

Upcoming Events

December	4	Entries Close - Summer Nationals	Nelson
January 2004	10-14	Summer Nationals	Doha, Qatar
March	1-7	World Team Championships	Wanganui
	27	Wanganui Open	Palmerston Nth
April	8-12	NZ Veterans Championships	Melbourne
	12-15	Oceania Olympic Qualifying Tournament	Whangarei
	19-25	Oceania Championships	Blenheim
May	1-2	Marlborough Open	Whangarei
June	19-20	Northland Open	Malaysia
	21-27	Commonwealth Championships	Carterton
	27	Wairarapa Open	

WORLD RANKINGS

NZ Players
(as at 4 Nov 2003)

Women

Li Chunli	40
Karen Li	127

Men

Aaron Li	238
Peter Jackson	244
Shane Laugesen	395
Andrew Hubbard	411
Johnny Liang	450
Malcolm Darroch	649
Andy Huang	673
Jared Smith	715
Yi-Sien Lin	718
Simon Wallace	733
Binbin Zhu	739
Brad Chen	743
Wayne Gear	745
Peter Craven	748

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

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TABLE TENNIS INFO

Issue: 23

November 2003

Well done Table Tennis
Wellington and all
those who were involved
in the NZ leg



Full coverage inside

NZ Open Championships
National Office Changes
World Championships
Coaching News
A Bumper issue!

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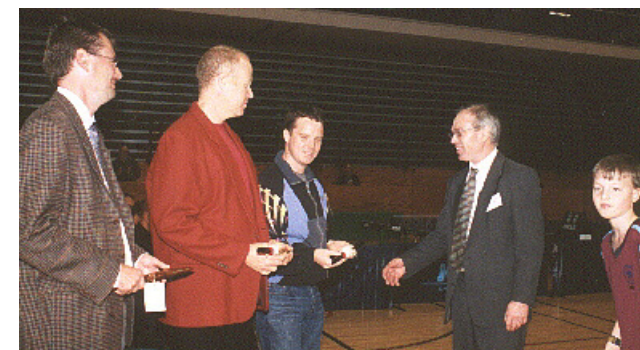
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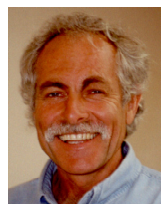
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At the Opening of the World Junior Circuit

L/R: **Mikael Andersson** (ITTF Junior Circuit Coordinator),
Glenn Tepper (ITTF Oceania Representative), and
Steve Dainton (Oceania Development Officer), receive
welcoming gifts from **Steve McCarthy** (Table Tennis
Wellington) assisted by **Lucas Wells**
(Hutt Intermediate School player).

Coaching Help from Overseas



My Serve

from James Morris

Well, the year is over and a highlight for me was surely the World Junior Circuit event attached to our national championships and hosted by Table Tennis Wellington. An elite junior training camp preceded the WJC, which gave our players the opportunity to see and play against world class opposition. Having world class players come to NZ is a rarity these days and something TTNZ should be fostering. Wellington is to be congratulated on a very successful tournament.

Of special significance to me was the conducting of a Level 2 coaching seminar facilitated by Mikael Andersson (ITTF), with assistance from Glenn Tepper (ITTF) and Steve Dainton (OTTF). This course had taken over three years to materialise. Thanks must go to the NZ Olympic Committee for funding the course, which enabled Associations to nominate their coaches for up-skilling. Eighteen coaches from across NZ took part along with coaches from Fiji, Tonga, Kiribati and Vanuatu, giving the course an Oceania flavour. All the coaches spoke positively about the value of the course and their personal gains.

Mikael said that if a coach wants to positively affect a group of youngsters he/she needs to create an environment where this can happen. This was an interesting point for me as it brought back memories of when I was young coach in Northland in the 1970's, under the guidance of the late Garry Frew, a past NZ rep. Garry was especially skilled at creating environments for junior players to excel in. This went as far as involving parents and very successful mini-bus tours around the North Island. It took some time but history shows that Northland boasted numerous national junior title-holders at that time. I have no doubt it was the systems that Garry took time to put in place that nurtured these successes.

I wish all coaches who attended the Level 2 course well in their work ahead completing the requirements. I look forward to your protégés and to hearing the knowledge that you will be able to share with others at the grass roots.

I wish all table tennis players, coaches and volunteers a happy and safe festive season.

Cheers James

Origins of Table Tennis:

The word **SPIN** comes from the Old English *spinnan*, which had the same meaning and which was probably derived from the Greek word *span* which meant "to pull, draw or tear."

 **Butterfly** www.butterfly-nz.com

Editorial

Phew – we made it once again. Registration numbers at the time of writing are a bit risky, but we decided to hope that there would be plenty by the time of dispatch. With the World Junior Circuit in New Zealand we couldn't waste the opportunity to spread the achievements of Table Tennis Wellington and the National body.

As regards the New Zealand Open Championships, an interesting point was made by Shane Laugesen in a newspaper article. He found it disappointing to return home from playing professionally in Europe only to find top overseas players could bar his way to a title. As it turned out, Shane went down to local Aaron Li in the semi-final who then lost to the Korean player in the final. The point being made was that perhaps there should be closed National Championships – a subject of some brief discussion at the last AGM. With such a very small serious player base, it is difficult to see how a closed championship could be cost justified, however desirable it may seem.

One has to have sympathy for players like Shane. Most local players never see just how well our overseas players perform and in returning home they can fail to spark for any number of reasons – too high expectations by players and spectators, travel lag, whatever.

Incidentally, the last time overseas players took the Men's Open Singles was in 1983 & 1984, and the Women's Singles in 2000 (prior to that 1975). Spare a thought also for Aaron who, with six consecutive Men's Open Singles titles, had equalled Bob Jackson's record of 1953/8 and may well have been able to exceed it!

Keep that ball ploughing over the net.

Sincerely

Robin Radford

Welcome

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

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

The magazine is sent to all currently registered members and we hope you enjoy it. We invite you to explore our website at www.tabletennis.org.nz which has lots of information on table tennis to help you.

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

Averil Roberts Administration Officer.



World's Best Juniors on Show

It's more than twenty years since any of the world's best junior players competed against each other in New Zealand. In 1980 a team of young men and women from China (including a youthful Li Chunli) visited and played exhibition matches as well as contests against New Zealand. The test matches were exciting (James Morris and Graham Lassen in particular were on top form), and the exhibition matches were out of this world.

In the Under 18 boys and girls finals of the recent World Junior Circuit tournament in Wellington, Chinese-born players battled it out in an exhibition of table tennis every bit as spectacular as the 1980 extravaganza. It was the climax of a four-day feast of table tennis relished by audiences numbering as many as 500.

As expected, Chinese players dominated but juniors from Chinese-Taipei, Hong Kong, Japan and India were also highly competitive. The player who upset all predictions was a Chinese-born Australian representative **Stephanie Sang**, (left in photo) aged 17 and attending school in Tasmania. She disposed of the 7th seed to reach the quarter-finals; the 3rd seed to reach the semis; and the Japanese 2nd seed to face **Jia Jun** (right in photo) (China) in the final. This was the end of her dream run – a win in the final would have qualified her for the 2003 World Junior Championships in Malaysia.



15 year old **Zhang Jike** won the Boys title, beating **Li Hu** in the final in five games after dropping the first. Both were from China. The match was played exceeding close to the table and at breakneck speed, as was the girls final and many other matches in the concluding rounds. When spoken to afterwards, both Zhang Jike and Stephanie Sang expressed a dream to play at the 2008 Olympics in Beijing. In Zhang's case, although he has a world under 18 ranking of 6, all those above him are also from China, emphasising his country's depth and the task ahead of him to make the Olympics. But age is on his side. "The Olympics are my goal, but I have a lot of work to do," he said through an interpreter.

The size of the audience peaked for the team finals, contested between China and Chinese-Taipei in both competitions with both won by China. It was table tennis at a level rarely seen in New Zealand.

Some of the New Zealand Contingent (Photo right)

At rear: **Helen Codlin & Murray Finch** (managers)
L/R: centre: **Simon Wallace, Andy Huang, Anthony Wilson, Sophie Shu, Jenny Hung, Hanna Squire**
front: **Yi-Ching Yuen, Chris Erskine, Binbin Zhu, Florence Li, Nathan Lowe, Michelle McCarthy**

New Zealand Was There Too

Four Oceania countries (Australia, New Zealand, New Caledonia and Fiji) also participated. The New Zealand group was managed and coached by **Murray Finch** and **Helen Codlin** and consisted of three boys and two girls teams, and 11 additional players in the individual events – a total representation of 23.

Although our players were not in the same league as the tournament stars (at least, not yet!), some were competitive well beyond the early rounds. **Andy Huang** (Auckland) made it through group play to the main draw in the boys singles, and **Chen Wu** (Canterbury) did the same in the girls. She then met the giant-killer, Stephanie Sang. **Josh Alexandre** (Auckland) and **Simon Wallace** (Canterbury) beat a favoured Hong Kong pair (**Tse and Kwun**) in the boys doubles to reach the quarter-finals. **Binbin Zhu's** performance also drew favourable comment from ITTF officials.

Valuable Lessons

The coaches report summarises the lessons learned by the New Zealand players. To succeed at international level they need to:

- Attack equally well on the forehand and backhand. NZ players are typically aggressive on their strong side and passive on the weaker. The passive shot was punished relentlessly by quality opponents.
- Play quicker and hit the ball closer to the table.
- Play hard from the first point.
- Apply a game plan with confidence.
- Remain decisive when matches are close.
- Be fearless in taking a positive chance to win a match.

Murray and Helen concluded: "From our perspective as NZ Junior coaches, perhaps the greatest benefit to our game is not the most obvious. Having the WJC Tournament run alongside our Nationals has raised the bar for our youngest emerging juniors. Previously they would have aspired to the level of our top juniors (especially since the majority of our top seniors are overseas based) and only on achieving that level would they have been given the opportunity to go to an international event and see what was required to be competitive internationally.



Our young players have now been exposed to international table tennis early and will have a higher level to aim at from this stage on. They will also understand more readily what coaches are trying to get them to do to give them the chance to be better players at a higher level. For this we owe Table Tennis Wellington a huge debt of gratitude."

NZ Team results - Page 8

World Junior Circuit
Wellington, 25-28 September 2003



A World Table Tennis Event in New Zealand, At Last!!

by John Kiley

There have been world table tennis championships almost as long as there has been table tennis. Every two years since 1926, steadily building to today's participation level of more than 90 countries (get your act together, netball and rugby!), table tennis players have gathered to compete for the honour of world champion player, doubles pair, and team. The event has been allocated to countries large and small – but never to New Zealand.

For decades, no consideration was ever given to the fact that national championships in nearly all countries include not just open events, but also fiercely competitive age-group events. Why shouldn't they also have a world championship? The lack was finally recognised by the introduction in 1982 of the world veterans championships, in response to intense lobbying by veteran players. It too is now held every two years, catering for players Over 40, 50, 60 70 and 80.

Juniors had to wait until 1993 for the Global Youth Championships. It was not an open event but contested between winners of Under 17 (and sometimes also Under 14) Continental qualifying tournaments. New Zealanders had to beat the best in Australia to get a look in, and as Oceania rather than NZ representatives.

In 2002 the ITTF Cadet Challenge was introduced – for a limited number of selected Under 14 players, again representing their Continental region. Then finally in 2003 the term *World Junior Championships* entered the table tennis vocabulary. The event was to be preceded by a *World Junior Circuit* - a series of six tournaments spread throughout the world, all of them open to any team or individual under the age of 18. Thus each tournament was a genuine world event – not a regional qualifying preliminary. At the end of the year the most successful players in the circuit tournaments would be brought together to play off for the ultimate honour of world junior champion.

Enter New Zealand

Last year **John Stapleton** (right) (North Harbour), a TTNZ Board member and member of Oceania TT Federation's Management Committee, spotted the opportunity for New Zealand to bid for one of the six tournaments in the World Junior Circuit's first year of operation.



The obvious venue was Wellington, who were hosting the 2003 New Zealand Championships; and the obvious time was just prior to the Nationals so the competing juniors could stay on and play in the NZ Championships, an ITTF approved Open event carrying world ranking points. The whole idea was dependent on Table Tennis Wellington supporting the bid. Under their President, **Paul Escott**, they embraced the idea; a team of volunteers was assembled, the centrally-located, up-market and spacious Queens Wharf Events Centre was booked, and the bid was successful.

