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TABLE TENNIS INFO

Issue: 13

November 1999



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.

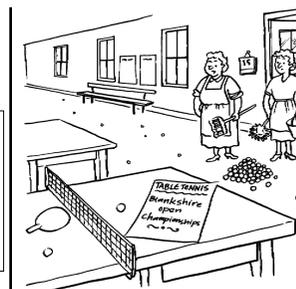
The women's team event was keenly contested with Auckland and Hutt Valley again emerging as finalists after some tight round robin contests. Moments of drama in the earlier rounds included Tanya Hefferan setting North Harbour up for an upset win over Auckland by beating Sarah Finch. Consistent performances 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.