

Imported Players

There was much discussion, especially at the Commonwealth Champs, about the impact of imported players and coaches. Primarily this means Chinese players and coaches, simply because there are so many. There is hardly a competitive team playing at the top level in women's table tennis that doesn't have at least one ex-pat Chinese in the team - and there are many in the men's game as well, Japan, Netherlands, Spain, Italy, Canada and Austria to name a few. The issue was raised in earnest at the Commonwealth Champs where it received media publicity, responding to reports that a number of top Singaporean officials had resigned in protest at their Association recruiting 3 men and 3 women from China to take the positions in their representative teams.

The debate centres on the improved international results gained by recruiting imported players versus the negative impact on playing numbers as a result of this policy. There appeared to be some variation from situation to situation depending on the personality of the import(s) and what they were prepared to contribute back to the sport. However the general consensus is that you trade local playing numbers and player enthusiasm for success if you adopt a policy of actively promoting imported players and coaches.

Clearly New Zealand has gained much from our Chinese ex-pats. However there are cases both here and across the Tasman of players and coaches using their table tennis knowledge and skill as a currency to obtain a new passport and create a new life only to abandon table tennis when they have achieved their objectives. With society freeing up in China we can expect to see more and more people emerging from that country that were moderate to average players or coaches but can be stars in the new country they choose to reside in. There is no easy answers when deciding on how to deal with the issues that crop up relating to our new residents. All we can do is proceed with caution and not make it too easy for the immigrants until we are sure that they have a similar commitment to the sport that we have.

☒☒

MINDS

Minds are like parachutes – absolutely useless unless they're open.

The BUTTERFLY ball has been adopted as the approved ball for the years 2000 and 2001 by Table Tennis New Zealand.

H.B. Sports the agents for Butterfly also have Training Balls available.

A new rubber – SRIVER EL, the new improved version of Scriver is due out.



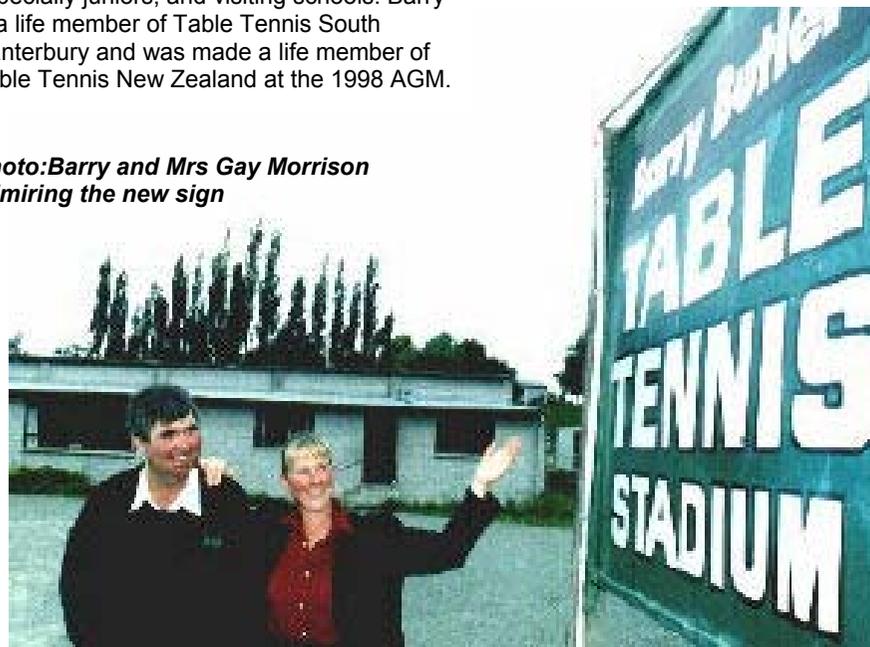
H.B. SPORTS P O Box 79220 Royal Heights Auckland Ph 09-8336502

And now – The Barry Butler Stadium

Table Tennis South Canterbury have named their stadium – **Barry Butler Table Tennis Stadium** in recognition of the tremendous contribution made by Barry to South Canterbury table tennis over 35 years as a player, coach and administrator.

Barry has spent many, many hours coaching especially juniors, and visiting schools. Barry is a life member of Table Tennis South Canterbury and was made a life member of Table Tennis New Zealand at the 1998 AGM.

Photo: Barry and Mrs Gay Morrison admiring the new sign



Letter to the Editor:

I read the very interesting report in the November issue entitled "Under 18's do it on Their Own" Well done, boys and girls !

I agree any team representing New Zealand should have a coach on the "side-line". For most players it is important to have a coach for psychological reasons. However, several points need to be kept in mind:

- 1 Will the players benefit by having a "strange" team coach who has done very little coaching with the players and doesn't really know their game ?
- 2 Would such a coach be accepted by the players ?
- 3 Who is capable of coaching our best Under 18 players ? Maybe not only top players are capable of coaching.
- 4 How can a coach aim for the glamour jobs if they are not even qualified to coach a team such as the Under 18's. Where does an aspiring coach start ?

