

NZ Open continued..

Nelson's **Johnny Liang** proved to be one of the highlights in the Men's and Under 19 teams as he crushed nearly all before him, except **Aaron Li**. It was great to see a player so young with such amazing skills.

### Individuals

On the junior side **Johnny Liang** dominated the under 19's, winning the treble in fine style and helping Nelson to the top junior Association award for the second year in a row. Well done Nelson - it just goes to show your hard work and training programmes are really paying off. **Andy Huang** (Auckland) had a good win over **Simon Wallace** (Canterbury) in the under 17 final where Huang played some of his best table tennis of the tournament. Hutt Valley's **Binbin Zhu** was impressive, winning the under 15 and 13 singles titles, the 13 doubles with **Chris Erskine** (Nelson) and mixed doubles with **Jiani Hu** (Nelson) - a good effort from this dedicated young player. It was great to have Australia's **Campbell-Innes** girls back again. Both played well and were rewarded with a host of victories. The New Caledonia team also added spark to make 2001 a true international event as they played with dignity and pride, winning a few junior doubles titles. Canterbury's Chinese girls along with **Sun Yang** (Bay of Plenty), **Celia Cui** (Auckland) and **Peri Campbell-Innes** made the girls competition exciting with victories well shared. In the younger ages **Claire Campbell-Innes** won the Under 17 treble, clawing back from some very sticky situations, and later took out the under 15 singles beating Jiani Hu. Hu had earlier won the under 13 treble in fine fashion.



**Shane Laugesen serving it up!**

**Aaron Li** (Canterbury) continued his dominance of NZ table tennis winning the treble in the open events for the fourth year in succession. But all the action was in **Shane Laugesen's** first post-section match where he was up against 19 year old **Johnny Liang**. All four quarter finals were on together and what a group of games to watch but most were glued to the

match on table 3. Laugesen (Auckland) took the first game easily but Liang was only working him out. In the next three games he simply chopped his way to victory with Laugesen showing signs of distress after looping so hard for so long to try a secure a point. It was probably the best match of the tournament, a great looper up against a determined chopper who can also loop as well as the best when required to.

**Karen Li** (Manawatu) took out the Women's title over **Li Tong** (Canterbury) with a very clinical display while the top

### NZ Championships Awards

Arthur Meachen Cup (Most senior individual titles)  
won by: **CANTERBURY**

Bill Hurrey Cup (Most junior individual titles)  
won by: **NELSON**

Barna Cup (dress, behaviour, etiquette, punctuality, etc.)  
Won by:

**Men – Auckland No 1**  
**Women - Canterbury No 2**



**From all in  
Table Tennis  
New Zealand**

seeded doubles pair (**Sun Yang** and **Celia Cui**) just got home in an exciting clash with the **Campbell-Innes's** 20 and 18.

**Malcolm Darroch** (Canterbury), and **Kadia Keller-Rice** won the Over 35 singles and all other veteran and older age-group events were keenly contested.

There were just so many exciting games over the 10 day period and most players will think they played at least one of them. Believe me, this was the best Nationals for years – one everybody will look back one with great memories.



### Inter Association Teams Championships Winners

Men's A grade	Canterbury
Men's B Grade	Manawatu
Men's C Grade	Southland
Women's A Grade	Canterbury
Women's B Grade	North Harbour
Under 19 Boys' A Grade	Canterbury
Under 19 Boys' B Grade	Southland
Under 19 Boys' C Grade	Bay of Plenty
Under 19 Girls'	Canterbury
Under 15 Boys' A Grade	Auckland
Under 15 Boys' B Grade	Auckland
Under 15 Boys' C Grade	Hutt Valley
Under 15 Girls' A Grade	Auckland
Under 15 Girls' B Grade	Waikato
Men's Over 45	North Harbour
Women's Over 45	North Harbour
Men's Over 55	Waitemata
Women's Over 55	North Harbour



### Action at the Champs:

Waikato's **Sarah Ho** (far end) and **Tamsyn Burgess** (North Harbour) battle it out in the Women's B Grade team final.

### Men's Singles presentation.

L to R:  
**Johnny Liang**  
(runner up),  
**Aaron Li**  
(winner),  
**Aaron Winborn**  
(semi finalist).



## Where Did Our Table Tennis Language Come From?

We have our own language in table tennis. We all know what words like “rally”, “umpire”, “coach”, etc, mean and we use them without ever giving a thought to their origin.

In 1991 the ITTF Table Tennis Digest published an article researching the history of many of these familiar terms and Table Tennis Info has dusted it off and had a browse. Each issue we will reproduce two or three extracts, starting right here:

### **Table Tennis**

Because table tennis developed as a miniaturised, indoor version of lawn tennis, it naturally borrowed a large existing terminology from that sport. The word TENNIS itself is believed to derive either from the Arabic word *tanaz*, meaning “to leap” or from the French word *tenez*, which was shouted just before the ball was served and meant something like “Look out!” or “Get ready!”.

