

## Upcoming Events

March	24-28	NZ Veteran Championships	Whangarei
April	20-21	Summer Nationals—Teams	North Harbour
	22-24	Summer Nationals—Individuals	North Harbour
April	29-6 May	World Championships	Shanghai China
May	7-8	Marlborough Open	Blenheim
June	4-5	North Harbour Open	North Harbour
	18	Hawkes Bay Open	Napier
July	8-10	North Island Open	Auckland
August	13-14	Northland Open	Whangarei
August	to be advised	South Island Open	Timaru
September	28-29	NZ Schools Championships	Christchurch
	30-8 Oct	NZ Open Championships	Christchurch

### WORLD RANKINGS

Five top rated players in NZ  
(as at 1st November 2004)

#### Women

Li Chunli	51
Karen Li	133
Anna Lee	360
Sabine Westenra	502
Jiang Yang	574

#### Men

Peter Jackson	278
Aaron Li	281
Shane Laugesen	426
Andrew Hubbard	432
Brad Chen	645

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

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# TABLE TENNIS INFO

Issue: 25

November 2004



**Change in Direction for IT Strategy  
National Coaches lack time to continue  
Lots from Around the Country  
Racketlon?????**

**Table Tennis  
appreciates  
the support  
given by:**



Where Promise becomes Performance

### Open Mixed Doubles Final New Zealand Championships - Auckland



Photo courtesy: Terry Cockfield

L/R: **Shane Laugesen** (Auck) & **Karen Li** (Nth Hb),  
**Anna Lee** (Canty) & **Seo Dong Chul** (Korea).  
Laugesen & Li won the title in 5 games.

## Moving On!



# My Serve

from James Morris

I've just been flicking through the first *TT Info Mag* (October 1996), and gee, how this magazine has come of age with its 25<sup>th</sup> edition. Without a doubt the efforts of **Robin Radford** and **John Kiley** have kept up the momentum and I do hope we see many more issues.

On the coaching side I have decided to hang up my hat after a number of years. During this time I have seen the coaching area grow from a one man band at the start of my term to the present day where TTNZ now has a team of national and regional coaches.

Looking back to when I took on the coaching role it included coach education, junior development and high performance. I was also involved in procuring funding, especially for training camps in our high performance areas such as training towards the Commonwealth Games which I deemed a priority if we were to succeed with medals.

Present plans to separate all the coaching roles is long overdue and I feel satisfied that I have had a hand in identifying this need. The coaching area in any sport plays a crucial role in future development. I believe TTNZ is heading in the right direction with coaching. A cautious word here is that TTNZ must specify what a national coach's priority is. Is it just high performance; coaching teams overseas only; or developing players at association level? Select a suitable person for that role. Splitting the roles should make the overall task easier to fulfil.

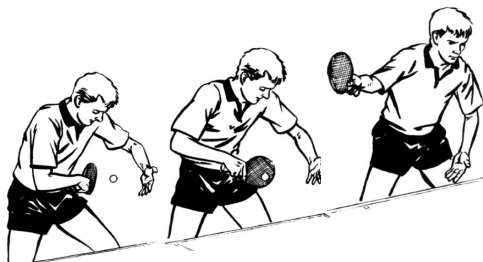
It's interesting how all things tend to be cyclic. TTNZ in my time as coach moved away from an executive director towards more volunteer input from key people and board members. Now this has been reversed with a push to secure funding to employ an executive director again and perhaps other key personnel. Other sports are doing this with success so TTNZ needs to follow suit. I think this will reduce volunteer burnout.

I have enjoyed my time in all the coaching roles. I have worked with and met great people along the way. I thank all of those who have helped me in my task and in my desire to work for the betterment of table tennis in the big picture. This wonderful game has much to offer all ages.

Cheers **James**

The change in the ball size was fine.  
But a win at 11 to 9?  
An old guy like me  
Can't change easily.  
Let's see, is it your  
serve or mine?

John Blois (USA)



## Editorial

In his reporting on the North Island Championships (see page 14), **John Stapleton** made reference to "the lack of commitment shown by players towards the prize-giving ceremony".

From what I hear this was also the case at this year's NZ Championships. It was also evident at the 2003 Open in Wellington where, whilst taking photos of the senior presentations, I observed the reluctance of a few players to step up to the rostrum, some having to be talked into coming forward.

Not only was the reluctance to come forth disrespectful to the other players who did come forward, be they winners or runners up, it also showed poor respect for the presenters, event organisers and those who took the trouble to attend and applaud the successful players.

It seems that the time has arrived for TTNZ to have a "code of conduct" applying to registered members, and adherence to the code a condition of entry to championships. One of the codes could be along the lines of: "If players do not, without very good reason submitted prior, attend presentations, they shall forfeit any prize and/or medal." In other words, the title itself could not be taken away but prizes and medals are only available at presentations. This should be specific in the entry conditions. Of course this places responsibility on organisers to ensure the presentations are held at appropriate times, not that I am suggesting they are not now.

A lot has been made of Championships upgrading which started with the late **John Bower** a few years ago. The emphasis must not be allowed to wane.

Sorry to see **James Morris** and **Simeon Cairns** curtail their activities for TTNZ.

**Robin Radford**

## Welcome

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



By being registered, you qualify to participate, if you wish, in any Open Championships in New Zealand. But 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. Feel free to contact us and submit questions, letters or interesting table tennis news at any time and explore our website. (Full details back cover).

Your registration number and association are printed on the address label on the envelope in which this magazine reached you. If you've mislaid the envelope, your number is also available from your Association or our website. The number must be quoted on your entry form for all national tournaments and most other major events.

Don't forget to advise us and your association of any change of address.

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

**Averil Roberts** Administration Officer.

## Australian Closed Championships

A New Zealand women's team was invited to participate in these Championships in Brisbane last July. The invitation was largely the initiative of Queensland Association's Ray Jeffress, whose support throughout the event was greatly appreciated by TTNZ and the team.

Prior to the Championships, the NZ players competed in the Brisbane Open. Here, in singles play, **Hanna Squire** beat Nanako Namura (WA) and lost to Claire Campbell-Innes (Q); **Raewyn Young** beat Nita Teoj (WA) and lost to Peri Campbell-Innes (Q); and **Michelle McCarthy** lost to Jian Fang Lay (Vic) and Mariana Lee (Q). All three NZ players failed to progress beyond group play.

The Brisbane Open proved a good event to give our players match practice in the setting they would encounter at the Australian teams championships.

Team results at the Australian Closed were:

Lost to Queensland	2 – 7	Beat Presidents Team	6 – 3
Lost to New South Wales	2 – 7	Beat Western Australia	9 – 0
Lost to Victoria	0 – 9	Lost to Victoria B	4 – 5
Lost to South Australia	2 – 7		

Each of the team members had to play 21 singles in three days. Hanna Squire won 11, Raewyn Young won 8 and Michelle McCarthy won 6.

The NZ players were not eligible for the individual events.

The team coach, **Alan Pedley**, reported that the team functioned well, showed a genuine desire to achieve, and the younger players handled themselves with maturity.

## Averil achieves “Blue Badge” status as an Umpire

**Averil Roberts**, one of New Zealand's International Table Tennis Umpires, has been awarded her **Blue Badge**, a symbol of top quality as an International Umpire.

To earn this honour, one has to have been an International Umpire for 2 years, attend an advanced International Umpires seminar, pass an advanced exam and receive 4 “meets expectations” assessments with only two from any one event able to be counted. The

assessments for Averil occurred at the Paris World Individual championships 2003, the Qatar World Team Championships in 2004 and the Oceania Championships in Whangarei in 2004.

Averil is on the list of the first 15 to qualify for the badge. What a super achievement!

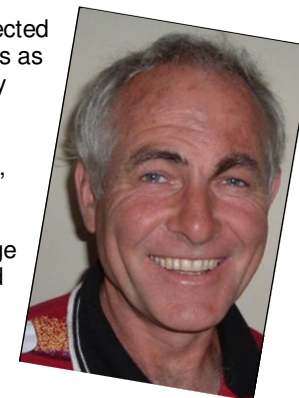


## James Morris ends nine years of National Service

# FULL CIRCLE

By John Kiley

Something started happening very gradually in 1995. Nobody expected it. It was unexpected because in the mid-1990's **James Morris** was as heavily involved in promoting table tennis in **Northland** as anybody before him had ever been – not a mean achievement when you consider his predecessors included **Bill Hurrey**, **Garry Frew**, **Neti Trail** and **Darkie Woodman**. Put briefly, he was playing, coaching, fundraising, touring Northland from end to end doing school demonstrations, training teachers to coach, conducting coaching courses at tertiary institutions, and to crown it all, leading the charge with a Northland bid to host the **1995 NZ Championships**. The bid was successful and few will have forgotten that tournament's record-breaking media coverage, souvenir programme of telephone book proportions, and stadium-full of sponsored tables all of which were later donated to Northland schools.