These questions, I am sure, will be addressed after TTNZ have set up a coaching structure.

Joachim Kusche

THE COST OF TABLE TENNIS

by John Kiley

A person decides to take up table tennis.

Through word of mouth, good promotional work by a club or Association, assistance from a helping agency, or persistent detective work, that person finds somewhere to go where regular play is offered.

Two key questions now arise: "How much should that person pay, or more importantly, what is that person paying for?"

To answer this we must recognise that the person, along with thousands of others in an identical situation, is a *consumer* of table tennis. A basic principle of economics is that the consumer should be expected to bear the cost associated with the provision of a service.

Who is providing the service and what does it cost?

Clearly, the people organising the table tennis are the primary providers of the service, and the immediate costs are the cost of balls, depreciation on the tables and nets, and either rent, or debt servicing, building maintenance, power, insurance and rates on the stadium or hall depending on whether the building is rented or owned.

But are those the only costs? What about promotion, and secretarial expenses? And if the organisation is large and professionally run, what about the cost of a part-time employee?

Does it stop there? A table tennis facility can't operate in isolation. It needs to be kept up with changes to the rules of the game and developments in new equipment. So it needs to be linked in some way to the sport's ultimate decision-makers, usually an international body. It can't do that directly, so there has to be at least one intermediate organisation, either regional or national, that keeps the sport consistent over a wide area, links clubs or associations for interclub or inter-association competition, and organises large tournaments. These intermediate bodies, whether regional, national or international, all have to be funded to cover their administration costs. So, who should meet all these costs? Again, applying the basic rules of economics, it should be the consumer.

What has the poor consumer done to deserve all this? Why should the humble social player have to contribute to the cost of the game at international, national and district level when all they want to do is play in a local club each week, and all they need is a ball, a table, a bit of space, a bit of light, and someone to play against. They don't even get a free bat for their money - they had to buy that for themselves.

The bat!!! A perfect example to illustrate the main point being pursued here. What had to happen to bring that bat into the shop and make it available for the table tennis enthusiast to purchase? Firstly, there's research and development. Someone has to figure out what rubber, sponge and blade combinations render the best variety of products. This is an ongoing cost. Then there is the cost of materials, labour, plant depreciation and overheads. And distribution and storage costs for the wholesaler. And the retailer needs to cover the cost of rent on the premises and wages for the staff.



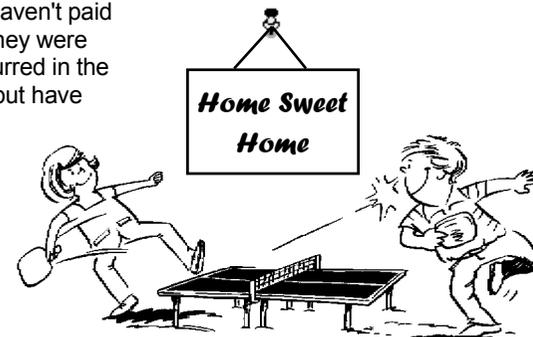
Every cent of all these costs is passed on to the consumer, who has the final all-important judgement call of the whole process - is the product worth the cost? Nobody argues with this process - it's a way of life.

Why should it be different with the consumer of table tennis? Making the game available has a cost. If that cost is seen by the consumer to be too high for what they get, they will look to spend their leisure dollar elsewhere. If it's not, they will pay it - and hopefully tell their friends so more come to participate in the product to either bring the cost down, or allow more services to be offered for the same money.

So if we add up the total cost of the providing table tennis in New Zealand and divide it by the total number of registered players we arrive at the cost per person. Is it value for money? If so, all is well. If not - something needs to be done.

Obviously cost exceeds value as things stand given the sport's dependence on a large annual funding grant from the Hillary Commission and the need for district associations to organise their own local fundraising initiatives. Maybe it's a fact of life that table tennis's income will always need to be supplemented. After all, no other sport in New Zealand appears to be able to survive entirely on the pockets of its participants. But the key point is that the measure of value against cost can only take place where the consumer meets the product. All too often the answers are sought elsewhere. The question gets asked, "Are we as an association getting value for our money when we pay affiliation fees to the national body?" This is the wrong question. If it has to be asked, the answer will always be no. It's the wrong question because associations that affiliate to the national body are not consumers. It's equally inappropriate to ask whether a club receives value for its affiliation fees to the local district association - because, again, the club is not a consumer. It is an *intermediary* - part of the process required to deliver the product to the consumer; a link in a chain that stretches from the game's international custodians to the local club secretary who purchases the balls. Somebody has to bear these costs. If not the consumer, who? Everybody else *works* for table tennis, only the player *purchases* it.