### **Net**

This comes from the Old English word *nett*, which in turn comes from the Latin *nodus*, meaning “knot”. The word is probably finally traceable back to the Sanskrit word *nahyati*, meaning “he binds”.

*More in later issues.*



## Player Liaison Officer Introduces Herself

The Table Tennis New Zealand Board recently appointed **Tracey McLauchlan** as TTNZ Player Liaison Officer - to provide a listening ear for any player with concerns, particularly top players, and to act as an advocate for players at Board level. She has already had a meeting with the Board Chairman and has been granted access to Board members as and when required.

TT Info invited Tracey to tell us about herself.....

I often wonder why I am just about the only one left playing out of all the players from my junior age groups. I guess the reason can be likened to doing a table tennis exercise. As I come to the end of the 7 or 10 minutes, I often say 'just one more'. Because I am sure that I can push myself for one more rally and there is always the chance that I will be able to pull off that amazing shot. Each year I think to myself: 'just one more'. Perhaps next year I will be able to perfect that forehand technique. I always get the feeling that there is still some improvement left in me. What has happened is that each year has rolled into the next and now I find myself having played table tennis for 13 odd years.

I have spent the whole of my table tennis career in Hutt Valley and have developed through the club structure, coaching programmes and local and national tournaments. The other day I saw a picture of my first ever New Zealand training camp and I can vividly remember how scared and shy I was. In the years that followed I was selected in a number of junior teams to go to Australia and won a few national titles. It hasn't always been smooth running though. I have had a little bit of success at national level but I think a big motivation to keep playing stems from the disappointments I have faced along the way. Losing the big match for the team or "choking" in that semi, when I know deep down that I can play better, have made me strive to improve my game.

The real eye opener in my time playing has been my trip to the Worlds and Commonwealths in Singapore and Kuala Lumpur in 2000. It was my first international tournament apart from the Oceanias and my first overseas trip outside Australia.

What I found was that the other players still did the same things (for some reason I thought they might have all played differently) but everyone just did it so much better.

To see some of the top players in the world play live was awesome. I think since I was selected in that team I have trained harder than before, but of course there is always the added pressure.

The best player I have ever played was Li Jia Wei from Singapore, at this year's Commonwealth Championships. She is around 20 in the World. I have to say she gave me a pretty good whipping but it was a good experience.

I have now come to the end of my first year of full time work as an Information Analyst for Telecom. Combining a job, table tennis and keeping up with friends and family has been pretty difficult but I have enjoyed the challenge. I think I have maintained a balanced lifestyle and, although I would like to be able to find more time for training, I am happy.

One of the reasons I agreed to take on the position of Players Liaison with TTNZ was my belief that there needs to be improvements in the way players are treated in New Zealand. Hopefully I can go some way to changing this. I think table tennis has such potential to grow in New Zealand. Yes, it is a small sport but I always find that many people I meet always have an interest or connection to it some how. There is much goodwill towards the game in this country but perhaps we need to rethink how we market and present its image.

**Tracey McLauchlan**

## Table Tennis on the Menu at *Sports Café*

Two table tennis jokers yakking to **Marc Ellis**, **Frank Bunce** and others - live on prime time TV on NZ's most popular sports programme, and then giving a TT demonstration! That's got to be worth more than a thousand columns of local stories and tournament results tucked away in the minor sports pages of the paper.

It all happened at 8.30 pm on 13 September on Sky Sport. Merging comfortably into *Sports Café's* laid-back atmosphere, flashy décor and slick presentation style were **Shane Laugesen** and **Wayne Gear** - two of our best. They handled the barrage of quick-fire (and often quick-witted) questions with ease, covering topics from getting started in the sport to professional career opportunities overseas. The equipment aroused great interest - Marc Ellis spent most of the ten minute segment nursing a bat and studying it from all angles in the hope that it might lift his game when he squared up against Shane on the table (not a hope). Our two experts opened their demo with sizzling forehand to forehands, and then slowed it down when the show's residents stepped up to the plate (oops, table).

Shane recalls the experience: “Wayne and I had a great night, definitely one to remember. It was all very impromptu and we didn't really know how long we would be playing for or what we were going to be asked. They treated us really well and we enjoyed a few beers at the end of the show. They made us feel very welcome and did a great job keeping us at ease in such a relaxed atmosphere. Frank Bunce was really down to earth and generally interested in table tennis.”

Our boys did the sport proud and all table tennis enthusiasts can thank Auckland TTA for setting up this great publicity opportunity.

The ball has increased in size from 38 mm in diameter to 40 mm.

## WHAT DIFFERENCE HAS IT MADE?



Experts predicted the larger ball would travel 4% - 8% slower, there would be a 13% reduction in spin, and the ball would be easier to see, especially on television. Rallies would be longer.