The rest, one could glibly say, is history. But a very large piece of history. Preparing for the event and conducting it was a task of gigantic proportions. Driving it from the top was the

International Table Tennis Federation World Junior Circuit Co-Ordinator, **Mikael Andersson** (Denmark), supported by ITTF Development Officer, **Glenn Tepper** (Australia). Oceania TT Federation was represented by their Development Officer, **Steve Dainton**, also of Australia.



The bulk of the hands-on work was undertaken by New Zealand volunteers. **John Stapleton**, as TTNZ representative and main co-ordinator, and **Paul Escott**, (left) as Chairman of the Organising Committee, were the senior executives. There was also a major contribution by **Steve McCarthy** who liaised with the Wellington City Council, obtained much of the technical hardware, and actively co-opted others onto the support team. Other key areas were handled by: **Andrew Palmer**, with **Sabine Westenra** and **Robert Chung** (Information Technology), **Shona Cudby** (Control Table), **Merv Allardyce** (Equipment), **Averil Roberts** (Administration), **Ron Menchi** (Accommodation),

Malcolm Wong (Transport), **Steve McCarthy** and **Robert Chung** (Publicity/sponsorship/opening ceremony), and **John Stapleton** (Timetable, within ITTF formula). Others assisted in multiple ways. Some volunteers were also involved with the Training Camp and Coaches Course which preceded the event and many worked on the NZ Championships which followed.

After hundreds of collective hours work, preparations were complete and the opening ceremony (a team march-in and a succession of speeches) took place on 25 September.

The tournament was modest in terms of entries (just over 35 in each of the singles events, and nine countries including New Zealand), but with an extraordinarily high playing standard (See *World's Best Juniors on Show*, page 4).

Great Copy!!

Having the World Junior Circuit event in New Zealand was clearly a major achievement, and together with the NZ Open in Wellington provided a lot of great table tennis. The last time the NZ Open was in Wellington city was 1965, although it had been close in Hutt Valley several times since then.

The reports and articles you are reading were compiled from no less than 14 separate reports, and reported items via various means. Bringing it all together, was **John Kiley**, and we are sure you will agree he has done a magnificent job. Sincere thanks to all who provided the reports and information.

Editor



All go in the Control room when TT INFO popped in for a look.

L/R: **Bryan Keane** (TTNZ Liaison), **Shona Cudby** and **Robert Chung**.

There were two days of team events and two of individual singles and doubles. 19 tables were in use and the tournament was run in parallel with the teams events of the New Zealand Championships – resulting in a busy, boisterous atmosphere. **Butterfly** sponsored the balls and **Joala** tables were obtained at a discounted price. The TTNZ Umpires and Referees Committee appointed the Umpires - neatly and uniformly attired. **Angelo Tabone** (Australia) was the Referee, and **Michael McAvinue** (Manawatu) the Deputy Referee. All Umpires were New Zealanders.

Prize money of \$US300 was on offer for the boys and girls singles winners, and automatic entry to the World Junior Championships in Malaysia in November.

A Job Well Done

John Stapleton was satisfied with the event overall but like all good organisers he expressed concern over the few details that fell below his high standards: "TT Wellington were hit with some additional expenses from the venue manager which was unfortunate and despite assurances from them, the lighting was not of a consistent lux level throughout the stadium.

"The timetable was made increasingly difficult with many last minute changes. I had only two days in the end to do the whole thing."

It fell to ITTF Development Officer, Glenn Tepper, to remind John of the positives. He posted a message to the ITTF website drawing international attention to John's excellent administrative, organisational and communication skills, concluding "...and did I mention all of the above was done starting at 7 am every day, finishing at midnight, and as a volunteer!!! Our hats go off to you, John Stapleton, for a job well done!!"

John's own report ended: "We were naturally proud to receive letters of congratulations from both **Adam Sharara** (ITTF President), and **Neil Harwood** (OTTF President), for a well run tournament. Mr Sharara has really made a big impact on the development of the sport throughout the world in his time as President and we in our corner of the globe applaud his efforts on behalf of table tennis."

And John doesn't overlook the support he received from his team of volunteers: "Well done to all involved in this project and for your part, be it small or large, in making this an event that we can all be proud of and remember fondly in years to come. May this be only the beginning for NZ in aspiring to hold further International events in our country."

Where To Now?

With highly-placed officials lavishing such praise, the obvious question arises – should New Zealand bid for something bigger? Until now, TTNZ's only experience in pursuing a world fixture was a determined bid in 1996 for the 2000 World Veterans Championships, led by then Executive Director **Merv Allardyce**. Although ultimately unsuccessful, it was an impressive bid, it got our foot in the door, and we were encouraged to try again. Bidding for the main World Championships could be a different matter, although the team and individual events are now held separately which could bring one or the other within the reach of smaller countries. New Zealand's largest indoor sports facility is the Westpac Centre in Christchurch which would seat just under 9,000 for the finals – possibly big enough, but only just. Some Asian venues can seat up to 100,000. But the more relevant question is whether the ITTF decision-makers would allocate a World Championship to New Zealand in the face of what is certain to be strong opposition from rival bidders with much larger populations.

That doesn't mean we shouldn't try. Thanks to **John Stapleton**, **Paul Escott**, and the **Table Tennis Wellington team**, New Zealand now has a track record for running international events, and a good one. That can only boost our chances with any future bid for *the* glamour event. Just imagine what it would do for the image of Table Tennis in New Zealand if we were successful!!



The NZ team results were:

Boys

NZ 1 Lost to Australia	1-3
NZ 2 Beat New Caledonia	3-0
NZ 3 Lost to Japan	0-3
NZ 1 Beat Fiji	3-0
NZ 1 Beat NZ 2	3-1
NZ 2 Lost to India	0-3

Girls

NZ 1 Lost to India	0-3
NZ 1 Beat Fiji	3-0
NZ 1 Beat NZ 2	3-2
NZ 2 Lost to Australia	0-3
NZ 2 Beat New Caledonia	3-0

A PRETTY GOOD INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENT

Steve McCarthy summarises the World Junior Circuit tournament from Table Tennis Wellington's perspective.....

In September/October 2003, TTNZ and Table Tennis Wellington hosted an Under 18 ITTF International Circuit event, in conjunction with the New Zealand Championships. The tournament was the largest and perhaps most important ever staged in New Zealand. Many New Zealand players (420 entered the NZ Championships) were exposed to a level of competition previously unparalleled in New Zealand. Equally important, NZ coaches and administrators met their counterparts from all over the world.

The tournament boasted entries from many of the top table tennis nations. There were 80 international competitors. Perhaps the most exciting matches occurred early on when China met Chinese-Taipei in the Boys Team Final. Kwok, from Chinese-Taipei, managed to beat the two top Chinese players, and although their team finally lost, Chinese-Taipei was noted on the ITTF website as "having come of age."

In the NZ Open Finals the overseas stars, Bong from Korea and Miao Miao (Australia), proved too strong on the day for Aaron Li and Karen Li respectively. However the games were close and demonstrated to the many spectators and players the level we individually need to reach to be internationally competitive.

An interesting feature was that the results were posted on the ITTF website, www.ittf.com, in real time - with scores progressively updated while the matches were being played.

The World Junior Co-ordinator, **Mikael Andersson**, was impressed by the standard of organisation and noted that New Zealand could apply to host the World Junior Championship finals in 2005, if they chose to.

The tournament was attended by a number of important guests including **Barry Maister**, Chairman of the New Zealand Olympic Committee, **Kerry Prendergast**, Mayor of Wellington, **Glenn Tepper**, Oceania ITTF Representative, and **Steve Dainton**, Oceania Development Co-ordinator.

The international teams all enjoyed their time in New Zealand and many said they would like to return. The Japanese and Fijians particularly impressed with their good nature and willingness to participate in any activity going.

It was pleasing to see the likes of **John Stapleton**, **Bryan Keane**, **Paul Escott**, **Rob Chung**, **Shona Cudby**, **Michael McAvinue** and **Andrew Palmer**, all having their capacity to perform at the highest level and to produce a tournament that meets the highest of international standards recognised by our international guests. The tournament would not however have been possible without an outstanding effort from Table Tennis Wellington and the committed team that contributed freely of their time and energy.

Running alongside the actual tournament were other events that many players would not have realised were occurring:

- ◆ The National Schools Tournament - our special thanks to **Alan Costley** for running this event at the Empire Club in Petone.
- ◆ A Coach Education course at the Newtown Stadium with 25 Oceania coaches

- ◆ An elite international training camp for Under 18 players, involving India, Fiji, New Zealand, Vanuatu, Kiribati and other Oceania countries.

The lessons from the tournament are numerous. Perhaps the most important is that New Zealand has demonstrated the capacity to put on a tournament of the highest standard. A second is that there are many spin off benefits for table tennis and the host association in running this type of event. The benefits to the hosts (Table Tennis Wellington) are:

- ◆ That we had a huge contingent of Wellington players competing in the tournament. For many, this was their first Nationals.
- ◆ We have a pool of people capable of running future tournaments.
- ◆ The local publicity lifted the profile of the sport in Wellington.
- ◆ We now have a complete set of Joola tables, barriers and other items to equip our regional playing venues.

We can now sit back, reflect, and say that we ran a pretty good international tournament.

Steve McCarthy Table Tennis Wellington.

Fastest Smash Competition

WORLD FIRST FOR TABLE TENNIS WELLINGTON

In conjunction with the World Junior Circuit and NZ Championships, Table Tennis Wellington inaugurated the "World's Fastest Smash" competition – justifiably claiming a world first and sending details of the result for inclusion in the Guinness Book of World Records.

An audience of 300 watched as competitors smashed balls dropped vertically in front of them towards a sports speed radar gun. The smaller 38mm balls had to be used as the 40mm ball currently in use was not dense enough to be picked up by the radar.

Although the participants included some of the best juniors in the world, it was a Harewood club player from Christchurch, **Lark Brandt**, who out-smashed everyone with a winning speed of 112.5 kph. Nobody else came close – the next best was 107 kph. Lark explained his technique: "Timing and strength, coupled with a loose wrist and a flat smash." He might also have been helped somewhat by his other sporting interests: volleyball and martial arts.

The prize, aptly, was a brass cannon.

We'll take a keen interest in any attempt to better this world record. But whatever happens in the future, competition for the world's fastest smash started right here in New Zealand.



Bruce Northover, competition organiser and one of the hardworking officials at the Championships, demonstrates for the "Fastest Smash" competitors.



www.butterfly-nz.com

World Junior Circuit Training Camp

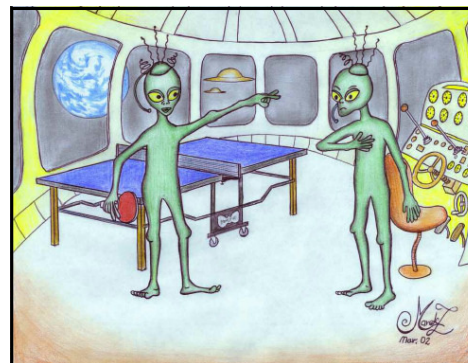
Valuable Advice from Top Coaches

Prior to the NZ hosted leg of the World Junior Championships Circuit, **Mikael Andersson**, ITTF Junior Programme Manager, ran a three-day training camp for the young participants, assisted by **Glenn Tepper** and **Steve Dainton** from Australia and NZ coaches **Simeon Cairns**, **Helen Codlin** and **Alan Pedley**.

Andersson reminded the players of Table Tennis's four "building blocks": physical, mental, technical and tactical. *Physical fitness*, important not just for match play but also for practice sessions, can be worked on at any time – exercises like running and push-ups require no equipment and are cost-free. *Mental fitness* is developed by thinking about why training exercises are given – what they are designed to achieve and how they can be used in a match situation. Practice sessions need to include exercises in which players have more than one option – simulating a match situation. *Technical skills* are sharpened by a high degree of self-awareness – knowing your strengths and weaknesses, doing exercises on both in training and making use of strengths in matches. Technique can often be improved by footwork or body position. *Tactics* involve bringing everything together and applying them as required in match situations. Serve and receive are key elements. Tactics are best discussed in a group situation.

