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TABLE TENNIS INFO

Issue: 13

November 1999

VICTORIOUS!

Events in the new Millennium

January	Sat 8 – Fri 14	Summer Nationals	Nelson
February	Fri 11 – Thur 17	Commonwealth Championships	Singapore
	Sat 19 – Wed 26	World Teams Championships	Kuala Lumpur
April	Fri 21 – Mon 24	NZ Veterans Championships	Palm North
	Tues 25	Anzac Open	Auckland
May	Sat 6 – Sun 7	Marlborough Open	Blenheim
	Sat 20 – Sun 21	Southland Open	Invercargill
	Fri 21 – Thur 27	World Veterans Championships	Vancouver
June	Sat 3 – Mon 5	South Island Open (Proposed dates)	Timaru
	Sat 3 – Fri 9	Oceania Championships	New Caledonia
	Sat 17	Nthn Junior Round Robin	Auckland
	Sat 17 – Sun 18	Nelson Open	Nelson
	Sun 18	Auckland Junior Open	Auckland
July	Sat 1 – Sun 2	South Island Teams Tourn.	Timaru
	Fri 7 – Sun 9	North Island Open	Taupo
	Sat 22 – Sun 23	Otago Open	Dunedin
August	Sat 12 – Sun 13	Canterbury Open	Christchurch
	Sat 12 – Sun 13	Auckland Open	Auckland
	Sat 26 – Sun 27	South Canterbury Open	Timaru
September	Sat 30 – Sun 8 Oct	New Zealand Open	Christchurch
November	Sat 18 – Sat 25	Australian Veterans	Unknown



L to R – Back row: **Lisa Boaden, Alison Thomson, Rachel Griffiths, Deborah Morrison, Mrs Gay Morrison** (manager).
Front row: **Paul Stewart, Peter Craven, Greg Burton, Anthony Simmons.**

Great Results from the New Zealand Boys and Girls Under 18 teams at the Australian Championships
(Centre pages 12-13)

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

What Future is there for TABLE TENNIS NEW ZEALAND!!

It was no surprise to me, to hear the suggestion that the Fees from Associations be substantially reduced, following the non replacement of an Executive Director for Table Tennis New Zealand.

I have found that too many people in table tennis apparently want to degrade the sport to a social activity, rather than positively developing the sport to an international standard.

Many Associations are inwardly focused, only concerned with their own area, and will not look at the sport for the greater good of New Zealand.

Is there anyone out there who looks at the "Big Picture" ??

Don't you want to see the sport develop in the future, so that we have representatives who can distinguish themselves at the Olympic Games, World Championships, Commonwealth Games, Oceania Championships etc.

And what about developing Coaches, Umpires, Players, Administrators for the future benefit of the sport.

All this takes MONEY!!

Don't we have a responsibility to the people of New Zealand to provide a progressive sport of many opportunities and attractions.

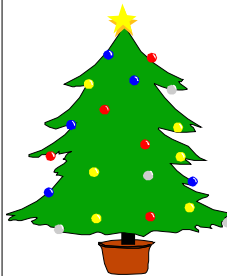
Alan R Hounsell
Chairman of the Board

So you thought you were a good umpire!

TRY THESE:

- ◆ Is it legal for doubles partners to swap bats in the middle of a rally ???
- ◆ Is it legal for the umpire to call "Play on" during a rally ???
- ◆ Is it legal for a coach outside the playing area to make silent signals to a player during a match ???
- ◆ 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 ???

Send in or e-mail your answers. If what you say is interesting, or humorous (or both), it'll get published.



World Teams Championships and Commonwealth Games

New Zealand will be represented at these championships. The teams will attend the Commonwealth Championships in Singapore from 11 to 17 February and the World Teams Championships (which were rescheduled after the cancellation of the original event in Belgrade) in Kuala Lumpur from 19 to 26 February.

The teams are:

Men	Peter Jackson	Women	Li Chunli
	Shane Laugesen		Karen Li
	Andrew Hubbard		Maxine Goldie
	Aaron Winborn		Sarah Finch

Manager is **Murray Finch**.

Table Tennis people of the 1999 Year

Player of the Year: **Peter Jackson** (Winner of Oceania World Cup Qualifying Tournament; first qualifier at Oceania Olympic Qualifying Tournament)

Alan and Edna McCallum Junior Umpiring Awards:

Each year gold medals are presented to the male and female junior umpires judged by the Referee and assistants to be the best at the New Zealand Junior Championships. This year's Awards were won by:

Junior Girl: **Kelly Samson** (C)
Junior Boy: **George Woo** (N)

Junior Player of the year - Russell Dickey Memorial Trophy.

This award is made to the junior player who brought the most credit to New Zealand table tennis taking into account:

1. Performance
2. Behaviour
3. Neatness of Presentation
4. Co-operation
5. Team spirit (where applicable)

Winner is **Simon Wallace** (C)

Junior of the year – H N Ballinger trophy

The criteria for this award covers sportsmanship, potential, dress, personality, enthusiasm, interest in club or association affairs and playing results.

Winner is **Simon Wallace** (C)

Table Tennis combines the psychology of bridge, the grace of eurhythmics, the footwork of dancing, the lightning cut-and-thrust of fencing, the waywardness of golf, the cunning of billiards and the agility of athletics.

Australian Veteran Championships

A number of New Zealanders from various parts of the country enjoyed a visit to the Gold Coast, Queensland in September, participating in the Australian Veteran Championships.

They did not come back with any titles but clearly had an enormous number of games in teams and individual matches, with some individuals reaching quarter and semi finals.

The travellers were:

Over 40 Women (Placed 6th out of 8 teams)

Oea Burnett (HV) **Anne McLean (Auck)** **Val Scarr (Wair)**

Over 40 men (Placed 5th out of 10 teams)

John Fogarty (Otago) **Kevin Fogarty (Nth Harb)** **Joachim Kusche (Canty)**
Doug Pattinson (Auck)

Over 50 Women (Placed 2nd out of 8 Teams)

Lynley Barker (Canty) **Val Beaver (Nth Harb)** **Averil Roberts (HV)**

Over 50 men (Placed 9th out of 10 Teams)

Bruce Connolly (HV) **Eddie Millard (Manawatu)** **John Williams (Manawatu)**

Over 60 men (Placed 8th out of 10 Teams)

Denver Glass (Canty) **Eddie Moore (Canty)** **Ron Anderson (Canty)**

John Lelliott was unable to participate due to ill health after organising the entries.