This leads to an obvious conclusion. While costs can be brought down and services can be improved, the only really effective and enduring solution to any financial shortfall is to *increase the number of consumers*. Our biggest stumbling block to achieving this is the prevailing and *highly erroneous* view held by the tens of thousands of table tennis players who play the game at work, at school, in social clubs and in the basement at home, blissfully ignorant of the fact that all the costs associated with the development and the delivery of the sport into their laps have been, and continue to be, paid by people other than themselves. Their erroneous view? "We don't want to join a club, or affiliate our group to a parent body, because that would cost us money. We're happy as we are. We don't owe anyone anything. We've paid for the bats, the balls and the net; we made our own table." All true enough - but what about Table Tennis *itself*. They haven't paid for that. They've taken that for nothing!! They were happy to accept that there were costs incurred in the making and supplying of their equipment but have ignored the costs associated with the development of the sport itself.



To repeat an earlier question, if the people playing table tennis don't pay the cost of it, who does???

Wouldn't it be Luvrly!

**Alfred Ransom Harding
(1913 - 2000)**

Alf Harding died in Lower Hutt on 1 January.

Founder of the first New Zealand table tennis club to own its own building, Alf Harding can be described as the true table tennis all-rounder. His achievements ranged from establishing a club in a back yard shed in 1934 to chairing the Hutt Valley Table Tennis Association for nine years and the NZ Association for twelve. As a player he represented his club in A grade for a quarter of a century and was a member of the first, and only, champion New Zealand club team in 1949. He represented Hutt Valley at top level for many years and crowned his playing career by winning a bronze medal in the Over 80 events at the World Veteran Championships in Melbourne in 1995.

He was a Life Member of his club, his Association, and Table Tennis New Zealand.

He accompanied the national team from China on its visit to New Zealand in 1974 as part of China's demonstration of their new "Friendship first, competition second" policy with the west. He chaired the New Zealand management committee during this headline grabbing "ping-pong diplomacy" era.

At club level, he led and encouraged others to develop Hutt Valley's Empire club from a disused fowl-house to a ten table purpose-built facility owned debt-free. He achieved this, in the opinion of his loyal lieutenant for more than 40 years (Ron Menchi), by infecting others with his seemingly unlimited energy. "The drive and enthusiasm which Alf displayed and which took the Empire Club from humble beginnings to one of the leading clubs in New Zealand inspired those of us who were privileged to work with him. It's always been my ambition to follow Alf's example to the best of my ability."

An impressive array of high quality administrators were identified and developed at club, district and national level under Alf Harding's leadership.

He also had a sharp eye for picking potential top players at a very early stage.

A professional sports journalist, Alf was well known to readers of Wellington's Evening Post and consistently secured high profile coverage of table tennis events which otherwise would probably never have received publicity.

His wife Merle, 85, continues to enjoy her weekly game of table tennis.

When Alf Harding attended the 60th jubilee of the Empire club in 1994 people were asking the question, "How many 60th jubilees could there have been anywhere in the world where the founder was fit and well and able to attend as a still active participant?" Not many!!



John Kiley

Ivan Houghton

Ivan passed away on November 28th after a long illness.

He began his table tennis career with the Onslow club sometime way back in about 1947 and remained loyal to that club throughout his life. He will always be remembered for his hard work for table tennis, his firm ideas, his dedicated play, his scoop like backhand - only speed dictating whether it was defensive or attacking.

Over the years, briefly in Hamilton (where he was instrumental in developing all aspects of the Waikato and Hamilton Associations), briefly in Wairarapa and for many years in Wellington he was a dedicated table tennis and tennis worker and player. He was a life member of the Wellington Table Tennis Association, Onslow Table Tennis Club, Wellington Tennis Association and Khandallah Tennis and Squash Club, these honours being

bestowed upon him for his years of incredible service to and participation in these organisations. One of his very last tasks was as co-author of the history of Khandallah Tennis and Squash.

He was to the fore in helping the Wellington Table Tennis Association acquire it's own stadium in 1972.

He not so long ago donated 5 new top class tables to the Onslow TT club and one of his last contributions to TT was as Treasurer of the Wellington Association.

His qualities and dedication were well known to the two sports, which without doubt are far better for his participation.

Robin Radford

Garry Alexander John Frew MBE.



On Monday 28 February 2000 Northland was stunned by the sudden death of Garry Frew at age 64 years. Approximately 1000 mourners attended his funeral held in the Advocate sports stadium on Friday 3

March and afterwards met in the Northland Table Tennis centre. This huge attendance emphasises how highly regarded Garry was as a sportsman, journalist, colleague and friend. His long time friend Sid Going (famous All Black) officiated at the service.

Garry was an excellent all-round sportsman, representing NZ in table tennis, Northland in tennis, played cricket and squash for Whangarei, and was also a handy rugby player.

