 8 Oct | New Zealand Open | Christchurch |
| Sat 18 – Sat 25 | Australian Veteran Championships | Campbelltown NSW | |



TABLE TENNIS INFO

Issue: 14

March 2000

**Big Balls
are in!
Well – Nearly!
page 2**



**Commonwealth and World Teams
Championships – New Zealand teams
results – Women win Bronze.
Report page 3**

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



Have a
great
Easter



**THE COST OF
TABLE TENNIS**

Centre pages

From  to 

Larger Balls to be used.

But ... there is no need to panic ... read on ...

During the World Teams Championships, the International Table Tennis Federation General Meeting voted to use the 40mm ball in all ITTF tournaments from October 1st 2000. This includes World Championships, Olympic events, Pro Tour events and Open International Tournaments.

However it does not yet include events not controlled by the ITTF such as club and league matches and National Championships. The ITTF is encouraging member associations to continue to use the existing 38mm ball. This latter move is to help suppliers reduce stocks and to achieve a smooth transition to the larger ball.

The ITTF intends to keep the 38mm ball approval list for at least 3 years.

The Technical Committee of TTNZ has to now study the change and consider the implications for New Zealand. Certainly one can envisage there being no change this year with our National Championships retaining the 38mm ball in Sept/Oct.

By and large the change will certainly mostly affect our top players in 2001 who will need competitive play with the new ball to help them compete overseas. The committee will be looking at all aspects as more information is known.

On a local basis, associations have no need to worry for some time as the change will be gradual.

We can all expect to hear from The National association when the transition and changeover is clarified and planned.

And what about this new BIG Ball!

Readers will recall our article "**Bigger Ball, Better Game?**" in our November 1999 issue and to remind you of the major differences between the 38mm and 40mm ball we repeat the vital points of difference:

- It is between 4% and 8% slower depending on its launch speed.
- The slower the ball travels the more difference there is - the most in service and its return, when players would have more time to adjust.
- It generates less spin - research shows a 13% reduction in comparison with the existing ball.
- It is more visible to spectators - it was clearly easier to discern than the existing ball.
- 80% of umpires could see the ball better at a range of less than 15 metres (30% at more than 50 metres).

World and Commonwealth Championships 2000

By Murray Finch, NZ Manager/Coach

The women's team was our strongest ever with **Li Chunli** available for the first time in many years and **Karen Li** playing in her first World and Commonwealth Championships. These two were backed by the experienced **Sarah Finch** and the youthful **Tracey McLaughlan** – a late replacement for **Maxine Goldie**.

The men's team performed to their own expectations. **Peter Jackson** struggled to regain his best form as he recovered from a recent shoulder injury and **Shane Laugesen** also suffered from a lack of recent play.

Commonwealth Championships

The **women's** team won a bronze medal, finishing behind Singapore, Australia and Malaysia. **Chunli** also picked up a bronze in the singles and combined with **Karen** to win another bronze in the doubles.

The men finished 7th with, coincidentally, their "killer" loss also being to Australia (1-4 with the only win being in the doubles).

A notable performance in the individuals was **Shane's** 4 game win over the highly promising Gareth Herbert of England in his best performance on tour. **Andrew Hubbard** and **Sarah Finch** continued their recent good form in mixed doubles by reaching the last 16 - winning two excellent matches against a Malaysian pair, from 7-21 and 6-14 down and the English pair of Herbert and Owalabi Kubrat 10-21, 21-19, 21-19. They lost to fourth seeds and eventual winners Cai Xiaoli and Zhang Xue Ling. **Tracey McLaughlan** won her first senior matches for NZ at this level winning the first round singles match and doubles match (with Sarah).

The Championships were split between two halls, one airconditioned and one not. Luckily for the men who played their first 3 matches in the "sweat box", temperatures were an unseasonably "cool" 26 to 28°C and 80 to 95% humidity. These Championships were dominated by the Singaporean teams who have imported 3 ex-Chinese in both their men's and women's teams. However it was the defending champions, England who won the men's teams title beating Singapore 4-2 in the final in something of a surprise. The men's singles was won by the defensive player, Mathew Syed who defeated Singaporean Duan Yong Jun in 4 exciting games. Perhaps the most exciting match in the tournament was the semi-final between Duan and top seed Johnny Huang of Canada. Huang went two games to one up winning the second and third easily, Duan came back to win the 4th but was down 18-19 in the fifth before playing three great points to win 21-19.