Janice Stead (Canty) managed the teams.

McAVINUE IN DEMAND OVERSEAS

New Zealand's only active International Umpire, Michael McAvinue, will receive an invitation to officiate at the Sydney Olympics next year.

"I've had a call from Phil Males (Oceania TTF Executive Director) advising that an invitation would be sent to me through TTNZ," said Michael last week. "He also confirmed that I will be invited to attend the pro-tour finals in Sydney in January and the World Teams Championships in Kuala Lumpur in February."



Y2K Summer Nationals

January 8th – 14th, 2000 in Nelson

All details on Web site – <http://www.tabletennis.org.nz>

Entry Form for printing and posting also there.

New age group category introduced – Under 25.

JUNIOR POWER – WHERE'S IT HIDING ?

There are 1692 registered members of Table Tennis New Zealand under the age of 19. They must be all keen, active, regular participants in table tennis to have taken the trouble to register. There are some very good players among them, some will represent New Zealand in the future and many are destined to become high quality coaches and administrators.

But what are they doing now ??

People under the age of 19 have skills, creative ideas, talent and energy. Table Tennis needs to be making the best possible use of this **right now** – not earmarking it for the future.

Nominations for the 1999 Junior of the Year have just closed, and only two were received – both under the age of 14 and both in the South Island. This is the lowest number for many years. Normally there are at least six with most in their late teens. One of the major criteria for the award is "interest in Association or Club affairs" - in other words being on committees, helping at tournaments and fundraising, and **showing interest**.

Either this means that our most active and energetic juniors are not being noticed, or they're not being utilised. They need to be encouraged to become involved in ways they enjoy, and in ways that make them feel valued. There's a bit of a knack to this, and one of the biggest threats to youthful enthusiasm is, dare I say it, **experience**. There is nothing more discouraging to an eager young administrator than a wise, respected voice responding to their idea with: "We've tried that before. It worked for a while, but not for long."

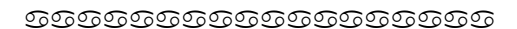
If a young person has what to them is an original idea, really believes in it and is courageous enough to propose it to more experienced adults, then it should be welcomed without condition. Let them develop the idea, try it out on a small scale, discuss it with all age groups and find out for themselves it's genuine worth. Then even if the idea turns out to be a fizzer, at least the creative process was allowed to flow unimpeded and the next idea will be the better for the experience.

Creativity feeds on encouragement and dies quickly when deprived of it.

That momentous, groundbreaking fundraising or promotional idea that we've all been waiting for is lurking around somewhere just waiting to be discovered.

And it might just be a young person's mind that's harbouring it.

John Kiley



Nelson Academy Summer Training Camps

The Nelson Academy is inviting applications.

The fees include accommodation and meals, and there will be outdoor and social activities as well. Trainees can register for more than one camp. The maximum number of trainees at each camp is 10 so early booking is essential.

Enquiries and bookings to:
Bryan Keane, phone 03 547 7530; fax 03 547 4828

Programme:

	Dates	Cost
Camp 1	28-30 December	\$145
Camp 2	31 Dec – 2 January	\$145
Camp 3	3-6 January	\$175

(Summer Nationals in Nelson, 8 – 14 Jan)

Camp 4	16-19 January	\$175
Camp 5	20-23 January	\$175

My Serve

by **James Morris**



FUNDING

Where does the money come from that keeps associations ticking? I thought I might touch on money - or the LACK of, which affects most provincial associations around NZ.

Most associations normally vigorously debate the affiliation fee structure because they feel they are paying too much. So covering these costs with the need to generate more money to foster the game becomes all important. I don't pretend to have the answers and certainly am not a finance wizard but would like to voice some points that Associations may find useful in the quest for balancing the books.

I know some associations, including Northland, basically send all their subs to TTNZ for Affiliation fees. I don't wish to get into the great debate about subs and their pricing but this means that other forms of funding have to be sourced to grow and even survive. Often if there is not a key person driving the money department then it just doesn't happen.

I remember the national raffle that Counties Manukau association ran for some years. Many Associations used their profit share to help pay affiliation fees, but we haven't had a national raffle for some time now and doubt it will be resurrected. The local community funding scheme is an obvious area and some Associations are doing very well here and even though you must attach the money to certain projects it eases other areas. I remember when this scheme first started, one National Sports organisation did a nation wide exercise with their provincial associations and gained money in the six figure range. Just think if 20 table tennis associations apply next Feb/ March and received \$2000 each that's \$40,000 for table tennis. Contact your local District Council or Sports Trust for details.

The Lion Foundation (through local Hotels) and pub charities are another good option. Try and build a relationship with a local pub because it can be surprising the money that those poker machines absorb. Northland has such a relationship and receives in excess of \$5000 every year.

Remember sponsorship is a two edged sword and in todays world sponsors want something in return. So work out what you want, what you can offer, put the proposal on paper showing a professional image and go for it. Sharing ideas from other Associations can be fruitful and I well remember Barry Butler from South Canterbury telling me about selling advertising boards in their Hall for a 3 year contract @ \$250 a year - 20 boards = \$5000 and 3 years = \$15000 We tried it - thanks Barry it worked a treat.

Don't forget to brainstorm at committee meetings or with key people on Associations . Set aside time to brainstorm solely on ways to make money - again surprising what can eventuate - 2 of Northland's best money makers came from such a sitting that eventuated in our owning our building. Auckland developed a very successful Bingo night that made them heaps over the years and the list goes on.

Another good fundraiser is pot luck dinner night, - \$10 to get in the door and bring a plate. It's a good social night for the Association engendering good spirit, just 50 people brings \$500.

So if anyone has some good fundraising ideas, please let TTNZ online discussion group know. Thanks to those people who responded about the tournament call with their ideas because it's great to know that some people do read "my serve".

James

No real surprises at New Zealand Championships

Nelson's **Aaron Li** and Manawatu's **Karen Li** were the major title winners at the NZ Championships in Palmerston North in September.

Auckland and Hutt Valley won the men's and women's teams events.

Aaron Li was untroubled, dropping only the first game against Shane Laugesen in the final on his way through to the title. Karen Li had an even easier ride with a 13,7,13 win over NZ rep Sarah Finch in the final.