So, what was it that happened gradually?

Starting in 1995, James began adding more and more national level responsibilities to his existing Northland commitments. These steadily and inexorably increased over the next eight years by which time his local activities had been dwarfed by his multitude of New Zealand commitments, all of which he had taken on voluntarily. The peak period was 2002-2004. He pulled the reins a little in the second half of 2004 and then concluded that the time had come to re-assess his priorities. He had business and domestic matters to consider. He decided to relinquish all his national positions from the end of 2004 and settle rather more permanently back home in Northland where his roots lay and his heart had never left. After all, it had all started for him there in the 1960's as a young player with a hard bat. *Hard bat??!!* Isn't this the guy whose sizzling loop drives and lightning-fast over the table reflexes twice won him the NZ Championships, shared *nine* NZ men's doubles titles (eight with **Richard Lee**) and, when he was only 19, beat a top Chinese player? Yes, but he started with a hard bat. Remember that his early mentors included Garry Frew and Neti Trail - both hard bat choppers with lethal attacking shots that came out of nowhere.

So over that period of nine years James Morris went the full circle - from a former NZ champion running a dairy farm in Northland to a former NZ champion running a dairy farm in Northland. But his national activities over the intervening nine years were so energetic, so creative, so inspiring to others that the Board of TTNZ is currently putting together a proposal to confer TTNZ Life Membership on him. Preparing that proposal will require either a lot of very careful editing or a lot of paper. *Table Tennis Info* has gathered together some of James' major achievements but the picture is far from complete. Much of what he did was done without fanfare and known only to those directly involved.

### Team Manager

He began by co-managing and coaching New Zealand teams at overseas events – familiar territory as he had represented NZ himself for twelve years from the age of 18.

As a manager/coach, his first trip was to the 1995 Commonwealth Championships in Singapore and World Championships in China. The next was with a junior boys team to the 1997 Asian Junior Championships in India. On later trips James implemented a policy which he remembered fondly from his own representative days – bringing the team together for an extended period prior to the event for training and bonding purposes. He encouraged player communication (pre-event, during, and post-event), and invited player evaluations. He was able to add modern specialist input (physiotherapy, nutrition, etc), bring international players here as training partners (funded by specially secured High Performance grants) and utilise the expertise of sport scientist **Simeon Cairns** to introduce fitness tests for players pre-event. These practices were particularly effective in the build-up to the 2002 Commonwealth Games from which the team returned with four medals including **Li Chunli's** glittering gold in the singles.

“The success of our players at the Commonwealth Games in Manchester and this year at the Olympics in Athens is due in a big part to the planning, fund-seeking for training, support and energy of James Morris,” said **Ron Garrett**, Deputy Chairman of the TTNZ Board and Table Tennis Section Leader at the 2002 Games.

### Steps onto Board

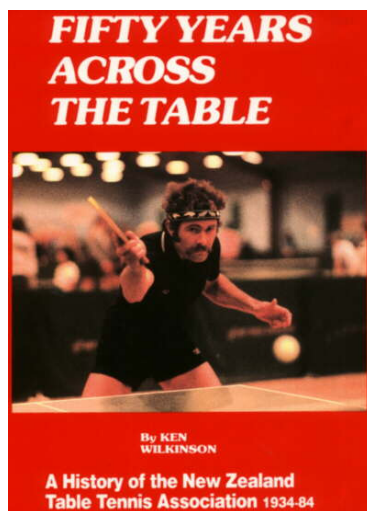
Coaching and managing NZ teams was only the starting point. In 1999 James took another step - volunteering for appointment to the TTNZ Board where he availed himself for the dual portfolios of Director (Coaching) and Director (High Performance). “He organised KiwiSport accreditation, ran development training camps, produced a Level 2 coaching manual, set up a Level 1 assessment procedure for coaches and organised elite player coaching workshops,” reeled off Ron Garrett without pausing for breath.

James was constantly hungry for extra High Performance funding - quickly arranging applications when he sensed dollars might be there for the taking. He also attended many seminars where he mingled with officials and coaches from other sporting codes and developed a sharp eye and sharp ear for new opportunities for table tennis. He was quick to push table tennis's case when the sport “carding” system was set up by SPARC to offer privileges to elite players; when video analysis technology was developed; when the Prime Minister's Scholarships were introduced (several were awarded to TT players and coaches); and when “Coaches Count” pocket-size booklets (how to coach table tennis in a few easy to read illustrated pages) were offered free of charge by SPARC's predecessor organization, the Hillary Commission.

*Table Tennis Info* is itself indebted to James. He has reliably supplied detailed reports on all major activities he was involved with, and of course all readers are familiar with his regular “My Serve” column.

### Last Straw???

In 2001 National Senior Coach was added to James' list of official designations and, in 2002, he reluctantly accepted a two year term on the National Selection Panel. This might have been the last straw (*straw??!!*), capable of breaking the back of even the sturdiest work-horse.



Above: The honour paid to James in 1984.

Last straw or not, in these final peak years from 2002 to 2004 James was still adding to his now bulging table tennis CV by securing funding for and setting up a Level Two Olympic Solidarity course with a top overseas coach; preparing the team for the Athens Olympics, and, back in his Northland hat, managing the 2004 **Oceania Championships** in Whangarei – possibly one of the city's biggest international events.

### Full Circle Complete – Home Again

By late 2004 James' decision to relinquish all his national responsibilities was public knowledge. Throughout the nine year period Northland people had continued to regard him, quite rightly, as their own. “He's respected by all who know him; a great role model and mentor,” said TT Northland President **Brent Davies**. “To walk through Whangarei with him you must allow extra time as he is known by so many people who stop to chat.”

**Neti Traill**, out of table tennis now for many years, still has fond memories of James. “He had an amazing temperament. As a player, he always gave 100%,” she said from her home in Christchurch.

*Continued over*

## Top 5 Ratings as at Nov 1st 2004

Full lists at  
[http://  
www.tabletennis.org.nz](http://www.tabletennis.org.nz)

#### Open Men

1. Aaron Li
2. Brad Chen
3. Peter Jackson
4. Johnny Liang
5. Shane Laugesen

#### Open Women

1. Li Chunli
2. Anna Lee
3. Karen Li
4. Sun Yang
5. Yang Jiang

#### Over 70 Men

1. Alan Tomlinson
2. Bill Otene
3. Merv Allardyce
4. Dennis Galvin
5. Ron Menchi

#### Over 70 Women

1. Annice Robottom
2. Nellie Milich
3. Barbara Tabb
4. Betty Thompson
5. Pam McAllister

#### Over 60 Men

1. Ron Garrett
2. Alan Alabaster
3. Warren Evans
4. Chip Eade
5. Bob Lassen

#### Over 60 Women

1. Christine Cunningham
2. Ngaire Garrett
3. Pauline Bennyworth
4. Merle Sneddon
5. Annice Robottom

#### Over 50 Men

1. Kheng Yee Lai
2. Geoff Rau
3. Patrick Low
4. Kevin Fogarty
5. William Weinstock

#### Over 50 Women

1. Val Beaver
2. Averil Roberts
3. Lynley Barker
4. Christine Cunningham
5. Ngaire Garrett

#### Over 40 Men

1. Peter Jackson
2. Malcolm Darroch
3. Alan Pedley
4. Lyndon White
5. Kevin Barry

#### Over 40 Women

1. Li Chunli
2. Hilary Low
3. Val Beaver
4. Averil Roberts
5. Tutty Tanfana

#### Under 21 Men

1. Brad Chen
2. Andy Huang
3. Simon Wallace
4. Adrian Soh
5. John Cordue

#### Under 21 Women

1. Sun Yang
2. Jenny Hung
3. Sophie Shu
4. Li Tong
5. Hanna Squire

#### Under 19 Boys

1. Brad Chen
2. Andy Huang
3. Simon Wallace
4. Nathan Lowe
5. Binbin Zhu

#### Under 19 Girls

1. Wu Chen
2. Sophie Shu
3. Hanna Squire
4. Yu Han Zhang
5. Mornica Li

#### Under 17 Boys

1. Nathan Lowe
2. Binbin Zhu
3. Steven Zeng
4. Jonathan Yam
5. Matthew Lowe

#### Under 17 Girls

1. Wu Chen
2. Sophie Shu
3. Hanna Squire
4. Jenny Hung
5. Michelle McCarthy

#### Under 15 Boys

1. Steven Zeng
2. Matthew Lowe
3. Michael Wu
4. Phillip Xiao
5. Terry Zeng

#### Under 15 Girls

1. Sophie Shu
2. Jenny Hung
3. Sally Ho
4. Villa Yan
5. Jessica MacAskill

#### Under 13 Boys

1. Phillip Xiao
2. Terry Zeng
3. Ethan Luo
4. Mitchell Barker
5. Jonathon Wang

#### Under 13 Girls

1. Jenny Hung
2. Villa Yan
3. Helen Chen
4. Chumeng Jin
5. Megan Stratford

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"He travelled from Marua (north of Whangarei) to play interclub in Auckland for five years - what commitment! And his fundraising efforts in selling raffle tickets played a large part in reaching the target to build the Northland Table Tennis centre."