The women's singles final was an all Singaporean affair with Li Jia Wei, the 18 year old top seed going two games down against defending champion Jing Jun Hong before fighting back to win the next three games and the title. The match produced many excellent rallies but it was missing some tension with both players from the same country.

World Teams Championships

Improving from 55th in 1997 the women's team finished 32nd. This was a little disappointing with our loss to Australia costing a possible position of 9 to 13 and more importantly, a place in the top 24 teams. This loss was harder to take because we started so well with **Karen Li** recording her first win over Aussie no.1 Miao Miao before **Li Chunli**, clearly affected by a virus, had her worst day against Australia losing both her matches.

The men drew a very difficult group with the very strong Norwegian team as well as the much improved young team from Thailand. The first match against Thailand which resulted in a 1-3 loss meant that there was little chance of finishing in the top 2 in the group. Having finished 3rd in the group the men were playing for positions 57 to 72. The fact that they finished 57th is a credit to their ability to overcome their disappointment and maintain their pride in their own performance and in representing their country.

Facilities at these Championships were excellent. The tournament was held in the Commonwealth Games venue. The main stadium was in the Gymnastics centre, it held 14 tables, seated 10,000 spectators and had a 4 sided "big screen" video suspended from the roof in the centre of the stadium. The second stadium was 10 minutes walk away and held 12 tables. There were 2 practice halls housing about 40 tables. All of the halls were air-conditioned which was vital given temperatures outside constantly in the early 30s and humidity always close to 100%. A feature of the weather was the thunderstorm and torrential downpour that rolled in at 4.00pm on the dot every day and lasted for hours. It was some of the heaviest rain any of us have witnessed.



OCEANIA CHAMPIONSHIPS

New Caledonia - 3 to 9 June 2000

Table Tennis New Zealand announced that the following players will represent New Zealand at these Championships:

Men

Peter Jackson (O/Seas)
Shane Laugesen (A)
Andrew Hubbard (HV)
Aaron Winborn (A)

Women

Li Chunli (O/Seas)
Karen Li (MN)
Sarah Finch (A)

Junior Boys

Peter Craven (NL)
Andy Huang (A)
Adrian Soh (N)
Yi-Sien Lin (C)
Nathan Lowe (A)
Brooke Barrie (NH)

Junior Girls

Deborah Morrison (C)
Lisa Boaden (HV)
Eileen Schwab (NH)
Sandy Wang (A)
Florence Li (A)

The team members will participate in the full range of teams and individual events covering Senior Open and Under 20, 17 and 14 events as appropriate.

My Serve

by **James Morris**



Coaching - Where to from here!

With a national coach and an executive director going within a year, one would think it would have an impact! Presently we have a coaching plan which of course is necessary when seeking funding from the Hillary Commission, but it is one thing to have a plan on paper and another to execute it. I have taken over the role of coaching director so therefore have the responsibility to ensure that coaching across the board continues to have momentum. A big ask considering the lack of funds and with the move towards more volunteer involvement, one of the most important points will be finding suitable personnel to fill these strategic positions.

Coaching covers a wide area from Kiwisport to high performance, yet I believe all are linked. At the AGM it was interesting that during the workshop on the Sunday, associations were asked key questions about coaching. These showed that associations felt they were responsible for player recruitment, skill learning (basic coaching), and retention of players. TTNZ's responsibilities were for emerging players and high performance.

TTNZ needs to support associations in their endeavours to recruit and coach with coach education resources and workshops. At present we have available a Kiwisport manual for basic table tennis knowledge and a Level 1 manual for more advanced coaching. These are available from TTNZ. We need to upskill more coaches to deliver these coaching levels to coaches and associations. Many people attended a Level 1 course in Auckland last year and during 2000 these people will be contacted to be assessed in a practical situation.