He was best known for his table tennis and although Garry never started playing until he was 13, by 18 he was off to England in 1954 representing NZ. He was a hard bat player with a tenacious two winged defence and scorching forehand drive. His dedication for practice, his determination as a player and

his sportsmanship were his trademarks. In 1953 Garry won three NZ U18 titles and later, went on to win numerous doubles titles and many were with his long time partners, Neti Traill and Murray Dunn. 1954 saw Garry win the Scottish Men's open. He never captured a NZ open singles title. Many people considered Garry unlucky as it was in the reign of Bob Jackson (he won from 1953 to 58) and Garry was runner-up to Jackson in 1955 and 1956.

As a 14 year old I remember seeing Garry defeat NZ's best at the North Island Championships in Gisborne in 1966 to win the men's singles. The exciting games played against Alan Tomlinson and Murray Dunn will always be in my memory.

I started developing my table tennis in the late 1960s when Garry took me under his wing and his wise counsel helped me tremendously. Looking back, the best advice Garry gave me was to never give up when the going gets tough, but to dig in and to fight hard. And at the end of the game no matter what the result, shake hands with a smile and say "well played". Garry was a gentle man and a gentleman, and led by example. Garry had a great sense of humour and many of the junior players in Northland that Garry nurtured enjoyed this wit. In the 1970s and early 80s Northland had many junior players and Garry was largely responsible.

Garry worked as the sports editor for the Northern Advocate for 48 years, where his commitment and dedication to Northland sport was unflinching. Because of Garry's love for table tennis our sport received regular coverage.

Garry was a life member of Northland table tennis, Northland tennis, North Auckland rugby union, a patron of Sport Northland and was awarded an MBE in 1992 for his service to sport.

It's been a privilege to have known this great man who has been a mentor to me. Northland and New Zealand have lost a great servant to sport.

James Morris

World Team Championships 2000

WHAT A FINAL !

The 2000 World Championships men's teams final in Kuala Lumpur was a contest rated by most as one of the greatest finals of all time. It was between the raging hot favourites China and a somewhat ageing Swedish team.

China's biggest problem was who to leave out with 4 players ranked in the top 6 in the world. They decided to play Kong Linghui and Liu Guoliang and sprung a surprise with rising star Liu Guozhang (world ranked 20 and Pro-Tour champion) at number 3. Sweden had little choice, going with the incomparable Jan-Ove Waldner (world no.8), the reliable Joergen Persson (no.9) and Peter Karlsson (no.18).

The first match was between Liu Guoliang and Waldner. Waldner had never beaten Liu. The first game was looking very comfortable for Liu as he worked his way to a 20-14 lead before Waldner staged one of his characteristic comebacks to get to 19-20. Liu flipped from having the short pimped rubber on his forehand at the last second to use the smooth rubber to loop a slightly long serve for a winner to take the game 21-19. Waldner simply took Liu apart in the second game 21-7, finishing it with a disdainful chop-block to a powerful forehand by Liu played from a wide angle. The final game ebbed and flowed and appeared over when Liu took a 20-17 lead before Waldner got a lucky net cord and then regained the momentum to level at 20 all. Liu had another match point at 21-20 but was unable to take advantage of it and Waldner closed the match out 23-21.

Persson and Kong contested the second match which was won by Persson in two straight games. This match produced many excellent rallies with Persson having a slight edge especially in the backhand to backhand rallies.

At 2-0, Sweden had assumed favouritism and this was evident by the demeanour of the guy sitting next to me who had a \$6,000 bet placed on China. However nobody had told Liu Guozhang who proceeded to demolish the accomplished Peter Karlsson 21-6, 21-16. Kong then showed great character as he recovered from his loss to Persson to produce one of his best ever displays in comfortably beating Waldner two straight. Kong's defence and counter-attack were assured and he more than answered all the challenges Waldner put to him.

Contest tied at 2-2 and reigning World and Olympic Champion Liu Guoliang to play ex-World Champion (1991) Joergen Persson. Sweden has put up a great fight but it's over now.....isn't it? Liu won the first game 21-18. Back came Persson to win the second 21-17. The third was a close affair before Liu established a break in the middle of the game. Again back came Persson and at 17-17 Liu fault served. Persson returned the favour immediately, 18-18. From this point Persson played 3 excellent points to win the game, the match and the title, 21-18.

This match was not only a triumph for a Swedish team that, aged in their mid thirties, was thought to be past their best but a personal triumph for Persson. He has, for the bulk of his career, lived in the shadow of his compatriot, Waldner. He does not possess the sheer brilliance of Waldner with his service, return and creativity. Persson is, however a great player in his own right with a very strong (dominant in this tournament) backhand drive, flick, loop and block; a powerful forehand and fantastic athleticism. His ability to stay calm and play well under pressure served him well in this tournament – his tournament.