The camp was structured to test the players' endurance by having match play in the middle of a session followed by strenuous footwork exercises. This was to identify players still able to give 100% after match play.

The coaches stressed that a training camp merely points the way to improvement – it's up to the players to keep doing the work. The international coaching and development network penetrates right down to local level and ensures that promising players are kept under constant observation. In any event they should always work hard whether they are aware of being watched or not.



"You left your bat on that blue planet!? You have to have a replacement one with you - you can't have it beamed up!"

(Cartoon by kind permission of Marek)

The camp was held from 22 – 24 September at Wellington's Queens Wharf Events Centre. Players from seven countries as far away as India participated. The selected NZ players, some not able to attend all sessions, were: **Jenny Hung**, **Florence Li**, **Matthew Lowe**, **Nathan Lowe**, **Michelle McCarthy**, **Sophie Shu**, **Hanna Squire**, **Hayden Tapp**, **Boris Trifunovich**, **Simon Wallace**, **Yi-Ching Yuen**, **Steven Zeng**, **Terry Zeng**, **Binbin Zhu**.

Tom Liu and **Karen Li** attended as practice partners. Catering was a joint effort by a team including **Margaret Turner** (Tasmania Manager), **Smita Bodas** (India Manager), **Averil Roberts** (TTNZ) and **Helen Codlin**.

Article prepared from a report submitted by **Helen Codlin**.

Coaches Ascend Ladder

Having ITTF Junior Programme Manager and former Danish team coach **Mikael Andersson** in New Zealand to oversee the World Junior Circuit tournament in Wellington provided NZ Director of Coaching **James Morris** with the perfect opportunity to conduct his long planned Level Two Coach Education Course.

The full career path for table tennis coaches in New Zealand is still being developed. **Murray Finch** and **Helen Codlin** have been, with James, heavily involved in its steady evolution and Helen's Prime Minister's scholarship (refer article on page 32) enabled some valuable overseas research to be carried out.

As it now stands, anyone seriously interested in training as a coach starts by attending a Level One Coach Education Course. Associations are encouraged to get at least 6 aspiring coaches together as this number justifies a visit by the NZ coaching director to conduct a course. The course occupies a full weekend including Friday night and covers generic coaching principles, the coaching of beginners, techniques beyond basics, physical training, nutrition, and tournament organisation. Well in excess of 70 NZ coaches have passed this course and hold the Level One Coaches Certificate.

All Level One Coaches are entitled to undergo a Level Two course, but obtaining the Level Two qualification involves much more than just attending and passing the course. Candidates have to be actively coaching on a regular basis and must complete a Level 2 generic principles Coaching New Zealand course run by most Sports Trusts throughout the country. They must also complete 60 hours of hands-on coaching after the course, documented by a certified person. And finally they must *either* design a detailed 12 month training programme for a district association or national junior group (2 x 2 hour sessions per week for 40 weeks); *or* complete a detailed development plan for their association to include mission statements, goals, objectives and action required at all levels - school, junior, senior (local, national and international).

James Morris stresses that only coaches who hold a qualification and show a willingness to up-skill will be sourced to coach NZ teams offshore.

The Level Two Course in Wellington was made possible by generous financial support (\$US7000) from the NZ Olympic Committee through the Olympic Solidarity fund, further monetary aid from ITTF, and most of all by the dogged determination of James Morris who had been lobbying for the course for more than three years.

Eighteen coaches attended from throughout NZ, Fiji, Tonga, Vanuatu, and Kiribati - all nominated by their Associations. The three NZ national coaches also attended and Mikael Andersson was assisted in running the course by **Glenn Tepper** (ITTF Development Officer), and **Steve Dainton** (Oceania Development Officer). The course covered:

- Responsibilities of a coach
- Tactile control
- Technical / mental / physical issues
- Position / balance co-ordination
- Multiball
- Good service and returns

Practical sessions were also included.

The course took place amidst the frenetic final preparations for a Junior Training Camp, the World Junior Circuit Tournament, and the New Zealand Championships. Logistical support for the course was provided by those already heavily involved with the other events.

At the conclusion of the course the national coaches (**James Morris, Simeon Cairns** and **Helen Codlin**) met to confirm future directions and the requirements needed to fulfil this direction towards 2006.

Ultimately the career path for New Zealand coaches will extend one further level and will incorporate the Coaching New Zealand Level Three Course.

☒☒



Coaches gather for the Level 2 coaching course

New Board Member

Graeme Muller was appointed to the TTNZ Board at its September meeting. As an independent non table tennis member, he brings fresh ideas and strategy specialization to the sport.



Graeme is currently IDC New Zealand's Research Manager for IT Services, Software and Solutions. His work includes coverage of the uptake of IT applications along with the adoption of emerging or alternative delivery models such as hosting solutions, utility computing, and business process outsourcing services. Prior to IDC he was with a subsidiary of Lion-Nathan, where he was involved in software solutions for sports. He has an MBA majoring in Strategy and Entrepreneurial Management, and also holds a Pharmaceutical degree and a post-graduate diploma in Marketing.

Graeme is married to Andrea Molloy and lives in Auckland. He tells us that after a run-in with a hockey stick and resulting surgery he has turned to triathlons to keep fit.

He has some innovative ideas which include generating more external finance and growing the number of registered members through alliances and a business focused approach. "TTNZ's job is to support, develop and grow the sport of table tennis," he said. "I am really excited about being involved as almost everyone I know has played table tennis at some point in their life."

Welcome aboard, Graeme.

National Office Changes

Averil Roberts – New Administration Officer

After a relatively short period on a part time basis in the TTNZ national office Averil is now full time Administration Officer.

Averil is well known throughout table tennis circles in New Zealand and has played the sport for many many years, travelling to Championships within our own country and overseas. She has played in numerous Veteran tournaments around the world.

She is a qualified international umpire, having officiated at many championships - notably the Commonwealth Games in Manchester last year (see *TT INFO* Oct 2002), and the World Championships this year.

Prior to taking up the permanent office position she was Convenor of the National Selection Panel and Secretary of the Umpires and Referees Committee.

Early this year she passed an advanced international umpire's examination and after a series of assessments will be eligible for appointment to an elite panel being set up from which umpires for all the world's top events will be chosen.



Averil started playing table tennis as a teenager in Christchurch and in the 1970's moved to Lower Hutt where she joined the Waterloo club and later helped husband Steve set up a new club in Belmont with former NZ Champion Gary Murphy. She soon became highly competitive in age-group events throughout New Zealand and in Australia and is now one of the top players in her age-group in Australasia.

She has been secretary of several national championship organising committees, is a former President of the Hutt Valley Association (now merged with Wellington), and has served a term on the Management Committee of the New

Zealand Association.

Her presence in the national office is a major asset for table tennis in New Zealand.

Sabine Westenra

The new part timer at the office is Sabine, who brings with her considerable table tennis playing experience and office skills. Her function as a back up to the Administration Officer was quickly utilised as no sooner had the office routine been interrupted by the World Junior Circuit and NZ Champs recently, than Averil was off overseas to the Australian Veterans Championships, a trip planned some time ago.

Sabine (nee Koestel) was born in Germany and started playing table tennis at the age of 12. Prior to emigrating to New Zealand in 1991 she played in the German National 3rd division team of DJK Rueppurr and then for the 2nd division team of TSG Heidelberg. Her first club in NZ was Avonside in Christchurch and after moving north she joined the Empire club in Hutt Valley.

She has represented Hutt Valley/Wellington at 10 nationals, winning the women's teams title

twice. She also represented New Zealand from 1994 -1996.

Just recently she won the Over 35 Women's Singles and Doubles (with Raewyn Young) at the NZ Open Championships.

Her working career has been in the IT industry as a programmer.



KIWI VETERANS RETURN FROM AUSTRALIA WITH THE SILVERWARE

After performing creditably for several years in the Over 50 Women's team event at the Australian Veterans Championships, our New Zealand players excelled themselves this year to return home proudly wearing silver medals. **Val Beaver** (North Harbour), **Averil Roberts** (Wellington), **Lynley Barker** (Canterbury), supported in the doubles by captain **Janice Stead** (Canterbury), secured their second placing after a great win over Victoria. Only undefeated South Australia denied them the "goldware" with a 7-4 win in the deciding contest.

Six keen stalwarts from NZ ventured to Adelaide in mid-October to enjoy these championships which were of a very high playing standard.

Good Individual Performances

Averil, fresh (?) from her umpiring and other duties at the recent World Junior Circuit & NZ Championships, and on top of her workload as TTNZ Administration Officer (recently taken over – refer article on opposite page), did well to progress beyond section play in the O50 women's singles. She lost in the 2nd round of the knockout phase to the eventual runner-up in a very close 7 game match. Both Val Beaver and Lynley Barker (Canterbury) also won their sections, but lost their first knockout matches.

In quite a large Mixed Doubles field it seemed strange that Val and Averil, two of only four Kiwis in the event, met each other in the first round. Val, with partner L Sandmark of Sweden, won the match and also the next round before falling to the eventual runners-up. One would have thought, regardless of draw-making rules, that such a first round matching could have been avoided. Lynley, with her Australian partner **Ken Cole** (well known to NZ Veterans), succumbed in the third round.

In the Over 50 Merit List Val was 5th and Averil 7th.

Ron Garrett (Southland) competed in the Men's Over 50 events but regrettably was eliminated in the section play of the singles and the first round of the doubles. In the Over 65 and 70 competition, **Irene Kent** (Canterbury) reached the semi-finals of the doubles to pick up a bronze medal, and, after winning her section, lost in the first knockout round of the Over 65 singles. In the Presidents team (with an Australian), she finished 5th out of 8 in the Over 70 teams event, and was 5th in the Over 70 Merit List.

All in all, a tough competition for the Kiwis.

Full results on: users.senet.com.au/~bevjames/2003Vets/Results.htm



Bright Young Colts and Fillies in the Karen Li Stable

By DENNIS GALVIN

New Zealand's top residential table tennis player, Karen Li, has not followed her sister Chunli as an overseas professional, but has made just as big an impact.

Karen is combining her university studies with coaching and is getting more hands-on each year. Her game has slipped because of a lack of intense practice and play, but she is happy to accept that sacrifice when one of her stable has success.

Three times a week at the North Harbour Table Tennis Stadium she spends an hour or so with a group of six talented young players aged 10 – 14, all of whom have already made their marks in junior tournaments.....but, as Al Jolson said, "You ain't seen nothin' yet".

Karen has taken her professionalism on the tables to the practice sessions. The trainees go through their routines, neatly turned out in their Donic gear, while Karen patrols the tables, encouraging, correcting and discussing the finer points of the game with her young charges.

A visit from Karen would benefit any association. She is still in her 20's but with a passion for the game that clearly projects into the group.

Watch for these names in the future:

Steven Zeng was 12 on September 15, attends Bucklands Beach Intermediate. He hopes to go on to McLean's High School, and his school marks are "OK". He has been in New Zealand for two years and began table tennis when he was 8.

Terry Zeng was 11 on September 19, attends Pigeon Mountain Primary School and will follow his brother, Steven, to Bucklands Beach Intermediate. He began table tennis when he was 6.

Ethan Luo was 12 on June 29, attends Bucklands Beach Intermediate, after arriving in New Zealand nearly two years ago. He began table tennis four years ago.

Sophie Shu was 14 on May 2 and is in her second year at Epsom Girls Grammar. She has been in NZ for five years and was 9 when she began table tennis. Sophie was a promising violinist but quit when she lost interest.

Helen (Haorong) Chen was 11 on August 2 and arrived in NZ less than a year ago. A penholder, she started table tennis when 6. She attends Kelston Primary School, has a passion for art and would like to become proficient with the mouth organ.

Hanson (Haozhi) Ling is a left-hander and will be 11 on December 4. He left China two years ago and has been playing table tennis for five years, but had a break for a year on arriving in NZ.



From rear: **Karen Li** (coach), **Sophie Shu**, **Steven Zeng**, **Ethan Luo**, **Terry Zeng**, **Helen Chen**, inset: **Hanson Ling**.

He had a year at New Lynn Primary and is now in the same class as cousin Helen Chen at Kelston Primary. The cousins play mixed doubles together. Hanson would choose a violin if he did not perform as a table tennis player.