### Has all this happened? *John Kiley* investigates:

At a very early stage, while top European players were still experimenting with the larger ball prior to its official introduction, former NZ Director of Coaching Peter Hirst commented from England that it was making absolutely no difference as far as play at that level was concerned.

Our present Coaching Director, James Morris, has recently attended the Commonwealth and World Championships. "I talked with several coaches re the big ball and there were varied opinions ranging from little difference to definitely slowing. I have no scientific data but generally feel from observation and coaches consensus that there is little difference with service and receive but as the rally develops the ball is slightly slower therefore giving the player a fraction more time and giving the defender some advantage. I saw this with world class players and with good lobbing (topspin defence) the attacking player had some difficulty which I think directly relates to the bigger diameter."

Top NZ player Peter Jackson feels he needs to be more physically fit as rallies are slightly longer and more power is needed to win points, but he has observed no real change to the way the game is played by top players although he's sure that the physical fitness aspect is more important than before for them as well. Tracey McLauchlan feels that everyone has adapted to the new ball and she hasn't noticed much difference.

### What about Coaching?

More important than the way the game is being played at top level internationally is whether we in New Zealand should be changing our approach to coaching. "I have definitely changed my method of coaching", said Hagen Bower, an Auckland coach. "With the change in the size of the ball and more importantly the change in the service rule in 2003 I see that players are going to have to work much harder for points. I believe that younger players need a more solid foundation and the ability to play points of perhaps 8 or 9 shots per rally. I currently have 6 Auckland juniors on a coaching programme. They are all given a target - forehand counter-hit 50, forehand loop 25, backhand counter-hit 30 and so on. We don't move on to the next exercise until they have achieved the goal and I also keep a record of their best score for that particular day. Hopefully the end result is that children are able to play longer points and concentrate for longer periods."

Simeon Cairns (profiled on page 24) is also preparing players for longer rallies. "I've encouraged players to work on playing more angles and to do more endurance (fitness) training based on the possibility of longer rallies, but it is still really an open issue whether the bigger ball has made the game longer. I would still suggest that players think about these points but otherwise there is no real evidence that it is necessary to change the coaching style or way they have been playing."

### Grass Roots Level

But what about the vast majority of us, playing at our weekly club night or daytime club? Ron Menchi has a unique perspective in that he regularly plays and coaches at club level with the larger ball, and pays a weekly visit to a day club which still uses the 38 mm ball. "I have no trouble switching from one to the other. For me the larger ball is marginally slower, but there has never been an occasion since the change when people have said, 'What a huge difference this has made!!'. There were times before the larger ball was officially adopted when one suddenly appeared on a table and those playing with it hardly even noticed. It has made no difference to the way I coach or play the game."

No doubt ITTF experts will conduct extensive surveys and arrive at a conclusion regarding the value of the change. It's good to see some coaches using the larger ball as a motivation to train players to endure longer rallies. But has this very radical change had the desired effect?

"The ITTF's objective was to make the game more of a spectacle", said James Morris. "This is debatable and requires a rally analysis which I don't think was done at the last worlds. The main point is that serve and receive or 1st phase is still crucial in match play and coaches I spoke to felt there was negligible difference with that."

It would seem that within one or two years people will be saying, "Smaller ball? What smaller ball?"



## Best Loop in the World.

World Champion Wang Liqin possesses one of the most powerful forehand topspins of all time. He turns at the waist moving his weight on to his back foot, the angle of his right knee is almost 90 degrees, giving him a position from which he can generate tremendous power and recover into a balanced position. The arm extends on the backswing and as he turns forward the elbow bends quickly before the point of impact to generate speed through the ball.



**Above: Wang Liqin at the commencement of his powerful forehand.**

*From the ITTF September 2001 Journal*

## Kiwis at Australian Veterans **Averil Roberts, Val Beaver, Lynley Barker and Janice Stead** (non-playing captain/manager) attended the Australian Veteran Championships in Perth recently.

In the Women's Over 50 team events they finished a credible third out of seven teams from around Australia and in the Over 50 individual events Val Beaver and Lynley Barker won their group play, but losing in the 2nd and 1st rounds respectively in the knockout play.

Averil and Val won a Bronze medal in the Over 50 Women's Doubles and all three playing members were placed in the top 10 merit list.

## World Rankings

The latest list of world ranked New Zealand players is on page 31. As promised in our last issue, here's more info on the operation of the ITTF ranking system.

Anyone recording two wins and two losses against players already on the list is automatically added to the list and enters with "start points" based on those results.

There is no need to play overseas to get a world ranking, as our National Championships (Open singles and A Grade team results) are included. More New Zealand players can get on the list by recording the required results against other New Zealanders, remembering that once a new player is in the system, anyone playing that player is on their way to getting a ranking as well, even if the first person does not yet appear on the published list.

Once on the list, a player's start points are kept under review and may be amended until they are either declared as final or the player has recorded five wins and five losses against existing ranked players, whichever happens first. After that, they cannot change.

