

Upcoming Events

May	19-25	World Individual Championships	Paris	
	24-25	North Harbour Open	North Harbour	
	24-25	Wellington Autumn Open	Wellington	
	31-1 Jun	South Island Teams	Christchurch	
June	5	Entries Close: North Island Open		
	6	North Harbour Social Veterans Team Day	North Harbour	
	8	Wellington Junior Development	Petone	
	14	Counties Manukau Senior Open	Manurewa	
	14	Hawkes Bay Open	Napier	
	14-15	Nelson Open	Nelson	
	15	Auckland Junior Open	Auckland	
	21-22	Northland Open	Whangarei	
	29	Wairarapa Open	Carterton	
	July	5	South Canterbury Open	Timaru
5-6		Waitemata Open	Henderson	
9-13		North Island Championships	North Harbour	
18-20		Canterbury Open	Christchurch	
24		Entries close: South Island Open		
26-27		Wellington Open	Wellington	
27		Counties Manukau Junior Open	Manurewa	
August		2-3	Manawatu Open	Palmerston Nth
		9-10	Auckland Open	Auckland
		17	Wellington Junior Open	Petone
	21	Entries close: New Zealand Open		
	22-24	South Island Open	Christchurch	
September	30-31	Wellington Spring Open	Petone	
	12-14	Canterbury Residentials	Christchurch	
	13-14	Waitemata Junior Open	Henderson	
	19-21	High performance Coaches Course	Wellington	
	20-21	National Schools Championships	Petone	
	22-24	Youth Training Camp	Wgton/Petone	
	25-28	ITTF World Youth Circuit	Wellington	
	25-4 Oct	New Zealand Open	Wellington	
November	22	Annual General Meeting	Wellington	
	December	World Junior Teams U17 Championships	Chile	

Table Tennis appreciates
the support given by:



Published by **TABLE TENNIS New Zealand Inc.**

Phone (04) 9162459 Fax (04) 4712152 P O Box 867
Level 5, Compudigm House 49 Boulcott St, Wellington
E-mail - ttnz@tabletennis.org.nz
World Wide Web - <http://www.tabletennis.org.nz>



Produced by:
Robin Radford Ph 04-232 5672
16 St Edmund Cres Tawa Fax 04-232 9172
Wellington E-Mail rradford@paradise.net.nz
(Sub editing assistance from John Kiley)

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

TABLE TENNIS INFO

Issue: 22

May 2003



New Zealand Open Veteran Championships Christchurch, Easter 2003



Dennis Galvin &
Bill Otene (Waitemata)



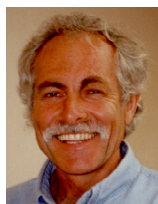
Averil Roberts (W), Roma Chambers
(Aust) and Val Beaver (NH) at the
Presentation Dinner.



Happy group from both sides of the Tasman.

L/R: Ken Cole (Aust), Horst Frohlich (Aust), Kevin Fogarty (NH),
Alan Alabaster (Canty), Werner Borkhardt (Aust), Doug Pattinson (NH),
Michael Ede (Aust), Mick Wright (Aust)

Accountability and Performance



My Serve

from James Morris

In my role as coaching director I've worked closely with the Sports Foundation. This organisation has now been revamped and renamed SPARC. SPARC has placed all sports into categories and Table Tennis has been identified as a developmental sport. There is a criterion set by SPARC to be met if table tennis is to advance to the level of a performance sport, like netball or cricket. I believe we have many systems in place to meet this requirement and SPARC will be monitoring these. In the meantime though, our categorisation means that the general carded status of our elite players has been lost.

Notwithstanding, SPARC has recognised table tennis achievement by awarding the following:

- ◆ Individual carded status to Li Chunli for her excellent achievement at the Commonwealth Games, and an elite player's grant to assist her preparation for the Olympic Games in Athens.
- ◆ Prime Minister's Scholarships to four developmental/elite players, to assist fund their tertiary education as well as their table tennis development. In accepting the scholarship these recipients shoulder the responsibility of managing their tertiary studies with their table tennis growth. This includes attending training camps and tournaments in the TTNZ calendar.
- ◆ A Prime Minister's Coaching Scholarship to Helen Codlin (assistant junior coach), for the second time. SPARC recognises the results that Helen and the TTNZ systems are achieving. The 2003 grant enables Helen to travel to the World Championships in Paris to further the video analysis system and then to the UK for professional coaching development.

SPARC is giving national sports the message - be accountable! To receive funding, systems must be in place to show the justification of such funding. TTNZ must continue to strive to be a performance sport.

A timely reminder of the huge input made by volunteers came to me at the AGM when Robin Radford announced that he was ending his time as editor of *Table Tennis Info* magazine. One of the most positive happenings for me has been the formation and growth of the 'Info Mag', due I might add to the fine efforts of Robin, John Kiley, and their band of volunteers. It does highlight the need to be acutely aware not to burden volunteers to the point of burn out. Let's hope someone comes forward to keep this worthwhile production going and if not, perhaps it's time for associations to collectively take a role.

James

Origins of Table Tennis:

REFEREE literally means "one who is referred to" and is derived from the Latin *refere*, meaning "to bear" or "to carry back"; it pertains to the act of carrying back a problem for solution.

Editorial

Well, here we are again we are pleased to say. John Kiley, Kevin Thomas and I committed ourselves to another issue and we are delighted to note that many people around associations have come to the party with great copy. Your interest is appreciated.

Sadly there is no sign on the horizon for a new producer/editor, but we have included an advertisement in this issue.

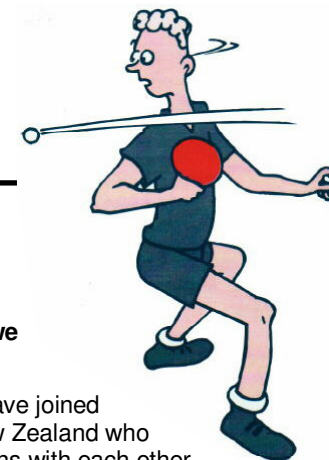
We are contemplating another issue in October/November (leaving out the midyear one again mainly due to the usual lack of Member Registrations at that time).

Considering the solid support of Associations at the Annual General Meeting workshop for Individual Member Registrations (the minutes read "Delegates were overwhelmingly in favour of retaining IMR in it's present format, so therefore it will continue as is"), it is difficult to fathom the reasoning behind early further moves by the Board at their April meeting, to again consider ceasing the existing system. One suspects the Auckland influence here, who so far have not entered into the spirit of cooperation with the national body with regard to IMR. There seems little point in continuing to seek a magazine producer if IMR is again under threat as the loss of it effectively kills the magazine. No one would surely be interested in all the work for a very restricted distribution.

Workshops at AGMs seem pointless if the Board will not accept the consensus views formed at them, which will only lead to more AGM remits.

Sincerely

Robin Radford



Welcome

If this is the first time you have received this magazine, we welcome you as a registered member.

Whatever level you play at, simply by being registered you have joined a very large group of table tennis enthusiasts throughout New Zealand who enjoy each other's company and who share ideas and opinions with each other through this magazine.

The magazine is sent to all currently registered members and we hope you enjoy it.

We invite you to explore our website at www.tabletennis.org.nz which has lots of information on table tennis to help you.

Enjoy your table tennis and once again, welcome !!!

Kevin Thomas
Administration Officer.

AUSTRALIAN YOUTH OLYMPIC FESTIVAL

8 – 11 JANUARY 2003, SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

The Team

Six New Zealand players took part in this event:



New Zealand Boys Team

- **Nathan Lowe** (Auckland)
- **Chris Erskine** (Nelson)

New Zealand Girls Team

- **Hanna Squire** (Wellington)
- **Sarah Ho** (Waikato)

Oceania Team (paired with Australian doubles partners)

- **Jack Wells** (Nelson)
- **Michelle McCarthy** (Wellington)

Other participating countries included China, Hong Kong, Singapore, and Australia,

Preparation

The players submitted a training programme to the National Junior Coach, Murray Finch, who also organised a 9 day training camp in December. This became a joint camp with the Australian players and was of great benefit to all. Other players (elite seniors and developing juniors) were invited to participate as practice partners. Their contribution was greatly appreciated and it made for a very successful camp.

At the camp we also discussed mental preparation and mental toughness. It was surprising that many did not have a pre-match routine to mentally prepare for matches and a routine for refocusing during the game. A summary of mental toughness principles is included alongside this article for others to think about.

The Village

Accommodation consisted of good sized single rooms with shared bathroom. There were no fans so the rooms were hot and stuffy. Facilities included a common room, TV room, music room and computer room. Compared to other villages (there were 6 in total) it was fairly basic but it was more than adequate. Across the road was a very large shopping mall.

The food was plentiful and appetising. During the competition a large food tent was set up to provide packed lunches and dinners. This was also very satisfactory. Iced bottles of water were provided free in the stadium.

Transport consisted of one scheduled bus leaving the village for the stadium in the morning and one returning at the end of the day's play (generally 9.30 -10pm).

This made for a long day but removed any temptation to return to the village between matches.

The cycling contingent shared our village with us. They were generally older than the table tennis group and a lot noisier.



L/R: **Nathan Lowe, Jack Wells, Michelle McCarthy, Sarah Ho, Hanna Squire, Chris Erskine**

As with any village environment, it was difficult to get to sleep at times.

The Stadium

The table tennis was held in the Sydney Indoor Sports Stadium, Home Bush. This comprises two large halls. The table tennis area held 6 competition tables and 4 practice tables during the team events and 4 competition tables for the individual events. In the same hall, badminton was held on four courts. Judo and Tae Kwan Do were in the other hall across the foyer.