The Auckland men's team looked vulnerable after the withdrawal of Aaron Winborn. Nelson is now without Binquan Hu and Chen Lei, and Hutt Valley, spearheaded by NZ rep Andrew Hubbard, had signaled their intention to threaten for the title after a narrow 5-4 loss to Auckland in the round robin. Auckland and Hutt Valley met in the final and it was a dramatic win by 13 year old Andy Huang over Jared Smith that swung the match to Auckland, who won 5-2. With a string of impressive performances this season Huang must surely now be NZ's best prospect for the future. Chris Herlihy and Shane Laugesen completed the Auckland team.

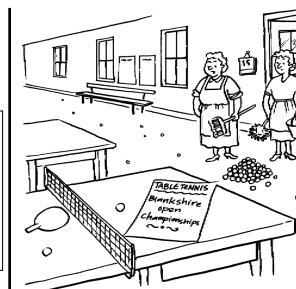
The women's team event was keenly contested with Auckland and Hutt Valley again emerging as finalists after some tight round robin contests. Moments of drama in the earlier rounds included Tanya Hefferan setting North Harbour up for an upset win over Auckland by beating Sarah Finch. Consistent performances from all three Hutt Valley players (Tracey McLauchlan, Diana White and Raewyn Young) clinched the final 5-4, with Sarah Finch winning all three of her singles for Auckland.

Individual events were conducted in B & C Grades as well as eight age groups ranging from Over 60 to Under 13.

Team winners:

Men's A grade:	Auckland		
Men's B Grade:	North Harbour		
Men's C Grade:	Wanganui		
Women:	Hutt Valley		
O45 Men:	Auckland		
O45 Women:	North Harbour		
O55 Men:	Auckland		
O55 Women:	Waikato		
U19 Boys A:	Canterbury	U15 Boys A:	Auckland
U19 Boys B :	Wellington	U15 Boys B:	Nelson
U19 Boys C :	Nelson	U15 Boys C:	Hutt Valley
U19 Girls:	North Harbour	U15 Girls:	North Harbour

Individual results and more comment on Championships on pages 14-15.



"We should have these "empty your pockets and run" amnesties more often."

Letter from a player - National Championships

After the National championships, I felt it was appropriate to put pen to paper with a few suggestions which hopefully could form the basis for discussion by players and administrators. In the event that there is some sort of consensus on the various issues, then I would envisage that steps could be undertaken to formally vary/amend the rules and/or Constitution over the next few months so that changes could take effect in 2000.

Clearly some "problems" have already been identified over the format and duration of the National and provincial championships, as evidenced by the declining number of participants/competitors in tournaments generally, the number of uncompleted teams events matches once a winner has been determined and certain anomalies in the player ranking system.

Format/Scheduling of National Championships

While joint Junior and Senior Championships reduce travel costs for participants, accommodation costs can be unnecessarily high when the events are scheduled over 11 days, as they are at present.

If the format of the competition was to be changed, the time required to complete all events could be significantly reduced, as detailed below:

Teams events

Matches to comprise 7 games (rather than the present 9 games):

- 6 singles games - 3 players x 2 games each
- 1 doubles game - any combination

Advantages of the above format:

- Time factor reduced, due to 2 less games in each match, enabling more rounds to be played in a day (ultimately reducing the number of days required to complete the event)
- Reduces the physical toll on players, which may in turn reduce the likelihood of players defaulting non-critical games (ie. when a winner has been determined). - less need to "save oneself" for future matches.
- Greater interest due to the inclusion of doubles matches / attracting doubles specialists
- "Decider" game would be the doubles (in the event of 3-3 after the singles)

Individual events

Format to be changed whereby 2nd and 3rd division events are replaced by qualifying rounds for the main draw. The qualifying rounds/competition would be round robin format with 8 players going through to the main draw to meet the seeded players.

Advantages of the above format

- More incentive for unseeded players playing for a chance to be in the main draw (at present much of the momentum/incentive is lost when players lose a championship 1st or 2nd round game, with many then opting to withdraw from 2nd and 3rd division events.
- The unseeded players would still get a similar amount of games but instead of possibly getting knocked out by a seeded player in the first round and then playing 2nd and 3rd division games. Players get to play others of similar standard with the winner earning the right to meet the seeded player.

Ranking of players

To encourage greater participation in tournament play and in order to have rankings reflect players' current form, it is suggested that rankings be determined on player's four best tournament results over the current year.

I would welcome your comments on the suggestions made. Hopefully this may also generate discussion amongst the players and administrators.

Wayne Gear

This type of letter is great value, from a good and experienced player.

It will be known to many that TTNZ is to form a committee to look at Championships and the like and are seeking interested people. The need for such a committee is urgent and overdue as there has been a bit of a vacuum in this area since the restructure. When formed, the committee will have lots to look at judging from the amount of suggestions floated around.

Editor

School Teams Championships

These were played at Petone (Hutt Valley) in September with the following results:

Open Secondary

1. Auckland Grammar School
2. Onslow College (W)
3. Hutt Valley High School A
4. Nelson College
5. Rangitoto College (NH)
6. Wanganui Collegiate

Girls Secondary

1. Wanganui High School
2. Hutt Valley High School
3. Sacred Heart College (HV)
4. Naenae College (HV)

B Grade Secondary

1. James Hargest High School (S)
2. Hutt Valley High School B
3. Hutt Valley High School C

Intermediate Schools

1. Wairau Intermediate (NH)
2. Hutt Intermediate A
3. Wellesley Intermediate (HV)



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From October DONIC is the sponsor of Swedish Table Tennis and their National teams.



Neti Trill (nee Davis)

Eight times New Zealand women's singles champion, Neti a hard bat chopper, was just as happy attacking from either wing. Whilst others mastered sponge, she stayed with her hard-pimpled bat.

On tour of Scotland and England in 1967 she won the Scottish open singles and doubles titles. 1971 saw her ranked number 5 in the commonwealth. She lost only one singles match in the teams events at the 1971 Commonwealth Championships.

Neti has been involved with coaching in Northland and in 1984 toured New Zealand selling the idea of a National Director of Coaching to district associations, with success.