Table Tennis New Zealand owes much to James' wife **Christine** for the part she has played throughout his nine years as a national administrator, coach educator and coach. She and the family dairy farming business have had to carry many an extra load and make many a sacrifice. It's hoped this is somewhat offset by the enormous credit James has brought to the sport throughout New Zealand and beyond.

On a national level, the good news for the future is that James has agreed to continue his "My Serve" column in this magazine, and he will remain available for consultation on national issues.

**Ron Garrett** made a point that is all too often overlooked. "The time put in and extra funds raised by James would add up to huge dollars *if TTNZ and players had to pay*. Thank you, James. You will be missed."



I glue up my paddle each day,  
In a very precise, exact way.  
As I watch the sponge dry,  
I sniff glue till I'm high,  
And I often forget to go play.

D Elliott (Minnesota USA)

## Simeon Cairns

Simeon recently submitted his resignation as Assistant National Senior Coach and also from the National Selection Panel because of work commitments.

Since early 2002 Simeon has been coach to the senior women's team and involved in the training sessions of both the men's and women's team to the Commonwealth Games.

Like most other positions in table tennis the role was voluntary. Simeon's specialist position at the Division of Sport and Recreation, Faculty of Health, Auckland University of Technology, meant his work did not get done by others while he was away on table tennis commitments. It all had to be resolved before or after his return. The duration of the 2002 Commonwealth Games and the intensive pre-event build up required him to be away from his work for eleven weeks. And there was further time away at the Olympics this year. Such was the mark of his dedication.

While taking nothing away from the playing ability of Li Chunli and Karen Li, their success can also be attributed to the organisation, support and help of Simeon. The resulting performances, notably Chunli's stunning gold medal win at Manchester, were a tremendous boost to the profile of table tennis in New Zealand.

Fortunately Simeon's dedication to table tennis will not be lost as he will still be available in the further development of sport science activities for our elite players.

He has been involved in coaching New Zealand senior and junior teams since 1999 and table tennis in general says *thank you*. We may see Simeon back in the coaching area some time in the future.

## COMPUTER PIONEER'S IT SERVICE TO TTNZ ENDS

31 December 2004 will mark the end of a significant era in NZ table tennis. On that date **David Jackson** will relinquish his position as a provider of computer services to TTNZ.

David's interest in this area dates back to the mid-seventies when he was encouraged by a visitor from America to design a computerised ratings system for Auckland interclub, similar to a manual one already operating in the USA. David, still a junior at the time but with a strong interest in computing, took up the challenge and built a system capable of processing results and calculating ratings points. He recorded Auckland's interclub results in this system for the next 12 years and as the programme was refined and improved, it became possible to include interclub results from other Associations as well.

David was elected to the NZTTA Management Committee in 1982 and was immediately appointed to the ranking, tournament play, and computer processing sub-committees. In 1983 the draw for the NZ Championships was generated by computer for the first time, replacing an exceedingly labour-intensive manual system. The draw-generating programme was a natural extension of David's existing system and had been used at Auckland tournaments for a number of years.

"The initial software was running on a large mainframe belonging to UEB Industries," said David. "But in 1986 it was rewritten for the IBM PC platform and designed to run on an IBM XT. Who could have predicted back then that table tennis clubs would own the Pentium's of today?"

From 1989 a Tournament Control programme was added. This managed the actual running of a tournament using its own internal semaphore board, and supported a network of enquiry terminals for the public to view up-to-date draws with results entered. It has been used for a number of North Island and NZ Championships, four South Island Championships and three Oceania Championships, one of which was in New Caledonia.

In 1999 TTNZ began paying David an annual fee to adopt his rating lists officially as its own. The lists are updated regularly on the TTNZ website.

Over the years David's system has continued to evolve and it can now supply personalised schedules for each player at a particular tournament (showing the day, time and table for all potential matches); generate post-section and/or consolation draws at a moment's notice; list any individual player's results over a full year; and print out tournament results in any media-friendly format.

David Jackson's accumulated knowledge in this area is respected world-wide. He is a member of the ITTF Ranking Committee which maintains singles rankings and uses them to prepare team, doubles and singles seedings at Olympic Games and World events. He will continue in this role. TTNZ's decision to dispense with his services from next year (he will remain available as a consultant) is based on the need to build an integrated system embracing tournaments, member registration, ratings and the web site. A professional IT sports company has been commissioned for the task. (*See article on the following page for a progress report*)

To mark the end of his 23 year term as a provider of computer services to TTNZ, David has written a paper entitled *The Beginning of Computerisation of Table Tennis in New Zealand*. This paper can be viewed on the TTNZ web site at: <http://www.tabletennis.org.nz/new/computerisation.pdf>

## Integrated Replacement IT System on Target

Phase One of Table Tennis New Zealand's new IT strategy (the new website and online member registration system with an integrated ratings module) is nearing completion. The website has been built. This site is the backbone of the IT strategy allowing assigned TTNZ staff to update from anywhere in the country. The new online registration system, our updated IMR, has had the ratings system integrated into it and is in the final stages of testing.

Going forward we are in the early planning stages of Phase Two, the building and integration of a competition system. This will provide TTNZ with a tournament setup and management system that integrates with the player database (IMR) and ratings. At the completion of Phase Two we will have an automated competition management system available for use by associations via an online connection. Competitions will be easy to set up and run and results will be readily posted to the website.

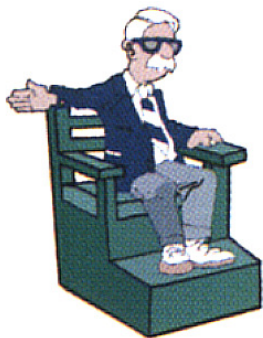
As this is one of the strategic focuses of TTNZ it is satisfying to be able to say that our technology strategy is on target and progressing well.

**Graeme Muller**  
Chairman TTNZ

## Table Tennis from the Side of the Table

By Alan Moore

Last *TT Info* Magazine contained an article about the role of the umpire in the game of table tennis. You know that the umpire has an important place in the game and the duties are many and varied. The umpire ensures that the playing area is ready for play, that there is a ball to play with, that the score card will be filled in correctly, that the players have rackets which comply with the regulations, and that the contest between the players is fair. The umpire will be watching intently to see that net serves are seen, that intrusions into the playing area are observed and "let" is called promptly, that the score is called clearly, and change of service is indicated. This list could continue and still not cover all of the umpire's responsibilities.



For many players the task of umpiring is a chore and there are more than a few who consider the job a bore as well. They yawn and drink coke, they keep a close eye on what their friends are doing in matches on other tables - anything but what is happening in front of them. In short they do not find umpiring their "cup of tea" at all. Thank goodness there is a dedicated group of people who take the role seriously. This group, small in number at present, not only take it seriously but they enjoy the job. The goal of umpiring matches between top class players in top class competition is one upon which they have set their sights. The TTNZ Umpires and Referees Committee has instituted a process through which an enthusiastic and committed person may pass to achieve this goal.

### Step One: Regional Umpire

If you are interested in becoming an umpire then you should ask your Association Secretary for a copy of the Regional Umpires exam paper, or you can download from the Umpires Page on the TTNZ website.

A copy of the Laws and Regulations of Table Tennis will also be required as it is an "open book" test. The Laws can also be downloaded from the website or provided by your Association Secretary. An oral test will follow the written exam and you will need to study hard for this because no reference can be made to the laws during the oral test. A mark of 80% over the two tests must be achieved to pass.

Practical assessments will be done if you pass the exams. You will be given a number of matches to umpire at a tournament under the scrutiny of a senior umpire. Prior to your assessment your assessor will have gone through your test results with you to discuss any areas where you may have failed to score 100%. You will also be briefed on the format of the assessment and given training and advice on your duties at the table. Upon achieving a positive assessment in the practical role you will be awarded Regional Umpire status. You receive a regional umpire badge, net measure, match log book, and coloured cards. A keen person will acquire at this point the NZ umpire's uniform of black jacket/blazer, grey trousers, white shirt/blouse, and black tie/scarf.