Playing conditions were good. However, the temperature in the stadium exceeded 40 degrees on the first day of competition which was a new experience for our players.

We could walk to other events such as swimming and gymnastics in this locality.

Opening Ceremony

On the evening of the first day of competition, the opening ceremony was held at the Sydney Entertainment Centre. This involved leaving the village at 4.15 pm, being organised into countries and ushered to the seats. (The table tennis team was instructed to stand by the New Zealand sign next to one of the organisers - and they promptly forgot about us. Luckily there were 5 spare seats close together). Then we were all ushered out again in reverse order to the parade line-up and had to wait in line for at least 45 minutes before the athletes were paraded into the centre and then out again back to our seats. The parade itself was a bit of a let down but players now know that opening ceremonies involve a lot of waiting and standing and are quite tiring.

The welcome, the speakers and the entertainment were very good, very inspiring and very professional.

Service Rule

The umpires were instructed to give warnings regarding illegal service during the first day of competition (even though warnings are not provided for in the rules) and call them as faults on subsequent days. One or two of our players received warnings. There is a move internationally for the service rules to be strictly enforced so all players should be ensuring that they throw the ball up from the palm, not the fingers; that the hand does not follow the ball up; and that the free arm is moved away from the body. Umpires need to be satisfied that the other player is able to see the ball at all times.

Teams Event

The girls' team came 6th out of 7 ahead of Australia 2 and behind Oceania. The boys' team came in 7th out of 7. These results do not reflect the closeness of some of the matches with a number of games won and others only just lost.

Boys Singles

This event involved group play with the two top players going through to the quarterfinals. Nathan and Jack lost all their matches 3 straight, while Chris took two matches to 4 games and lost one 3 straight, taking a game off Lee (Singapore) and Nguyen (Australia), with other games also being close.

Girls Singles

Sarah drew a good pool with Yu (China) and Beaumont (Australia) in her group of three. As wins to China were a given, it came down to the match between Sarah and Michelle Beaumont. It was closely fought with Sarah coming from well behind in the first two games to snatch them 8 and 11, losing the third game, then taking the fourth to win a place in the quarterfinals. She played with a lot of courage and determination in that match.

Continued over

Australian Youth Festival - continued:

Hanna drew Hou (China), Lee (Singapore) and Michelle Hodgson (Australia) in her group. Hanna played a great game against Lee being 2 games up and ahead in the third before seeming to lose a bit of confidence and started making more errors.

She then played Michelle Hodgson who she had lost to in the team event. This time Hanna won, 3-1, coming from 8-10 down in the fourth to win 12-10. What we hadn't realised was that Hodgson had previously beaten Lee which meant there were three players with one win. The two games Hanna took off Lee proved crucial and she earned a place in the quarterfinals on a count-back. Needless to say we were a very happy team!

Michelle McCarthy met Yu (Hong Kong), Lee (Singapore) and Cole (Australia) - losing all matches. Michelle, while fighting hard throughout, did not play as well as she had in the team event. She seemed to have passed her peak which was disappointing for her.

Sarah and Hanna could not have got a better draw in the quarterfinals. Sarah met 4th seed Yu (Hong Kong) but lost 4, 2, 6, 8. Hanna met 3rd seed Au (Hong Kong) and again rose to the occasion to take two games before going down 4-2. She lost concentration in the sixth after letting herself be distracted – a lesson learnt.

Singles Finals

The singles finals were an all China affair with Hou outclassing Yu in the Girls Singles. The Boys final between Zhang and Jiang turned out to be an impressive show going to 7 games. Zhang finally took the match 16-14 in the 7th. Jan Berner explained that Zhang was playing a new stroke that is becoming evident internationally: instead of blocking a loop on the backhand, they topspin it back. Jiang countered this well after the first two games by keeping Zhang off the backhand. Zhang is No 6 on the World Under 18 ranking and this would have been one of his closest matches.

WHAT IS MENTAL TOUGHNESS?

- ◆ Courage - putting up with mental and physical pain
- ◆ Belief - in the mission, in oneself, in the team
- ◆ Commitment and desire
- ◆ Bringing a positive attitude to all team activities
- ◆ Performing to our best at all times in training and in games
- ◆ Controlling mental and emotional states
- ◆ Retaining the correct focus under pressure
- ◆ Always focusing on controllables and not being distracted by things outside our control
- ◆ Immediately leaving mistakes in the past and focusing on the here and now
- ◆ Knowing the outcome goals (to win the point, win the game) but focusing on the **process** of winning, second by second, minute by minute, play by play
- ◆ Never, never giving up, and never backing down. Hanging in there at all costs
- ◆ Showing leadership and encouraging mental toughness in team-mates
- ◆ Being disciplined. Doing what needs to be done, when it needs to be done. Doing it for as long as it needs to be done with 100% effort. And doing it that way every time.

Summary

I was very pleased with the team's overall performance. Match play generally improved during the tournament and the players fought hard and did not give up. They played with energy despite the extreme temperatures on the first day. To get two players into the quarterfinals was fantastic. They should all pat themselves on the back for their efforts.

I asked each player to share something they learned from the experience and have summarised their responses below:

- Concentrate on each point rather than the outcome
- Expect the ball to come back - don't assume your "winners" won't come back
- Stay focused - don't allow yourself to be distracted
- Success is not only measured by match wins (winning games can help on count-backs), assess performance against personal best
- If you put in the work, you will get there
- Never give up
- If you support others, they will support you
- What you put in is what you get out of it (relating to training, mental preparation, effort in match play etc)
- You haven't won until you reach 11 first
- Expect to work really hard

Helen Codlin *Manager/Coach*
Assistant National Junior Coach



CRUCIAL TIMES FOR MENTAL TOUGHNESS

- ◆ Big Games
- ◆ When the pressure is on
- ◆ When we are down in points
- ◆ Bad umpiring decisions
- ◆ At any time when we are knackered
- ◆ When we make a mistake, eg a fault service
- ◆ Going into a game with a niggle or injury

IN THEIR PEAK PERFORMANCE STATE, MENTALLY TOUGH PLAYERS FEEL:

- ◆ Confident
- ◆ Relaxed and calm
- ◆ Energised with positive emotion
- ◆ Challenged
- ◆ Focused and alert
- ◆ Automatic and instinctive
- ◆ Ready for fun and enjoyment

HOW CAN YOU GET MENTALLY TOUGH

- ◆ Be in top physical condition
- ◆ Be technically efficient and be able to perform skills under all match conditions
- ◆ Simulate match conditions as much as you can
- ◆ Be confident and positive
- ◆ Develop pre-match and in-games routines or rituals
- ◆ Leave mistakes behind immediately
- ◆ Be actors - practise showing no negative emotion at the table

Clear Pathway Defined for Aspiring International Players

If you hope to play for New Zealand one day and would like to know more about the steps to be taken to get there, a new feature, **Player Development Framework**, has just been posted to the TTNZ website.

The purpose of this framework is to:

- help players understand the level of training and commitment that is needed to become a high performing player and achieve their goals;
- explain the terms (high performer, developing high performer, potential performer, developing potential performer) used to describe the different categories of development so that there can be consistency of language and therefore a better understanding of the structure;
- outline the opportunities available to players at different levels of development;
- define what is expected of players if they want to be eligible for selection in New Zealand teams.

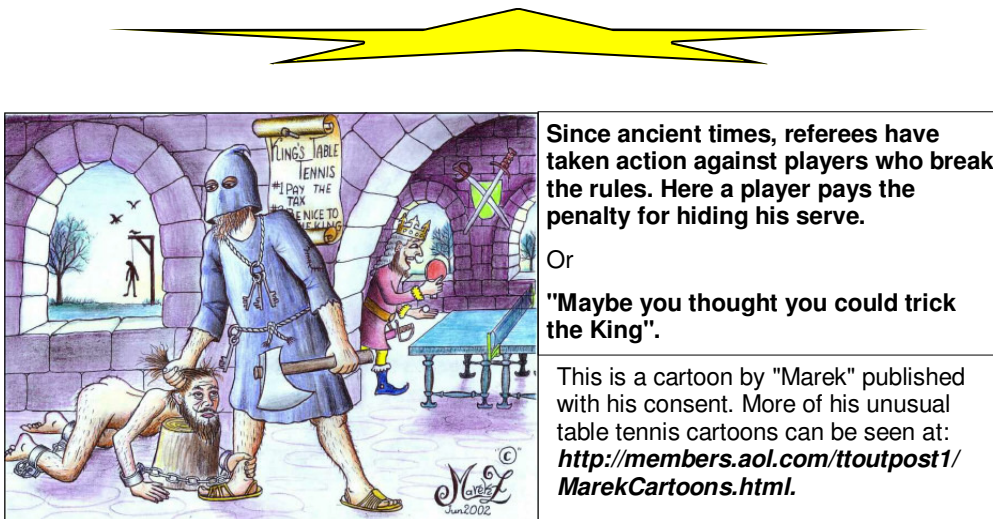
The framework consists of:

- Player Category Profiles
- Identification of Development Opportunities
- Selection Policy

Other policies may be added from time to time.

The framework can be found at <http://www.tabletennis.org.nz> from the "What's New" page.

Refer also to the article about the framework by Helen Codlin, on page 12.



Since ancient times, referees have taken action against players who break the rules. Here a player pays the penalty for hiding his serve.

Or

"Maybe you thought you could trick the King".

This is a cartoon by "Marek" published with his consent. More of his unusual table tennis cartoons can be seen at: <http://members.aol.com/ttoutpost1/MarekCartoons.html>.

Coaching Courses Successful

Two Level One coaching courses have been held in the North Island in recent months – one at Port Waikato, the other in Palmerston North.