Murray Finch



Canterbury Stadium all go.

Bill Mathams (age 83) (right) and **Sam Henderson** enjoying playing in the new stadium during a Thursday morning club last December.

The floor has since been covered in particle board on battens mounted on rubber and is a deep red colour. Reports indicate it is great to play on.



CONTRA Company, one of the biggest retailer for table tennis equipment has tested different rubbers and blades from manufacturers such as Butterfly, Donic Stiga, TSP, Tibhar etc.

Here are some of the ratings. (Points out of 100)

Rubbers – 146 tested	Speed	Control	Spin	Spring	Price
Bryce	97	94	98	98	?
Mendo Energy	99	96	98	93	?
DONIC Destro	100	90	98	100	\$58
Sriver L	95	94	94	94	?
Mark V	96	92	94	94	?
DONIC Vario	96	92	95	94	\$40 **
Coppa Z1 (DONIC)	97	92	95	98	\$40

Bats – 110 tested	Speed	Control	Price
Stiga Energy WRB	91	94	?
Primorac	97	95	?
Jonyer H	92	80	?
DONIC Powerplay V!	92	94	\$69
DONIC Powerspeed	95	85	\$69
DONIC Dicon	93	83	\$60 **
DONIC Powerfibre	95	91	\$89

**** On Special**

DONIC NZ
327 Coldstream Rd
Rangiora.

Order **NOW**,
Ph (03) 313-3449
Fax (03) 313 3412

National Development Camp

July 11th - 14th In Nelson

TTNZ Director of Coaching **James Morris** has planned this camp specifically to identify future champions giving each player a pathway and the necessary support to reach the top of NZ table tennis, going on to be NZ's senior representative players in the future.

There are many talented young players around our regions and associations are being asked to nominate the players they think will fit into this category, then it will be up to the NZ selectors to choose the participants from this talent spotted group.

The programme will be made up of 24 players consisting of 4 under 18 boys and girls, 4 under 16 boys and girls and 4 under 14 boys and girls. The reason for this breakdown is to ensure a continuity of future champions in playing styles, technique etc., thus setting a level for other young players aspirations. This is only the first stage of this new and exciting programme, and it is possible that the numbers may have to be increased in the future.

The players attending this first camp will be coached by two of New Zealand's top coaches who will follow the players progress throughout the year and will be there to support and encourage the players to achieve their goals. All local association coaches will be asked to encourage this group of players to continue with their schedules while still being their main coach.

The cost of this camp is \$190.00 per player which includes all coaching, five nights accommodation and meals. Travel will be the participants own care but they will be met at the bus or airport on arrival.

Bryan Keane Academy Director

Nelson Corner Most clubs are open for the 2000 season and the numbers so far look great with everybody looking forward to a fun filled table tennis year.

The Nelson club is on Monday nights from 6.30pm onwards – contact Ian Beattie 5467507 and starting on May 1st is the Wakefield club also from 6.30pm till 9.00pm with the contact being Neal Davis 5418820.

The Academy senior club is on Tuesday nights from 7.30pm and the Junior club is on Wednesday nights from 7.00 - 9.00pm contact Bryan Keane or Ian Alino on 5477530.

The Wakapuaka club is on Wednesday nights from 7.00pm contact Nina Roddis 5450278 along with The Trojans club (Richmond Town Hall) also open at 7.00pm till late contact Roy McLaughlan 5448451.

All of these clubs offer good facilities for players to enjoy an evening out catering for all levels of playing abilities. Children are most welcome and we have many total families coming along joining in on the fun activities run each week by the different clubs. Coaching is available at most clubs for everybody who wants to part-take of the skills on offer by some of NZ's top coaches at a very reasonable cost so just ask the club for details.



Table Tennis appreciates the support given by



So you thought you were a good umpire!

Roger Watkin replies to the questions posed in our last issue:

1. Is it legal for doubles partners to swap bats in the middle of a rally???

Only if they are married, or at least, very good friends. However, great care must be taken during the swapping manoeuvre to ensure neither bat is dropped. It is also recommended that swapping be restricted to long boring rallies as a means of distracting your opponents. Note also that during normal doubles play by players of B grade standard and higher, that the time lapse between shots is approx. 0.895 seconds. Therefore, bat swapping needs to be practised so that it can be performed extremely quickly.

NB: Bat swapping is forbidden in MD & WD events. This is to prevent the spread of BSD (Bat Swapping Disease)

2. Is it legal for the umpire to call "Play on" during a rally???

Only in event of earthquake or other natural disaster. However in China where 'play' means 'let' and 'on' means 'please' this is a perfectly normal call.

Note: Be careful in Mongolia, where 'play' means 'get' and 'on' means 'knotted' - remember many Mongolians are descendants of Attila the Hun.