The ongoing points change as each result is recorded. There are three scales which operate to determine how many points are awarded or lost:

- 1 A points scale, which shows the number of points won or lost for each band of points differences (eg, if a player loses to someone ranked, say 500 points higher, they lose only 1 point, but if they beat that player they win 36, and vice versa if they play someone ranked 500 points lower).
- 2 A weighting scale, which doubles the winners points for glamour events such as the main draw at the World Championships, halves them for national open championships such as the NZ Open, and adjusts them within that range for other events (Continental Championships, Pro-Tour events, qualifying rounds at World Champs, etc). The weighting scale is higher for winners than for losers.
- 3 A bonus scale, which adds bonus points for players who reach finals, semi-finals, last eight, all the way down to last 64. There are separate bonus scales for each weighting. For the NZ Open, the singles winners get 12 bonus points, runners-up 10, losing semi-finalists 9, and on down the scale to the last 64 losers who get 1. So with the NZ Open everyone who makes the main draw would get bonus points.

Players can move up the list even if they haven't recorded any results if other players higher than them have been deleted from the list through inactivity. But players inactive for twelve months will themselves be removed, except World Championships competitors who remain on the list until the next Worlds. We are yet to see how the splitting up of World Teams and Individual events will affect this policy.

New Zealand has been lobbying to have the North and South Island Championships accepted as international open events, and the ITTF now has plans to introduce World Under 20 and Under 17 lists. We have already begun submitting results in these age-categories.



**Aaron Li – NZ No 1 and 209 on the latest World ranking list.**

## Ever Heard of *HYPERZINE* ???

It's an online magazine for kids produced by the Hillary Commission. It started in March 1997 and they're up to Issue 19, the fourth issue this year. What's special about Issue 19? *Table Tennis* is featured!!

### TERRIFIC TABLE TENNIS

First read the irresistible heading of "Terrific Table Tennis", then scroll down through three subheadings: "What's So Good About Table Tennis?", "How To Play", and "Table Tennis Star". "What's So Good..." features names, quotes and photographs of players at the recent NZ School Teams Championships at North Harbour just before the nationals; "How to Play" gives flashy illustrations and basic rules; and "Table Tennis Star" profiles 22 year old NZ representative Tracey McLauchlan. Tracey is interviewed about her achievements, her goals, and how she got started. There's a good action photo of her playing.

### LINKS TO OTHER SITES

There's also reference to the history of Table Tennis and a link to the history page on the TTNZ site. Another link takes kids to contact points throughout NZ if they want to get into table tennis themselves, and there are links to many other NZ and overseas Table Tennis sites. The NZ Championships web page can also be accessed directly from Hyperzine.

### SEE FOR YOURSELF

Go to [www.hillarysport.org.nz/kids/hyper/index.shtml](http://www.hillarysport.org.nz/kids/hyper/index.shtml) and on the Hyperzine title page click on "Use it or Lose it". After you've checked out the table tennis, have a look right through the magazine. The rest is pretty awesome too.

*Table Tennis Info* thanks Hyperzine editor Kylie Freeman for giving table tennis this great publicity.

### TEACHERS NOT FORGOTTEN EITHER

As well as the *Hyperzine* feature, our sport received a boost by the inclusion of a Table Tennis Skills session on another Hillary Commission website, "Sportshed" (a resource for teachers). Go to [www.hillarysport.org.nz/kids/sportshed/index.shtml](http://www.hillarysport.org.nz/kids/sportshed/index.shtml) and click on "Skills and Drills".

#### Whoops!

In our August issue we showed a photo of a young girl (right) learning ball control in respect to KiwiSport.

We said it was Chloe Stewart but it was actually **Aimee Cross**.

Sorry about that!



**Confusion** arose in interpreting the results of the **Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships** for the last issue. We said **Shane Laugesen** and **Tracey McLauchlan** lost in the first round.

In reality they won their first round beating Ganguly and Paul of India in 3 games and lost in the 2nd round to Duan Yong Jun and Li Jia Wei in 2 games.



In our last issue Simeon Cairns contributed a major article on the 2001 Commonwealth Championships Women's Singles final, in which New Zealander Li Chunli made a strong bid for the gold medal. Simeon bench-coached Chunli during this crucial match. To those who are now asking: "Who is Simeon Cairns, and how did this man come to be coaching NZ's top international medal prospect?", - here's an in-depth profile....

## SIMEON CAIRNS – TABLE TENNIS SCIENTIST

### Early Days

Bryan Foster (NZ Champion in 1966 and 1968) was Simeon Cairns' first table tennis mentor. With his wife Ruth, Foster coached the youthful Cairns in Dunedin in the 1970's where he showed considerable promise. In 1979 Simeon moved to Christchurch for his final year of high school. Here Ling Nan Ming and Trevor Flint were coaching influences and Cairns teamed with Mark Clasper, John Richards and Michael Prisk to win the National Junior Teams Championship for Canterbury, beating an Auckland team (containing an up and coming Barry Griffiths) in the final.