The **Port Waikato** course was the first ever to be held on a Marae. It took place from 13 – 15 December and its success was due to the efforts of **Leo and Phyllis Hoete** who were able to secure funding for the full cost. Phyllis and her team worked hard all weekend to feed everyone plentiful and delicious meals.

The local Kaumatua attended the course and was involved, and local children also visited to enjoy the proceedings. Eight coaches graduated as qualified Level One coaches.

There is potential for table tennis to be proactive on Maraes around NZ in the future. People can either stay on the Marae or in the local cabins.

The Port Waikato Christmas parade took place while the course was in progress. A break was allowed for participants to watch the festivities and see Father Christmas arrive (on horseback!!!)



The happy Port Waikato attendees

L/R: (standing) **Mike Rotorangi, Alan Pedley, Gavin Hoete, Georgina Kihī, David Walker, Jeremy Tumanata.** (kneeling) **James Morris, Bill Lomas, Rob Tito.**

Palmerston North

The second course was held at the Palmerston North Boys High School in early April and was set up by Table Tennis Manawatu and regional coach **Alan Pedley**. Twelve coaches graduated including some from Wairarapa, Wanganui and Auckland.

The assessment process was helped by a large number of children of different playing abilities turning out including some with special needs. This required the coaches to show how they could adapt their programmes.



The equally happy Palmerston North people

L/R: Back: **Andrew Batchelar, Grant Gordon, Blair Paterson, Mike Tate-Davis, Val Scarr, Murray Holdaway, Mike Ball, Wayne Upjohn.**
Front: **Ken Graham, Alan Pedley, James Morris, Jim Jarmin, Janette Richards**
Also present: **Peter Craven.**

These courses are facilitated by James Morris over three days and it is essential all elements are covered. The programme is consistent throughout Oceania.

An Advisable Change?

By Colin Clemett, Chairman ITTF Rules Committee

Compared with those of many other sports, the rules of table tennis are admirably brief and straightforward. But this should not deter us from looking for ways to improve them, especially if it will make them fairer and easier to apply. The one that has historically caused the most problems is, of course, the service law but a close second, at least for umpires, is the set of regulations concerning advice to players during play.

These are almost impossible to apply consistently, for a number of reasons. For instance, it is necessary to distinguish between advice and encouragement or exhortation, which may be difficult. I heard of one match where a player completely missed the ball in what could have been a winning smash and there was a shout from the crowd of "Hit it, you idiot!" "No advice, please," called the umpire. And advice does not have to be given orally: a raised eyebrow or arms crossed in a particular way may mean 'serve fast to the forehand'. And if advice is given orally, it may be in a language that the umpire does not understand, and so on.

The outcome is that it is not unusual to see the umpire giving almost as much attention to possible advisers as to the progress of the match. How can we avoid this? One way would be to remove everyone from the playing area, but this would not prevent someone from calling out advice from the spectator seats. Another approach, which I think is worth considering, would be to abolish all of the present regulations on advice and to substitute a statement such as "Advice may be given by anyone at any time provided it does not disturb the continuity of play".

Would this really be such a disastrous change? There is not a great deal of evidence that receiving advice during play is beneficial to players and it may even have a negative effect by confusing them. At a presentation that I attended some years ago, several of the top coaches agreed that there was virtually no technical advice they could give their players during a match that they had not already given them during training. They thought that their function at that stage was mainly to comfort and reassure rather than to instruct, although a few of them admitted that it did no harm for them to be seen by their employers doing something to justify their earnings.

Even if advice did confer an advantage, wouldn't it be unfair for one player to benefit simply because his or her coach spoke in a foreign language or was otherwise more accomplished at giving advice without the umpire noticing than was the opponent's coach? If both were equally able to receive advice, the match would become more of a test of comparative playing skill, which is surely what we want. But the main gain would be in allowing umpires to concentrate on what was happening at the table. They are already responsible for maintaining the continuity of play so there would be no additional duties, and they would be spared the need to keep watching the people sitting beside the playing area.

Obviously such a revolutionary idea is unlikely to be accepted easily and it is right that we should not make any changes to rules without reasonable assurance that they will lead to improvement. Fortunately, this is one which could be tested experimentally without requiring any change in playing style. All we would need to do is say that, at a particular competition, there would be no restriction on advice at any time so long as play was not held up while players consulted a coach or captain.

Let's give it a try.

An Advisable Change. For existing rules on giving advice, visit <http://www.ittf.com> and click on regulations, international competition, regulation 3.5.1. You'll need to look at regulation 3.4.4 as well, which deals with authorized intervals in play.

Innovations at North Island Champs this year

This year the North Island Championships are being held in North Harbour and there are a number of new things happening:

Teams events

Two persons from the same association will play together in a team on a round robin basis against the other teams in their division. If you do not have a partner we will endeavour to draft one in for you. You can only play in one team per session so if you enter in more than one team you will need to name at least 3 players in each team to cover for when they are both scheduled to play at the same time.

The social section is just that, for "social" players. Teams that are too good may need to be re-graded.

Timetable

As in 1997, the timetable allows you to choose how many days to spend at the tournament. You can play on just one day as all events, except the open and some mixed doubles (depending on the number of entries), will start and finish on the same day. Or you can play 5 days as there will be events that all players can participate in each day.

D Grade Individual Events

This is a trial event to see if it is worth supporting in the future. A need for it was identified in the questionnaire responses.

Free Entry into Open Singles

This has been successfully tried in North Harbour, Waikato and Counties Manukau - the idea being to make the Championship men's and women's singles larger events and therefore more important and prestigious. It also gives the top players extra matches. To qualify for free entry you must enter at least two other events, including one singles event.

NZ's Fastest Smash Competition

We will be measuring each participant's smash on a recording device to see who NZ's fastest smasher is. Then at the Nationals in Wellington you will have a chance at being the *World's* fastest smasher, with a submission to be put to the Guinness Book of World Records.

Sport Trivia Teams Quiz

Get your team of sports buffs together for a fun 30 minute quiz during the meal break on Friday night.

Accommodation

For bulk bookings please contact Geraldine Stapleton on (09) 828-4433 so we can negotiate the best deal for you. We have several discounted options available for groups.

North Harbour hope to see you there,

John Stapleton

Entries for the North Island Championships close on 5 June. Entry forms can be downloaded from the TTNZ website, <http://www.tabletennis.org.nz>. The championships run from 8th to 13th July.

Follow The Player Development Path

By Helen Codlin

Over the last 6 months, TTNZ coaches have been working on providing a clearer development path for all players ranging from elite level to those just beginning on the competitive scene. This is now available on the Table Tennis New Zealand website. (Refer also to page 8 of this issue).

A player's progress along the path has been stepped into four categories – developing potential performer, potential performer, developing high performer and high performer. Each category has been assigned a series of characteristics to make up a player profile, under a number of headings including level of participation (club, interclub, national or international), number of hours training per week, coaching opportunities, skill level, fitness and work ethic, what their goals might be, and general attitude.

Different opportunities for player development have been identified for each category. Table Tennis New Zealand will seek to provide the players with these opportunities as they step through the different categories (subject of course to funding in any given year).

The underlying philosophy of the player development structure is that the goals of the player and the goals of TTNZ are consistent. Although most players should at least have some idea in their minds about what they would like to achieve, and can then identify the work needed to reach that goal, it is surprising how many players do not consciously think about what they need to do to reach their goals.

The player profiles developed by TTNZ coaches are directly related to the effort required if the player is striving for a particular goal. For example a player meeting the characteristics of a high performer is more than likely to have goals which involve representing NZ and playing internationally. Why else would you work so hard?

The development opportunities that TTNZ will endeavour to make available reflect the fact that the player's goals and TTNZ goals are the same and/or compatible. If a player's goals change, that will no doubt show in the amount of training that is being done. A change in goals will change the development opportunities that may be made available.

Expectations

As well as identifying possible development paths for players, TTNZ will clearly specify its expectations of the players who are given the development opportunities. Part of the expectation is set out in the Selection Policy which is also on the website. It indicates that results, training ethics and fitness levels will be used to determine team selections. In other words, selection will not be based on results alone. The selection policy also sets a fitness level that should be reached and maintained by the player at least 6 months prior to any representative event, and makes attendance at national camps compulsory (unless a very good reason is given for non-attendance or part attendance).

The implementation of the player development structure will be tested over the 2003 year and no doubt tweaks and adjustments will be required. It will depend on good communication between the players in the high performer and developing high performer categories, and the National Junior Coach (Murray Finch) and Assistant National Junior Coach (Helen Codlin). Players are strongly encouraged to make contact with them at any time to discuss their table tennis. Please do not wait for them to contact you.

Players in the high performer and developing high performer categories have already been contacted by letter and advised of this player development framework. If Associations have any questions about the framework please do not hesitate to contact Murray or Helen. Their contact details are:

Murray Finch
07 855 0065 (after hours)
murray.finch@xtra.co.nz

Helen Codlin
06 843 6693 (after hours)
peter.codlin@xtra.co.nz

- ❖ ***If you don't know where you're going, every road will lead to nowhere.***
- ❖ ***Even if you're on the right track, you'll get run over if you just stand there.***

Winds of Change Still Blowing

The eleven point game, the 40mm ball and the new service rule are among the numerous proposals that have been offered for the improvement of table tennis. Now, yet another is being considered:

Speed and spin are two key elements of modern table tennis. While the velocity of the ball is readily visualised and understood by the spectator, the rotation or spin is not as detectable or apparent because present table tennis balls are of a solitary, uniform colour (either all white or all orange). The numerous types of approved rubber surfaces such as anti-spin, long pips, etc, all add to confusion regarding the ball's actual rotation.