3. Is it legal for a coach outside the playing area to make silent signals to a player during a match???

Only between points as most table tennis players are too busy watching the silly little bouncing yellow thing to pay attention to the coach. However, as most sports fans know, the reason the All Blacks failed to win the World Cup was the lack of silent signals from Mr J Hart to Mr T Randall, therefore the following experimental signals have been agreed to by TTNZ for the 2000 season:

- a) Coach holds up left hand - "attack down opponents forehand"
- b) Holds up sign with "tnz@tabletennis.org.nz" on it - "hang in there - consulting online coaching manual and will get back to you shortly"
- c) Holds up right hand - "attack down opponents backhand"
- NB:** Signals a and c are reversed if opponent is left-handed
- d) Makes circle with thumb & pointer finger of LH and inserts pointer finger of RH in circle and with exaggerated motion removes finger from circle - self explanatory
- e) Holds up both hands and throws head back - "what are you doing? Can't you remember anything I've taught you? I'm going home!"
- f) Scratches head - "don't have any advice"
- g) Throws handkerchief on floor - "give in!"
- h) Covers eyes - "do whatever you want - I can't bear to watch"

Continued page 23

The National Office Has moved. The lease was up for renewal and the many sports making up Sports House in the Central Library Building decided the rent was too high. TTNZ now share a floor with Badminton, Sports Science and Croquet, (with Tennis and Golf in the same building) at:

Level 5, Compudigm House 49 Boulcott St, Wellington
(Full contact details back cover)

2000 SUMMER NATIONALS - Nelson – 8-14 January

<u>Open</u>	<u>Winner</u>	<u>Singles Runner Up</u>
Men's Singles	Aaron Li (N)	Yi-Sien Lin (C)
Women's Singles	not held	
Men's Doubles	I Alino & A Li (N)	
Women's Doubles	S Moore & J Wood (C)	
Mixed Doubles	A Li & J Wood (N/C)	
<u>B Grade</u>		
Men's Singles	Tim Armstrong (N)	Dave Samson (C)
Women's Singles	Meena Chang (C)	Sandra Moore (C)
Men's Doubles	T Armstrong & S Crow (N/C)	
Women's Doubles	M Chang & J Wood (C)	
Mixed Doubles	D Samson & M Chang (C)	
<u>Over 50 years</u>		
Men's Singles	Stephen Crow (C)	Glenn Haszard (C)
Women's Singles	Sherry Chang (C)	Betty Russ (N)
Men's Doubles	R McLauchlan & L Wells (N)	
Women's Doubles	S Chang & S Williams (C/N)	
Mixed Doubles	S Crow & S Chang (C)	
<u>Over 40 years</u>		
Men's Singles	Stuart Wallace (C)	Dave Samson (C)
Women's Singles	Sandra Moore (C)	Sherry Chang (C)
Men's Doubles	S Crow & Stuart Wallace (C)	
Women's Doubles	S Chang & S Moore (C)	
Mixed Doubles	D Samson & S Chang (C)	
<u>Under 25 years</u>		
Men's Singles	Yi-Sien Lin (C)	Evan Kramer (W)
Women's Singles	Meena Chang (C)	Sophie Shu (MN)
Men's Doubles	Simon Wallace & S Xu (C)	
Women's Doubles	M Chang & J Wood (C)	
Mixed Doubles	Y Lin & M Chang (C)	
<u>Under 20 years</u>		
Men's Singles	Yi-Sien Lin (C)	Simon Wallace (C)
Women's Singles	Jacqui Wood (C)	Meena Chang (C)
Men's Doubles	J Cordue & E Kramer (W)	
Women's Doubles	M Chang & J Wood (C)	
Mixed Doubles	Y Lin & J Wood (C)	
<u>Under 17 years</u>		
Boys' Singles	John Cordue (W)	Simon Wallace (C)
Girls' Singles	Kelly Samson (C)	Jacqui Wood (C)
Boys' Doubles	Karl Samson & S Wallace (C)	
Girls' Doubles	Kelly Samson & J Wood (C)	
Mixed Doubles	Karl Samson & J Wood (C)	
<u>Under 14 years</u>		
Boys' Singles	James Silverwood (WR)	Chris Erskine (N)
Girls' Singles	Kelly Samson (C)	Sophie Shu (MN)
Boys' Doubles	C Erskine & B Zhu (N/HV)	
Girls' Doubles	S Shu & H Squire (MN/HV)	
Mixed Doubles	C Erskine & Kelly Samson (N/C)	

So you thought you were a good umpire! (continued from page 21)

4. Is it legal to throw the ball high in service with one hand and then pick up the bat and serve with the same hand ???

Yes, providing the following conditions are met:

- Umpire is advised beforehand
- Server has only one usable hand

Note: the bat must be in the hand no later than 0.5 secs before striking the ball, or the umpire should call "No Ball".