### Step Two: National Umpire

An active regional umpire will attract the notice of referees at tournaments to ensure that they are involved in umpiring semi-finals and finals matches. Once a record of competence has been established over a period of up to two years, a regional umpire will then be invited to sit the National Umpire exam. As with Step One there are two tests, written and oral. Passing these leads to further practical assessment. It is important that the candidate is readily available for duty at tournaments. Most umpires combine playing and umpiring so attending a variety of tournaments should be both enjoyable and rewarding. The successful candidate will receive the award of an embroidered pocket stating 'National Umpire' and proudly bearing the Silver Fern. This pocket is worn on the uniform jacket to show the result of the wearer's hard work and dedication to obtaining this standard.

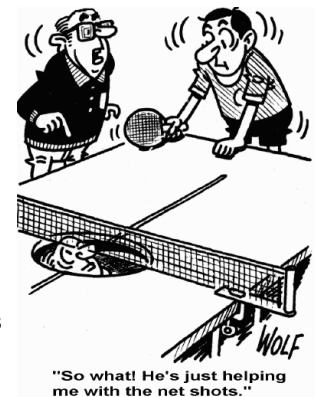
### Step Three: International Umpire

The Umpires and Referees Committee select candidates to sit the International Umpires exam. Those who are chosen will have demonstrated a considerable interest in furthering their skills and ability as an umpire and will have been actively involved on the umpire's stand for some period of time. The exam is offered only once every two years and the standard is set very high. The exam covers a wide variety of subtle aspects of the laws and regulations and the multiple choice questions have some very plausible wrong answers - traps for the unwary. There is no practical assessment until the freshly qualified umpires take the stand at their first international tournament. From there, things start to get tough.

The cost of travel to international tournaments is generally met by the umpire, but once at the venue umpires are well looked after. Umpires work very hard at these tournaments and can expect to be at a table, as umpire or assistant umpire, for several sessions each day.

### Step Four: Blue Badge International Umpire

Blue Badge Umpires are an exclusive group of international umpires from which appointments are made to officiate at World, Olympic and Pro-tour championships. To earn this honour, one must have been an International Umpire for 2 years, attend an advanced International Umpires seminar, pass an advanced exam, and receive 4 "meets expectations" assessments with only two from any one event able to be counted.



These assessments are very hard to achieve and reaching the standard of "Blue Badge" umpire is very demanding. Small errors are sufficient to fail the standard and so four positive assessments is a very commendable achievement.

An even more elite group of umpires than the blue badge umpires is due to be selected by an even more stringent assessment process. At present there are approximately 400 blue badge holders throughout the world. There are around 4000 international umpires on the ITTF register.

Table tennis throughout New Zealand needs more qualified umpires. Every player will benefit from having a better knowledge of the rules and the regional exam is an excellent vehicle to ensure that you gain that benefit. Every match referee and tournament manager needs qualified umpires. Why not take the first step? Maybe you will find the journey more enjoyable than you think.

(See page 4 for New Zealand's **Blue Badge** achiever)



### **DOES AGE LIMIT ELITE TABLE TENNIS PERFORMANCE?**

We all marveled at **Li Chunli's** outstanding performances in Manchester when at 40 years of age she became Commonwealth Games Champion. This raises the issue about whether age limits international performance in our sport. In the past, superstars such as Surbec and Gruber competed into their late 30's and were regarded as freaks. Moreover, the oldest person to win the World Men's singles title is **Jan-Ove Waldner**, then aged 31.

With this in mind, consider the ages of competitors at the recent Athens Olympic Games (85 men and 87 women competitors).

The average age of the men was 28.4 (range 17-42). Remarkably, only two men were aged under 20, but even more notable was that 31 competitors were aged 30 or over (37%). Seven of the 13 athletes aged over 35 were ranked in the top 50 world rankings. Waldner, who was approaching 39, reached the semi-finals of the singles and was arguably the biggest draw card for this event.

The average age of the women was slightly lower at 25.9 (range 15-42). There were nine teenagers, and 22 people aged 30 or over (25%). Five of the six women aged over 35 were ranked in the top 50. Chunli was the oldest or "most experienced" athlete in both men's and women's events.

The Chinese team (men and woman) showed a different trend with an average age of 22.7 (range 16-28, for nine players).

Several players attended their fifth Olympics (i.e. every Games since table tennis started at the Olympics in 1988). These elite performers had largely maintained their physical condition with age and even with a possible deterioration the "experience factor" may well have contributed significantly to their ongoing international successes.

**Simeon Cairns**

**If you feel you're the victim of more than your fair share of nets and edges, this is for you.....**

## **Nets and Edges "Victim Syndrome"**

When people get frustrated with nets and edges, it often stems from an ingrained, and mistaken, attitude that such shots should not occur, are an aberration, and are somehow contrary to the norm. The first step on the road to recovery from "net and edge victim syndrome", is to accept that their occurrence is normal, and is likely to happen at the worst possible time. Nets and edges are not simply some freak of nature and a curse upon the sport. They are a statistical reality. They WILL occur.

### **WHAT CAN ONE DO?**

Be prepared. I am repeatedly distressed at the number of players at all levels who suffer from denial with regard to nets and edges. If the ball hits the net in the middle of an intense match, they stand there with a victimized look on their face. Even when they "go for it," it is evident from their technique that they spend little or no time practising against such shots. It does not seem to merit attention in their training regimen. If a practice partner gets a net or an edge while blocking for any player practising their loop, the player often "gives up" and just picks the ball up to start the drill over again.

Dealing with net and edge balls is simply an extra set of skills that can and should be practised ALL the time. At tournaments, I hear complaints about the lucky edge or net ball that won the match, blah blah blah...as if these shots just wait to appear only at crucial moments in crucial matches to dash people's hopes on the rocks of fate. Well, guess what! They happen all the time in practice drills and in practice matches at your local club. They occur so frequently that, contrary to popular belief, they can be practised against regularly, systematically, and consciously. Unfortunately, most players simply do not take such shots seriously when playing in their clubs, and a lack of both mental and technical preparation for their occurrence shows up in tournaments.

Some players even apologise during drills when they get nets and edges!! This perpetuates the attitude that such shots are a "mistake" and have no place in the sport. People should thank their practice partner for every net and edge ball. Players should thrive on them, embrace them, and consciously develop strategies on how to deal with them. Such preparation shows up in tournaments.

Sure, some of these shots are "unreturnable." But I would argue that 90% are actually returnable.

The first step is to get over the denial, and go for EVERY SINGLE ONE of these shots in practice, no matter if your opponent is rated 500 points below or higher than you. It is this type of training (and attitude) that will enable you to make amazing save shots in tournaments that you never thought yourself capable of. The more you practise, the more these "impossible" shots become returnable and even winnable.



This is an edited version of a contribution to a website: [www.tabletennis.about.com/od/coachingcorner/a/netsedges.htm](http://www.tabletennis.about.com/od/coachingcorner/a/netsedges.htm), the author credited simply as "**David of Seattle**". It was reproduced in the newsletter of the Kogarah RSL Table Tennis Club in Sydney, to whom we are indebted. Table Tennis Waikato also picked it up and published it in their newsletter.

# **NORTH ISLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS** Palmerston North

## **Can I Play My Match Ahead of Schedule, Please?**

Organisers were overwhelmed with this request on the final day of the **North Island Championships** in Palmerston North. "It was mostly for selfish reasons," said **John Stapleton**, TTNZ Liaison Officer at the Championships. "It became an annoyance and a pain for the officials. It also affected the atmosphere on the last day and was unfair on those players who had planned their play, meal breaks, etc, around the official timetable." John Stapleton's report also commented on the lack of commitment shown by players towards the prize-giving ceremony.

He complimented the tournament organisers, led by Manager **Murray Holdaway** and Controller **Shona Cudby**. "The tournament went well time-wise and the referees aided by **Bryan Keane** and a host of local volunteers can be singled out for their vigilance in keeping things on track and in being readily accessible to the public for requests," he said.

He commended the player behaviour, which was good overall, and the generally excellent venue and playing conditions. But he noted that the hard floor caused joint problems for some, and questioned the wisdom of the venue facilities manager in allowing a booking for ice hockey to take place in an adjoining section of the stadium on the final morning. "It really did cause a racket, especially for those playing close by."

### **Cliff-Hanger**

North Harbour's **Brad Chen** won the men's singles final, beating Auckland's **Andy Huang** 12-10 in the deciding game of a seven game cliff-hanger. **Karen Li** was untroubled in the women's singles. Veterans **Malcolm Darroch** and **Alan Pedley** both held their own against strong young developing players to reach the semi-finals in the singles and, playing together, the semi-finals of the doubles as well.