All the players train hard, yet are not averse to a bit of hi-jinks. Terry belies his on-table ability with an extraordinarily happy attitude, always smiling, giving his mates a bit of cheek and taking the mickey. On the table he has a remarkable table tennis brain. I overheard some of his much older opponents talking tactics before one match in the North Island's. They worked out that a high-bouncing return would put an attacking shot out of the reach of the 1.40m Terry. It took him about three shots to step a couple of paces back and hammer them away for winners.

Helen, another friendly smiler, puts so much energy into a fast attacking game that her pig-tails fly all over the place. She is headed for high honours.

Sophie Shu previously played in Manawatu and was already an accomplished player before joining the Karen Li school.



OBITUARY

KEVIN IAN THOMAS



At the tragically early age of 58, former TTNZ Administration Officer Kevin Thomas passed away on 6 November, 2003, after a brief illness.

Kevin came to the national office in October, 2001 - following on from John Kiley. Although not experienced in the ways of TT administration, he came with an abundance of sports knowledge and office experience. He had played table tennis in the Hutt Valley for many years.

One could not be anything but impressed with the way he "got into it" at the office and learnt about the intricacies of table tennis administration over a period of time. He took on board all aspects of the job, negotiating his way through a maze of many one-off functions throughout his two years in the position. He had started on a programme of upgrading the office equipment by obtaining grants.

He pushed for part time back up, resulting in Averil Roberts being employed - a move that ironically and unfortunately proved so correct so soon, when sadly he had to give up the position due to ill health.

TT INFO and all members extend condolences to Kevin's daughter Jo-Ann and his wider family.

Awards Announced.

Table Tennis New Zealand have announced the following awards for 2003:

Player of the Year: Aaron Li (Canterbury)

Junior of the year: Grant Gordon (Manawatu)

(This Junior award is made to the Junior nominated by Associations who in the view of the Technical Committee of TTNZ, has matched the criteria of: sportmanship, potential, dress, personality, enthusiasm, interest in club and/or association management and playing results.)

NZ Championships, 25 September - 4 October
Hosted by Table Tennis Wellington

NATIONALS GO MULTI-NATIONAL

With the field including an impressive array of world-class juniors fresh from the World Junior Circuit, the 2003 New Zealand Championships had an unmistakable international look and, as might be expected, a breathtakingly high standard of play. And it was not only the junior events – NZ's best senior players also had to contend with high-class overseas opposition.

It was tough on NZ's top players whose main goal is winning national titles (editorial on page 3 refers). But the organisers and spectators weren't complaining. A feast of top table tennis was on offer.

Title-holder **Aaron Li** (Canterbury) reached the men's final, taking six games to tame talented professional **Shane Laugesen** (Wellington), the only NZ-born player to make the semis. Korea's **Kim Bong Chul**, who had beaten Nelson's **Johnny Liang** four straight, then squared up to Li in an exciting final. Li won the first game but Kim prevailed in the next four, two of them very close.

In the women's final **Karen Li** (North Harbour) was unable to contain Australia's **Miao Miao**, losing two games to four.

Although our juniors were predictably outclassed, many appreciated the opportunity to face top international opposition right here in New Zealand. New Zealand players had the field to themselves in the veteran events. A full list of title winners appears on page 20 and team results are on page 24.

It was the first New Zealand Championships to be held in Wellington city for nearly 40 years, although there have been several in neighbouring Hutt Valley (now merged with Wellington). The venue was the stylish Queens Wharf Events Centre, right in the centre of the city. Most playing conditions (floor, tables, etc) were good but, regrettably, lighting was suspect beyond the main feature tables - a deficiency commented on by TTNZ Liaison Officer **Bryan Keane** in his report to the Board. He also mentioned the limited range and high cost of cafeteria fare, and expressed regret at some inconsistent refereeing decisions. He recommended that medals and trophies should be presented to team event winners in the future. There have been trophies in the past, but not medals.

The report complimented those responsible for media and internet publicity, declared the standard of dress above average, and was generous in its overall summing up:



Men's Singles presentations
L/R: **Johnny Liang, Shane Laugesen**, (semi-finalists)
Kim Bong Chul - Korea (winner), **Aaron Li** (r/u)

*"Wellington !!!! You did a great job. Led by **Paul Escott**, your team all rallied together and with the help of **John Stapleton, Andrew Palmer and Shona Cudby**, made the WJC and NZ Nationals a roaring success. There are many unsung helpers in any such event, but to all of you I give a sincere THANK YOU on behalf of TTNZ."*

The 2004 New Zealand Championships will be hosted by Auckland TTA.



Awards from the New Zealand Open Championships

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: **Megan Stratford** (Marlborough) (also 2002 winner)

Junior Boy: **Blair Paterson** (Manawatu)

The Umpires award winners



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 and 5. Team spirit (where applicable)

Winner is: **Nathan Lowe** (Auckland) (photo left)

Bill Hurrey Cup Awarded to the Association whose players win the most titles in the Junior Championships.

This years winners: **North Harbour and Auckland** (joint winners).

Arthur Meachen Memorial Cup Awarded to the association whose players win the most titles in the Senior Championships.

This years winner: **Canterbury**.

2003 New Zealand Inter-Schools Championships Hosted by Table Tennis Wellington, 20-21 September

HUTT VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL WINS

The A Grade Open final of the NZ Secondary Schools Championship was captured narrowly 4-3 by Hutt Valley High School in a long tense affair during which **Nathan Lowe** (St Kentigern College) sustained a finger injury. **Simon Buchanan** (HVHS) was in outstanding form, winning his three matches. For Hutt Valley High the result was particularly satisfying - they had been runner-up for the past three years.

A field of 25 teams (17 secondary and 8 primary/intermediate) took part in the inter-schools event, held at the Empire Club in Petone and managed by **Alan Costley** and **Richard Lee**.

14 schools were represented, but from only four associations with several associations active in junior development absent. *Is this of serious concern?* There was a nil South Island entry.

All teams enjoyed plenty of play over two busy days. After three qualifying contests the secondary teams were divided into two grades and round-robins played. The primary/intermediate teams competed in one section.

Since its inception the Secondary Schools contest has been divided into an Open Championship (boys, girls, and mixed teams), and a Girls Championship. The Girls section was won by Rotorua Girls High School. Spearheaded by their Thailand exchange student **Pat Piya-Anant**, they beat St Orans College (Lower Hutt) 5-2 in the final.

Hutt Intermediate dominated the primary/intermediate championship, fielding four teams and finishing first, second and third. **Martin Leon** was the outstanding player.

Winning teams were:

Secondary

A Grade Open

Hutt Valley High School No 1 (Simon Buchanan, Vance Kelly, Hayden Tapp)

B Grade Open

Kelston Boys High School No 1 (Peter Li, Sasha Antropov, John Alofae)

Girls

Rotorua Girls High School (Phulphat Piya-Anant, Tania Christie, Maryke Kemp)

Primary/Intermediate Open

Hutt Intermediate No 1 (Martin Leon, Junou Huang, Ignacio Leon)

New Zealand Open Results

Wellington

<u>Open</u>	<u>Winner</u>	<u>Singles Runner Up</u>
Men's Singles	Kim Bong Chul (KOR)	Aaron Li (C)
Women's Singles	Miao Miao (AUS)	Karen Li (NH)
Men's Doubles	Kim Bong Chul & Y Lin (KOR/C)	
Women's Doubles	Jiang Yang & Miao Miao (C/AUS)	
Mixed Doubles	A Li & M Chun (C)	
<u>B Grade</u>		
Men's Singles	Jared Smith (W)	Nathan Lowe (A)
Women's Singles	Jacqui Wood (C)	Lynnette Bellamy (WK)
Men's Doubles	C McLauchlan & J Smith (W)	
Women's Doubles	J Hung & J Wood (C)	
<u>C Grade</u>		
Men's Singles	Bernd Weiher (C)	Tianlun Chen (A)
Women's Singles	Kelly Samson (C)	Armindeep Singh (WK)
Men's Doubles	B Weiher & T Wille (C/NH)	
Women's Doubles	S Ho & A Singh (AWK)	
<u>Over 55 years</u>		
Men's Singles	William Weinstock (A)	Chip Eade (WT)
Women's Singles	Val Beaver (NH)	Pauline Bennyworth (WK)
Men's Doubles	B McConnochie & W Weinstock (W/A)	
Women's Doubles	V Beaver & P Bennyworth (NH/WK)	
Mixed Doubles	B McConnochie & V Beaver (W/NH)	

Over 45 years

Men's Singles Geoff Rau (CM)
 Women's Singles Val Beaver (NH)
 Men's Doubles I Talbot & L Ward (W)
 Women's Doubles V Beaver & A Roberts (NH/W)
 Mixed Doubles W Weinstock & A Roberts (A/W)

Over 35 years

Men's Singles Malcolm Darroch (C)
 Women's Singles Sabine Westenra (W)
 Men's Doubles M Darroch & A Pedley (C/MN)
 Women's Doubles S Westenra & R Young (W)
 Mixed Doubles A Pedley & R Young (MN/W)

Under 21 years

Men's Singles Johnny Liang (N)
 Women's Singles Stephanie Sang (AUS)
 Men's Doubles J Cordue & Y Lin (C)
 Women's Doubles S Sang & C Zhang (AUS)
 Mixed Doubles J Liang & Sun Yang (N/BP)

Under 19 years

Boys' Singles Takanori Shimoyama (JPN)
 Girls' Singles Stephanie Sang (AUS)
 Boys' Doubles Y Mizuno & T Shimoyama (JPN)
 Girls' Doubles S Sang & C Zhang (AUS)
 Mixed Doubles B Chen & E Zhang (NH)

Under 17 years

Boys' Singles Taku Takakiwa (JPN)
 Girls' Singles Shiho Sugimoto (JPN)
 Boys' Doubles H Oya & T Takakiwa (JPN)
 Girls' Doubles M Okamoto & S Ono (JPN)
 Mixed Doubles Tse Ka Chun & Yu Kwok See (HKG)

Under 15 years

Boys' Singles Aniket Koparkar (IND)
 Girls' Singles Salankara Mahalanobish (IND)
 Boys' Doubles D Karia & A Koparkar (IND)
 Girls' Doubles A Bodas & S Mahalanobish (IND)
 Mixed Doubles D Karia & S Mahalanobish (IND)

Under 13 years

Boys' Singles Terry Zeng (A)
 Girls' Singles Jenny Hung (C)
 Boys' Doubles E Luo & T Zeng (A)
 Girls' Doubles J Hung & J MacAskill (C/S)
 Mixed Doubles T Zeng & Chen Ying Qing (A/NH)

Winner

Singles Runner Up

Robert Blair (CM)
 Averil Roberts (W)

Alan Pedley (MN)
 Raewyn Young (W)

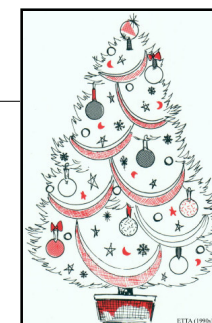
Andy Huang (A)
 Sun Yang (BP)

Yuya Mizuno (JPN)
 Claire Zhang (AUS)

Hidetoshi Oya (JPN)
 Yuka Ishigaki (JPN)

Devesh Karia (IND)
 Ashlesha Bodas (IND)

Matthew Lowe (A)
 Alexandra Heraclide (NCL)





Under 15 Boys C Grade teams
L/R: Wgton: **Mathew Chan-Goldstein, Junou Huang, Shane Hazelwood**
Otago (Winners) **William Sew Hoy, Jonathan Dixon, Jack Butler.**



Under 15 Boys A Grade Presentation
L/R: Wellington - **Boris Trifunovich, Hayden Tapp.** Auckland - (Winners) **Matthew Lowe, Steven Zeng, Terry Zeng**



Under 13 Girls Singles
L/R: **Laura Arnaud, Jenny Hung** (winner), **A Heraclide** (runner up)

Right:

Under 13
Girls Doubles
Winners

**Jenny Hung
& Jessica
MacAskill**



FROM THE NZ CHAMPIONSHIPS



Paul Escott presenting the Over 45
Women's team shield to
Val Beaver & Pauline Bennyworth.