Special note: No glueing-up is allowed between the throwing up of the ball and striking it. Any breaking of this rule to be immediately dealt with by the umpire showing the offending player a yellow card and awarding a point to opponent.

Extra special note: Should the ball be in flight longer than 30 seconds before being struck the server shall be penalised a point for time wasting.

Any dissent dealt with by showing a red card.

Notwithstanding Roger's imaginative response, the official word from the Umpires Committee is "No" to all four questions.



Table Tennis New Zealand **Web site** has had a partial rejig!

New are: An **index** included on the Home/Main page for easier access. **Titleholder History** for National Championships included. **Canterbury Association** have web pages.

The results of the **Australian Championships** were reported in our November issue, and we now have an interesting letter from one of the participants.

Peter Craven writes:

"The NZ Under 18 tour to Australia generally I thought went quite well. In the teams events both the girls and boys team did especially well by winning the teams events. Unfortunately we were ineligible for the title as we were an overseas team.

In the individual events only myself and Lisa Boaden made it past section play. It was at this stage of the tournament the disadvantages of having no coach were highlighted. I personally found it hard trying to coach players and then trying to prepare for my own games. I just felt someone with expertise in coaching was needed.

The tournament was a lot more official than a New Zealand nationals. Formalities like shaking the umpires and opponent's coach's hand are in force in Australia. Perhaps something to look into here. Also late entries are allowed. The two days rest we had over there before the tournament started were beneficial as it let everyone get used to the conditions.

I would like to extend a special thanks to Mrs Morrison who always made sure the players were looked after with lunches, and driving us all over the place. Our sightseeing trip to the great Barrier Reef was a definite highlight (However I'm not sure Mrs Morrison will feel the same way as she was sick on the way out!)

I feel the trip was worthwhile but the competition, I didn't think was as strong as it could have been and I think in terms of exposure to table tennis, playing in a stronger playing nation would be more beneficial."

WORLD WHEELCHAIR GAMES generates more comment:

I recently had the privilege of working as a "Bat Person" at the Table Tennis Wheelchair Games. What an inspiration the players were; it is a shame that more able bodied players did not see what can be achieved. I was however disappointed by the media's lack of coverage. Maybe with more publicity, NZ Wheelchair athletes would be encouraged to take up table tennis.

Special mention must be made of the marathon efforts of Trevor Flint and Nanette White who both spent long hours arranging and running the tournament, and to all those who gave their time to umpire. Without dedicated volunteers the tournament would not have been such a success.

Cath Anderson (Canterbury)

1999 Rankings

Men

1. Aaron Li (N)
2. Peter Jackson (O/Seas)
3. Shane Laugesen (A)
4. Andrew Hubbard (HV)
5. Aaron Winborn (A)
6. Chris Herlihy (A)
7. Sean Chen (A)
8. Wayne Gear (A)
9. David Jackson (A)
10. Peter Craven (NH)

Women

1. Li Chunli (O/Seas)
2. Karen Li (MN)
3. Maxine Goldie (A)
4. Sarah Finch (A)
5. Tanya Hefferan (NH)
6. Debbie Garrett (S)
7. Sabine Westenra (HV)
8. Tracey McLauchlan (HV)
9. Raewyn Young (HV)
10. Ulrike Kusche (C)

Under 19 Boys

1. Peter Craven (NH)
2. Andy Huang (A)
3. Adrian Soh (N)
4. Paul Stewart (C)
5. Yi-Sien Lin (C)
6. Oscar Elwell (A)
7. Simon Wallace (C)
8. Greg Burton (NH)
9. Andrew Hovey (WG)
10. John Cordue (W)

Under 19 Girls

1. Rachel Griffiths (NH)
2. Deborah Morrison (C)
3. Tamsyn Burgess (NH)
4. Lisa Boaden (HV)
5. Monique Neal (NH)
6. Jiani Hu (N)
7. Alison Thomson (WG)
8. Laura Jane Young (WT)
9. Claire Dimmock (WT)
10. Meena Chang (C)

Under 15 Boys

1. Andy Huang (A)
2. Simon Wallace (C)
3. Josh Alexandre (A)
4. Kelsey Fagan (WT)
5. Frank Tsai (A)
6. Gareth Van Stipriaan (NH)
7. Tianlun Chen (A)
8. Hadleigh Bunce (NH)
9. Ian Loubachevskii (HV)
10. Nathan Lowe (A)

Under 15 Girls

1. Jiani Hu (N)
2. Sacha Welsh (NL)
3. Eileen Schwab (NH)
4. Sandy Wang (A)
5. Jennifer Lo (NH)
6. Florence Li (A)
7. Jacqui Wood (C)
8. Kelly Samson (C)
9. Chantelle Kok (NH)
10. Sarah Ho (WK)

To qualify for a NZ ranking, players must have competed in a minimum of 4 rating events in any particular category, excluding B & C Grades. Allowance is made for overseas commitments.