Simeon's table tennis ambitions were lofty and in 1981 he left university to devote all his time to the sport. "I practised four hours a day, with another hour per day spent on physical training. But I didn't really get the results I wanted so decided to focus on university work where I studied exercise science (physiology and physical education)".

### Distinguished Career

This was the beginning of what has turned into a distinguished academic career. He moved to Canberra in 1986 to study for a PhD in Exercise Physiology and Sports Science, gaining it in 1991. Since then he has engaged in specialist pioneering research on the measurement of electrical activity in muscles and has lectured on his work in universities throughout the world. He now works as a senior lecturer at Auckland University of Technology's School of Community Health and Sport Studies.

Finding his niche in the professional world didn't dampen his enthusiasm for table tennis. His scientific knowledge led naturally to an interest in coaching and he was active in this area at club level prior to his departure for Australia. In 1986-7 he was State Coach for Australian Capital Territory and his trainees included Under 15 Australian Champions Rebecca Bellamy and Jeff Plumb. Plumb remains a top Australian senior player to this day.

### Scientific Training Applied

Simeon's star was still rising as a player when he returned home. He was ranked in the top ten in New Zealand in 1994 and 1996 and in 1994 was selected in the men's team for the Oceania Championships. "As a team member for these championships, I used my scientific training to take the Otago based NZ players through some environmental chamber work (at the Physical Education School, Uni of Otago – where I worked at the time) to acclimatise them for the heat in Tahiti, where the championships were to be held".

### Coaching Favoured

Now, with a background of experience as a top senior player, PhD honours in Sports Science, and 29 years of exposure to coaching procedures, Simeon brings all this together as a skilled domestic, national and international coach.

He has coached North Harbour teams since 1995, New Zealand junior teams since 1999, and first worked at international level with Li Chunli at the Oceania Championships in 2000. Coaching her again in the Commonwealth Championships gold medal match last April has so far been the highlight of Simeon's coaching career.

### Future Aims

"It's my aim for the early 2000's to contribute to a team which focuses on improving NZ Table Tennis ratings in the (a) Oceania and Commonwealth regions, and (b) World arena - at both senior and junior level.". Simeon has identified four key areas:

- focussing on individual coaching of selected players (after appropriate talent identification) on a week by week basis.
- squad training at appropriate times.
- bringing sports science into training/coaching/preparation.
- offering quality bench coaching.

**Simeon's combination of skill, experience, and academic knowledge make him a unique asset to table tennis in this country.**

### John Kiley

## A Point Being made!

The temperature was the point in this protest against a long standing rule which prohibits players from wearing tracksuits or slacks when playing in a match.

The 1986 New Zealand Championships, in Lower Hutt, saw **Kerry Palmer** (L) and **Wayne Adamson** display impeccable dress but regrettably it was the "wrong stuff" for their Men's Doubles semi-final, and they were forced to forfeit the match.

"It gets so cold playing in some stadiums" said Wayne. "Some players thought it was great but others thought we were idiots".

Whatever, a huge 30 x 16 cm photo (reproduced here in miniature) plus an article appeared in the NZ Herald at the time.



## Ahead of their time?

Six years after Wayne and Kerry's headline-grabbing act, a similarly dressed foursome played a mixed doubles at the 1992 English Open to commemorate a century of table tennis. If they could get away with it, why not Wayne and Kerry?



**Wayne Adamson** was a well-known table tennis player in the 1970's and 1980's - representing Canterbury from 1973 to 1980 and Counties from 1981 till the early 90's.

A sad lapse in his life resulted in being made a guest of the Prison Service. He is an avid reader of *Table Tennis Info* and after some hesitation decided to write the following delightful letter of "in there"! It's great to hear from him, and to learn that he has taken advantage of opportunities that have arisen to enhance his skills and be positive until his return to normal life. What's more, *he's the reigning TT Champion!*

## Letter from Wayne

A big "HI" to fellow Table Tennis peoples out there. Great to see the game progressing. I've been fortunate, thanks to Robin, to keep up with the TT happenings/results via the "Table Tennis Info". I have only praise for the way Robin, and all concerned, have given their time and effort for this enjoyable, informative mag.

Life for me has undoubtedly had its share of highs and lows but this present void I live in remains the lowest by far. As time moves on I've made the most of the limited opportunities and gained skills in the IT field. Four years ago, thanks to brother Grant and his upgrades, I was given his old Pentium 1 computer while on remand at Mt Eden and my journey into the IT field began. The next break came at "Maxi" when I was recruited into the Computer Industries, working my way via hardware/software into the amazing and more skilled field of Video Editing on an Avid Express. In the last 18 months I've produced over 100 programmes for TV1's Shell MotorSport and Suzuki SportZone plus corporate videos, commercials and promo tapes. I love it and feel very privileged to have been given the opportunity. Nowadays I'm a peer tutor recruiting and introducing others to the industry. The real opportunity though is when I'm released I've been offered work with a guy who produces Shortland St and Mercy Peak, so here's hoping.