## **RESULTS**

<b><u>Open</u></b>	<b><u>Winner</u></b>	<b><u>Singles Runner Up</u></b>
Men's Singles	<b>Brad Chen</b> (NH)	<b>Andy Huang</b> (A)
Women's Singles	<b>Karen Li</b> (NH)	<b>Wu Chen</b> (C)
Men's Doubles	<b>J Cordue &amp; S Wallace</b> (C)	
Women's Doubles	<b>K Li &amp; S Shu</b> (NH/A)	
Mixed Doubles	<b>S Wallace &amp; Wu Chen</b> (C)	
<b><u>B Grade</u></b>		
Men's Singles	<b>Craig Dye</b> (CM)	<b>Wayne Gear</b> (A)
Women's Singles	<b>Jacqui Wood</b> (C)	<b>Katherine Allen</b> (MN)
Men's Doubles	<b>B McConnochie &amp; B Trifunovic</b> (W)	
Women's Doubles	<b>A Gosney &amp; J Wood</b> (C)	
<b><u>C Grade</u></b>		
Men's Singles	<b>Matthew Lowe</b> (A)	<b>Grant Gordon</b> (MN)
Women's Singles	<b>Armindeep Singh</b> (WK)	<b>Robyn Harding</b> (MN)
Men's Doubles	<b>H Murdoch &amp; B Trifunovic</b> (W)	
Women's Doubles	<b>R Harding &amp; A Singh</b> (MN/WK)	
<b><u>Over 70 years</u></b>		
Men's Singles	<b>Bill Otene</b> (WT)	<b>Paul Bargh</b> (W)
Women's Singles	<b>Annice Robottom</b> (MN)	<b>Pam McAllister</b> (MN)
Men's Doubles	<b>D Galvin &amp; B Otene</b> (WT)	
Mixed Doubles	<b>P Bargh &amp; A Robottom</b> (W/MN)	

### **Over 65 years**

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

**Bill Otene** (WT)  
**Merle Sneddon** (MN)  
**D Galvin & B Otene** (WT)  
**B Otene & A Robottom** (WT/MN)

**Merv Allardyce** (W)  
**Annice Robottom** (MN)

### **Over 60 years**

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

**Chip Eade** (WT)  
**Pauline Bennyworth** (WK)  
**C Eade & W Willis** (WT/A)  
**P Bennyworth & A Robottom** (WK/MN)  
**C Eade & P Bennyworth** (WT/WK)

**Wes Willis** (A)  
**Merle Sneddon** (MN)

### **Over 50 years**

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

**Bryan McConnochie** (W)  
**Averil Roberts** (W)  
**B McConnochie & I Talbot** (W)  
**V Beaver & J Murray** (NH)  
**B Wynks & A Roberts** (MN/W)

**Ian Talbot** (W)  
**Jill Murray** (NH)

### **Over 40 years**

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

**Malcolm Darroch** (C)  
**Katherine Allen** (MN)  
**M Darroch & A Pedley** (C/MN)  
**V Beaver & A Roberts** (NH/W)  
**A Pedley & K Allen** (MN)

**Alan Pedley** (MN)  
**Val Beaver** (NH)

### **Under 21 years**

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

**Brad Chen** (NH)  
**Wu Chen** (C)  
**N Lowe & B Zhu** (A)  
**S Ho & Wu Chen** (WK/C)  
**J Cordue & S Ho** (C/WK)

**Andy Huang** (A)  
**Hanna Squire** (W)

### **Under 19 years**

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

**Brad Chen** (NH)  
**Hanna Squire** (W)  
**N Lowe & B Zhu** (A)  
**S Ho & Wu Chen** (WK/C)  
**S Wallace & Wu Chen** (C)

**Simon Wallace** (C)  
**Wu Chen** (C)

### **Under 17 years**

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

**Nathan Lowe** (A)  
**Sophie Shu** (A)  
**S Zeng & T Zeng** (A)  
**M McCarthy & H Squire** (W)  
**N Lowe & Wu Chen** (A/C)

**Binbin Zhu** (A)  
**Michelle McCarthy** (W)

### **Under 15 years**

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

**Terry Zeng** (A)  
**Sophie Shu** (A)  
**M Lowe & M Wu** (A)  
**H Chen & S Shu** (NH/A)  
**T Zeng & S Shu** (A)

**Matthew Lowe** (A)  
**Sally Ho** (A)

### **Under 13 years**

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

**Phillip Xiao** (A)  
**Helen Chen** (NH)  
**J Chu & J Singh** (NH/WK)  
**C Jin & V Yan** (WK)  
**J Chu & H Chen** (NH)

**Jonathon Wang** (WK)  
**Chumeng Jin** (WK)

A Good Thought - "When you lose, don't lose the lesson".



## 2004 Rankings

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. Only players eligible to represent NZ internationally may be ranked.

The difference between **Rankings** and **Ratings** is explained at:  
<http://www.tabletennis.org.nz/ratings/rankings.htm>

### Open Men

1. Aaron Li (C)
2. Peter Jackson (OS)
3. Andrew Hubbard (OS)
4. Shane Laugesen (A)
5. Andy Huang (A)
6. Peter Craven (A)
7. Malcolm Darroch (C)
8. Alan Pedley (C)
9. Simon Wallace (C)
- 10= Adrian Soh (A)
- 10= John Cordue (C)

### Open Women

1. Li Chunli (OS)
2. Karen Li (NH)
3. Jiang Yang (C)
4. Sophie Shu (A)
5. Sabine Westenra (W)
6. Hanna Squire (W)
7. Michelle McCarthy (W)
8. Sarah Ho (WK)
9. Raewyn Young (W)
10. Jenny Hung (C)

### Under 19 Boys

1. Simon Wallace (C)
2. Binbin Zhu (A)
3. Nathan Lowe (A)
4. Josh Alexandre (A)
5. Jack Wells (N)
6. Matthew Lowe (A)
7. Calvin Kwong (MN)
8. Chris Erskine (N)
9. Boris Trifunovic (W)
10. Albert Cheng (NH)

### Under 19 Girls

1. Sophie Shu (A)
2. Hanna Squire (W)
3. Michelle McCarthy (W)
4. Sarah Ho (WK)
5. Jenny Hung (C)
6. Florence Li (A)
7. Sally Ho (A)
8. Armindeep Singh (WK)
9. Hayley Jones (NL)
10. Leanne Ridder (S)

### Under 15 Boys

1. Matthew Lowe (A)
2. Phillip Xiao (A)
3. Jack Chaney (C)
4. Andrew Rieper (W)
5. James Harter (W)
6. Authman Al-Saudi (A)
7. Matthew Ball (MN)
8. Stewart Van Zanten (C)
9. Grant Little (W)
10. Peter Wang (C)

### Under 15 Girls

1. Sophie Shu (A)
2. Jenny Hung (C)
3. Sally Ho (A)
4. Jessica MacAskill (S)
5. Megan Lee (NH)
6. Lauren Watling (W)
7. Megan Stratford (ML)
8. Tara La Grange (NH)
9. Devony Nicholl (WK)
10. Erin Searle (NH)

## Death of Australian Veteran

**Carol Hughes** died recently in Sydney after fighting a brain tumour for several months. She was one of Australia's most regular supporters of the New Zealand Veterans Championships where she won several titles.

Her peak year at these Championships was 2002 when she dominated the Over 60 age category, winning all her matches in the Australia/NZ test, and the singles, doubles and mixed doubles titles.

A conventional right handed player, she regularly used skillful variations on her backhand to create openings for her strong forehand attacking shots. She was renowned for her determination and for never giving up.

Carol was good humoured person and highly regarded in her home state of New South Wales where, prior to her career as a veteran player, she was heavily involved in the setting up of a state-wide table tennis league.

## Clothing Issues

What to wear when playing at tournaments is a question which has vexed both players and tournament organisers for some time. Let's take a closer look at what is involved from the perspective of a Tournament Referee.

The rule regarding clothing is clearly stated in the Regulations, section 3.2.2.1: *"Playing clothing shall normally consist of a short sleeved or sleeveless shirt and shorts or skirt or one part sports outfits, socks and playing shoes; other garments, such as all or part of a track suit, shall not be worn during play except with the permission of the Match Referee"*.

Interpretation of this clause is where things come unstuck. What are 'shorts' and 'shirts'?

Dictionary definitions of shorts are for the most part unhelpfully limited to *"trousers cut short"*. The fashion industry differentiates between 'board' shorts (long and colourful); 'joggers' shorts (very brief); 'walk' shorts (formal); and 'sports' shorts (many and varied). So where do we look to find an acceptable standard for 'table tennis' shorts?