Presently a "Coaches Count" booklet is being developed in conjunction with the Hillary Commission and will be available to all associations free of charge. It can be used as a basic coaching resource and can be handed out to schools/teachers and other interested people to help promote table tennis. This booklet will be distributed in the near future.

In view of the present state of coaching in NZ, I see more focus on certain areas with key people driving those areas.

- ◆ Coach education
- ◆ Regional coaches (these have struggled to work in some areas in the past, but the idea is sound),
- ◆ High performance, (developing a six year plan to 2006 - identifying strategic tournaments/training for players to attend)
- ◆ Talent Identification - to set policy to help young striving players to reach their potential. (Too many young players have left the game)

The Oceania tournament in 2000 has been identified as important for our high performance and emerging players to attend. This is part of the high performance six year plan which is heading towards the Commonwealth games in Manchester in 2002 and beyond. However we need a base of players and a wise coaching budget will have money set aside for the grass roots.

The Hillary Commission keep telling all codes that the two main areas are the recruitment of young people and coach education. e.g. developing trained coaches.

National training camps are planned to continue and this Easter sees the first. It's unfortunate that funding (lack of) is an issue and players suffer through a user pays system.

My aim this year is to focus on key areas

- ◆ the Oceania tournament and training camp.
- ◆ the development of resources, like the coaches count booklet
- ◆ the assessment of the Level 1 Coaches.
- ◆ the furthering of coach education.
- ◆ implementing talent identification
- ◆ committing to a six year high performance plan



There are many other issues but we must walk before we run.

Good serving,

James

PS A reminder to associations that the Local funding scheme applications through your local council closes on the 31 March, and funds for coaching can be gained through this scheme.

Mrs **Jocelyn Jones** of Bay of Plenty writes regarding some articles in the last issue.

“My Serve”

James Morris's thoughts and ideas in the November issue were very encouraging and helpful and I would like to make some comments.

Firstly I found that the Lion Foundation (Pub Charity) is all very well but unless your club is prepared to buy lots of liquor it is a no go area. Our local club with several juniors do not go into that type of socialising so it is of no help in fundraising.

Secondly – what about **Trivial Pursuit Evenings**? Our local school runs an evening on an annual basis and they are always well attended and lots of fun.

Wayne Gear's suggestion of the four best tournament results determine rankings sounds a good idea, but what if player does not play that number?

I would like to suggest that there should be more tournaments catering specifically for the “middle of the road” players.

With regard to **Brien Halpin's** report on **Wheelchair** players, we have in the Bay of Plenty one player who participates in our ordinary interclub and does extremely well. No special rules are applied.

Thank you Jocelyn for your response.

HOW DO YOU SORT OUT ALL THE TEAMS IN THE WORLD ?

by John Kiley

With the New Zealand men's and women's teams freshly back from the World Teams Championships and taking stock of their respective 57th and 32nd finishing positions (full report on page 4), it's a logical time to have a look at how such a huge number of teams (95 men's and 75 women's) can be sorted into a complete finishing order in just one week of competition.

The official explanation occupies six pages of dense technical verbiage accompanied by a succession of diagrams that look more like plates of spaghetti than draw sheets - but after a close look and talking to people who have seen the system at work, one doesn't have to be a genius to work it all out.

Each championship (men's and women's) is divided into two tiers. The top tier is the 24 highest seeded teams divided into four groups of six, with the teams spread evenly to keep the groups at about the same standard. All the other teams make up the second tier and are divided into 16 groups, also spread evenly. Each second tier group has either 3, 4 or 5 teams depending on the total number of teams entered.

Both New Zealand teams were in the second tier.

For any second tier team to become world champion, it obviously must surmount the first hurdle by winning its group. If it only comes second the best it can then do is finish 41st, behind the 24 top tier teams and the 16 second tier group winners. The worst it can do is 56th, behind all the other second placed teams against whom it will have played a series of progressive knock-out matches *. If it comes third it will play for positions 57-72, and if it comes fourth, for positions 73-88.