Seeing spin

Not realising the tremendous variations in spin during a rally, spectators may wonder how anyone could miss such a "simple" return.

Having table tennis balls with a standard, acceptable, visible, and obvious design on them would help obliterate this confusion. A design on the ball would allow spectators as well as players to readily detect the relative degree of spin and make the game more understandable.

This concept is not new but it should be considered. Multi-coloured balls have been utilised in American basketball and make the game more interesting to many. Perhaps the same would be true in table tennis.



Abridged from an article in ITTF's *Table Tennis Illustrated* magazine -

by **Michael J Scott.**

Visit our website for a colour version of this photograph: www.tabletennis.org.nz, click on "magazine" in the site index, then on May 2003.

TRAINING IN CHINA

Simeon Cairns gained a rare insight into Chinese training methods when he and NZ's top women players spent nine days at one of China's 29 provincial training centres last year. He shares the experience with *Table Tennis Info* ...

Li Chunli, Karen Li, Laura-Lee Smith, Tracey McLauchlan (players) and myself (coach, also referred to as the bodyguard), were guests at "The Training Centre of Guangxi Physical Culture & Sports Commission" in Nanning, South China – the region where both Chunli and Karen developed their table tennis skills.

There are 29 provincial Sports Commissions in China, each containing the elite athletes of that province. Many sports are catered for including athletics, table tennis, badminton, gymnastics, trampolining, kungfu, basketball, swimming - it is really more a question of what sport is not there. In Nanning, both the men's and women's table tennis squads contain 15-20 players. The cream of the provincial players are ultimately selected to attend the National Centre in Beijing. There are many players to choose from and Chunli was one of these when aged 15.

The Guangxi stadium held twenty tables - men at the front, women at the back, and the children on the next floor up. There was glare on several tables and some holes in the wooden floor, so we should be happy with the quality of our stadiums in New Zealand. A dominating feature of all the sports stadiums was a huge Chinese national flag on one wall.

Our players were able to practise against a wide variety of styles - pengrip smashers, choppers, left and right handed loopers and counterhitters. Training was for five hours per day from 8.30 to 11.30am and again from 3.30 to 5.30pm, with singles, doubles, multiball and match practice against the Guangxi players and a visiting Vietnamese women's team.



The Happy stretchers
L/R: **Karen Li, Li Chunli,**
Laura-Lee Smith, Tracey McLauchlan

levels depending on their status. We were on the top level in an air-conditioned room with music, thanks to Chunli.

Other features we observed were people typically undertaking fitness activities between 6-7am, including such things as walking, stretching and Tai Chi. En route to the stadium we would often see athletes marching to their training venue two by two. We were told this was to ensure everyone was there.

Children start at the academy from 7 years of age. They undergo long hours of on-table training, 6 days per week. Sunday is a rest day when they may visit their parents. They undertake fitness training through games, which they seem to find a lot of fun. Free education is provided. The accommodation requires up to 8 children to share a room but they are happy with that. Players get extensive coaching from 7 through 15 years but thereafter they believe that the "quality of practice partners" becomes most important.

For the senior squad there is an option to do free weights in the stadium at the end of a practice session. There are no mirrors or expensive equipment. Fitness testing is crude and involves such things as timed runs around the outside of the stadium. Each player has an individual physical training programme. Massage therapists and doctors are also readily available.

An unexpected feature was the presence of guards on the sports academy gates. This is to keep the troublemakers out (all the time) and the athletes in (after 10 pm).

I was able to discuss the Chinese view on matters of interest with Mr. Xie Saiké, Guangxi Head Coach and World Champion in the 1980's. *The big ball?* "It makes rallies longer." *The new scoring system?* "It gives weaker players more opportunities." *How did they identify potential champions?* "The coach knows". *Why do many players retire in their mid-twenties?* "Their physical condition is not good enough". *Does table tennis make use of sports science?* "No". (However, several features such as nutrition and its timing to replenish muscle glycogen stores, and rest sessions to allow the body to recover, have a sound scientific basis.) *Why did Chinese players not display emotion in the past?* "They were always allowed to but for some reason did not display it."

Chinese officials are aware that a number of good players are leaving for other countries. At present, they cannot leave without permission and the current top rated players are not allowed to leave.

Overall, this training camp opened our eyes to a culture and sports academy system very different from New Zealand.



Part of the training?

Veterans Championships Test Match.

A test match was contested at the Veterans Championships in Christchurch between New Zealand and Australia for men and women in 4 age categories.

Australia proved too strong this year and retained the Trans-Tasman Trophy by 6 matches to 2.

Long time NZ & Canterbury player **Joan Prisk** was recipient of the Match Fair Play and Sportsmanship Award.

Age does not matter!

Late last year North Harbour issued a challenge to see if any other areas had anyone older than **Bert Robinson** still regularly playing TT. Bert was then aged 88.



The challenge has been taken up by two very youthful looking enthusiasts, **Doris Haywood** (left) who beat Bert into this world by about 6 weeks and who last year played at Wellington's Empire Club twice a week, and **Ken Brader** (right) who was 90 last March. Ken plays at two clubs in Masterton.



Photo courtesy
Wairarapa Times-Age

The challenge to go even better remains open.

Level 2 Coaching Course

A level 2 coaching course is to be held in Wellington on 19 - 21 September 2003, just prior to the Nationals. Mikael Anderson, an ITTF elite coach, is to facilitate the course.

Elite coaches will be invited from NZ and Oceania. The course will be advertised through Associations and coaches may apply to be selected on suitability and present qualifications. Applicants must send a one page CV to TTNZ, PO Box 867, Wellington; or by email to james.r.morris@xtra.co.nz. Costs of the course at this stage are not finalised.

CV's should include the following considerations: Are you presently coaching; if so, at what level; what qualifications and experience do you have?

This course is part of the pathway for coaches aligned to the TTNZ strategic plan.

A Club in Sydney

It was great to receive an email from Edd Nash, President of the Kogarah TT Club (South Sydney), sending some TT cartoons.

Edd told me about his club, which sports only 3 tables but gets an average attendance of 20-30 players each club night. They play singles and doubles on alternate weeks under a unique handicap system (enquires being made!). Now that is keenness by their members.

One of their players, Dot De Low, is 92 years young and has entered every World Veterans Championship since 1990. She won the Gold medal for the over 80's in 1992, being at the time Australia's oldest World Champion in any sport!

Two of their veterans, Sandra and Ron Lynch, have played regularly in the NZ Veterans championships and recently participated in Christchurch, Ron winning the over 75 Men's Singles and the Men's Doubles with Bill Joker of Canterbury.

Current NSW champion and a player well-known to many top kiwis, Paul Pinkewich, is also a member.

Robin (Editor)

Wellington's "Absolutely Positively" Joola 2003 International and New Zealand National Tournament

Table Tennis New Zealand and Table Tennis Wellington are proudly presenting the final leg of the 2003 Junior World Championships, and the 2003 New Zealand Open Championships. By participating you will be part of the most important table tennis event ever staged in New Zealand.

The magnificent venue is right in the heart of Wellington, on the waterfront. There are many sights to see and things to do within 200 metres of the Queens Wharf Events Centre venue and here are a few:

- Visit our National Museum, Te Papa
- Take a Cable Car to the Botanical Gardens
- Take a ferry ride to Picton, in the South Island (day trip)
- Take a ferry ride to Eastbourne, across Wellington Harbour
- Visit our Houses of Parliament
- Take a helicopter ride, over the City and coastline
- Walk, cycle, skate along the waterfront, around to Oriental Bay beach (15 minutes)
- Kayak to Oriental Bay



There are also cafés, restaurants and bars close to the Queens Wharf Events Centre, although a full range of meals and snacks will be available inside. We have arranged functions at Chicago Bar (next to the venue) at the close of the International Tournament on Sunday 28 September and at the close of the Nationals on 4 October.

The National Schools teams tournament will be held at Empire Table Tennis Stadium in Petone on Saturday/Sunday 20 - 21 September and coaching clinics will be held on 22 - 24 September for both international and New Zealand junior players. The clinics will be run by International and New Zealand coaches based at both the Queens Wharf Events Centre and the Empire Stadium.

We have designed our programme to give international and national competitors the opportunity to participate in the Junior World Championships (Team and Individual Events), from 25 - 28 September and also the New Zealand National Championships (26 September - 4 October).

The broad timetable is:

Thurs 25 September	NZ Open Team Grading World Junior Circuit Teams NZ Open Teams events
Fri 26	World Junior Circuit teams NZ Open Teams events
Sat 27 - Sun 28	World Junior Circuit Individuals NZ Open Teams events
Mon 29	NZ Open Teams events
Mon 29 - Sat 4 Oct	NZ Open Individual events

We look forward to seeing you in September,

Paul Escott

On behalf of the Steering Committee.

For full details of the timetable and more information visit the Wellington Association website <http://www.ttwellington.co.nz>.