National Titles:

New Zealand Open

Women's Singles - 1960, 61, 62, 63, 65, 66, 68, 70

Women's Doubles - 1960, 61, 62, 65, 66, 68, 70

Mixed Doubles - 1958, 59, 60, 65, 68, 76

Girls' Singles Under 18 - 1958, 59, 60

Girls' Doubles Under 18 - 1958, 61

Mixed Doubles Under 18 - 1959, 61

Girls Singles Under 16 - 1957, 58, 59

Girls' Doubles Under 16 - 1957, 59

North Island Open

Women's Singles - 1961, 62, 66, 70

Women's Doubles - 1960, 61, 70, 73

Mixed Doubles - 1960, 62, 74, 75

Girls' Singles Under 18 - 1957, 58, 60

Girls' Doubles Under 18 - 1958, 61

Mixed Doubles Under 18 - 1961

Girls Singles Under 16 - 1954, 57, 58



Neti in the 1960's

World Veterans Championships Website:

Website: <http://www.meet-ics.com/worldvets>



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NEW! Table Tennis Robot "ROBO PONG 1000" for \$950 - ask for a pamphlet.

A reader's letter in response to "My Serve" - last issue.

Yes, I do remember the larger fields that entered in both Provincial and National Tournaments and I also remember that 20 years or more ago there were clubs in a lot of the country areas which are now non existent. When I first picked up a bat 54 years ago table tennis was very popular in the country areas. On moving to Invercargill in the early 50's I joined one of the 10 or 12 clubs that were operating in the city. There were numerous clubs around the country districts and it was a great event for town clubs to go out and play country clubs, whether it be played in the local hall or a wool shed. Maybe there needs to be promotion in these areas again but these days there is a lot of other sports out there to compete against.

When I retired from active competition 15 years ago there was only a veterans 45 years + event at provincial championships. We now have age group events at Tournaments plus Veterans Championships and Masters Events. It is great to see that those players who have given a lot to Table Tennis are catered for. I have even come out of retirement just to play in these events and I am sure there are a lot of players like me about.

I would like to say that the Southland Association has been very active in promoting the game, and now have a promotion officer. I now play in a Social group of 30+ members on Tuesday and Friday mornings. A number of schools also use the hall during the week, so all is not lost. I feel that the Southland Association deserves to be congratulated for the effort they are making to promote table tennis. Maybe provincial associations could go along with what Southland is trying to achieve. Southland also caters for tournaments for social players.

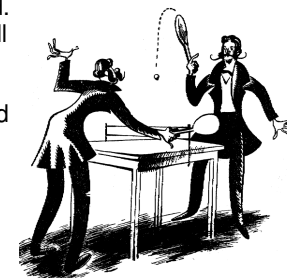
In regard to the negatives and pluses in the article, I would not like to see the North & South Island Championships done away with as these events give up and coming players a chance to show their improvement. In today's environment some players find it very expensive to travel to a lot of tournaments especially if you come from the deep south or the far north. I would also retain the National Championships because of the teams participation. On the negative side nothing has changed with regards to administration, even back some years ago it was hard to fill all positions on the Executive and you had to rely on players - it is the same now.

Maybe instead of restricting the number of players in the National Championships, you could have an Elite Tournament where you would invite your selected or rated players to take part.

With regard to North & South Island Championships I know according to TTNZ rules that if there are not sufficient numbers in an event then it may not be held. If they are held then these events should be treated the same as all other events and awards be given.

These are my views as a past competitive player, administrator and coach and now a social player and Life Member of the Southland Association.

Neil Tapper



"This will never catch on!"

CHANGING YOUR ADDRESS?

Don't forget to tell your association to ensure you receive your copy of the magazine.

New Zealand Juniors in Australia:

TWO CHAMPION TEAMS, SEVERAL STAR INDIVIDUAL PERFORMERS, AND A MEMORABLE TRIP

Six New Zealand teams returned from the Australian Junior and Under 18 Championships in Townsville, North Queensland last month with fond memories and a list of achievements that makes handsome reading:

- The Under 18 Boys and Girls teams both came first in their teams Championships (see cover photo)
- The Under 14 Boys came second and the Under 16 Boys and Under 14 Girls both came third
- Peter Craven won all 15 of his singles matches in the U18 teams event
- Simon Wallace lost only one singles match out of 24 in the U14 teams event
- Simon Wallace (age 14) reached the quarter-finals in the U16 boys singles
- Adrian Soh reached the quarter-finals in the same event
- Simon and Adrian reached the semi-final in the U16 boys doubles
- Simon reached two U14 doubles finals (Boys with Hadleigh Bunce, and Mixed with Jennifer Lo), and reached the U14 boys singles semi-final, losing narrowly to the third seed.

The teams events were against Australian State teams, and the individual events attracted the best young players in Australia. If you want a name to watch for, try John Tawadrous (NSW) – he won both the Under 14 and Under 16 boys singles – a very stylish player who has already beaten at least one member of the Australian Men's team.

KIWIS STAND OUT

The New Zealanders were conspicuous in their smart uniforms and a high dress code was insisted on by the managers and coaches. Organisers publicly praised the New Zealanders for their sportsmanship, behaviour, and friendliness.

NOT QUITE LIKE PLAYING AT HOME

The playing conditions were very warm and humid, with the tables slower than our players are used to. The accommodation was basic but comfortable, the vehicle arranged for the team straight from the Australian outback (badly in need of maintenance and with a portable handbrake), and the weather – perfect !!! The New Zealanders had a delicious early taste of summer with down time spent in the motel swimming pool or on local excursions. Townsville enjoys 300 warm cloudless days each year.

TEAMS AND FULL RESULTS

The names of the players and officials who made the trip were listed in the previous issue of TT Info, and they are also on the TTNZ web site along with detailed results.

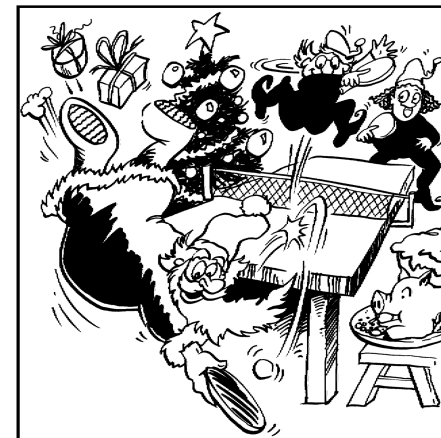
OPINIONS Don't attack other people's opinions. Opinions are like nails. The harder you hit them, the deeper they go in.