### PARE CHAMPION!

Under pressure from certain quarters I recently played in the local Paremoremo Table Tennis Championships. I rarely play TT these days and no one knew my history in the sport. This rather bizarre experience added another Table Tennis chapter to my life. Adjusting to prison rules is a mission in itself - weird rules like having to serve diagonally in singles, no lets, 3 nets lose a point and so on kept me on edge. Believe me, if you were returning to the table or weren't looking you can expect a quick nasty serve behind your back. After scraping in against the unit junkie (wasted as), in the 1/4's I played one of the intimidating muscular Islanders - a lifer who thought he was the man. I pulled out my old trusty hard bat (swapped for an expensive Stiga) and warily played, praying I didn't make a fool of him. (As you can appreciate the consequences of such an act can be life-threatening!) It was two straight but made close and the immediate danger ceased.

In the Semis I came up against a 'Black Power' member and experienced for the first time ever "**finger Spin**". What made it worse, I had reverted back to a sponge bat just to make sure! I received the first 5 serves and missed the table completely until I adjusted and coasted to a 2 game victory. He had none of the intimidating factors of my previous opponent except a full-face moko - something one becomes accustomed to in here.

In the final I was up against the Sergeant at Arms of the 'Hell's Angels' (fortunately a friend of mine). Until now he's been my only loss in prison but I hasten to add this was after hip surgery 4 years ago at the Mount. Now this guy can play. I rate him and Simon Poelman the best I've played in prison.

It was fun counter hitting with posy lob defence, flashes of days gone by? Eventually I won in 4 thrilling sets and revenge was mine. I say this cause he'd been avoiding playing me for nearly 2 years.

### EXHIBITION

Admittedly the final wasn't anywhere near the spectacle that **Aaron Winborn, Hagen Bower, Wayne Gear** and **Chris Herlihy** displayed in one of their exhibitions in the Medium (Prison). These were great matches and gave opportunity for the crims to watch and then play against NZ Reps, a big buzz for these guys - they talked about it for months. Some now want to join clubs on their release. (Lock your cupboards!)

I've kept in touch with these guys and quite a few other TT players - some have been out to visit which I'm very grateful for. I'm looking forward to playing again in the 2003 season.

It's really great to see team-mates and players from the early 70's still playing or back at it - guys like **Colin Tipper, Alan Alabaster, John Armstrong, Mike Warren, the Fogarty's** - the list goes on and of course my special friend **Lesley Gardner** who's been playing so well. Table Tennis has certainly created many friendships and cherished moments that I'll never forget. I can't wait to be back playing.

Prison is a hard lonely depressing experience and I am grateful to my family and the many Table Tennis players who have visited and/or made contact - unquestionably a place where you find out who your true friends are. Thank you.

Take Care Out There

**Wayne Adamson**

PS, See you in 2003!

#### Highlights of Wayne's table tennis career include:

- No 1 in South Island 1973 – 1980
- Led Canterbury team to NZ title in early 1970's, beating all NZ's top ten players in the process
- Canterbury champion at least six times
- South Island Champion and North Island Runner-up in the same year
- Top ten ranking for ten years
- Played on television several times, including a match where Wayne and opponent Richard Lee were flown to Mount Maunganui for a special one-off exhibition
- Played some of the best players in the world at Oceania Games in Auckland in 1981.

### CHECK YOUR MEDAL !!

If you won a medal at the **NZ Championships** in Auckland last month, have a look to make sure it has "New Zealand Championships" on the front. We've been advised that some were mistakenly engraved with "New Zealand Veterans Championships".

If yours is one of these, please wrap it in tissue paper, slip it in an envelope and mail it promptly to Table Tennis New Zealand, PO Box 867, Wellington. It will be replaced with a correctly engraved medal.



**NORTHLAND**

**Brent Davies,**

**Ph/Fax (09) 433-4838**  
**E-mail: [biandi@xtra.co.nz](mailto:biandi@xtra.co.nz)**



Brent tested his first teeth on a table tennis ball as his father Arnold has been involved in the sport for more than 60 years. From early beginnings at the old North Shore association then East Waikato he became a player then an administrator. He became involved with Table Tennis Northland in 1985, was elected chairman the next year and has held the position for 15 years. A primary school principal Brent runs the primary and intermediate after-school sessions and the inter-schools competitions as well as the businesshouse competitions in Whangarei. Brent and his schoolteacher wife Doris are two of the most northern table tennis residents, living in the opulence of the resort town of Paihia and working at a small country school between Paihia and Whangarei.