Left: Under 15 Girls A Grade Teams presentation
L/R: North Harbour - back: **Jenny Chu, Megan Lee,**
front: **Helen Chen, Doris Chen**
Right - Canterbury (winners) - L/R: **Cathy Wu, Jenny Hung, Kirsten Wallace.**



Above: B Grade Men's Singles
L/R: **Jared Smith** (winner)
& **Robert Chung** (a semi-finalist)



Over 45 Mens Team Shield winners L/R:
Kevin Fogarty & Dave Scott (North
Harbour)



A View of the Events Centre - Wellington

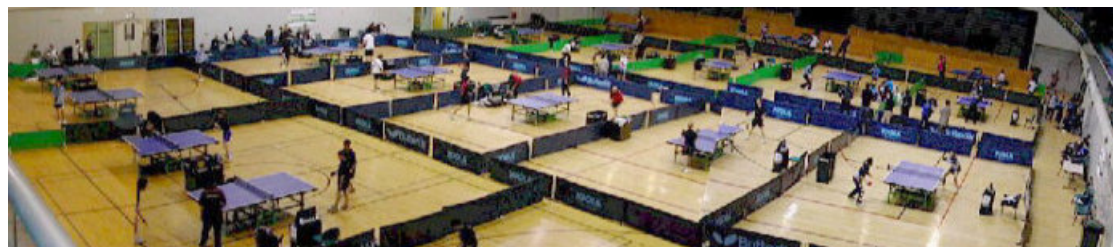


Above: Open Mixed Doubles Presentation
L/R: **Chen Wu, Simon Wallace, Andy Huang, Aaron Li, Johnny Liang, & Sun Yang.**

Winners were: **Aaron Li & Mi Ryung Chun**
(Absent: Mi Ryund Chun & Miao Miao)

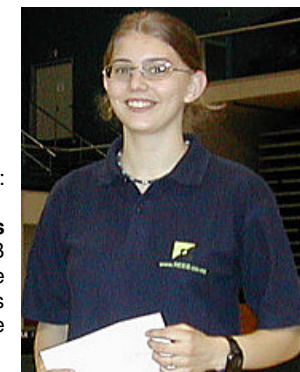


Glenn Haszard
Winner Men's Singles
Over 55 Plate



Right:

Katie Roddis
Winner B
Grade
Women's
Plate



NZ Open - Teams Results

Open Men		Junior	
A grade	Canterbury 1	Boys under 19 A grade	Auckland 1
B grade	Manawatu	Boys under 19 B grade	North Harbour
C grade	Otago	Girls under 19 A grade	Canterbury
Open Women		Boys under 15 A grade	Auckland 1
A grade	North Harbour	Boys under 15 B grade	Auckland 2
Veteran		Boys under 15 C grade	Otago
Over 45 men	North Harbour	Boys under 15 D grade	North Harbour
Over 45 women	North Harbour	Girls under 15 A grade	Canterbury
Over 55 men	Wellington 1		

New Service Rule – Some Clarification

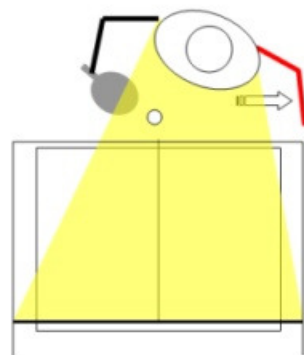
Here is some further clarification from the ITTF web site (www.ittf.com) on Rule 2.6.4 (the new service rule) from the ITTF Rules Committee Chairman, Rudi Sporrer, decided at the 2003 AGM in Paris:

The Rule

2.6.4 From the start of service until it is struck, the ball shall be above the level of the playing surface and behind the server's end line, and it shall not be hidden from the receiver by any part of the body or clothing of the server or his doubles partner; **as soon as the ball has been projected, the server's free arm shall be removed from the space between the server's body and the net.**

Where ??

The space between the server's body and the net? is the **imaginary vertical four-sided column** defined by the farthest parts of the **net posts** and the 2 parts of the server's trunk (= body except head legs and arms) being **farthest left** and **farthest right** relating to his end line (see shaded area of the attached diagram).



When ??

The **free arm** (= the arm connected to the free hand as in 2.5.6) has to be **removed** from the space described above at **the moment the ball leaves the free hand** and has to **remain outside** this space **until the ball is struck**.

Origins of Table Tennis:

FOREHAND originally meant an advantage, and was probably derived from real tennis, where there is a distinct advantage attached to being on the forehand side of the court during play. Shakespeare uses the word in this sense in "Troilus and Cressida", referring to Achilles as "the sinew and forehead of our host", and in "Henry V", where he writes about the "forehand and vision of a king".

BRAVE PERFORMANCES BY NEW ZEALANDERS AT WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

New Zealanders performed well at the World Individual Championships in Paris last May. Li Chunli, Karen Li, Andrew Hubbard, Peter Jackson and Shane Laugesen all competed, with support from Helen Codlin (sports code analyst and coach) and Simeon Cairns (coach).

On arrival in Paris Simeon Cairns visited the Beauchamp Club where Andrew Hubbard and Shane Laugesen play as professionals. Both are highly regarded within the club as they strive to improve their game technically, and train hard with juniors as part of their contract. The club coach believed Shane to be in the mold of former top Swedish player Michael Appelgren.

New Zealand Performances

Simeon provided the following accounts of three outstanding matches featuring NZ players:

Andrew Hubbard v Konstantinos Papageorgiou (Greece)

Andrew, with huge vocal support from members of his club, had a tremendous battle with Papageorgiou, ranked 50 places higher. Andrew won many points with forehand topspins, bringing back memories of the 1998 NZ Open final with Aaron Li. He actually held match point in the 6th game before being defeated 11-6, 4-11, 8-11, 14-12, 11-7, 10-12, 14-16. Papageorgiou went on to beat former World and Olympic Champion Jan-Ove Waldner (Sweden) in the first round of the main draw. Andrew finished 2nd in his group.

Chunli & Karen Li v Ana-Marie & Silvija Erdelji (Yugoslavia)

Showing a lot of fight and composure, Chunli and Karen beat these two choppers 11-7, 11-8, 9-11, 13-11, 7-11, 11-8. This was a top result as the Yugoslav pair had recently reached the semi-finals of the European women's doubles. Chunli and Karen were then beaten in the last 32 by the third seeds Li Ju & Li Jia (China), managing to win a game in the best of seven match.

Li Chunli v Li Ju (China)

Chunli battled with Li Ju (China) in the last 32. After losing the first three games, Chunli played some excellent forehands to win the next three games, but unfortunately did not get a good start in the final game and was eventually beaten 5-11, 4-11, 7-11, 11-3, 15-13, 13-11, 5-11. Li Ju was runner up in the Sydney Olympics, and reached the semi-final of this tournament. She has a world ranking of 11, compared to Chunli's ranking of 50.

Singles Finals

For the first time in many years only one Chinese player reached the men's semi-final. Showing a hint of panic, team captain Cai Zhenhua bench-coached Kong Linghui only to see him defeated by Werner Schlager (photo right) of Austria. The final was an excellent spectacle with a chopper, Joo Se Kyuk (Korea), ranked 22 in the world, fighting hard against Schlager (ranked 6). There were numerous long rallies with the Austrian playing fast and slow topspins on both wings and the chopper countering with sudden forehand loop drives. However, tactical play and mental toughness brought the world title back to Europe with a great victory for Schlager.



Continued over page

JUNIOR SQUADS SELECTED

The Player Development Framework recently set up and published on the TTNZ website calls for the selection of four High Performer Squads. The criteria for selection is set out in the Player Category Profiles. On 22.10.03 the National Selectors and Coaches announced the squads listed below. Any player believing they meet the criteria to be on the list, or in a higher group, should discuss this with their Association coach and/or have a chat with the national junior coaches about where they see their table tennis going. There is no specific age limit but they will need to demonstrate their commitment by working hard at training (on and off the table), going to tournaments and getting good results.

Boys High Performer Squad:

Josh Alexandre (A), John Cordue (C), Peter Craven (A), Chris Erskine (N), Andy Huang (A), Nathan Lowe (A), Simon Wallace (C), Yi-Ching Yuen (WK), Binbin Zhu (A)

Boys Developing High Performer Squad:

Sam Allan (W), Simon Buchanan (W), Albert Cheng (NH), Michael Ho (A), Misty Jones-Middleton (W), Vance Kelly (W), Calvin Kwong (MN), Matthew Lowe (A), Malcolm Moore (C), Blair Paterson (MN), Geoffrey Smart (NH), Boris Trifunovich (W), Hayden Tapp (W), Rhys Van Stipriaan (NH), Jack Wells (N), Anthony Wilson (S), Michael Wu (A), Steven Zeng (A), Terry Zeng (A)

Girls High Performer Squad:

Jenny Hung (C), Florence Li (A), Michelle McCarthy (W), Sophie Shu (A), Hanna Squire (W), Jacqui Wood (C)

Girls Developing High Performer Squad:

Andrea Gosney (C), Sally Ho (A), Leanne Ridder (S), Katie Roddis (N), Kelly Samson (C), Armindeep Singh (WK)

World Championships - from page 25

The ITTF website quotes Schlager's reaction to the win: "It's just absolutely unbelievable. My goal was the quarter finals and perhaps a medal if everything went my way. This is just unbelievable - playing and winning in front of a crowd of 10,000 people, all going crazy. It is like a dream. Players from over a hundred and thirty countries entered the tournament, over a billion play the sport in China and I'm world champion. It's dream come true!"

The women's event was less of a story-book and more predictable with the world number one (Zhang Yining) and number two (Wang Nan), both from China, meeting in the final. Wang survived a spirited comeback attempt by Zhang. She won the first three games but Zhang drew level at 3-3 before Wang took the final game 11-5 to win the world singles crown for the third time in succession.

The Paris tournament did not include team events. The World Teams Championships now alternate with the individuals on a two-yearly basis and the next Teams Championships will be in Doha, Qatar, in March 2004.

Stop Press - Obituary We have just learned that **Neville Brightwell** died on 9th November 2003. Neville was a representative player in Canterbury for many years from the 1950's and maintained an interest table tennis throughout his life. He was part of the NZ team at the 1950 World Championships in Hungary, with John Stewart (see page 40). He was a very orthodox, graceful player with a super-consistent attacking style. We extend condolences to his family and TT Canterbury.

North Island Championships North Harbour July 2003

Open

Men's Singles
Women's Singles
Men's Doubles
Women's Doubles
Mixed Doubles

B Grade

Men's Singles
Women's Singles
Men's Doubles
Women's Doubles

C Grade

Men's Singles
Women's Singles
Men's Doubles
Women's Doubles

D Grade

Men's Singles
Women's Singles
Men's Doubles

Over 60 years

Men's Singles
Women's Singles
Men's Doubles
Mixed Doubles

Over 50 years

Men's Singles
Women's Singles
Men's Doubles
Women's Doubles
Mixed Doubles

Over 40 years

Men's Singles
Women's Singles
Men's Doubles
Women's Doubles
Mixed Doubles

Under 21 years

Men's Singles
Women's Singles
Men's Doubles
Women's Doubles
Mixed Doubles

Under 19 years

Boys' Singles
Girls' Singles
Boys' Doubles
Girls' Doubles
Mixed Doubles

Winner

Aaron Li (C)
Karen Li (NH)
A Li & S Wallace (C)
K Li & S Shu (NH/A)
A Li & M Li (C)

Ben Collins (A)
Sophie Shu (A)
S Dennis & A Morris (CM)
A Gosney & J Wood (C)

Yi-Ching Yuen (WK)
Sally Ho (A)
S Allan & B Paterson (W/MN)
S Ho & A Singh (A/WK)

Tobias Wille (NH)
Beth Tait (WR)
A Osborne & S Sue (ML/NH)

Nam Hang Lee (A)
Nellie Milich (NL)
C Eade & W Willis (WT/A)
C Eade & M Trenwith (WT)

Kheng Lai (A)
Val Beaver (NH)
K Fogarty & D Pattinson (NH)
V Beaver & J Murray (NH)
B McConnochie & P Bennyworth (W/WK)

Kevin Barry (CM)
Hilary Low (CM)
K Barry & G Rau (CM)
V Beaver & A Roberts (NH/W)
K Barry & H Low (CM)

Simon Wallace (C)
Sun Yang (BP)
M Moore & S Wallace (C)
S Ho & S Shu (WK/A)
S Wallace & Wu Chen (C)

Josh Alexandre (A)
Mornica Li (C)
J Alexandre & S Wallace (A/C)
M Li & Wu Chen (C)
S Wallace & Wu Chen (C)