Veterans Championships Christchurch Easter 2003

	<u>Winner - GOLD</u>	<u>Singles Runner Up</u>
<u>Over 40 years</u>		
Men's Singles	Malcolm Darroch (C)	Maurice Burrowes (O)
Women's Singles	Roma Chambers (AUS)	Therese Chappell (AUS)
Men's Doubles	M Darroch & D Scott (C/NH)	
Women's Doubles	V Beaver & A Roberts (NH/W)	
Mixed Doubles	M Darroch & R Chambers (C/AUS)	
<u>Over 50 years</u>		
Men's Singles	Mick Wright (AUS)	Horst Frohlich (AUS)
Women's Singles	Val Beaver (NH)	Joylene Morgan (AUS)
Men's Doubles	M Ede & M Wright (AUS)	
Women's Doubles	V Beaver & A Roberts (NH/W)	
Mixed Doubles	M Ede & A Roberts (AUS/W)	
<u>Over 60 years</u>		
Men's Singles	Mick Wright (AUS)	Horst Frohlich (AUS)
Women's Singles	Merle Sneddon (Man)	Margaret Mulcahy (AUS)
Men's Doubles	H Frohlich & M Wright (AUS)	
Women's Doubles	A Robottom & M Sneddon (Man)	
Mixed Doubles	T Herbert & M McGregor (AUS/WT)	
<u>Over 65 years</u>		
Men's Singles	Tony Herbert (AUS)	Cornelis De Bondt (AUS)
Women's Singles	Beryl Davies (AUS)	Prisca Rosario (AUS)
Men's Doubles	C De Bondt & G Nesbitt (AUS)	
Women's Doubles	B Davies & P Rosario (AUS)	
Mixed Doubles	C De Bondt & P Rosario (AUS)	
<u>Over 70 years</u>		
Men's Singles	Tom Boyd (AUS)	Bill Otene (WT)
Women's Singles	Prisca Rosario (AUS)	Joyce Woodward (AUS)
Men's Doubles	D Galvin & B Otene (WT)	
Women's Doubles	A Crococolo & P Rosario (AUS)	
Mixed Doubles	T Boyd & P Rosario (AUS)	
<u>Over 75 years</u>		
Men's Singles	Ron Lynch (AUS)	
Women's Singles	Nancy Brant (CM)	Alice Stevenson (MN)
Men's Doubles	B Joker & R Lynch (C/AUS)	
Mixed Doubles	B Joker & A Stevenson (C/Man)	

VETERANS HAVE A BALL

The opening ceremony of the NZ Veterans Championships was held just prior to the New Zealand v Australia Test Match on Thursday 17 April with young singer, Emily Laing, singing both national anthems very movingly prior to the start of play. The ceremony also featured a Maori welcome and haka which I'm sure had the Australians trembling in their boots though it wasn't enough to stop them beating New Zealand 6-2, with only the over 50 and over 70 women winning for the Kiwis.

The tournament proper got under way with the teams events the following morning amid torrential rain that didn't just fall outside the stadium. A couple of tables were out of action while a leak was found and dealt with, which meant the first day's games finished later than scheduled. Also it seems that you can't hurry Vets – there are too many choppers amongst us!

Saturday saw the end of the teams events and the start of the singles, doubles and mixed doubles. There was a large entry – 169 players, 41 from Australia. The competition was extremely strong, but New Zealanders managed to grab a few of the titles. The Australians use a large array of long and short pimples and antispin, leaving some of us wondering just where the ball was going to go next. They are strong players and certainly added an exciting dimension to the tournament. All the games were played with good sportsmanship and there were some first class games to watch, including a few cliff-hangers.

About 150 players, partners and officials attended the after-match function at Twiggers on Monday evening. A wonderful smorgasbord meal was followed by an entertaining speech from Selwyn Maister, CEO for Sport Canterbury, who then assisted Chris Ford, tournament secretary, to dish out all the medals to the worthy winners. It was surprising, after such a rigorous few days, that we managed to dance till midnight.

It was a great tournament, really friendly and the Ozzies seemed to enjoy our Christchurch stadium. Many commented that they were keen to return.

Table Tennis Canterbury's thanks go to our sponsors, Keith and Diane Miles of Blenheim Road Tavern in conjunction with the Canterbury Foundation, whose contribution helped to make the tournament such a success.

Raina McKechnie

The Teams Events GOLD medal winners.

O70	Men	Waitemata: Bill Otene, Dennis Galvin
	Women	Manawatu 2: Joyce Woodward, Elsie Spooner, Betty Meads
O65	Men A	Victoria 1: Cornelis De Bondt, Geoffrey Nesbitt
	Men B	New South Wales 1: Tom Boyd, Ron Lynch
	Women	New South Wales 1: Prisca Rosario, Beryl Davies
O60	Men A	Victoria 1: Horst Frohlich, Mick Wright
	Men B	Canterbury 2: Denver Glass, Bert Thompson
	Women	Victoria: Margaret Mulcahy, Prisca Rosario
O50	Men A	Victoria 1: Horst Frohlich, Mick Wright, Michael Ede
	Men B	Canterbury 3: Glenn Haszard, David Williams
	Women	Waikato: Val Beaver, Pauline Bennyworth
O40	Men A	Canterbury 1: Malcolm Darroch, William Stewart
	Men B	Otago: John Fogarty, Heinz Kombayer
	Women A	Victoria 1: Roma Chambers, Val Crumble
	Women B	Victoria 2: Kathryn Beggs, Jeanne Strong

Action at the Vets!

Right: Two against one! L/R:
Val Beaver, Lynley Barker (NZ) and
Margaret Mulcahy (AUS)



Left: **Tom Boyd & Tony Herbert** (Aus) warming up with **Bill Otene & Eddie Moore** (NZ) (in the dark at the back).

Top 10 Ratings - We had intended publishing these but regretfully as TT INFO went to print all the Vets results had not been received for processing and we decided forgo publication as the ratings would not be up to date.

Letter to the Editor

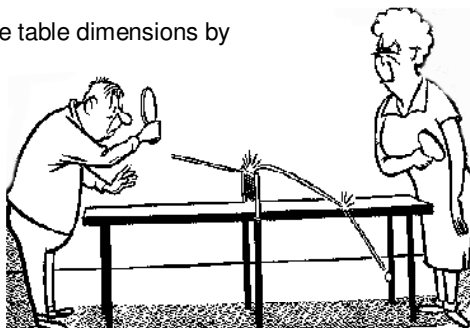
Nets and Edges

With the advent of the eleven point game some people have complained that nets and edges can have an undue influence on the outcome. Since any service that hits the net and is otherwise good is a let under the present rules, I propose that this be extended to include all points played. The downside is that it will tend to prolong some games, and of course the ball that hits the net and bounces high, offering an easy point to the opponent, will still be a let.

The situation with regard to edges is slightly more difficult because there is no clear dividing line between a "thick" edge and a fair bounce. One possibility would be to give the umpire discretion to declare a let if the outcome was thought to be affected by an untrue bounce. This would still allow the opponent to hit a winner off an edge ball. Another solution would be to glue a thin co-axial cable to the table edge and use electronics to light a lamp etc. This could also be used on the net.

An extension of this idea would be to increase the table dimensions by 40mm. Then any ball that was an edge would become a fault, while balls that were previously edges would now give a fair bounce. Or you could use this rule with the existing table dimensions.

What do other players think of these proposals? Replies to TT Info ttnz@tabletennis.org.nz or direct to the writer at halpin@ihug.co.nz



Brien Halpin

Referees, Umpires – What's the Difference?

It goes without saying that the rules of Table Tennis (readily accessible through either the TTNZ or ITTF websites) need to be fully understood by umpires and referees at all tournaments from major championships to modest club events. There is frequent reference in the rules to umpires, assistant umpires, and referees. The duties of each are clearly spelled out but as regular players (ie, non-qualified umpires) are often called on to umpire, and remembering everything in the entire rule book is a big ask for the average player, it's worth examining the question of just where the umpire's authority ends and the referee's begins.

In general, the umpire judges the facts. His/her version of exactly what happened (whether the ball grazed the top edge of the table or not, for example) cannot be challenged, not even by the referee. The umpire also interprets and applies the laws, but the referee can overrule in this area if an incorrect interpretation has been made. The umpire may consult the referee during a match if in doubt about any rule or its interpretation.

The actual duties of the Tournament Referee are wide-ranging. We invited International Umpires, **Averil Roberts** and **David Jackson**, to list them for us and this was their response:

Duties of Tournament Referees

- Check eligibility of players
- Decide whether play may be suspended in an emergency
- Decide whether players may leave the playing area during a match
- Decide whether Statutory practice periods may be extended
- Decide whether players may wear tracksuits during a match
- Decide any question of interpretation of TT Laws or Regulations, including the acceptability of clothing, playing equipment and playing conditions
- Decide whether and when players may practise during an emergency suspension of play
- Take disciplinary action for misbehaviour or other breaches of regulations
- Is the only person who can default a player
- Delegate, with agreement of competition management committee, any duties of the Referee to other persons, and make known the specific responsibilities and locations of each of these persons to participants and, where appropriate, to teams
- Ensure the Referee or a responsible deputy appointed to exercise authority in the Referee's absence is present at all times during play
- Has the right, where satisfied that it is necessary to do so, to replace a match official with another at any time, but may not alter a decision already made by the replaced official on a question of fact within that official's jurisdiction.

International Regulations require the Referee to also do the following:

- Conduct the draw
- Schedule matches by time and table
- Appoint match officials
- Conduct pre-tournament briefing for match officials.

These last four tasks are usually delegated to other officials in New Zealand but would be the responsibility of the Referee in any international event held here.

John Kiley

Rankings for 2002

To qualify for a New Zealand ranking, players must have competed in a minimum of four rating events in any particular category, excluding B and C grades. Allowance is made for players who were unable to compete in rating tournaments due to overseas commitments.

The rankings are compiled by the Selectors. Results from Under 18, 17 and 16 events were considered as well as Under 19 for the Under 19 list; and results from Under 15 and all younger age-categories were considered for the Under 15 list. All other age-category results were considered for the Open lists.

There are some notable omissions from some lists caused by not enough performances in a particular category. The selectors could only justify ranking 4 girls in the Under 19 age group which is a sad reflection on women's table tennis in New Zealand.