**BAY of PLENTY**

**John Lea**

**E-mail: [johnl@newmansint.co.nz](mailto:johnl@newmansint.co.nz)**



If you ever want to retire to an area with the most beautiful beaches in New Zealand go to Tauranga. Table tennis go-getters like John Lea, Kadia Rice-Keller and husband Dan have not only settled there from other climes but are also improving the TT image there. The Bay once had 17 clubs and national events have been held there. Now there are only four clubs, but John and his team have already shown enterprise in getting Sun Yang there, and numbers are bound to increase with greater promotion. John had previously played in Waikato, North Harbour and Auckland. The Bay has used his accountancy expertise as the association treasurer and he has a diploma in journalism which enforces his publicity role.

**WHO INVENTED TABLE TENNIS**

Well, we did not receive any response to our August article but here is a real classic comment from the "Table Tennis – The Early Years" book:

It is unlikely that we will ever know exactly how table tennis developed in it's early days, "a period" according to Ivor Montagu, "in which history becomes tangled and confused by reminiscence, and reminiscence itself is dimmed either by senility or the heresay of a new generation."



**SPORT AND RECREATION INDUSTRY RESTRUCTURE**

Since the Ministerial Taskforce on Sport, Fitness and Leisure issued its report earlier this year and the Minister wasted no time in announcing he was implementing its recommendations, many people have awaited the first signs of impending change with interest.

**Peter Smith**, acting Chief Executive Officer of the Hillary Commission, updates us on the present situation:

You will all be aware that the new board is in place: John Wells (Chair), Wayne Boyd, David Collins, Graham Condon, Elizabeth Coutts, Margot Foster, Jane Huria, Bill Osborne, Dr Jenny Ross - all very competent people I can assure you and very dedicated and committed to this sector.

Nick Hill has been appointed the new CEO. His biography is well documented, but he certainly comes with good raps. Nick's appointment signals a new focus for the industry which will be more apparent as time progresses. He officially took up office on the 23rd October. I know he is very excited about the job ahead and keen to get his teeth into things.

Internally, the Hillary Commission remains as an entity until the new Bill is passed in November, hereby the current interim board of the HC become the board of the new Agency. No decision yet about the name of the new organisation, although a couple of options are being tested in the market.

The Sports Foundation officially turn off the lights on the 30th November, but paying the power and the rent will be the only functions that cease. All other services will continue. In fact you shouldn't notice any changes at all unless you intend to visit.

The Minister recently approved a \$1.5m joint venture between the Ministry of Education and this organisation to pilot the introduction of specialist physical education teachers and sport and recreation coordinators into primary schools - two separate positions.

We all recognise gaps in the youth physical development process and often see the end result when they move on to more serious sport. This pilot will clarify the role of physical education teaching and ensure that through the coordinators, sport and recreation is integrated. In simple terms, physical skills will be delivered by specialists who in turn will be supported by on-site coordinators.

We should remind ourselves often, whatever our political bent, that this Sports Minister continues to step up to the plate and deliver.

I trust this will put you a little more in the picture.

Yours in Sport

**Pete Smith**  
Acting CEO, Hillary Commission

**You Might Be Addicted To Table Tennis If.....**

- you have ever accidentally hit a bystander while shadow looping.
- the words "ping pong" give you the willies.
- you look for a house with a two car garage, with no intention of ever putting any cars in it.
- You balk at your significant other half buying a \$75 wardrobe item, then blithely plunk down \$150 for a new bat.
- that \$150 bat isn't even for regular play; it's a backup in case the other one breaks.
- you hear the phrase "NZ Open" and your first thoughts are not of golf or tennis.

# Top 10 Ratings

Final for 2001

## Men's Open

1. Aaron Li
2. Johnny Liang
3. Peter Jackson
4. Sujay Ghorpade
5. Shane Laugesen
6. Hagen Bower
7. Andy Huang
8. Tom Liu
9. Aaron Winborn
10. Simon Wallace

## Women's Open

1. Li Chunli
2. Karen Li
3. Sun Yang
4. Jiang Yang
5. Linda Chen
6. Ritu Ghorpade
7. Li Tong
8. Kadia Keller-Rice
9. Joan Larsen
10. Celia Cui

## Men's Under 21

1. Johnny Liang
2. Andy Huang
3. Simon Wallace
4. Peter Craven
5. Yi-Sien Lin
6. Adrian Soh
7. Paul Innes
8. Vincent Ho
9. John Cordue
10. Josh Alexandre

## Women's Under 21

1. Sun Yang
2. Jiang Yang
3. Li Tong
4. Celia Cui
5. Samara Collins
6. Wendy Zheng
7. Monique Neal
8. Jiani Hu
9. Sarah Ho
10. Deborah Morrison

## Men's Over 40

1. Malcolm Darroch
2. Maurice Burrowes
3. Lindsay Ward
4. Kevin Barry
5. Geoff Rau
6. Peter de Boer
7. Pat Low
8. William Weinstock
9. James Morris
10. Bob Lassen