Major manufacturers of table tennis equipment offer clothing in their range of product. The shorts available from these companies are all similar in design and colour. They are generally of no longer length than mid-thigh, and they are a dark colour (black or navy in most cases). There is no requirement for players to wear a particular brand of shorts when playing, but the style and standard set by the table tennis equipment suppliers is a very good guide as to what is required.

Dictionary definitions of a shirt refer to a *collar*, but also include the word *"usually"*. Thus we are left with a dilemma - what is an acceptable shirt for playing at a tournament? With or without a collar? In the past there has been a requirement for playing shirts to have a collar. Recently there has been a shift at international competitions to allow shirts without collars to be worn. If this is now acceptable internationally, then the obvious outcome is for players at our own tournaments to be able to wear shirts without collars.

So how are we to define 'shirt' for our playing conditions now? Again the answer seems to lie with what the table tennis equipment companies supply. Their shirts conform to the regulations regarding colour and advertising. With or without a collar these shirts are smart in appearance and present the wearer as a sportsman/sportswoman. The key factor in any decision you make as to what shirt you will wear should be that you wish to be seen as a serious sportsperson and not someone on holiday in Hawaii.

No-one on any tournament management team wishes to go around like the Fashion Police and make life miserable for players. It is hard enough these days to get players to come and compete at tournaments without putting barriers in their way. What is desired by the referees and organizers alike is for a tournament venue to look at least as good as the standard of play. Good tables, lighting, surrounds, cafeteria, seating etc, can all contribute to a good looking tournament venue. But what spectators watch is YOU.

### Alan Moore



## TOP PERFORMANCES BY THE LI SISTERS IN ATHENS

The NZ table tennis team at the Athens Olympic Games comprised **Li Chunli** (fourth Olympics), **Karen Li** (second Olympics), and **Simeon Cairns** as coach/team leader. The immensely popular Li sisters played with distinction and achieved the following results:

### Women's Singles: Li Chunli (seeded 27)

Round 2 - beat Tammy Banh (USA) 11-8, 12-10, 11-9, 8-11, 11-9  
Last 32 - lost to Zhang Yining (China) 8-11, 10-12, 5-11, 7-11, 8-11

Chunli first disposed of the funny rubber player Banh (seeded 48) with a solid display and then faced World No 1 and eventual winner Zhang Yining. Chunli competed strongly, especially in the first two games, hitting many aggressive winners with both forehand and backhand. In fact she held a game point in the second game. The complete absence of unforced errors by Zhang and her strong service later in the match brought her victory. The draw was unfortunate considering that the player Chunli beat in the Manchester Commonwealth Games final reached the semifinals in this event, playing in the other half of the draw. (Chunli had also drawn the World No 1 and winner in the Sydney Olympics in 2000.)

### Women's Doubles: Li Chunli & Karen Li (seeded 22)

Round 2 - beat Jian Fang Lay & Miao Miao (Australia) 12-10, 8-11, 6-11, 11-5, 11-2, 14-12  
Round 3 - beat Nicole Struse & Elke Wosik (Germany) 11-6, 11-7, 11-7, 10-12, 11-6  
Last 16 - lost to Kim Hyung Mi & Kim Hyon Hui (North Korea) 8-11, 13-11, 6-11, 13-11, 5-11, 4-11

The first up victory over the Aussies (seeded 23) included winning the first game after being down 0-5, then tremendous attacking play to win the last three games. An undoubted highlight was the upset victory over the German pair (seeded 16) who had defeated the Li sisters in Sydney (Struse is a former European women's singles champion). Both Chunli and Karen displayed tremendous forehand attacks, close to and back from the table, to completely shut out their opponents. Unfortunately this match wasn't televised. The next match was against the 8<sup>th</sup> seeded North Korean pair where the New Zealanders went down 2-4, winning two closely fought games. This last 16 result is our best ever placement at an Olympics.

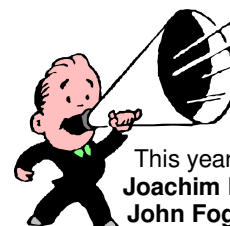
Our two women had good visible and audible support from other NZ team members, NZOC members and the Chef de Mission, which encouraged them and helped raise their level.

### **Simeon Cairns**

*The author acknowledges with thanks the support he received from the **Division of Sport & Recreation, Auckland University of Technology.***



L/R: Karen Li, Simeon Cairns  
& Li Chunli



## Reporting briefly.....

This year has seen the addition of three new **International Umpires: Val Scarr, Joachim Kusche** and **Alan Moore**. Also on their way up are **George Woo** and **John Fogarty** who recently achieved their **National Umpire** status.

Congratulations to all.

The Board has decided to set up a **Veteran's Committee**. The national office will be calling for nominations.

The **Summer Nationals** has a date change - to a not-so-Summer time: 20-24 April 2005, at North Harbour.

On the Board's agenda is an **Executive Director** for the national body and funding is being investigated. A much needed appointment.

### **Timers for Sale**

The Umpires Committee can obtain Timers at cost for timing matches for expedite purposes. (see article on pages 26/27). They are small, unobtrusive, easy to operate and do not beep loudly. Cost \$35. Contact **Alan Moore: ascjmoore@yahoo.com**.



## NZ Schools Championships

There was a very large Secondary School entry this year - one team more than the previous record. Regrettably the Intermediate section did not fare so well with only 6 entries. **North Harbour Association** hosted the event and an interesting statistic is that only 45 of the 144 competitors went on to play in the NZ Championships which took place in Auckland immediately after.

### Intermediate Girls

The only entry received was from **Wairau Intermediate** and they were duly awarded medals for the top Girls team. The team was **Faatimah Schroeder, Amy Callon, and Emma Scowcroft**

### Intermediate Boys

**Northcross Intermediate (Mark Kim, Matthew Kim, Paul Jung)** beat **Murrays Bay Intermediate** 3-2.

### Girls Secondary Schools

**Westlake Girls High No 1 (Erin Searle, Jenny Chu, Eva Zhang)** beat **Epsom Girls Grammar** 3-2.

### Open Secondary C Grade

**Massey High School (Robert Menzies, Sanjay Smith, Darryl Oakden)** beat **Westlake Boys High No 4** 5-0

### Open Secondary B Grade

**Macleans College No 2 (Bruce Kuo, Jeffrey Lee, Roy Lin)** beat **Kamo High School** 3-2.

### Open Secondary A Grade

**Auckland Grammar No 1 (Philip Xiao, Binbin Zhu, Michael Ho)** beat **St. Kentigerns College No 1** 3-2

## KOREA FIRST, NEW ZEALAND SECOND

The **2004 New Zealand Championships** in Auckland were a show-case of quality table tennis. For the second year in succession the event was enhanced by the participation of overseas competitors, this time from South Korea. The visit of the South Korean Army team was due to the initiative and Korean contacts of two Canterbury table tennis enthusiasts who organised the trip. The Koreans totally dominated the men's open events and their participation attracted good media coverage. The star player, 2003 World Singles runner-up **Joo Se Hyuk**, competed in the team events only.

The championships were well supported by New Zealand players and New Caledonia came with its faithful contingent. A total of 301 entered the individual events and a huge entry of 102 teams played in the inter-Association teams events.

**Karen Li's** defeat in the women's singles semi-finals at the hands of Canterbury's **Yang Jiang** was a major surprise. Li has been untroubled by any NZ player since arriving here from China nearly ten years ago but seemed jaded after recently recovering from illness and having to combine coaching activities with her own play.

*Continued opposite page*

### 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 and 2003 winner)

Junior Boy: **Not Awarded**

#### 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: **Hanna Squire** (Wellington)

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

This year's winner: **Auckland**

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

This year's winner: **Auckland.**



### Awards Announced.

Table Tennis New Zealand have announced the following awards for 2004:

**Player of the Year: Li Chunli** (Overseas based)

**Junior of the Year: Calvin Kwong** (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.)

She had beaten Yang comfortably in the teams events. **Anna Lee**, also from Canterbury and a recent arrival from Korea, beat Yang in the final.

**Shane Laugesen, Andy Huang, Brad Chen** and **Malcolm Darroch** were the only New Zealand men whose place in the draw kept them clear of the Korean juggernaut as far as the last 16. Shane and Brad won through from there but both stumbled in the quarter-finals against Korean players, Shane having to play the eventual winner **Seo Dong Chul**.

Title winners and singles runners-up are listed on page 24, and the team event winners are on page 25.