(You don't have to believe this. It's just somebody's opinion)

UNDER 18'S DO IT ON THEIR OWN

Winning the Australian Under 18 Championships teams event is a monumental feat in itself. But our boys and girls teams not only won their respective competitions against the best the Australian States could throw at them – they did it without the benefit of a team coach.

A fine reflection on the players and their manager Gay Morrison, but not such a fine reflection of the state of table tennis. While the number of people capable of coaching our best Under 18 players is limited, somebody should have been found for the task. Three coaches were appointed to accompany the Under 14 and Under 16 teams so the people are out there. The situation with the Under 18's highlights the importance of developing our coaching structure and creating an attractive career path for coaches. Coaches need to set themselves goals for glamour jobs such as World and Olympic Championships, and avail themselves for important jobs like junior team coach as a step on the way to their goals.



TEAM COMES UNSTUCK AT AIRPORT

“Right you table tennis players - everybody hand over your glue. Now!!”, thundered the Airport Security Officer as the bleary-eyed junior table tennis team gathered at the check-in counter at 5 am prior to departing for Australia.

Every drop of speed-glue, used by most high-level players to freshly re-glue the rubber on their bat prior to a match, was confiscated.

Strictly speaking, what happened was legal. The glue is flammable and classified as dangerous goods – but is less than a dozen young players with a small tin each going to cause a conflagration ?

Once in Townsville the team got by basically on just one tin obtained fortuitously by a team member who shared it out. Speed glue was a scarce commodity in Townsville that week.

Table Tennis New Zealand, its' Board, the National office, all the volunteers of TTNZ and Table tennis Info wish you all a Great Christmas and New Year.

Not hard to guess why.

A call to Aviation Security afterwards verified the regulations – the only way to get glue to an overseas destination legally is to contact the airline ten days in advance and arrange for it to be given special protective packaging and transported as cargo, at a cost.

Maybe a simpler way is to arrange for someone already at the destination to purchase glue ordered in advance.

Life would be simpler if Airport Security was consistent. But it's not.

Pages 12-13 articles from John Kiley.

New Zealand Open Championships Palmerston North

<u>Open</u>	<u>Winner</u>	<u>Singles Runner Up</u>
Men's Singles	Aaron Li (N)	Shane Laugesen (A)
Women's Singles	Karen Li (MN)	Sarah Finch (A)
Men's Doubles	S Laugesen & A Li (A/N)	
Women's Doubles	T Hefferan & K Li (NH/MN)	
Mixed Doubles	A Li & D Garrett (N/S)	
<u>B Grade</u>		
Men's Singles	Yi-Sien Lin (C)	Graeme Windley (HV)
Women's Singles	Anna Danby (A)	Sue Shirriffs (MN)
<u>C Grade</u>		
Men's Singles	James Chapman (WG)	Andrew Morris (A)
Women's Singles	Sandra Mitchell (S)	Oea Burnett (HV)
<u>Over 55 years</u>		
Men's Singles	Nam Hang Lee (A)	Bob Lassen (A)
Women's Singles	Christine Cunningham (NH)	Joyce Coleman (WK)
Men's Doubles	M Lee & N Lee (A)	
Women's Doubles	C Cunningham & N Milich (NH/NL)	
Mixed Doubles	B Lassen & C Cunningham (A/NH)	
<u>Over 45 years</u>		
Men's Singles	Geoff Rau (CM)	William Weinstock (A)
Women's Singles	Val Beaver (NH)	Christine Cunningham (NH)
Men's Doubles	K Fogarty & W Weinstock (NH/A)	
Women's Doubles	V Beaver & A Roberts (NH/HV)	
Mixed Doubles	B Wynks & A Roberts (MN/HV)	
<u>Over 35 years</u>		
Men's Singles	Sean Chen (A)	Malcolm Darroch (BP)
Women's Singles	Hilary Low (A)	Val Beaver (NH)
Men's Doubles	S Chen & P Low (A)	
Women's Doubles	V Beaver & A Roberts (NH/HV)	
Mixed Doubles	S Chen & A Roberts (A/HV)	
<u>Under 21 years</u>		
Men's Singles	Peter Craven (NH)	Ben Collins (A)
Women's Singles	Tracey McLauchlan (HV)	Anna Danby (A)
Men's Doubles	P Craven & G Windley (NH/HV)	
Women's Doubles	A Danby & T McLauchlan (A/HV)	
Mixed Doubles	P Craven & A Danby (NH/A)	
<u>Under 19 years</u>		
Boys' Singles	Peter Craven (NH)	Adrian Soh (N)
Girls' Singles	Rachel Griffiths (NH)	Deborah Morrison (C)
Boys' Doubles	J Cordue & A Hovey (W/WG)	
Girls' Doubles	T Burgess & M Neal (NH)	
Mixed Doubles	J Vinicombe & L Boaden (HV)	
<u>Under 17 years</u>		
Boys' Singles	Adrian Soh (N)	Yi-Sien Lin (C)
Girls' Singles	Claire Dimmock (WT)	Alison Thomson (WG)
Boys' Doubles	Y Lin & K Samson (C)	
Girls' Doubles	A Thomson & L Wight (WG)	
Mixed Doubles	A Soh & R Griffiths (N/NH)	

	<u>Winner</u>	<u>Singles Runner Up</u>
<u>Under 15 years</u>		
Boys' Singles	Andy Huang (A)	Simon Wallace (C)
Girls' Singles	Jiani Hu (N)	Sandy Wang (A)
Boys' Doubles	J Alexandre & B Warbrooke (A)	
Girls' Doubles	J Colvin & J Hu (N)	
Mixed Doubles	S Wallace & J Wood (C)	
<u>Under 13 years</u>		
Boys' Singles	Jonathan Chen (C)	Nathan Lowe (A)
Girls' Singles	Jiani Hu (N)	Sandy Wang (A)
Boys' Doubles	G Arnaud & J Lao (NC)	
Girls' Doubles	J Hu & K Samson (N/C)	
Mixed Doubles	N Lowe & S Wang (A)	

Under the spotlight at present are tournaments and their attractiveness to players, so a report this time on the administration side of the championships in Palmerston North.