SIMON WALLACE

1999 NZ JUNIOR OF THE YEAR and NZ JUNIOR PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Simon Wallace, aged 14, has been playing competitive table tennis in Christchurch for about four years. After he showed a liking for the game in some initial garage skirmishes, his mother insisted he receive some early coaching so that he wouldn't copy his dad's unique playing style. He then joined the Harewood Club's after-school programme for Forms I and II players and was coached by Simon Fenwick and Keith and Tim Armstrong.

He steadily moved up the interclub grades and at age 12 won the B Grade knock-out title, after averaging only around 50% wins during the season. During the past two years he has had regular coaching from Aaron Li and has improved rapidly as a result.

In 1999 Simon played Premier Grade interclub for the first time. He had a particularly successful South Island Open Championships, winning the under 15 and under 17 boys' singles titles. He was then runner up in the under 15 event at the Nationals and visited Australia with the New Zealand junior team. There he won 96% of his games in the team competition and reached the semi-final of the individuals in his age group.

The aim for 2000 is to put in additional hours of coaching and practice, so that he can further improve his play. But most of all he wants to make sure his dad never again wins any of their garage contests.

Simon was number 2 in the Under 15 Boys' and number 7 in the Under 19 Boys' New Zealand rankings for 1999.

☒ ☒



Individual Member Registration.

This years registrations will be achieved by the completion of forms for new members, but renewals of previous registrations will be carried out by district associations as members renew their registrations/affiliations to them. Renewal forms will not be required from members as in the past.

To save resources only new members will receive registration letters. Existing members retain their registration numbers from last year, the associations have a record of their own member's numbers, and it will be shown on the address labels used for the dispatch of the magazine.

Magazine Dispatch.

As in previous years, the March issue of the magazine will be sent to previous (1999) and current (2000) years registrations. However only those registered for this year 2000 will receive the July issue.

So, people, make sure you are registered/affiliated to your association in plenty of time for them to advise TTNZ, well prior to the July issue.



TTNZ Rating System for 2000.

The Rating system has been reviewed and the following is proposed for 2000.

A player's rating is a number (of points) which represents his/her playing ability relative to other rated players. A player's rating changes by graded amounts depending upon the rating difference between his/her rating and the rating of his/her opponent.

The following tables define the calculations:

Rating Change Table:

Rating Difference	Normal Outcome	Upset outcome
<25	8	8
<50	7	10
<100	5	12
<150	3	15
<200	2	20
<250	1	26
	0	32

The winners rating is increased by the amount in this table (adjusted by the weighting factor below) while the losers rating is decreased by the amount in the table.



Weighting table

Weighting	Tournaments
3.0	Nationals Individual events.
2.0	North and South Island Championships, National Team events.
1.5	Summer Nationals, all provincial open tournaments, including Top 12, Team Tournaments etc.
1.0	Closed or restricted events.

For main events the above weightings shall be applied only to the winners points, the losers points are not adjusted by a weighting factor. For Division and Consolation events the weighting applied to the winners points shall be half the tournament weighting, the losers points shall be weighted up to a maximum of 1.

- Players are assigned a rating as soon as they compete in a qualifying event.
- Players are assigned an initial rating based upon their initial results. This may be reviewed at any time when further results are received.
- Players only have one rating and so appear on any list where appropriate with the same rating points.
- All results of singles matches are processed.
- Players will appear on Rating Lists in the year following their last qualifying match played.
- Players not listed (due to lack of participation), shall retain their rating, and this shall be used to determine grade eligibility.
- Players who have not played in any rated match for an entire season, shall have their rating depreciated at a rate of 2% at the end of each such year.

Umpires Committee

Table Tennis New Zealand have set up an umpires committee, which will consist of active umpires, to organise umpiring throughout New Zealand.

In these days of professional sport the committee wishes to:

- Raise the standard of umpires.
- Standardise the interpretation of the rules with training.
- Set an umpire's dress code.
- Have sufficient umpires to hold international contests without importing overseas international umpires.
- Increase the number of people involved with umpiring.
- Encourage inactive umpires to participate again.
- Arrange training in Australia for top national qualified umpires under the Oceania umpires committee.
- Train umpires in New Zealand.

The committee is:

Robert Dunn (Convenor)
Michael McAvinue (Secretary)
Jim Jarmin
Val Scarr

WORLD RANKINGS NZ Players (as at 6 March 2000)

<u>Women</u>	
Li Chunli	39
Karen Li	95
Sarah Finch	368
<u>Men</u>	
Peter Jackson	137
Shane Laugesen	278
Andrew Hubbard	361
Aaron Winborn	387

A Stationary Thought.

A bus station is where the bus stops.
 A train station is where the train stops.... (that reminds me, I must get back to my work station.)