TTNZ Liaison Officer **Bryan Keane** commented favourably on the overall administration of the tournament. The player-calling system worked well and the Liaison Officer's report acknowledged the hospitality shown towards visiting players and officials by **Bruce Penberthy** and **Teresa Breslin** on behalf of the host association.

Bryan Keane also felt obliged to list a number of recommendations for future NZ Championships. They included:

- The standard of dress should improve.
- Several tables should be set aside as practice tables.
- All team events should each consist of six teams if possible; nine team contests should be avoided; team entries should close two weeks earlier than the individuals to allow time for more teams to be invited to even up the numbers and to allow time for the extra players involved to still enter the individual events.
- Umpires should be officially allocated for all finals, regardless of whether or not they are played on the last day.
- Doubles should be played, or at least started, on the same day as the singles in each category so players do not have to come back several days later for the doubles. Consolation singles events should always be held when only one player from each round robin group advances to knock-out play.

These are all matters on which most players and officials will have an opinion and any debate over them needs to take place well in advance of next year's national tournaments.

The Championships were sponsored by **Cathay Pacific**.

*Photos courtesy Terry Cockfield and Adrian Soh*



***They were there!***



# NZ Open Championships



**Chip Eade and Averil Roberts**

Photo: Terry Cockfield



**Sophie Shu (L) and Hanna Squire**

Photos: Terry Cockfield



(L) Men's Singles Winner  
**Seo Dong Chul**  
(Korea)

Photo: Terry Cockfield



**Phillip Xiao**

Photo: Terry Cockfield



Right:  
**Villa Yan (L) & Helen Chen**

Photo: Adrian Soh

L/R: **Mornica Li, Jenny Hung, Wu Chen, Remi Nishikawa, Hanna Squire, Michelle McCarthy**



**Malcolm Darroch**



**Terry Cockfield**

**Bill Sorby**

**Harry Dye**

Photo: Adrian Soh

**Alan Tomlinson** showing his trademark follow-through. Alan took home the Over 70 Men's Singles and Men's Doubles with **Harry Dye**.

This step to the Over 70's adds of course to Alan's 4 open men's singles titles between 1959 -1972, the over 45 singles 1982 & 1983 and over 55 in 1995 & 1996.

Alan probably tried to hide his grin following his huge success in a recent Australian Quiz show. Congratulations Alan.

Photo: Terry Cockfield



Photo: Adrian Soh

# NZ Open Championships Auckland 2004

<b>Open</b>	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Singles Runner Up</b>
Men's Singles	<b>Seo Dong Chul (KOR)</b>	<b>Lee Jung Jae (KOR)</b>
Women's Singles	<b>Anna Lee (C)</b>	<b>Yang Jiang (C)</b>
Men's Doubles	<b>Seo Dong Chul &amp; Yoo Chang Jae (KOR)</b>	
Women's Doubles	<b>K Li &amp; S Shu (NH/A)</b>	
Mixed Doubles	<b>S Laugesen &amp; K Li (A/NH)</b>	
<b>B Grade</b>		
Men's Singles	<b>Wayne Gear (A)</b>	<b>Jonathan Yam (C)</b>
Women's Singles	<b>Sarah Ho (WK)</b>	<b>Monique Neal (NH)</b>
Men's Doubles	<b>A Rieper &amp; A Wilson (W/O)</b>	
Women's Doubles	<b>S Ho &amp; F Li (A)</b>	
<b>C Grade</b>		
Men's Singles	<b>Blair Paterson (MN)</b>	<b>Bruce Kaihe-Sayers (CM)</b>
Women's Singles	<b>Jessica MacAskill (S)</b>	<b>Lauren Watling (W)</b>
Men's Doubles	<b>G Gordon &amp; B Paterson (MN)</b>	
Women's Doubles	<b>J MacAskill &amp; B Tait (S/MN)</b>	
<b>Over 70 years</b>		
Men's Singles	<b>Alan Tomlinson (A)</b>	<b>Dennis Galvin (WT)</b>
Men's Doubles	<b>H Dye &amp; A Tomlinson (A)</b>	
<b>Over 65 years</b>		
Men's Singles	<b>Nam Hang Lee (A)</b>	<b>Terry Cockfield (NH)</b>
Women's Singles	<b>Barbara Dye (WT)</b>	<b>Margaret McGregor (WT)</b>
Men's Doubles	<b>T Cockfield &amp; D Glass (NH/C)</b>	
Mixed Doubles	<b>B Otene &amp; M McGregor (WT)</b>	
<b>Over 55 years</b>		
Men's Singles	<b>Patrick Low (A)</b>	<b>Bryan McConnochie (W)</b>
Women's Singles	<b>Val Beaver (NH)</b>	<b>Averil Roberts (W)</b>
Men's Doubles	<b>B McConnochie &amp; W Weinstock (W/A)</b>	
Women's Doubles	<b>V Beaver &amp; J Murray (NH)</b>	
Mixed Doubles	<b>B McConnochie &amp; V Beaver (W/NH)</b>	
<b>Over 45 years</b>		
Men's Singles	<b>Kevin Barry (CM)</b>	<b>John Fogarty (O)</b>
Women's Singles	<b>Val Beaver (NH)</b>	<b>Christine Cunningham (NH)</b>
Men's Doubles	<b>K Barry &amp; G Rau (CM)</b>	
Women's Doubles	<b>V Beaver &amp; A Roberts (NH/W)</b>	
Mixed Doubles	<b>R Winkley &amp; A Roberts (HB/W)</b>	
<b>Over 35 years</b>		
Men's Singles	<b>Malcolm Darroch (C)</b>	<b>Alan Pedley (C)</b>
Women's Singles	<b>Hilary Low (CM)</b>	<b>Sabine Westenra (W)</b>
Men's Doubles	<b>M Darroch &amp; A Pedley (C)</b>	
Women's Doubles	<b>V Beaver &amp; A Roberts (NH/W)</b>	
Mixed Doubles	<b>A Pedley &amp; K Allen (C/MN)</b>	
<b>Under 21 years</b>		
Men's Singles	<b>Brad Chen (NH)</b>	<b>Simon Wallace (C)</b>
Women's Singles	<b>Sophie Shu (A)</b>	<b>Wu Chen (C)</b>
Men's Doubles	<b>Lee Jung Jae &amp; K Samson (KOR/C)</b>	
Women's Doubles	<b>Li Tong &amp; Wu Chen (C)</b>	
Mixed Doubles	<b>J Cordue &amp; Li Tong (C)</b>	
<b>Under 19 years</b>		
Boys' Singles	<b>Andy Huang (A)</b>	<b>Simon Wallace (C)</b>
Girls' Singles	<b>Wu Chen (C)</b>	<b>Hanna Squire (W)</b>
Boys' Doubles	<b>J Alexandre &amp; S Wallace (A/C)</b>	
Girls' Doubles	<b>M McCarthy &amp; H Squire (W)</b>	
Mixed Doubles	<b>S Wallace &amp; Wu Chen (C)</b>	

## Under 17 years

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

**Nathan Lowe (A)**  
**Wu Chen (C)**  
**A Rieper & H Tapp (W)**  
**M McCarthy & H Squire (W)**  
**N Lowe & Wu Chen (A/C)**

**Steven Zeng (A)**  
**Hanna Squire (W)**

## Under 15 years

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

**Steven Zeng (A)**  
**Sophie Shu (A)**  
**S Zeng & T Zeng (A)**  
**J Hung & S Shu (C/A)**  
**S Zeng & J Hung (A/C)**

**Alize Belrose (PYF)**  
**Jenny Hung (C)**

## Under 13 years

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

**Phillip Xiao (A)**  
**Helen Chen (NH)**  
**P Xiao & T Zeng (A)**  
**H Chen & V Yan (NH/WK)**  
**J Wang & V Yan (WK)**

**Terry Zeng (A)**  
**Villa Yan (WK)**

## NZ Open – Team Winners

### Open

Men's A Grade  
Men's B Grade  
Men's C Grade  
Women

**Auckland 1**  
**Auckland 2**  
**Counties Manukau**  
**Canterbury 1**

P Craven, A Huang, S Laugesen, B Zhu, J Alexandre  
L Yang, A Gong, L Sheck, W Gear, N Lowe  
Q Hoete, G Hoete, J Barnard  
A Lee, T Li, J Yang

### Veteran

Over 45 men  
Over 45 women  
Over 55 men  
Over 65 men

**Wellington 1**  
**North Harbour 1**  
**Auckland 1**  
**North Harbour**

L Ward, B McConnochie, C Talbot  
V Beaver, J Murray  
P Low, J Zhang  
B Sorby, T Cockfield

### Junior

Boys U19 A Grade  
Boys U19 B Grade  
Girls U 19  
Boys U15 A Grade  
Boys U15 B Grade  
Boys U15 C Grade  
Girls U 15

**Auckland 1**  
**Waikato**  
**Canterbury**  
**Auckland**  
**Waikato**  
**Canterbury 2**  
**Auckland**

A Huang, N Lowe, S Zeng, B Zhu, J Alexandre  
M Veen, Y Liu, Y Yuen  
M Li, J Hung, C Wu  
M Wu, T Zeng, P Xiao, M Lowe  
E Cook, J Wang, W Thomson, J Singh  
P Wang, D Hyun, T Davey  
S Ho, E Yang, A Lu, S Shu



L/R: Bruce Kaihe-Sayers, Blair Paterson, Mark Nalder

Photos: Adrian Soh

## Getting it Right With Expedite

By Alan Moore

A very interesting, but seldom understood part of the Laws of Table Tennis is the Expedite System. Most players will never have direct contact with the specifics of this system, but that is no reason why we all should not have a better understanding of what is involved.