TTNZ Liaison Officer's View of New Zealand Open Championships

A Bouquet to Manawatu

The Manawatu organising team was a very small one, the key members of which were **Andrew Gordon** (Tournament Manager), **Murray Holdaway** (assistant Tournament Manager) and **Shona Cudby** (Tournament Secretary.) I have previously worked with Shona when she has been table controller for other national type championships hosted by Auckland but this was the first national tournament to my knowledge that she has been involved in the complete planning. For Andrew and Murray it was a new experience – in fact I don't think either of them had even attended a tournament of this nature. They can be very proud of what they achieved. All worked very hard and they all worked very well as a team. Just before the senior finals programme commenced **Sarah Finch**, on behalf of the players, presented a bunch of flowers to Shona as a token of their appreciation to the team. I can't recall this happening at any other national championship in recent times. A lovely touch which I know was appreciated.

A bouquet is due to most of the competitors in both the junior and senior championships. The support given by the players was, in the main, first class and was a major factor in the tournament running smoothly and to time. Some matches were played 30 minutes ahead of schedule!

There were some competitors who qualify for a brick bat - those who did not advise they did not wish to be placed in Division events, not reporting for Division events and not informing their opponents. A brickbat also to those players in doubles events who did not report for play and did not even have the courtesy to inform their doubles partner! There was also the odd player who illustrated their lack of self control by banging their racket on the table. Congratulations to Tournament Manager Andrew Gordon who stamped on this practice very quickly.

An interesting innovation was the introduction of the new ITTF 'Time out' rule.

Continued over page~

Continued from page 15

This rule reads "In both team and individual events, a player or pair is entitled to one time-out of up to 1 minute during an individual match. The request for the time-out may be made by the player or pair, by the designated adviser in an individual event or by the team captain in a team event."

The rule was used at the Oceania Olympic Games Qualifying tournament and the Oceania World Cup Qualifying tournament, both of which were recently held in Auckland. At the managers meeting it was agreed that it would only be used in the senior events.

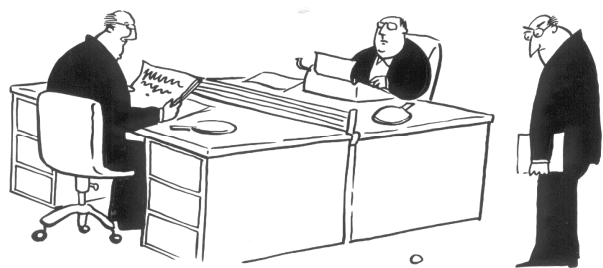
An area which I believe needs revisiting is the number of singles events in the open championships. In addition to the championship singles there are B and C grade singles (eligibility according to the Rating Lists) and then Divisions 2 and 3 for each of them – a total of 9 singles events each for men and women. Certainly, the original intent was to give the 'lesser' players more play but in view of the number of withdrawals/defections in the Division events, is it not time to reconsider their future?

Not for the first time there was an instance in the junior teams championship when a team with just the minimum of 3 players suffered an injury which necessitated the team playing their final with just two players. This seems to be an undesirable situation. Maybe a player from another team (from the same association!) whose standard is no higher than the player replaced could be allowed to play. A guide to standard could be the relative positions of the players concerned on the TTNZ Rating Lists.

What do you think?

If you have any comments on the suggestions in this article let TTNZ know or address a letter to the editor of TABLE TENNIS INFO.

Merv Allardyce



Overheard at crowded local junior tournament

Eager, impatient young player: "How long will my next game be?"

Busy, frustrated organiser (as she hurries away): "21 points"

From the USA

Did you know that the United States Table Tennis Association have only 7000 registered players, but there are apparently 20 million people who play at home and no doubt in unaffiliated clubs.

It has however been said that the game is finding new popularity in USA where a number of pool parlours are charging \$9 an hour for a go at it.

Soon – First District Association to have web page on TTNZ site.

Happenings in Nelson - from the Nelson correspondent.-

Nelson players do well at Nationals!

Nelson's **Aaron Li** again did well to win the National triple crown in the open singles, doubles and mixed doubles at the National championships. The teams events saw our under 15 boy's team of Kurt Strid, Chris Erskine and Michael Rees take the B grade and Damien Roddis, George Woo and Rowan Quayle beat Otago in the final of the under 19 Boy's C grade. The Nationals were a great success for Nelson with all 28 players and officials enjoying this 1999 feature event. Other features were the NZ junior umpire award going to George Woo winning him a gold medal for his efforts and the Men's No.2 team of Ian Alino, Kurt Strid and Ken Trower gaining the award for the best presented and most sporting team in the seniors.

Summer interclub

This is underway with the largest ever number of teams playing this year. About 40% of the teams are made up of new players and this has been a result of all the hard work that the local clubs are putting into grass roots promotions. We have introduced a third set tie break into the Premier grade and this has been a real entertainer.

Nelson Club

12 year old Jack Wells cleaned up in the Nelson club closed competition. Jack, who is improving out of sight, took out the Men's singles after earlier winning the under 19 and 15 boy's titles with some determined play.

Adverse publicity results in positive press

With all the adverse publicity at the Nationals, from a couple of disgruntled people, Table Tennis Nelson has come out well and truly on top. Huge support has flown in for the initiative shown by a tiny Association who has made things happen, resulting in Table Tennis becoming a major sport in the Nelson region. We are so lucky to have the Academy and all that has grown from it right on our doorstep so we should all take advantage of what is on offer. This just goes to show that any publicity is good no matter how weird it may seem to be and I thank those people who publicly broadcast their ideas.

End of year BBQ – a tremendous success.

70 people came to the end of year BBQ and prize-giving held at the Academy in October. With the weather unusually wet that day, they were treated to a surprise handicap tournament. This was a great chance for the whole family to take part and as people finished their lunch they were straight into a work it off mode. The academy was alive and buzzing to the sound of players belting winners past their opponents as they tried to bridge the gap with more than the odd player being horrified by the 30 head start of some people, in an event to only 31 points. The games were played in great spirit with some on minus 15 and others on plus 26 which had everybody laughing as all the dirty illegal serves came to the fore. George Woo won the event. Lloyd Hasson won the 2nd division.

We had our best year ever and our thanks goes to all of members who made it happen.

Have a great Christmas and an exciting New Year and we'll see you all at the Summer Nationals.

Bryan Keane

Table Tennis Info is seeking articles from associations on their activity as a means of spreading ideas. Nelson Association keenly supplies reports on the activities and of course successes and we look forward to more associations doing likewise. We want to hear from everyone!