Singles Runner Up

Yi-Sien Lin (C)
Sun Yang (BP)

Chen Rong (A)
Hanna Squire (W)

Thomas Fischer (NH)
Katie Stretton (NH)

Sigmund Sue (NH)
Armindeep Singh (WK)

Chip Eade (WT)
Merle Trenwith (WT)

Patrick Low (A)
Averil Roberts (W)

Geoff Rau (CM)
Lynda Simpson (CM)

Nathan Lowe (A)
Catherine Zhou (W)

Simon Wallace (C)
Wu Chen (C)

Under 17 years

Boys' Singles	Binbin Zhu (A)	Nathan Lowe (A)
Girls' Singles	Wu Chen (C)	Mornica Li (C)
Boys' Doubles	N Lowe & B Zhu (A)	
Girls' Doubles	M Li & Wu Chen (C)	
Mixed Doubles	N Lowe & Wu Chen (A/C)	

Under 15 years

Boys' Singles	Steven Zeng (A)	Hayden Tapp (W)
Girls' Singles	Sophie Shu (A)	Hanna Squire (W)
Boys' Doubles	S Zeng & T Zeng (A)	
Girls' Doubles	S Shu & H Squire (A/W)	
Mixed Doubles	S Zeng & S Shu (A)	

Under 13 years

Boys' Singles	Terry Zeng (A)	Michael Wu (A)
Girls' Singles	Sally Ho (A)	Helen Chen (NH)
Boys' Doubles	E Luo & T Zeng (A)	
Mixed Doubles	W Thomson & S Ho (W/K/A)	

North Island Championships

Press Facilities a Concern for Media Man

Former professional journalist and TTNZ Publicity Officer **Dennis Galvin** has expressed concern over a consistent lack of press facilities at national tournaments. In his dual role as Press Officer and TTNZ Liaison Officer at the 2003 North Island Championships in July he reported: "All the spare computers were hooked up to the telegraph system and I had to send out copy by hand-writing stories and results and have them re-typed on the office computer to send to news outlets.... for too long we seem to have accepted a negative result as normal and little is done at any national tournaments to disseminate news or even appreciate the need for a fully-equipped press office."

His other concerns at the North Island event included the number of balls damaged, some breaking clean in half; reluctance by players and officials to adhere to rules regarding clothing; and the decision to mail certificates to winners rather than print out pre-signed certificates on the spot. "We don't tell cash winners they will have to wait for the banks to open," he remarked in his report.

Dennis Galvin was generous, however, in his comments about the multiple small presentation ceremonies that took place as the tournament wound down. "Even those who left singly were given a little ceremony. This was most impressive."

The event was hosted by North Harbour TTA and the general organisation received unqualified praise: "Overall this was an expertly run tournament with the officials going out of their way to ensure timetables were adhered to, and this was accomplished in every session. Although not listed among the officials, one who pushed the events along was John Stapleton.

30 countries, 800 competitors.....

World Wheelchair Games

Christchurch 27 October – 2 November 2003

As the only ITTC-qualified NZ umpire, I was invited to be Umpire Manager for Table Tennis at these games. With three International Referees in the organising team I was confident things would run smoothly. **Steven Lee** (Australia) was the Technical Director, **David Jackson** (NZ) the Referee, and **Maurie Poole** (Australia) the Deputy Referee.

My main task prior to the Games was sourcing enough suitable Umpires. I required 20 who were either qualified by the International Table Tennis Committee for Disabled Players (ITTC), or who were prepared to attend a 3 hour seminar on the day before the start of competition with the option of sitting the ITTC exam afterwards. On arrival in Christchurch I knew I had only 13 definite Umpires. **Chris Ford** did a great job chasing up more for me from Canterbury.

The Umpires were invited on a volunteer basis, meaning that their travel and accommodation costs were to be self funded. I was extremely lucky to have 6 Japanese women who were all qualified, plus 3 from Australia, also qualified, and **Val Scarr** (Wairarapa) - all volunteering.

On the morning of the 27th we attended the Opening Ceremony and marched with the New Zealand team and about 800 competitors from 30 countries. Also marching were **Barry Wynks** (Manawatu) and **Peter Horne** (Hutt Valley) - both table tennis players but in this event competing in the Lawn Bowls where they won gold in the triples.

Later that day I conducted the Umpires Seminar in conjunction with Maurie Poole. I was very nervous as it was my first, but it all went off very well with many positive comments.

Competition commenced on Tuesday 28th with Open Singles and Doubles, followed by Team events and then Class Singles and Doubles. Wheelchair athletes are grouped into 5 classes depending on their degree of disability. About 60 took part in the table tennis - unfortunately none from NZ but two from Australia including **Joy Boyd** who our veterans have come up against many times. She can now only play from a wheelchair.

I thoroughly enjoyed my week with all the people involved in the tournament. These competitors never fail to amaze me and the standard of play was very high – a few I would not like to compete against! I was invited to the Closing Dinner along with the other Officials. What a great evening. Excellent dinner and band, and wonderful to see all the competitors from so many countries having such a good time. I warned David Jackson beforehand that the athletes would be dancing in their wheelchairs. Don't think he believed me then but does now. Somehow **Raina McKechnie** (Canterbury) and I ended up on the dance floor with them!

Thanks to all the Umpires for making this tournament work: the Japanese, Australians, and Val Scarr - and to all the local Umpires and Volunteers who helped out as ball people at various times as well. **Jenny Hung** and some of the junior Canterbury boys were excellent as ball people and helping in various other roles.

Congratulations to **David Jackson, Val Scarr, Alan Moore, Brien Halpin** and **Kenji Okamoto** for passing their ITTC exam.

Well done everyone involved.

Averil Roberts

Letter to the Editor

More on Nets and Edges

After reading in your last issue an interesting letter called "Nets and Edges" from a fellow Cantabrian and after giving it a little thought I decided its proposals needed a modicum of support.

I feel the changes it suggests are going a bit far. Removing nets and edges from our game would remove the laws of chance and some skill by a small number of players who have honed their game to get the odd net or edge. This last sentence may be scoffed at by many, but in this person's memory there is the experience of an opponent from twenty years ago whose serve was based on obtaining an edge, which he sometimes achieved more often than not, to the dismay of yours truly. In the writer's opinion there are two ways the problem can be looked at constructively. The first is looking at the equipment - ie drop the net in proportion to the increased size of the ball or take the ball back to its original size. The other: instead of removing all nets and edges, it would sensible to bring in a law which prevents a net or edge winning a game or a match. But to adopt Mr Halpin's views would create a sort of calamity to our game which none of us want.

Before the inspiration goes, here is something else for examination. The game of table tennis would benefit greatly if the points system was extended to 15 with the two service rule. This would allow a little extra time to sort out a player's style and would give a more exiting struggle for player and spectator alike.

Remember every game has its element of luck, like the bounce of a rugby ball.

Bruce Gloistein



Outdoor Table Tennis

by Glenn Tepper (ITTF Development Officer)

The International Table Tennis Federation is constantly searching for means to expand our great sport of table tennis.

Outdoor table tennis is currently quite popular in many countries. However, suitable equipment hasn't yet been devised to truly popularise the sport outdoors. Countries such as China have concrete tables widely spread in schools and parks but we are now looking for some innovative thinking. To make the next step, several areas need to be addressed.

- Balls currently used are too light and wear out too quickly.
- Rackets and rubbers need to be more durable to cater to the conditions and the likelihood of a heavier ball while still maintaining control.
- Tables: whilst concrete tables are a solid multi-purpose answer, a simple outdoor design that is cost effective and long lasting is being sought.

Continued bottom page 31 >>



Margaret Cataslis (nee Hoar)

A near impenetrable defence, tenacity, patience, determination and a strong will to win bought 7 national Singles titles and the 1957 Australian women's singles and doubles titles.

Some matches were rather lengthy, with perhaps the most famous (or infamous) being in 1955, during an inter-association team contest against Mrs J Prisk (nee Cox) which took 2 hr and 31 min when the match was stopped and the new expedite rule applied.

National Titles:

New Zealand Open

Women's Singles - 1948, 49, 50, 52, 53, 56, 57

Women's Doubles - 1949, 50, 51, 52, 56

Mixed Doubles - 1950, 51, 54, 55, 56

Girls' Singles Under 18 - 1948



Margaret
in 1950

North Island Open

Women's Singles - 1949, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 57

Women's Doubles - 1949, 50, 51, 54, 55, 57

Mixed Doubles - 1950, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 57

Girls' Singles Under 18 - 1947

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

Six players were inducted - this the last of these to be published in TT INFO.

Outdoor Table Tennis continued:

YOU CAN HELP

Table manufacturers, university research facilities, and other interested people are being called upon to assist to:

- Design, modify or create a ball that is heavier, more long lasting and larger than the current ball for outdoor use.
- Design a racket that can be used with the heavier ball, maintains control and has a simple and cost effective design.
- Design a table for outdoor use that is weather resistant, heavy duty, long lasting and cost effective.

Any ideas? Forward any thoughts to TTNZ and we will relay them to Glenn - **Editor**

Coach Wins Scholarship, for the Second Time

Less than three years ago table tennis coach **Helen Codlin** was working at a modest level with young Hawkes Bay players and implementing local development programmes. Since then she has coached and managed a NZ junior team to China, studied and operated a computer programme for video analysis of match-play, and attended the 2002 Commonwealth Games. She is now regarded as one New Zealand's top coaches and technical analysts.

Earlier this year she was awarded her second \$10,000 Prime Minister's Coaching Scholarship (the first had financed her trip to the Commonwealth Games), which enabled her to:

- attend the 8th International Table Tennis Federation Sports Science congress in Paris - a three day conference run jointly with the World Congress of Racket Sports
- attend the Paris 2003 World Individual Championships with the NZ team as a coach and operator of the Sportscode Pro Video Analysis software
- meet former TTNZ Director of Coaching **Peter Hirst** in England and study the English Level 2 and 3 coaching syllabus
- attend a Level 2 ITTF coaching course in Wellington prior to the World Junior Circuit

She has now completed these assignments and *Table Tennis Info* summarises her detailed report to TTNZ:

The Sports Science congress was highly technical and ranged from junior squad development to the characteristics of sandwich rubber.

Although she had previously attended the Commonwealth Games, she found the World Championships a breathtaking experience. "The table tennis was amazing," she said. "Extremely quick around the table with incredible anticipation to be able to just get to the ball, let alone return it strongly and to the player's advantage. All players at this level have 'a lot of guts'. Even at crucial points they continue to attack aggressively - building the rally by concentrating on spin and placement rather than hitting 'winners'. "Le mental qui fait la difference!"

"Very few balls were placed in the middle of the table! Balls hit long were nearly always in white line country, short balls were very short. Anything that was placed in the middle was quickly taken advantage of."

Helen was photographed with some of the world's best. Women's world champion **Wang Nan** showed considerable interest in Helen's unusual technical role.

Two Sports

In England Helen was able to study coaching methods in not just one sport, but two.

"Since submitting the programme for the Prime Minister's Scholarship, Peter Hirst had changed jobs to become High Performance Director for England Squash. I was able to sit in on a couple of strategy meetings with Peter and his boss, as well as with one of the regional development officers. This was very interesting given the Player Development Framework that Murray Finch and I had been working on and had just put in place, because what I heard was consistent with the philosophy, structure and expectations that we were developing for table tennis in New Zealand.



Helen Codlin and Wang Nan. "She was perplexed about my role there!"

However, while both England Squash and Table Tennis had both suffered significant losses of funding, they are still operating on a budget far in excess of the funding available to TTNZ.

"Peter took me through the Level 2 and 3 coaching syllabus that he had developed for Table Tennis England. The key message was that when you are coaching young players you need to provide a training environment where they can unconsciously link the action with the result. For example on a simple forehand drive exercise, after the target is hit it is moved to another place in the forehand area. The player then needs to adapt the stroke in order to place the ball in the new target area. A player can achieve success at this exercise without being told how to do it. Similarly, if a player is pushing through the ball on a forehand drive, the target could be moved to a wide forehand position to encourage the correct brushing stroke without telling the player the technical details of the stroke itself."

Putting it all to Work

On returning to New Zealand Helen joined about 20 other NZ coaches at the Level 2 ITTF Coaching Course in Wellington, run by **Mikael Andersson**. It pulled together a lot of what she had been told over the years either as a player or as a coach and what she has been learning from working alongside experienced coaches. "It helped me crystallise what the game of table tennis, and coaching table tennis, is all about."