The 16 second tier group winners now line up and play a two round knock-out contest. The eight teams that lose in the first round play a progressive knock-out for positions 33-40 and the four second round losers play off for positions 29-32. The four teams that survive both rounds are now the only unbeaten teams in the second tier and this entitles them to mix it with the heavyweights in the top tier. Each of them now plays one of the four teams who came third in the top tier groups. If they win they play the four top tier teams who came second. Yet another win qualifies them for the quarter-finals where the four top tier group winners restlessly await them. (Since winning their groups they've been interested spectators up till now.) Any second tier team that scrambles through this far is now likely to face three of the top four teams in the world before it can become world champion: one in the quarter-final, one in the semi-final, and one in the final. This phase of play finalises positions 1-12 and is obviously the business end of the championships - fought out amongst the four top tier group winners, the four top tier runners-up; and the winners of the four matches between the top tier third placed teams and the four second tier teams.

The second tier teams that lose to their third-placed top tier opponents go into a progressive knock-out with the 4th, 5th and 6th place-getters in the top tier to determine positions 13-28.

* A progressive knock-out is a contest to sort a group of anything from four to sixteen teams into a final finishing order. The winners keep playing each other to determine the top team; the losers keep playing to determine the bottom team; and teams eliminated at parallel stages go into either a two or four team mini-draw to determine the intermediate positions.

By the end of the championships some teams will have played ten contests; most will have played at least eight; all will have been placed from 1 to 88 (and beyond if necessary), and all will have had a chance to become world champion.

It's a tough road, but with table tennis played in 185 countries affiliated to the International Table Tennis Federation, nobody expects it to be easy.

☒☒



"We had to shift the umpire - you can't follow the **balloon** balls from down here!"

"**balloon**" = "high defence lob!!"

WHO is doing WHAT nationally in 2000.

Board: Alan Hounsell (Chair; Dir. Planning)
Ron Garrett (Dep.Chair; Dir. Admin.)
Dennis Galvin (Dir. Publicity)
Andrew Gordon (Dir. Development)
David Jackson (Dir. Technical)
Bryan Keane (Dir. Marketing)
James Morris (Dir. Coaching)

Staff: John Kiley (Administration Officer)

Technical Committee:
David Jackson (Vacancy)

Selectors: David Jackson
Bryan Keane
Averil Roberts

Ratings and Computer Services:
David Jackson

Umpires Committee
Robert Dunn (Chair)
Michael McAvinue
Jim Jarmin
Val Scarr

Championship Review Committee
Andrew Gordon
Shona Cudby
Wayne Gear
Jennifer Hubbard
David Jackson
Bryan Keane

Magazine: Robin Radford
John Kiley

Web site: Robin Radford

IMR Lyn McKay
Robin Radford



The happy B and C Grade Under 19 and Under 15 Boys teams from Otago at the 1999 New Zealand Championships. Not winners but the C Grade Under 19 team were runners up.

L to R, Back row: **Alan Moore** (Otago Press) **Steven Moore, Ben Guy, Yosuke Tao, Stephen Thomas, Daniel Eyre, Bob Hurr** (Coach) Front Row: **David Colwill, Michael Eyre, Jarrod Stewart, and Malcolm Moore.**

Under 20 Boys WAH SING ACADEMY (NSW) Visit

A friendly match was played in January at the Cashmere Club, Christchurch. (The club was used as the Canterbury stadium was having its floor laid.) The Wah Sing Academy is from New South Wales, Australia and Canterbury was the first stop in NZ for the boys, who continued on to Nelson and Auckland. The games were strongly contested and the audience of 60+ enjoyed a night of good table tennis. The match was drawn 10-all.



L to R: Wah Sing - **Dereck Eu, Charles Chau, Adam Green, Tony Bo, Tony Lee** (manager). Canterbury - **Simon Wallace, Yi-Sien Lin, Karl Samson, Paul Stewart, Aaron Li** (Coach).



Alan Tomlinson

Alan had to some degree played in the shadow of Bob Jackson, but he toppled the latter in 1959 to win the New Zealand men's singles title. Alan demonstrated his staying power in top NZ table tennis by taking the title 5 years later, 5 years later again, and 3 years later in 1972.