SITUATIONS VACANT

Auckland Table Tennis Association



The Auckland Table Tennis Association plans to appoint:

- 1) **A Development & promotion Officer**
- 2) **An Auckland Coach**

The successful persons to take up the positions on 1st February 2000.

The Developments/Promotions Officer's position is full time, at least 30 hours per week. The Auckland Coach's position is part time, approx. 10 hours per week.

Duties will include:

- ◆ Development and promotion of Table Tennis in the Auckland Region.
- ◆ Organisation and running the interclub system
- ◆ Organisation and running the school system
- ◆ Coaching



Generous Salaries depending on qualifications and experience.

Applications, in writing, close on 31st December 1999 with:

The Secretary
Auckland Table Tennis Association
P O Box 9247

Incredible Progress through hard work and initiative ~

CANTERBURY STADIUM

Canterbury has its new stadium! Selwyn St was sold on 15th September and on the 27th we took possession of 294 Blenheim Road. Our new stadium is on a prime site on a busy road, with motels and camping grounds for neighbours (and a tavern just down the road). It has twice the floor space of the old stadium.

Funding from the Lotto Grants Board was disappointingly low, so there was considerable head-scratching as to how a factory shell could be transformed into a table tennis stadium. We've been fortunate to receive a mortgage from a local player and offer of loan money from another, so work can proceed.

An immense amount of work has been done over the past 5 weeks by a small, dedicated, hardworking team. Between them they've removed hedges, built a fence, dug drainage holes and painted on the outside, while inside walls and girders have been cleaned and painted, and two stands repaired and painted which will each seat 30 spectators. The end wall has been lined out and a new storage area constructed.

Major work of car park sealing, lighting and flooring will be completed by Christmas. The aim is to have the stadium all completed and running perfectly for the 2000 Nationals. There is room for up to 18 tables and with interclub tentatively starting in November, there will be a lot of deprived ping-pongers keen to get their bats into action and christen our new home.

We are indebted to Keith Armstrong and Eddie Moore who have dedicated the past year to the long drawn out process of selling, buying, resource consents, building consents, financing, etc, and are now giving so freely of their time and energy to turn a factory into a stadium we can be proud of. Thanks guys!!

Raina McKechnie
Secretary, Table Tennis Canterbury

(More next issue – with photos!)



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. Associations will be advised of pricing details early in the New Year.

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

WORLD WHEELCHAIR GAMES

Christchurch 13-16 Oct.

FIRST TIME HELD OUTSIDE THE UK.

Considerable interest was shown in these games, and we have two interesting reports:

Trevor Flint writes: "Eleven sports were represented at the recent World Wheelchair Games. Table Tennis events were held at Canterbury Indoor Bowls Stadium, as our stadium is not ready yet.

This tournament was interesting and a high standard of play was shown. Fifteen nations competed, with Korea in the men and the Chinese women being the dominant players. Because they compete for world rankings the competition was very intense. There are 350 ranked in the men and 100 in the women.

The rules are a little different from able bodied play which made the job of running the tournament and the umpiring demanding. There were several protests relating to rubbers, service and position of wheelchairs in receiving service. The charge for official protests in wheelchair games is fifty dollars!

Players compete on a regular basis with a number of big tournaments being held in Europe each year. Except for one country, they all had coaches and managers and in some cases two coaches.

It was a fascinating and interesting experience."

Brien Halpin umpired at the games and wrote to us: "I have just finished umpiring at the World Wheelchair Games Table Tennis.

These games originated as the Stoke-Mandeville Games and this is the first time that they have been held outside the UK, so it was quite a feather in Christchurch's cap to hold them. It was quite hard work but I thoroughly enjoyed it.

The game is played according to the standard ITTF rules with the addition of a few special rules, e.g. the service is a let in singles if the ball leaves the table by the sideline (rather than the baseline), in doubles either player may strike the ball (after the first receive), but players must stay on their own side of the centre line, a player may not use his free hand as a support while playing the ball, but may use it to retain his balance after the shot has been played, etc. etc.

There was an open singles competition, Male and Female, and the remaining games were played in Classes (1-5) according to the degree of disability. These were Teams (2 person), Doubles, and singles. There were teams from USA, Mexico, Brazil, Great Britain, Slovakia, Italy, Kuwait, Australia, Korea, Japan, China, Chinese Hong Kong, and Chinese Taipei. Although Korea dominated the tournament, most of the other countries featured in the medal list. The standard of play was very high and from the quarter finals on it was extremely high.

There were many long rallies of driving and counter driving and a lot of games were very close (most of the games I umpired seemed to go to 21-19 in the third!) There was terrific spectator support for the players and a great spirit of camaraderie and honesty.

continued next page.

You will notice one nation missing from the above list - New Zealand!

Although I believe the entry fee was fairly high because of a travel equalisation scheme, I find this to be incredible. When I asked a Christchurch wheelchair athlete why there were no entries in the Table Tennis he said that no NZ wheelchair people played, because it was "not a New Zealand sport"!

Could people from other centres comment on the situation there re wheelchair players? It seems to me that they are missing out on a terrific sport.

Brien Halpin

Bigger Ball, Better Game?

The size of the current ball is 38mm and the International Table Tennis Federation Executive Committee proposed that the size be increased to 40mm. The move was motivated by a desire to make the game easier to play and easier to watch. As we now know (our September issue) the ITTF's two yearly meeting required a 3/4 majority for the proposal to be adopted but missed out by only 3 votes.

Some information as a result of various forms of research in various parts of the world surrounding the proposed new 40mm ball has reached us and makes interesting reading:

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



Dr Ibrahim, International Umpire and member of ITTF Rules Committee, is not interested in half measures and token gestures. "If the sport has agreed that rallies needs to be longer to attract spectators and TV audiences, then bring in changes that make them longer. We've spent years debating where to serve the ball from, what colour shirts to wear – forget the cosmetics and attack the real problem. Forget the 40mm ball, make it 44mm; forget raising the net 2 cm, raise it 5 cm. This will bring back the hitter/defender rallies which excite spectators." he says.

Clearly the matter will not go away and one can expect the proposal to be raised again in the future.

The International Tennis Federation, under pressure from critics who think the modern power game is boring, is looking into a dramatic proposal: introducing a jumbo ball that's 7 to 8 percent larger than the one used today.