Men

1. Aaron Li (Canterbury)
2. Peter Jackson (Overseas-based)
3. Andrew Hubbard (Overseas-based)
4. Shane Laugesen (Overseas-based)
5. Andy Huang (Auckland)
6. Simon Wallace (Canterbury)
7. Alan Pedley (Manawatu)
8. Chen Lei (Nelson)
9. Peter Craven (Auckland)
10. Wayne Gear (Auckland)

Under 19 Boys

1. Simon Wallace (Canterbury)
2. Adrian Soh (Auckland)
3. John Cordue (Canterbury)
4. Josh Alexandre (Auckland)
5. Karl Samson (Canterbury)
6. Misty Jones-Middleton (Wellington)
7. Anthony Wilson (Southland)
8. Simon Buchanan (Wellington)
9. Malcolm Moore (Canterbury)
10. Yi-Ching Yuen (Waikato)

Under 15 Boys

1. Binbin Zhu (Auckland)
2. Chris Erskine (Nelson)
3. Nathan Lowe (Auckland)
4. Jack Wells (Nelson)
5. Blair Paterson (Manawatu)
6. Rhys Van Stipriaan (Auckland)
7. Matthew Lowe (Auckland)
8. Geoffrey Smart (North Harbour)
9. Brodi Smith (Bay of Plenty)
10. Boris Trifunovich (Wellington)

Women

1. Li Chunli (Overseas-based)
2. Karen Li (Manawatu)
3. Tracey McLauchlan (Wellington)
4. Sabine Westera (Wellington)
5. Sarah Ho (Waikato)
6. Raewyn Young (Wellington)
7. Sophie Shu (Auckland)
8. Laura-Lee Smith (Canterbury)
9. Monique Neal (North Harbour)
10. Andrea Gosney (Canterbury)

Under 19 Girls

1. Sarah Ho (Waikato)
2. Katie Roddis (Nelson)
3. Jacqui Wood (Canterbury)
4. Leanne Ridder (Southland)

Under 15 Girls

1. Jiani Hu (Nelson)
2. Sophie Shu (Auckland)
3. Jenny Hung (Canterbury)
4. Hanna Squire (Wellington)
5. Michelle McCarthy (Wellington)
6. Kelly Samson (Canterbury)
7. Katie Stretton (North Harbour)
8. Sally Ho (Auckland)
9. Kirsten Wallace (Canterbury)
10. Armindeep Singh (Waikato)



Bob Jackson

Though popular enough with those who knew him, Bob presented a dour image on the table. He displayed phenomenal anticipation with a near perfect temperament. His total dedication to winning every point made him virtually unbeatable for several years after he began using thick grey Dolinar sponge on the forehand and black sponge on the backhand.

1956 saw him win the Australian open men's singles, the first New Zealander to do so. In 1957 he defeated both Tanaka (World Champion) and Ogimura (World number 2) during the Japanese tour of NZ.

National Titles:

New Zealand Open

Men's Singles - 1950, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58
Men's Doubles - 1953, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59
Mixed Doubles - 1954, 55, 56, 57
Boys' Singles Under 18 - 1949

North Island Open

Men's Singles - 1950, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58
Men's Doubles - 1950, 51, 52, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58
Mixed Doubles - 1953, 54, 55

South Island Open

Men's Singles - 1955
Men's Doubles - 1955



Bob in 1969

See also "Reporting briefly" - page 28.

The **Table Tennis Hall of Fame** was inaugurated at North Harbour in April 1999. The first inductees had to be players (not coaches or administrators) and have reached the high point of their careers prior to 1970.

Origins of Table Tennis:

UMPIRE is an example of a word that has developed by mistake. The original word was *noumpere* which meant "without peer or equal" but by a process known as metanalysis "a noumpere" became "an umpire".

ITTF urges, KEEP IT SIMPLE – when applying the new service rule.

ITTF official Aly Salam has written an open letter to all table tennis umpires. Here is an edited version.

Dear fellow umpires,

Over the last few months I have received numerous emails regarding the new service rules. Most were asking for guidance on how to apply the section stating "The ball shall not be hidden from the receiver by any part of the body or clothing of the server or doubles partner".

Our objective should be, "Keep it Simple" - there is no need to add personal interpretations or elements that are not written in the rule. Applying a worldwide standard that is consistent with the written words is absolutely critical.

The ball must be visible to the receiver at all times from the moment it leaves the free hand to the moment it is struck. That is it - no more and no less.

In applying the rule, when there is an umpire and assistant umpire, one of them surely will see the entire path of the ball. If in the judgment of either the ball is not completely visible to the receiver, then a fault must be called and an explanation given. With two umpiring officials, there is no allowance for a warning as previously permitted.

When there is only one umpire, then it must be *judged* whether the receiver sees the ball at all times, even if the umpire does not fully *see* the ball. If in doubt, then the umpire can give a warning and explain to the player why the service is doubtful. Whenever there is a clear failure, no warning shall be given and the receiver shall score a point.

The ways to judge whether a service is legal when the umpire cannot see the ball are contained in the official "interpretation of the rule":

1. As soon as the free hand and arm has projected the ball upwards, the free hand and arm must be immediately removed to the side. The free arm must not remain in any area between the ball and the receiver.
2. If the server could imagine a triangular space created by the ball and both net posts, then extend this space upwards to head level, the server must then ensure that no part of his body or clothing enters this space (or remains in this space) after he projects the ball upwards in service.



The ITTF website (www.ittf.com/service) gives the official text and the purpose and intent of the rule. It supplements this with pictures and sample videos of proper and improper service actions. Please pay particular attention to gallery photo 6. That is a legal service. Even though the free hand is within the imaginary triangle between the ball and the net posts, it is above the ball and the ball is always visible to the receiver.

Keep it Simple -Umpires Cont.

In the events played since the new rules were implemented most players were complying with the wording and intent of the new rules. A few were pushing the window by going as close as possible to the limits - that is acceptable. However, it is when a player exceeds the limits that the umpire must act. Otherwise the umpire is providing a disservice to the sport.

Umpires should pay close attention to all elements of a proper service - not only what is new. Just because the ball is visible to the receiver it does not mean that it can be thrown backwards or tossed less than 16cm.

Aly Salam
Secretary of Umpires,
Umpires and Referees Committee



Further Achievement by Kali Stratford on the Science Front.

Readers may recall the *Table Tennis Info* article (April 2002), reporting on **Kali Stratford's** in-depth study into the effect of the new 40mm ball and the array of Science Fair prizes it won for her.

She has again excelled and in February took first prize in the international physics class of the Taiwan Science Fair. Her effort this time was an investigation into the effect of raising the net. She found that increasing the height by up to 10cm decreased speed and spin and therefore increased the length of rallies.

Her study won the IPENZ Award at the 2002 *Genesis Energy Science and Technology Fair* which provided her with travel to the Taiwan Fair, and her win there netted a trophy and a digital camera.

What next we wonder!

REPORT ON SURVEY PUBLISHED ON WEB

The responses to the questionnaire included in Issue 20 of *Table Tennis Info* magazine have been collated and a full report is now on the website.

The questionnaire surveyed readers' opinions on such questions as:

- Why do you play table tennis?
- What influences whether or not you play interclub and tournaments?
- What social events or activities associated with tournaments would you support?
- Are other cultural groups adequately catered for?
- Why do you think people drop out of table tennis?
- How can communication be improved?

As well as summarising all the answers received, the report comments on the overall trend and draws conclusions.

It was written by the compiler of the questionnaire, John Stapleton. To access it, visit <http://www.tabletennis.org.nz>; click on "What's New".

Thanks to all those who responded.



TABLE TENNIS INFO NEEDS HELP

There is a vacancy for a person to source material for the *Table Tennis Info* magazine in 2003.

The suitable person will:

- Have an interest in all aspects of the sport from casual social play to international competition.
- Enjoy working with volunteers.
- Have the ability to encourage table tennis enthusiasts in various regions (or with specialist expertise) to spot topics, situations, people or achievements which could be the subject of magazine articles.

The successful applicant will appoint people to write articles, make final choices on what material is included, and in general set the editorial policy for the magazine. Assistance Available

Support for the appointee will be available in the following areas from people who have been previously involved with the magazine, in some cases since its inception in 1996:

- **Desktop Publishing**
Robin Radford is available to continue all desktop publishing and to embellish articles with artwork, cartoons, and various decorative devices to give the magazine a professional look, and to liaise with the printer.
- **Editing and Sub-editing**
John Kiley is available to continue receiving submitted articles, writing introductions to them, enhancing them where possible, reducing them in length if required, and giving the finished magazine a final proof-read.
- **Dispatch of completed magazine**
A team of volunteers has been built up for this task and is available to continue, but a Dispatch Captain to oversee it is required.

More information is available on request.

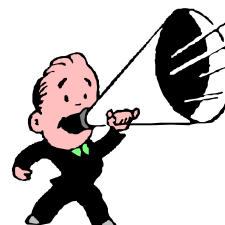
World Individual Championships

As the magazine went to press and dispatch, our team was preparing to attend the World Individual Championships in Paris from 19th to 25th May (other serious world events not interrupting it!).

The NZ team selected is:

Men: **Peter Jackson, Shane Laugesen, Andrew Hubbard.**
Women: **Li Chunli, Karen Li.**

Simeon Cairns is attending as Team Coach and a NZ delegate to the ITTF AGM, **Averil Roberts** is an invited International Umpire, and **Helen Codlin** will be there with the video analysis system. **David Jackson** is our other delegate to the AGM and will attend other meetings in his various ITTF official positions.



Reporting briefly.....

The **Player Liaison** role is vacant and the Board is seeking to fill the position which is the players link to the Board and is the vehicle for taking any concerns, suggestions etc. to them. Anyone interested should contact the National office. (It's an unpaid position).