Helen summarised the whole experience: "I feel very privileged to have received another Prime Minister's scholarship and to have the opportunity to experience top class table tennis and the advice of various top class coaches.

"All aspects of this programme have contributed greatly to my coaching development and I would like to thank TTNZ for their continued support.

"I believe there is an increasing alignment of players, coaches and officials in New Zealand at the moment and this is putting table tennis in a very strong position for future development. I encourage everyone to take ownership and responsibility for the success of New Zealand table tennis at any level that you may choose and to be proud of your contribution."



Smartly Uniformed Umpires in attendance at the NZ Open & WJC Events

L/R: back - **Jim Jarmin, Bryan Keane, Richard Ammundsen, Val Scarr, Malcolm Wong, Paul Escott, Steve Crow, George Woo, Alan Moore.**
Front: **Bob Hurr, Michael McAvinue, Bruce Penberthy, Averil Roberts, Ron Wells.**



Rankings for 2003

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

Men

1. Aaron Li (Canterbury)
2. Peter Jackson (Overseas-based)
3. Andrew Hubbard (Overseas-based)
4. Shane Laugesen (Overseas-based)
5. Andy Huang (Auckland)
6. Peter Craven (Auckland)
7. Simon Wallace (Canterbury)
8. Malcolm Darroch (Canterbury)
9. Yi-Sien Lin (Canterbury)
10. Binbin Zhu (Auckland)

Under 19 Boys

1. Andy Huang (Auckland)
2. Simon Wallace (Canterbury)
3. Josh Alexandre (Auckland)
4. Binbin Zhu (Auckland)
5. Nathan Lowe (Auckland)
6. Simon Buchanan (Wellington)
7. Anthony Wilson (Southland)
8. Calvin Wong (Manawatu)
9. Vance Kelly (Wellington)
10. Malcolm Moore (Canterbury)

Under 15 Boys

1. Binbin Zhu (Auckland)
2. Chris Erskine (Nelson)
3. Blair Paterson (Manawatu)
4. Matthew Lowe (Auckland)
5. Hayden Tapp (Wellington)
6. Boris Trifunovich (Wellington)
7. Michael Ho (Auckland)
8. Ben Graham (Wellington)
9. Luke Tough (Canterbury)
10. Jack Chaney (Canterbury)

Women

1. Li Chunli (Overseas-based)
2. Karen Li (Manawatu)
3. Raewyn Young (Wellington)
4. Sabine Westenra (Wellington)
5. Sophie Shu (Auckland)
6. Hanna Squire (Wellington)
7. Jenny Hung (Canterbury)
8. Sarah Ho (Waikato)
9. Jacqui Wood (Canterbury)
10. Lynette Bellamy (Waikato)

Under 19 Girls

1. Sophie Shu (Auckland)
2. Hanna Squire (Wellington)
3. Sarah Ho (Waikato)
4. Jacqui Wood (Canterbury)
5. Florence Li (Auckland)
6. Michelle McCarthy (Wellington)
7. Katie Roddis (Nelson)
8. Kelly Samson (Canterbury)
9. Leanne Ridder (Southland)

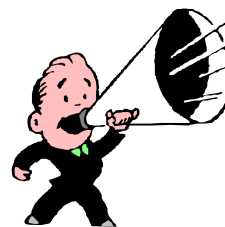
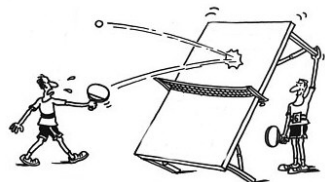
Under 15 Girls

1. Sophie Shu (Auckland)
2. Hanna Squire (Wellington)
3. Jenny Hung (Canterbury)
4. Sally Ho (Auckland)
5. Armindeep Singh (Waikato)
6. Jessica MacAskill (Southland)
7. Beth Tait (Wairarapa)
8. Kirsten Wallace (Canterbury)
9. Hayley Jones (Northland)
10. Kate Ball (Manawatu)

Rating Lists

We regret we cannot publish the ratings lists, due to the fantastic support from contributors with great copy.

The lists are available at: <http://www.tabletennis.org.nz>



Reporting briefly.....

Alan Pedley was appointed Player Liaison Officer at the last Board meeting. His role is as an avenue to enable players to put their concerns and suggestions to the Board and in turn for the Board to seek player input.

Alan can be contacted at: apedley@inspire.net.nz or in person at tournaments etc.

Sarah Sandley, former top NZ player and TTNZ Board member has been appointed to the Board of Sport & Recreation New Zealand (SPARC). She joins new Board member Christopher Doig.

Paddy Field of Wairarapa has presented a trophy in memory of her late husband, Les, to an event at the NZ Veterans Championships. The Board is investigating the event for which it can be used.

Graeme Muller (new Board member) attended a meeting with representatives from Squash, Badminton and Tennis, to look into the possibilities of centralised administration and computer services.

The Board is also looking at the possibility of a **joint magazine** with other racquet sports, with a view to achieving wider distribution and no doubt some cost savings.

New Zealand Umpire Joins Elite Group

Earlier in the year **Averil Roberts** passed an advanced International Umpires examination and is now certain to be placed on an exclusive list of umpires from which officials for all major world events will be selected. International Umpires from this "Blue Badge" group will officiate at all World Championships, Olympic Games, and Pro-Tour Tournaments.

Averil's umpiring skills were recognised at the 2003 World Championships in Paris when she was appointed Assistant Umpire for the Women's Singles Final in front of an audience of 12,000.

We have been advised that the **NZ Maori Championships** is being re-established and will be held on 30-31 October 2004 in Manurewa.

The new **Umpires and Referees Committee** has been appointed. Their term is for two years up to 31/12/05. A Chairman and Secretary are yet to be chosen.

The members are **Bruce Penberthy** (Auckland), **Michael McAvinue** (Manawatu), **Alan Moore** (Canterbury) and **Val Scarr** (Manawatu).

From South to North

Marlborough

The 2003 season was another busy one for the Marlborough Association. The season started in late April at Anchor Stadium 2000 in Blenheim with junior coaching, junior competition and club nights on Tuesdays, and interclub on Thursdays.

The A Grade interclub featured 12 teams, an increase of three over last season. One of the new teams was Ward City, an enthusiastic club based 50 km from Blenheim. The winners were Redwood Tavern Warriors (**Matt Millar**, **Gary Mortimer** and **Mike Vinicombe**). Millar, a former Canterbury player who has represented the South Island, was undefeated locally.

The junior competition saw fifteen teams of 9-17 year-olds compete, with Monkeys (**Kali Stratford** and **Megan Stratford**) coming out on top. Coaching of the 7-11 year-olds was provided by **Debbie Stratford** and **Darryl Jones**.

The Marlborough Open was held in early May, with Canterbury's **Simon Wallace** and **Annie Jiang** taking out the men's and women's singles respectively. Marlborough junior **Megan Stratford** reached the women's doubles final with Canterbury's **Angela Li**. Local players **Matt Millar**, **Kath Gilchrist**, **Jeanette Stanley**, **Peter Wells**, **Darryl Jones**, **Orm Collins**, **Warren Haszard**, **Paul Scott** and **Kieran Houlker** all won titles in various grades.

The Marlborough rep side lost 43-23 to Nelson in the annual Perry Shield clash. **Debbie Stratford**, a former international, was called into action on the day of the match and performed admirably. **Kath Gilchrist**, **Megan Stratford** and **Kali Stratford** all played well, while **Matt Millar** was the pick of the men. The junior rep team lost 33-7 to Nelson in their Angel Shield clash. The Stratford sisters and **Sarah Lensen** won points for the girls while **Danny Gainford**, Marlborough's top junior, stood out for the boys.

The Marlborough Closed was held in September. Senior results were:

	<u>Winners</u>	<u>Runners-up</u>
Men's Singles	M Millar	K Thompsett
Women's Singles	J Stanley	K Gilchrist
Men's Doubles	M Millar/P Wells	M Willis/P Scott
Women's Doubles:	K Gilchrist/M Kerwin	J Stanley/J Johnson

The season wound up with the prize-giving dinner, where Most Improved Player awards went to **Gainford** and **Michele Popplewell**. **Megan Stratford** is the table tennis nominee for the Marlborough Sportsperson of the Year.

The enthusiasm of the committee and the players should ensure a busy 2004 season.

Wairarapa

OBITUARY - Peter Greenlees - A Memoir, by Harry Hainsworth

Table Tennis in New Zealand is the poorer for the recent passing of Wairarapa's Peter Greenlees, at the age of 80 after a long battle with ill health. Peter was an outstanding player, becoming Wairarapa singles champion at 15 years of age, and continuing to play a prominent part in Wairarapa Table Tennis activities for many years.

I first met Peter in 1990, when the late Greg Thomson and I started Red Star Veterans' Club. He was one of our first members - and what a man. His cheery smile and friendly attitude immediately impressed me. I felt I had made a new friend for life, which indeed I had. He was always full of fun and there was a lot of laughter and banter at the table when Peter was playing. His friendly approach and his outstanding ability made him a great asset to the club.



Peter loved to tell humorous stories about his army life and experience generally, and would often have us in stitches at morning tea time. He is greatly missed by his many friends and our heartfelt sympathy goes to his wife Jennifer and family.

Red-letter Day for Red Star (1963-2003)

On 22 September, 2003 the Red Star Table Tennis Club in Masterton turned 40.

The club's celebrations in the Red Star Combined Sports Association premises included the unveiling of portraits of its three Life Members (the late Greg Thomson, the late Les Field, and present-day Patron, Bill Willoughby). The unveiling was performed by their sons, Ray Thomson, Richard Field and Malcolm Willoughby - all active present-day players. The surviving Life Member, Bill Willoughby, is also still a playing member.

A group of foundation members assembled for a jubilee photograph and their names highlight the club's traditional "family" orientation: Stephen Williams, Ray Thomson, Shirley Corlett, Betty Thomson, Elva Craig (nee Larsen), Laurie Corlett, Trevor Thomson.

Patron Bill Willoughby remembered his early years as Club Captain. "In my first year there were 65 to 70 players in attendance one night. It certainly brought me out of my shell and stood me in good stead for the later positions I held in the club."

A Jubilee Cake in the shape of a table tennis bat (as suggested by Secretary Jason Seath), was donated by Linda Larsen and ceremonially cut by foundation member Betty Thomson, and Patron Bill Willoughby.

President Paddy Field compiled a souvenir Jubilee Booklet. "A huge thank you to everyone who documented their memories for us to record and who loaned newspaper articles and photos," she said. "I have found it most interesting researching all these, as well as old club championship records kept by my late husband, Les."

Paddy singled out the Willoughby family in acknowledging the work put into the Jubilee preparations. "Without Malcolm and Bill's help and guidance the celebrations would not have gone so well. To Louise and Joan Willoughby, a very special thank you for your hard work "behind the scenes" - not only on the day, but also for all the support you give to Malcolm and Bill during the table tennis season."

The club remains in good health and operates a Veterans club on Tuesday mornings as well as its regular evening club.



Foundation member **Betty Thomson** and Patron, **Bill Willoughby** cut the Jubilee Cake.



Taupo

In its 35 year history Taupo has been at various times an Association, a sub-association of Rotorua, a club (after Rotorua went into recess), and, since 1998, re-affiliated as an official member Association of TTNZ.

The Association was formed in July 1969 with its first meeting held at Wairakei Village hall. Mr R Glover was the first President. Interclub matches were arranged in two grades. Taupo Borough Council was one of the first clubs formed, ably run by Harry Wills and Vi Brown. Other clubs were Boot Hill, Post Office, Maori Youth Club, St Josephs, NZED Wairakei and Waitahanui.

Prior to this the keen players travelled nearly 90 kilometres to Rotorua to compete in their interclub competition with the Rotorua and District Clubs. They included Trevor Hansen, Ray Dryden, the late Lesley Calvert (nee Yeates), Noel Jones, Dave MacKersey, Fred Ming and John Penberthy.

What was to become something of a North Island institution, the Taupo Open, was introduced in September 1976. Brian Kennedy from Wellington beat Adrian Lust, also Wellington, in a very entertaining men's final. Lust went very close to being disqualified by local officials for his antics.