Men's Open

1. Aaron Li
2. Peter Jackson
3. Shane Laugesen
4. Andrew Hubbard
5. Hagen Bower
6. Aaron Winborn
7. Sean Chen
8. David Jackson
9. Chris Herlihy
10. Chen Lei

Top 10 Ratings

Final for this millennium

Women's Open

1. Li Chunli
2. Karen Li
3. Sarah Finch
4. Maxine Goldie
5. Debbie Garrett
6. Hilary Low
7. Sabine Westenra
8. Val Beaver
9. Tanya Hefferan
10. Yvonne Fogarty

Women's Under 21

1. Tracey McLaughlan
2. Samara Collins
3. Anna Danby
4. Amber Johnson
5. Rachel Griffiths
6. Tanya Daly
7. Lisa Boaden
8. Tamsyn Burgess
9. Jenny Brewerton
10. Deborah Morrison

Men's Under 21

1. Chen Lei
2. Peter Craven
3. Yi-Sien Lin
4. Shane Warbrooke
5. Andy Huang
6. Stephen Hirst
7. Graeme Windley
8. Adrian Soh
9. Vincent Ho
10. Ben Collins

Men's Over 40

1. Sean Chen
2. David Jackson
3. Geoff Rau
4. Bob Lassen
5. Kevin Barry
6. William Weinstock
7. Pat Low
8. Lindsay Ward
9. Doug Pattinson
10. Nam Hang Lee

Women's Over 40

1. Val Beaver
2. Yvonne Fogarty
3. Ulrike Kusche
4. Lynley Barker
5. Chris. Cunningham
6. Jill Murray
7. Pat McArthur
8. Anne McLean
9. Averil Roberts
10. Joyce Coleman

Men's Over 50

1. Bob Lassen
2. William Weinstock
3. Pat Low
4. Doug Pattinson
5. Nam Hang Lee
6. Alan Alabaster
7. Bruce Connolly
8. Chip Eade
9. Peter Root
10. Peter Bennett

Women's Over 50

1. Val Beaver
2. Lynley Barker
3. Chris. Cunningham
4. Jill Murray
5. Pat McArthur
6. Anne McLean
7. Averil Roberts
8. Joyce Coleman
9. Sue Shirriffs
10. Kaylene Findlay

Men's Over 60

1. Nam Hang Lee
2. John Lelliott
3. Colin Tipper
4. Man Tin Lee
5. Bill Otene
6. Norm Parsons
7. Colin Neutze
8. Paul Winder
9. Jim Delahunty
10. Harry Dye

Women's Over 60

1. Pat McArthur
2. Joyce Coleman
3. Margaret McGregor
4. Jean. Wharehoka
5. Annice Robottom
6. Margurette Green
7. Kath Thompson
8. Phyllis Hoete
9. Gladys Halford
10. Pamela Keene

Boys Under 19

1. Chen Lei
2. Peter Craven
3. Yi-Sien Lin
4. Andy Huang
5. Adrian Soh
6. Vincent Ho
7. Paul Stewart
8. Oscar Elwell
9. James Chapman
10. Simon Wallace

Girls Under 19

1. Samara Collins
2. Rachel Griffiths
3. Lisa Boaden
4. Tamsyn Burgess
5. Jenny Brewerton
6. Deborah Morrison
7. Monique Neal
8. Jiani Hu
9. Alison Thomson
10. Claire Dimmock

Boys Under 17

1. Yi-Sien Lin
2. Andy Huang
3. Adrian Soh
4. Oscar Elwell
5. Simon Wallace
6. John Cordue
7. Josh Alexandre
8. Greg Burton
9. Karl Samson
10. Evan Kramer

Girls Under 17

1. Rachel Griffiths
2. Lisa Boaden
3. Jenny Brewerton
4. Deborah Morrison
5. Jiani Hu
6. Alison Thomson
7. Claire Dimmock
8. Meena Chang
9. Laura-Jane Young
10. Leanne Wight

Boys Under 15

1. Andy Huang
2. Simon Wallace
3. Josh Alexandre
4. Kelsey Fagan
5. Kurt Strid
6. Gareth Van Stipriaan
7. Frank Tsai
8. Tianlun Chen
9. Anthony Wilson
10. Ian Loubachevskii

Girls Under 15

1. Jiani Hu
2. Eileen Schwab
3. Sandy Wang
4. Sacha Welsh
5. Jacqui Wood
6. Florence Li
7. Jennifer Lo
8. Janice Chen
9. Kelly Samson
10. Jaimee Colvin

Boys Under 13

1. Nathan Lowe
2. Jonathan Chen
3. Brock Barrie
4. Albert Cheng
5. James Silverwood
6. Adam Ryland
7. Gabriel Wong
8. Geoffrey Smart
9. Rhys Van Stipriaan
10. Binbin Zhu

Girls Under 13

1. Jiani Hu
2. Sandy Wang
3. Florence Li
4. Kelly Samson
5. Leanne Ridder
6. Anna Chan
7. Jessica D'Audrey
8. Sarah Gregorius
9. Katie Stretton
10. Sophie Shu

Unfortunately the **RANKINGS** were not available when **TT INFO** went to press.

WORLD RANKINGS

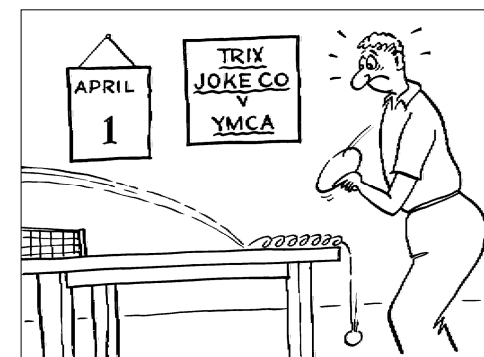
NZ Players
(as at 4 November 1999)

Women

Li Chunli	33
Karen Li	105
Sarah Finch	404

Men

Peter Jackson	127
Shane Laugesen	271
Andrew Hubbard	385
Aaron Winborn	435



Workers all!

Current and past staff with other keen volunteers envelope the September issue. L to R: **Bryan Thomson, Catherine Thomson, Mike Brown, Chris Robb, Isabel Cleland, John Kiley, and Merv Allardyce.**

The Editor did help - he was on camera duty!