During the Japanese tour in 1957 he defeated Ogimura (the then World Number 2). During his long career he also achieved 5 singles titles in various championships in the British Isles which included the Scottish open men's singles, and captained NZ teams overseas.

An astute tactician, he was known as a player with a powerful loop drive, with a variety of spin services and solidly hit counter drives.

A popular player and keen supporter of district association championships, he continued to play in Veteran events long after his peak years at the very top, adding further titles to his impressive list. He featured in the 1978 edition of the Guinness Book of Records (NZ) as the player who had represented this country most in International appearances (54 times).

An outstanding New Zealand player who has also served the game in various facets of administration.



National Titles:

Alan – circa 1971

New Zealand Open

Men's Singles - 1959, 64, 69, 72
 Men's Doubles - 1955, 56, 57, 58, 59, 62, 68, 69, 70, 71
 Mixed Doubles - 1969
 Over 55 Men's Singles - 1995, 96
 Over 45 Men's Singles - 1982, 83
 Over 45 Men's Doubles - 1996
 Over 45 Mixed Doubles - 1986, 88

North Island Open

Men's Singles - 1959, 61, 63, 64, 72
 Men's Doubles - 1955, 56, 57, 58, 65, 68, 69, 70, 76, 79
 Mixed Doubles - 1956, 58, 61, 63, 68, 69, 70, 74, 78
 Over 35 Men's Singles - 1989
 Over 45 Men's Singles - 1984, 86, 87
 Over 45 Men's Doubles - 1988
 Over 45 Mixed Doubles - 1989
 Over 60 Men's Singles - 1995, 98

New Zealand Veteran Championships

Over 40 Men's Singles - 1987
 Over 40 Men's Doubles - 1988, 96
 Over 40 Mixed Doubles - 1988
 Over 50 Men's Singles - 1987, 88
 Over 50 Men's Doubles - 1988, 96
 Over 50 Mixed Doubles - 1988

From ITTF General Meeting at the World and Commonwealth Championships. from Murray Finch

Ball

The 'big' ball has been voted in. The current 38mm ball has its last international outing at the Olympics. The new 40mm ball will be introduced at all ITTF events from 1st October 2000. The new ball is heavier and research has shown that it reduces the amount of spin that can be put on the ball and the speed that it can be hit. It has also been proved to be easier to see for players and spectators both at the venue and on TV.

Each national federation is able to choose whether to change to the new ball in local competition for a period of time but this would appear to be folly given the reasons for introducing the ball and the fact that this would seriously disadvantage our representatives who must compete with the new ball from the 2001 Commonwealth and World Champs at the latest.

New Service Rules

From October 1st the rules will change with **“no part of the server's body being able to be in front of the base line during the service action (including the start).”** This is to make it more difficult to hide the contact point during the service action.

Also being trialled are a number of other new service rules including one where the contact point of the service must be between the body (the closest point of the body to the table) and the base line of the table. Again this will make it extremely difficult to hide the contact point, and would also make it very difficult to use a forehand service.

New Scoring System

The Pro-Tour tournaments after 1st October will trial a new scoring system. Instead of 3 games to 21, there will be 5 games to 11 with 3 serves each. The thinking behind this is that there are more exciting game ends for spectators. Regardless of the result of the trials, changes in the scoring system are being considered and changes are likely.

Player Restriction discussion.

There has been a restriction placed on the number of players at the World Champs with a maximum of 7 per country. This is to reduce the dominance of any one country but one wonders whether it is encouraging mediocrity. With the Chinese men having 10 men ranked in the top 50 and 15 of the top 50 women, should any of these players (and who knows who is emerging behind the scene) be excluded so that players ranked hundreds of places below them can play?

World Championships

The 2001 World Championships in Osaka, Japan will be the last where the teams and individual events will be held at the same tournament. The countries have, with the top players, advocated this for some time. Their argument is that it is too demanding (for the players) having both events at the same time, especially the teams with only one or two top players. A very valid point but from a New Zealand perspective it is likely to remove the opportunity to compete in (and see) the individual events for most of our top players.