Did you read 21 April issue of **TIME** magazine? In a 2 page photo American Service personal are shown **playing table tennis in a presidential palace in Baghdad.**

Dennis Galvin has been confirmed as **Publicity Officer** for 2003. Dennis would like associations to provide him with the name and short profile of their publicity officer for this year.

2004 National Championship allocations were confirmed by the Board:

NZ Open	Auckland
NZ Veterans	Manawatu
South Island Open	Southland
Summer Nationals	Nelson

The North Island and Secondary Schools have still to be allocated.

Video Analysis: James Morris, at the last AGM, suggested that associations make use of this facility. Either he or **Helen Codlin** can be contacted for more info. (See the High Tech article in TT INFO October 2002 issue).

It would appear that the **Chinese** people in NZ are keen to start a new association and the situation is being monitored by the national body. It will be interesting to see if and how it will fit into the TT structure in NZ.

Are you keeping in touch with your association?

Affiliates with web pages within the TTNZ web site are: **Canterbury, Manawatu, Nelson TT Academy, Empire Club Petone.** These can be accessed from the "What's New" and Associations contacts page. Associations with their own web sites are: **Auckland, Counties Manukau, North Harbour, Wanganui, Wellington.** These can be accessed from Associations contact page.

Manawatu is a recent addition.

Over the past 12 months, the national office has **received enquires from Lithuania, Tanzania**, and very recently **Nigeria** (the Federation and a club) regarding coming to NZ for Championships or coaching. The first two never turned up and so recent enquires are being treated with utmost caution.

One wonders if there have been ideas in these countries to use TT as a means of gaining entry into our country?



Previous Table Tennis Master **Bob Jackson** (7 times NZ table tennis singles titleholder between 1950 and 1958 plus many other national titles), collected his 14th NZ Open Croquet singles title earlier this year. The Croquet master too!

Congratulations to **Averil Roberts**, who was specifically requested by the ITTF to be NZ's representative umpire to officiate at the World Championships in Paris. Her talent as an umpire is clearly recognised on the world scene. NZ Community Trust is assisting Averil to attend the Championships.

Sadly, it would seem as though **Ron Garrett** will be lost to the Board as he has indicated this will be his last year thereon. Let's hope he changes his mind!

The Halberg Trust *Say When* - New Zealand Sports Awards Held in Auckland, February 2003

Sports people gathered to recognise the achievement of New Zealand's premier athletes and to select the 2002 Sports People of the Year. It was thrilling for table tennis as Li Chunli was nominated as a Sportswoman of the Year finalist. This was the first time table tennis has been nominated at these awards. Simeon Cairns and James Morris attended on behalf of TTNZ.

Chunli sat at the finalists' table with all NZ's sporting heroes. It was especially great to see a video clip showing her excitement on winning gold.

A great night was had and it provided a tremendous profile for table tennis.

From North to South

OLD HANDS WARM HEARTS

Wayne Gear Looks Around the North Island

The 2002 Nationals saw many new faces and a welcome return of some old ones. It was great to see old hands such as Malcolm Darroch and Alan Pedley go head to head. Alan Pedley, who had not picked up a bat for 12 years up until 2002, showed he still had plenty of skills and nous, taking his fair share of scalps and spearheading his Manawatu side to a fourth placing in the Open Men's teams event. His opponent, Malcolm Darroch, is an icon for his sportsmanship and the great attitude he has towards the game.

These two players showed their expertise in the fundamentals of the game and their tactical "warfare" produced a high quality match - one of the highlights of the tournament for me. These **old hands warm hearts**. Let's hope we see them at many more Nationals.

BOYS ON TOUR

As one of the few tournament "junkies" of 2002, I had the pleasure of playing at both ends of the North Island. From Whangarei, where the organisers consistently manage to produce well run and well attended tournaments, to Wellington, where they really get behind their local heroes with great support from the local papers.

On the home front, North Harbour impress as the innovators of tournament schedules and formats, thanks primarily to John Stapleton. Auckland along with Taranaki have enticed some of New Zealand's top players at times with great prizes and prize money. But nowhere I've been looks after its visitors the way Manawatu does. With Shona Cudby at the helm and Andrew Gordon alongside (at the time), they go out of their way to make the tournament memorable for everyone, particularly the visitors.

So to all you players out there, I urge you to take up the challenge and try your hand at some of New Zealand's hot spot table tennis centres - you may be pleasantly surprised.

Auckland

BEN COLLINS REPORTS

LOCAL TOURNAMENT

The tournament season kicked off a little earlier than normal this year in Auckland, with the first ever Auckland Summer Open being held on March 1, 2. Usually the first tournament at Auckland is the ANZAC Day Open. However, the ATTA decided to hold this competition as it felt it hosted too few tournaments last season.

The organisers were very pleased with the turnout of around 90 players.

Taking advantage of cheap flights, Canterbury players Yi-Sien Lin and Lark Brandt made the trip to Auckland. While Lin was the first seed for the Men's Open, Brandt was playing in only his seventh tournament. Despite suffering early in the day from nerves, he enjoyed the opportunity to compete against an array of different players and styles.

The Men's Open group play followed the seeding with the five top players qualifying. After beating Craig Dye in the only quarterfinal match, Wayne Gear then lost in seven games to Lin. Adrian Soh seemed to improve throughout the day and, having survived two five game matches in the best-of-five group play, then beat Josh Alexandre in the second semi.

Lin against Soh was an excellent final for spectators, with extensive forehand loop-to-loop rallies and back-from-the-table play. Soh proved too strong winning four games to one.

The Women's Open was one-sided with Olympian and Commonwealth Games medallist Karen Li not dropping a game. Florence Li and Sophie Shu were rapt not only to get the chance to compete against Karen Li, but also with the unusually high number of entrants in the Women's Open. There were six competitors!

UPDATE ON NZ PLAYERS IN FRANCE

There are four New Zealand men currently playing in the domestic competition in France. Andrew Hubbard, Shane Laugesen and Andy Huang play for the Beauchamp Club in Paris, and Peter Jackson for the Bruille Club in Lille, northern France. The top Beauchamp team, in which Hubbard and Laugesen both play, is leading its pool in National division 1. This is one level below the elite Super division.

See page 35 for the latest overseas players rankings.

Manawatu

Table Tennis, 2003 and beyond, in the M.A.N.A.W.A.T.U.

Making sure of future development. This is a focal point of Table Tennis Manawatu's 2003 Executive Committee. With an ever increasing variety of activities available for young and old, positive action is required to ensure a playing base in the future.

Announcing table tennis. This has been aided by local media assistance and intermediate schools hosting local juniors for promotional demonstrations. In the pipeline and ready to run soon are a business house competition and promotions at other schools.

New programs. Young players set their own goals in achieving the TTNZ Skills Awards – Bronze, Silver and Gold – in their pursuit of moving through the playing ranks. This lets players know what is required to progress, reducing subjective judgments on player placement.

Accessibility. This has vastly improved by securing a seven day a week lease on the Waldegrave Lounge. We now have at least six tables permanently set up. More programs can be implemented, with even more in the future as our structure develops.

Willingness within the Association to work hard. There has been a major turnaround from the rather shaky state a few months ago. This is beginning to develop a stronger foundation, and with continued patience, communication and understanding will keep growing.

Achieving positive growth in an unstable environment. This may sound like the blurb from an investment statement - it is also the challenge for Table Tennis Manawatu. Fortunately, TTM's passion and vision for table tennis as a sport for anyone is gaining acceptance.

Training opportunities. This is just one small way of encouraging people to continually develop their game. Such a major shift in the culture of Table Tennis Manawatu is a prerequisite to cultivating a steady stream of higher calibre players.

Unveiling table tennis in the Manawatu. As player numbers increase, resources will be enhanced and at times stretched. This will provide the positive challenges of a growing organisation, which sure beats the shrinking situation facing many sporting bodies worldwide. Table Tennis Manawatu must break the shackles of being a closely held secret and become accessible to anyone!!

For further details of Table Tennis Manawatu activity, view our monthly newsletter and other data on the Manawatu page in the TTNZ Website.

What to do to get selected in rep teams:

Manawatu spells it out.

Table Tennis Manawatu's latest newsletter includes an item explaining to their players the criteria they are expected to meet to be eligible for selection in their representative teams.

The requirements include training squad membership, regular competition play, and participation in a set number of tournaments from an approved list. They must also enter the individual events at the NZ Championships, attend practice sessions for 12 weeks prior to the nationals, and demonstrate maturity and an acceptable standard of etiquette on and off the table.

The newsletter item lists the approved tournaments players can choose from (other tournaments may be attended by arrangement), and urges players keen to be considered for rep teams to contact the selectors (Jim Jarmin, Murray Holdaway and Alan Pedley).

The full newsletter is on the TT Manawatu page in the TTNZ website
www.tabletennis.org.nz

Enduro

The speed glue revolution

- long term speed glue effect
- Very economical in the application
- Unbelievable power and continuing speed gluing effect
- Absolutely environment-friendly and non toxic

Reglue after approx. 6 days

250 ml only \$48 plus postage

Order Now

Ph 03 313 3449 Fax 03 313 3412

<http://www.donic.ddi.co.nz> email:donic@inet.net.nz

Wellington



CLUB ABUZZ WITH ANTICIPATION

Petone's **Empire Club** is keenly anticipating its new facilities (artists impression left) with fundraising in full swing and construction due to start this year. The "red tape" stage was completed last year with approval granted by the Hutt City Council, although the siting of the original hall in an area later designated as a reserve had caused concerns between Club

officials and City Hall. Resource consent was required and depended on the support of neighbouring organisations. As reported in our October issue, the necessary consent was obtained late last year.