## Women's Over 40

1. Val Beaver
2. Lesley Gardner
3. Ulrike Kusche
4. Averil Roberts
5. Chris Cunningham
6. Jill Murray
7. Lynley Barker
8. Raina McKechnie
9. Helen Codlin
10. Sue Shirriffs

## Men's Over 50

1. Pat Low
2. William Weinstock
3. Bob Lassen
4. Alan Alabaster
5. Chip Eade
6. Barrie Kendall
7. Nam Hang Lee
8. John Te Pania
9. Albert Roberts
10. Chris Williams

## Women's Over 50

1. Val Beaver
2. Averil Roberts
3. Chris Cunningham
4. Jill Murray
5. Lynley Barker
6. Raina McKechnie
7. Sue Shirriffs
8. Pauline Bennyworth
9. Ngaire Garrett
10. Margaret McGregor

## Men's Over 60

1. Alan Alabaster
2. Chip Eade
3. Barrie Kendall
4. Nam Hang Lee
5. Albert Roberts
6. Colin Tipper
7. Bob Hurr
8. Man Tin Lee
9. Bruce Penberthy
10. Mervyn Allardyce

## Women's Over 60

1. Margaret McGregor
2. Pat McArthur
3. Annice Robottom
4. Gladys Halford
5. Kath Thompson
6. Elsie Spooner
7. Phyllis Hoete
8. Valda Smith
9. Pamela Keene
10. Nellie Milich

## Boys' Under 19

1. Johnny Liang
2. Andy Huang
3. Simon Wallace
4. Yi-Sien Lin
5. Adrian Soh
6. John Cordue
7. Josh Alexandre
8. Ian Loubachevskii
9. Greg Burton
10. Tim Hanna

## Girls' Under 19

1. Sun Yang
2. Jiang Yang
3. Li Tong
4. Celia Cui
5. Wendy Zheng
6. Jiani Hu
7. Sarah Ho
8. Deborah Morrison
9. Lisa Boaden
10. Sandy Wang

## Boys' Under 17

1. Andy Huang
2. Simon Wallace
3. Josh Alexandre
4. Ian Loubachevskii
5. Binbin Zhu
6. Nathan Lowe
7. Jack Wells
8. Anthony Wilson
9. Frank Tsai
10. Tianlun Chen

## Girls' Under 17

1. Wendy Zheng
2. Jiani Hu
3. Sarah Ho
4. Sandy Wang
5. Eileen Schwab
6. Sacha Welsh
7. Florence Li
8. Sophie Shu
9. Jennifer Lo
10. Michelle McCarthy

## Boys' Under 15

1. Binbin Zhu
2. Nathan Lowe
3. Jack Wells
4. Chris Erskine
5. Vance Kelly
6. Steven Zeng
7. Geoffrey Smart
8. Jonathan Chen
9. Rhys Van Stipriaan
10. Brock Barrie

## Girls' Under 15

1. Jiani Hu
2. Sandy Wang
3. Florence Li
4. Sophie Shu
5. Michelle McCarthy
6. Leanne Ridder
7. Hanna Squire
8. Kelly Samson
9. Katie Stretton
10. Katie Roddis

## Boys' Under 13

1. Binbin Zhu
2. Chris Erskine
3. Steven Zeng
4. Billy Lam
5. Blair Paterson
6. Terry Zeng
7. Matthew Lowe
8. Levi Welsh
9. Hayden Tapp
10. Boris Trifunovich

## Girls' Under 13

1. Jiani Hu
2. Sandy Wang
3. Sophie Shu
4. Hanna Squire
5. Jenny Hung
6. Armandeep Singh
7. Shelly Zeng
8. Sally Ho
9. Natasha Kok
10. Hayley Jones

The Rating Lists are based on points gained through participation in any open championship played in New Zealand, provided the results are forwarded to TTNZ. Points from last year are carried forward. Only the top 10 players in each category are listed. The full list can be viewed on the TTNZ website ([www.tabletennis.org.nz](http://www.tabletennis.org.nz))

## New Zealand at Men's World Cup

As the highest world-ranked player in the region, New Zealand's **Peter Jackson** has earned the right to represent Oceania at the 2001 Men's World Cup. This is now the method of selection for the alternate years in which no Oceania Championship is played – replacing the previous method of conducting an Oceania World Cup Qualifying Tournament. Next year's representative will be the winner of the Men's Singles at the Oceania Championships in Fiji in July.

In the meantime, Peter will fly the flag this year and compete against top players from every continental federation in the world. The glamour event was held in Italy from 8-11 November.

## WORLD RANKINGS NZ Players (as at 1 November 2001)

### Women

Li Chunli	44
Karen Li	118
Tracey McLauchlan	435

### Men

Peter Jackson	187
Aaron Li	209
Shane Laugesen	304
Andrew Hubbard	346
Johnny Liang	380
Aaron Winborn	398
Malcolm Darroch	511
Paul Innes	536
Simon Wallace	539