In 1977 the Taupo Club applied successfully to the sports and recreational centre for a grant for new tables. The same year members travelled to Auckland to play Mt Roskill, also visiting Tokoroa and Rotorua, and Napier Table Tennis Club visited Taupo. The Open tournament was well supported with a successful social.

Since its early years, table tennis in Taupo has waxed and waned. Another surge of interest occurred when the North Island Championships were held in Taupo's impressive new sports stadium in 2000, shortly after Taupo's official re-affiliation as a TTNZ member Association.

The Taupo Club now meets on Monday nights at the Hilltop Primary School in Rokino Rd. Six tables are available and visitors are most welcome. The club lacks juniors but intends to work on the local schools next season to encourage more young players.

North Taranaki

Obituaries



John Elliott

John Elliott, a familiar figure at the NZ Championships in the 1950's, 60's, 70's and early 80's, passed away last May.

His national titles included the Over 45 Men's Singles in 1973 and the Mixed Doubles (with Mary Broadbent, Wanganui) in 1974, 77, 79 and 81. He later won the Over 55 Men's Singles from 1982 to 1984, indicative of his long involvement in table tennis.

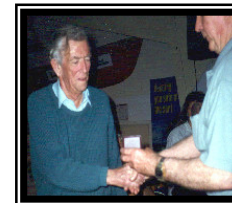
50 years ago he won the North Taranaki Open, beating his father Les in the final. Many will remember his parents, Les and Jean - also keen table tennis players and Life Members of TTNZ. They were both still competing at the NZ Championships when over the age of 80.

Sid Way

Back in our November 1998 issue we published news from North Taranaki, when they celebrated Sid Way's fifty, yes 50, years as Secretary of the Central Club in New Plymouth.

What a record!

Sadly we have to report now that Sid passed away last December and we are sure he will be sadly missed by all his friends at the club.



Waikato

Keith Fraser Honoured by his Club

Long-serving table tennis personality **Keith Fraser** was recently made a Life Member of the Cambridge BHP Table Tennis Club in the Waikato.

Keith is a foundation member of the Club and a former President. He has also represented Waikato as a player and his long administration career includes President of the New Zealand Association, President of the Waikato Association, and Tournament Manager for several national championships. He is a qualified International Umpire and a Life Member of TTNZ.

At 80 years young, Keith now occupies his time playing bowls and golf.



North Harbour

89 year old **Bert Robinson**, of Forrest Hill, sent us this poem in praise of our great game. He hopes it will encourage older players.

Our Sport

My friends at table tennis, I salute you.
Generous but strong, we never give up or get blue.
Competition is our game, and fun is our goal
But the years have rolled, and we are not so agile.
Give in? No way. It's a great game
New balls or old, whatever the name.
So thanks a million, my friend of the years
And I'll not give in, so it will not end in tears.
No! Go out with a grin and fight to the end.
Life is great, with friends like you, I'll not bend.



OBITUARY

JOHN EDWIN STEWART

(15/09/27 - 15/08/03)

John Edwin Stewart passed away on 15 August, 2003 - one month before his 76th birthday.

Not well known to present day players, John Stewart enjoyed the rare, if not unique, reputation of having represented New Zealand as a player, managed NZ teams, convened the NZ Selection Panel, directed national junior coaching schools, chaired the NZTTA executive committee, and served a term as New Zealand President.

An erect, articulate and debonair figure, he was at his most active at national level from 1955 to 1970. In this period he served on New Zealand sub-committees as varied as equipment, tours, ranking and seeding (a thankless and time-consuming role in the days before computerised records), national draws, coaching, umpiring, and selection. He chaired the national body from 1965 – 1970.

He demonstrated administrative ability from an early age, becoming a club administrator and delegate to the Wellington Association at the age of 17 and serving on the Wellington executive and managing Wellington teams by 21. At the same time he was rapidly developing into a top player with his competitive career peaking when he represented New Zealand at the World Teams Championships (Swaythling Cup), in Budapest, Hungary, in 1950. He remained one of Wellington's top players for several years but by the 1960's administration had become his chief interest.

A business transfer to Gisborne in 1970 forced him to relinquish his position on the national executive but his services were retained in other roles - he edited the NZTTA Handbook in 1973 and served a term as New Zealand President from 1972 to 1973. He was elected a TTNZ Life Member in 1981.

While living in Gisborne he coached at club level from 1971 to 1983, served 22 years (including 15 as President) on the Poverty Bay Association, represented Poverty Bay at TTNZ Annual Meetings for 16 years, and refereed the New Zealand Championships in 1978, 1980 and 1981 (in Hawkes Bay and Hutt Valley).

It should also be noted that the most active segment of this impressive table tennis career (1955-1970) spanned an era when administrative work was all voluntary, player numbers were higher, long-distance communication was laborious and expensive, and overseas teams paraded through New Zealand at a rate never seen since.

John's sporting career also included soccer, cricket, tennis, basketball and lawn bowls. He played tennis at Under 21 representative level, and became heavily involved in the administration of lawn bowls after moving to Gisborne. He is a Life Member of both the Gisborne Club and the Gisborne/East Coast Centre.

TTNZ acknowledges John's monumental contribution to sport and offers condolences to his family on behalf of all present-day table tennis players and supporters.

Compiled by **John Kiley** from Stewart family records.



Letter to the Editor

Are we ignoring the *old oldies*?

There have been some ramblings of discontent among the over-65 active tournament players who are being left out of the mix when tournament programmes are being set up.

The *Vetspeak* magazine has received a number of verbal and written complaints about the apparent lack of concern for players well advanced into their 60s or 70s.

It seems strange to them that juniors have tournaments from 11 to 21 in two year cycles yet veterans' groups are only 40, 50 & 60, except for once a year at the veterans nationals where 65, 70 & 75 groups are added.

Canterbury, Manawatu and the northern zone have significant numbers of veterans yet in provincial tournaments a 75-year old may have to play a 59 year-old and that gap is too great. Result: the 75-year old does not enter.

Associations do not put on 65 & 70 events because they say no one enters but *Vetspeak* supports those over-65ers who ask associations to keep putting the older events on. It costs nothing and eventually age will catch up with the sections.

Among those who play at the vets nationals, top players like Case de Bondt, Chip Eade, Alan Alabaster, Geoff Nesbitt and James Craig are fast moving to the 65 group.....then it is a short five years to 70, then 75.

In Australia all main tournaments have 65, 70, and 75 and veterans table tennis is extremely strong across the ditch. It could be here.

So next time you are programming your provincial tournament try the 65s and 70s. After all it would be a disaster if the vets section lost its way because it is the backbone of the sport, in playing and administration. While we are worrying so much about the loss of juniors we hope the national administration keep their eyes on the oldies.

Dennis Galvin

Origins of Table Tennis:

SERVICE is so called because the initial stroke in tennis used to carry little opportunity for tactical advantage and usually involved some effort in finding the ball; the task was therefore entrusted to a servant who performed this "service" for his lord.

Veterans Magazine



"**Vetspeak**" is produced 4 times per year by Dennis Galvin and concentrates on news of Veteran players (said to be over 40!).

It is available at \$3 per calendar year. If you haven't paid for 2003 and/or you wish to subscribe for 2004, pay up to Dennis at P O Box 21-386 Henderson Waitakere City. (Ph 09 835-0993).

Dennis's email is dennis.galvin@clear.net.nz for contributions. It is worthy of your support.

South Island Championships Christchurch August 2003

<u>Open</u>	<u>Winner</u>	<u>Singles Runner Up</u>
Men's Singles	Aaron Li (C)	Johnny Liang (N)
Women's Singles	Yuan Yuan (N)	Mi Ryung Chun (C)
Men's Doubles	A Li & S Wallace (C)	
Women's Doubles	Li Tong & Yuan Yuan (C/N)	
Mixed Doubles	J Liang & Yuan Yuan (N)	
<u>B Grade</u>		
Men's Singles	Lyndon White (C)	William Stewart (C)
Women's Singles	Jenny Hung (C)	Andrea Gosney (C)
Men's Doubles	K Samson & L White (C)	
Women's Doubles	A Gosney & J Wood (C)	
<u>C Grade</u>		
Men's Singles	Tony Young (C)	Brian Wilson (C)
Women's Singles	Sheng Chen (C)	Kirsten Wallace (C)
Men's Doubles	B Penberthy & W Willis (A)	
Women's Doubles	I Kent & A Williamson (C)	
<u>Over 60 years</u>		
Men's Singles	Chip Eade (WT)	Warren Evans (W)
Women's Singles	Alison Williamson (C)	Lindsay Van Hout (C)
Men's Doubles	C Eade & W Evans (WT/W)	
Women's Doubles	K Rouse & A Williamson (C)	
Mixed Doubles	B Penberthy & K Rouse (A/C)	
<u>Over 50 years</u>		
Men's Singles	Stephen Crow (C)	Alan Alabaster (C)
Women's Singles	Val Beaver (NH)	Lynley Barker (C)
Men's Doubles	C Eade & R Garrett (WT/S)	
Women's Doubles	V Beaver & A Roberts (NH/W)	
Mixed Doubles	D Samson & L Barker (C)	
<u>Over 40 years</u>		
Men's Singles	Malcolm Darroch (C)	Kim Hong Geun (C)
Women's Singles	Val Beaver (NH)	Averil Roberts (W)
Men's Doubles	J Fogarty & W Stewart (O/C)	
Women's Doubles	V Beaver & A Roberts (NH/W)	
Mixed Doubles	M Warren & A Roberts (C/W)	
<u>Under 21 years</u>		
Men's Singles	Johnny Liang (N)	Simon Wallace (C)
Women's Singles	Mornica Li (C)	Li Tong (C)
<u>Under 19 years</u>		
Boys' Singles	Simon Wallace (C)	Jonathan Yam (C)
Girls' Singles	Wu Chen (C)	Mornica Li (C)
Boys' Doubles	S Moore & J Yam (C)	
Girls' Doubles	M Li & Wu Chen (C)	
Mixed Doubles	S Wallace & Wu Chen (C)	
<u>Under 17 years</u>		
Boys' Singles	Jack Wells (N)	Jonathan Yam (C)
Girls' Singles	Wu Chen (C)	Mornica Li (C)
Boys' Doubles	C Erskine & J Wells (N)	
Girls' Doubles	M Li & Wu Chen (C)	
Mixed Doubles	C Erskine & Wu Chen (N/C)	

Under 15 years

Boys' Singles	Chris Erskine (N)	Luke Tough (C)
Girls' Singles	Jenny Hung (C)	Jessica MacAskill (S)
Boys' Doubles	W Pringle & L Tough (C)	
Girls' Doubles	J Hung & M Stratford (C/ML)	
Mixed Doubles	C Erskine & M Stratford (N/ML)	

Under 13 years

Boys' Singles	William Sew Hoy (O)	Richard Hornby (C)
Girls' Singles	Jenny Hung (C)	Jessica MacAskill (S)
Boys' Doubles	T Davey & R Hornby (C)	
Mixed Doubles	T Davey & J Hung (C)	

The **South Island Championships** were hosted by Table Tennis Canterbury on 22~24 August.

109 competitors took part with players as far away as Auckland making the journey. Weather-wise it was not a pleasant time for outside activities, but ideal for table tennis.

On Saturday evening approximately 100 people watched a one-sided men's final between **Aaron Li** and **Johnny Liang**. Aaron showed his class by winning four straight games. His opponent defended well with occasional flashes of brilliant hitting, but it was to no avail against the reigning New Zealand Champion.

The women's singles was comfortably won by **Yuan Yuan**, defeating **Mi Ryung Chun** (Emillia). The final between the two was almost identical to their Canterbury Open clash where Emillia, despite her solid style, lost to an attacking player whose constant barrage of smashes was almost faultless. Yuan is on holiday from her home in Italy, where she plays professionally and is rated their top woman.

In the men's doubles **Aaron Li** and **Simon Wallace** easily beat **John Cordue** and **Yi-Sien Lin**, with the latter pair never really in the match. The women's event, won by **Mornica Li** and **Yuan Yuan** over **Mi Ryung Chun** and **Linda Chen**, had more dash than the men's doubles final but the good defence and attacking play was spoiled at times by over-hitting.

There were sufficient numbers to run a reasonable tourney, but the championships were not as well attended by the TT fraternity as Table Tennis Canterbury would have liked.

Bruce Gloistein