"Final plans, layout, etc. are being put to paper and the project will result in an impressive playing facility," said Life Member Ron Menchi. "Club usage is ballooning out and the extra tables and member comforts are now a top priority."

Titan Table Tennis Club, Wellington

Titan is one of the larger clubs in Wellington, with 8 tables available for play. The club, based in the Wellington Table Tennis Stadium, Alexandra Road, Newtown, meets from 9.30am to 12.30pm every Sunday throughout the year except for a one month break from mid-December to mid-January. Members range in age from 10 to 77. The oldest is Norm Bishop - still playing interclub and a fine all-round athlete (he has run 33 marathons!) Coaching is provided by Brian Neale and Malcolm Wong, and Malcolm also runs a junior club on Sunday afternoons. Top players Robert Chung, Jie Zhang and Catherine Zhou also coached during the latter part of 2002. The club contact is the President, Jack Blackmore, phone (04) 477-9914.

The club, formed when the stadium was opened in 1972, was originally called the Wellington Table Tennis Stadium Club. Initially it could not enter interclub teams as other clubs feared they would lose members to the new club. This rule remained until 1976 when the name was changed to Titan on the suggestion of the late Ivan Houghton, then a Wellington Association Life Member. He was one of the main workers behind Wellington table tennis's campaign to acquire its own stadium, and was instrumental in setting up the Titan Club to increase the stadium's use.

In 1978 Lindsay Ward, Adrian Lust and Warren Mak took Titan to the final of the Rothmans National Club Team Championship where they finished runner up to Manurewa. These three players plus Nha Nguyen won the Wellington A grade interclub title in 1980. It took until 2002 before the club next tasted success in the top grade when the Titan Terriers (Lindsay Ward, Harry Singh and Robert Chung) won the Wellington/Hutt Valley combined Premier One interclub, beating the Belmont Beast 6-3 in the final. Jie Zhang, David Pui and Nha Nguyen had also played for the team that season.

Lindsay Ward has represented Titan since 1976 and has been its dominant player throughout. Ranked number one in Wellington nineteen times, he has won the Men's Singles at the Wellington, Hutt Valley, Kapiti, Wairarapa and Manawatu Open Championships. His fifth Wellington Men's Singles title was achieved in 2002. He is also a very good tennis player and still plays Wellington Regional One interclub. His ability in both sports was shown by his success in winning the NZ Veterans Tennis Over 45 Men's Singles, Doubles and Mixed Doubles in 2000, and the NZ Table Tennis Over 45 Men's Singles in 2001.

Malcolm Wong

Wairarapa

RED STAR TABLE TENNIS CLUB, MASTERTON

The club is holding their 40th Jubilee on 20 September 2003 and wishes to contact as many past members as possible. Can you help?

For more Info contact the club c/o 22 – 140 Chapel Street Masterton, email them at rsttc@clear.net.nz or give them a ring on (06) 378 7823, (06) 377 4453 or (06) 377 3488.

SOUTHLAND

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY FOR SOCIAL TABLE TENNIS CLUB

Members of the **Invercargill Social Table Tennis Club** celebrated their 10th anniversary over lunch at the White Heron on Tuesday 15 April.

The social club has been one of the great success stories of local table tennis since its introduction in 1993.

The concept of a morning club came about when Janet Leach, a player in the Annual Business House Competition, expressed a desire to play during the day and local Table Tennis stalwart June King agreed to assist in the formation of a social daytime club if Mrs Leach was prepared to help co-ordinate it. On Tuesday, 20 April 1993 the social morning club got underway with a healthy attendance at the Table Tennis Stadium in Lindisfarne Street.

Foundation members Janet Leach, Val Davidson, Nancy Foley, Chris Luker and Eileen Connell are still regular attendees.

Initially it was proposed that the group meet only through the main table tennis season but members could see no reason to stop so the decision was made to continue throughout the year. More expansion followed at the end of 1994 when the club decided to meet twice a week (Tuesdays and Fridays).

Everyone is very welcome and the wide cross section of players includes retired people and shift workers. The friendliness and camaraderie of the group is obvious and any newcomer is immediately made to feel at home. A former member of the group who moved to Christchurch and still plays in his adopted province summed it up best on a trip home recently. "I really enjoy playing in Christchurch, but in Invercargill it's like family," he reported.

While the club is primarily an enjoyable social outlet that is not to say members have not experienced their share of competitive success. Many have won medals at various New Zealand and South Island Masters Games while several have enjoyed success at Table Tennis Southland events.

Doreen Humphries, the oldest current member, still plays a very, very, good game of table tennis while over 80 years of age.

Each year the group enjoys a mid-winter lunch plus a Christmas dinner at the Stadium. Club members do the catering and supply talented entertainers and interesting speakers, generally from within their own ranks.

At the Anniversary, past and present members relaxed in the pleasant surrounds of the White Heron and celebrated ten memorable and enjoyable years while at the same time reinforced all the best qualities of sport and recreation.

Lindsay Beer

Summer Nationals Christchurch Jan 2003

<u>Open</u>	<u>Winner</u>	<u>Singles Runner Up</u>
Men's Singles	Aaron Li (C)	Johnny Liang (N)
Women's Singles	Mi Ryung Chun (C)	Yukiko Koyama (N)
Men's Doubles	A Li & Simon Wallace (C)	
Women's Doubles	M Chun & M Li (C)	
Mixed Doubles	Simon Wallace & Jiang Yang (C)	
<u>B Grade</u>		
Men's Singles	Michael Warren (C)	Terry Zeng (A)
Women's Singles	Yukiko Koyama (N)	Kelly Cha (C)
Men's Doubles	L Brandt & J Li (C)	
Women's Doubles	K Cha & J Hung (C)	
Mixed Doubles	B Keane & Y Koyama (N)	
<u>Over 50 years</u>		
Men's Singles	Dave Samson (C)	Alan Alabaster (C)
Women's Singles	Marie Okamoto (C)	Valda Smith (C)
Men's Doubles	S Crow & D Samson (C)	
Women's Doubles	V Smith & A Williamson (C)	
Mixed Doubles	A Alabaster & V Smith (C)	
<u>Over 40 years</u>		
Men's Singles	Alan Alabaster (C)	Alistair Armstrong (C)
Women's Singles	Flora Lin (C)	Marie Okamoto (C)
Men's Doubles	A Armstrong & D Samson (C)	
Mixed Doubles	S Crow & S Jung (C)	
<u>Over 20 & Under 40 years</u>		
Men's Singles	Johnny Liang (N)	Han Jin Guang (N)
Women's Singles	Mi Ryung Chun (C)	Linda Chen (C)
Men's Doubles	Han Jin Guang & J Liang (N)	
Women's Doubles	M Chun & Jiang Yang (C)	
Mixed Doubles	Y Lin & Jiang Yang (C)	
<u>Under 20 years</u>		
Men's Singles	Simon Wallace (C)	Steven Zeng (A)
Women's Singles	Wu Chen (C)	Mornica Li (C)
Men's Doubles	K Samson & S Wallace (C)	
Women's Doubles	M Li & Wu Chen (C)	
Mixed Doubles	S Wallace & Wu Chen (C)	
<u>Under 17 years</u>		
Boys' Singles	Steven Zeng (A)	Luke Tough (C)
Girls' Singles	Wu Chen (C)	Mornica Li (C)
Boys' Doubles	S Zeng & T Zeng (A)	
Girls' Doubles	M Li & Wu Chen (C)	
Mixed Doubles	S Moore & K Wallace (C)	
<u>Under 14 years</u>		
Boys' Singles	Steven Zeng (A)	Terry Zeng (A)
Girls' Singles	Jiani Hu (N)	Jenny Hung (C)
Boys' Doubles	S Zeng & T Zeng (A)	
Mixed Doubles	T Davey & J Hung (C)	

WORLD RANKINGS

NZ Players
(as at 1 May 2003)

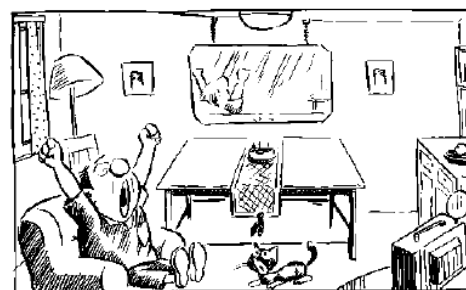
Women

Li Chunli	50
Karen Li	137
Tracey McLauchlan	581

Men

Peter Jackson	234
Aaron Li	237
Shane Laugesen	401
Andrew Hubbard	422
Andy Huang	741
Simon Wallace	769
Yi-Sien Lin	774

World Rankings are available
by country at: <http://www.ittf.com>



WHO is doing WHAT Nationally 2003

Board:	Alan Hounsell (Chairperson) Ron Garrett (Dep.Chair) Bob Inns John Stapleton Bruce Penberthy Michael McAvinue
Staff:	Kevin Thomas (Admin. Off.) Averil Roberts
Technical Committee:	Bryan Keane (Convenor) Bob Hurr Andrew Palmer Shona Cudby
Selection Panel:	Averil Roberts (Convenor) Murray Finch James Morris
Coaching/High Performance:	James Morris
National Team Coach:	James Morris
Assistant National Team Coach:	Simeon Cairns
National Junior Coach:	Murray Finch
Assistant National Junior Coach:	Helen Codlin
Ratings and Computer Services:	David Jackson
Umpires and Referees Committee:	Bruce Penberthy (Convenor) Averil Roberts (Secretary) Michael McAvinue Robert Dunn
Publicity:	Dennis Galvin
Player Liaison:	vacant
Tournament Review Committee:	Bob Inns (Convenor) Ron Garrett
Magazine:	Robin Radford John Kiley
Web site:	Robin Radford
Individual Member Registration:	Robin Radford