The expedite rule was brought in to shorten the duration of matches between two defensive players of similar ability. In days gone by rallies to determine one point could last for extended periods of time. To the purist this just added to the interest in the game as each player sought advantage over the other – either by wearing them down or relying on a mistake being made. Rallies of over an hour in length were not uncommon and must have caused scheduling nightmares for tournament organisers.

The expedite rule has undergone several changes over the years, most recently to accommodate the 11 point game. But essentially the intent has been the same throughout: the **server** must endeavour to **win** a point before the **13th good return** has been made by the **receiver**.

The Laws of Table Tennis define the system as follows:

- 2.15.1 Except where both players or pairs have scored at least 9 points, the expedite system shall come into operation if a game is unfinished after 10 minutes play or at any earlier time at the request of both players or pairs**
- 2.15.1.1 If the ball is in play when the time limit is reached, play shall be interrupted by the umpire and shall resume with the service by the player who served in the rally that was interrupted.**
- 2.15.1.2 If the ball is not in play when the time limit is reached, play shall resume with service by the player who received in the immediately preceding rally.**
- 2.15.2 Thereafter, each player shall serve for 1 point in turn until the end of the game and if the receiving player or pair makes 13 good returns the receiver shall score a point.**
- 2.15.3 Once introduced, the expedite system shall remain in operation until the end of the match.**

An important fact to remember is that even if a game runs past the 10 minute time limit, as long as the score of 9-9 or more has been reached, the next game starts under normal conditions of play.

### Three Examples

I have recently been involved on three occasions where the expedite system was invoked. In each case the administration of the system left something to be desired. A finger is not pointed at any official and I am using these instances purely to illustrate how difficult it is to cope with the variables involved in the system and its implementation.

*Match One, between two very good defensive players at an NZ Open Women's event:*

Although the referee had warned me to be prepared to act as "stroke counter", I was not as well prepared as I thought. Questions such as (1) where to stand (2) how loudly to announce each stroke number (3) whether to count as the ball was struck, just after it was struck, or when the return was seen to be good. These questions were buzzing in my mind as I approached the table. A quick word from the referee answered most of them, but set me thinking about my lack of knowledge of the system.

At the time of the match I had already passed my regional umpires exam and felt I had a pretty fair grasp of the rules, but apparently not! I now understand that any match official called on to be involved in this situation should be well briefed beforehand. The answers to the questions are as follows:

- The stroke counter will normally stand on the opposite side of the table from the umpire, and turn slightly towards each receiver when counting. An assistant umpire (who sits or stands in this same position) may act as stroke counter.
- The stroke counter will announce each stroke loudly enough so that the umpire, players and spectators can all hear the count.
- The call shall be made immediately after the receiver has struck the ball and not delayed until the ball has been judged good or the ball has gone out of play.

*Match Two, a semi-final between two veteran women with well known defensive ability:*

This match was expected to run over time and I was called to umpire by the referee. The time limit was reached and I interrupted the game. It was then discovered there was no stroke counter on hand. This was unfortunate for the players as there was a much longer delay than there should have been before an official was found to take up the task. While the outcome of the match was probably not affected it illustrated that preparation for expedite must be thorough.

*Match Three, between two young women:*

I was referee at this district open tournament and felt there was a fair likelihood that the match would pass the 10 minute time allowance per game. I appointed an experienced umpire and time keeper, and briefed a stroke counter. All was going according to plan and indeed in the 4<sup>th</sup> game the time limit was reached. A smooth transition to expedite was effected but two problems emerged. The umpire requested that the stroke counter count the good returns rather than the strokes. This was sorted out promptly and the stroke counter continued to count the receiver's strokes immediately after the ball was struck. The second problem occurred during a long rally, when the ball was returned 12 times successfully and the umpire was about to award the point to the receiver before the 13<sup>th</sup> return was deemed to be good. As it turned out the return missed the table and so the server won the point, but only after an explanation to the umpire that 13 good returns were required. This reinforced once more that anyone's understanding of the expedite system cannot be taken for granted. Even experienced umpires can get it wrong.



By kind permission of Marek.

### A Mystery

The expedite system will remain a mystery to those who have not personally been involved as either player, umpire or spectator. It is not often invoked in today's predominantly attacking game and so most are happy to remain in blissful ignorance of its intricacies. For me, the expedite system adds a sense of urgency to the game and I find it fascinating to see the change in a player who has been steadfastly defending during the match now trying to actually **win** a point rather than wait for the other player to **lose** it.

☒

## Opinion...

### OPEN OR CLOSED?

2004 was another year which saw the Men's crown at the National Championships (see page 20) won by a foreigner, thereby thwarting any chance of another home-grown champion. This raises the issue of whether the NZ Championships should be open to overseas players or closed and restricted to just NZ players.

Most players would aim to represent NZ and to win a NZ title - a goal that may not be achievable if the NZ Championships remain open, given the depth of quality foreign players coming to NZ.

This year the top seed and eventual champion, **Seo Dong Chul** from Korea, was a cut above the rest and it was unfortunate for **Shane Laugesen**, one of New Zealand's top players, that he met Seo in the quarter finals. Against anyone else, Shane may well have won and advanced further.

The overseas players do however bring an international flavour to the Championships and provide good and often much needed competition for our top players. Traditionally we have had large numbers of New Caledonians and sometimes Australians and Fijians participating. They not only boost the numbers but they also enhance the profile of the sport and create publicity. These benefits are great for table tennis.

Perhaps then the Australian practice of running an Open and a Closed Championship may have some merit. Our tournament schedule however is already cluttered and adding another tournament when we already have a Summer Nationals may be unrealistic. It would also create additional travel costs and it could cause problems with the weighting of the two events and the respective prestige given to each. Furthermore we could find ourselves in a situation where the same players participate in both events should overseas players choose not to come.

My view is that we should maintain the status quo. NZ players still have a good chance of winning the Open Tournament - the last overseas Men's singles champion before 2003 was H Abe from Japan in 1984. The Koreans brought world class table tennis to centre stage in Auckland. Seldom do we get the opportunity to watch players of this calibre and in my opinion the benefits to table tennis generally from the participation of overseas players are simply too valuable to forego. At the end of the day everyone benefits from broadening participation - individual players get top class competition and table tennis as a sport is enhanced as a result of overseas competitors taking part in our National Championships.

**Wayne Gear**



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<http://www.donictabletennis.co.nz>

Dr Neubauer rubbers also available— Ask for free pamphlet

## South Island Teams Tournament

These championships were held at the Barry Butler Stadium, Timaru, on the weekend of the 5/6 June. 29 teams took part. District Associations represented were Nelson, Canterbury, Otago, Southland and South Canterbury. There was a close finish in the men's event - Nelson took the title with a 6-5 win over Canterbury 1 in the deciding contest. The women's event was an all Canterbury affair with Canterbury 1 defeating the No 2 team 7-4.

Winners of other team titles were:

U19 Boys - Nelson 1.

U15 Boys – Canterbury 2.

U19 Girls - Canterbury 1.

Veterans – Canterbury 1.

Overall, good table tennis was played. Except for a few delays experienced by some, the tournament went smoothly.

**Bruce Gloistein**

If at first you don't succeed .....  
.....Pretend you weren't really trying!

**Around the Country**

## CANTERBURY

### Ron Fleming, Canterbury's Multi-Sportsman

It would be hard to find a more multiple multi-sportsperson than Table Tennis Canterbury's recently retired Chairman **Ron Fleming**.

He has been a fitness trainer in athletics, rugby, hockey and swimming; he has been involved with soccer, badminton, motor racing and speedway; he has held positions (coach, committee member, treasurer, club captain and president) in most of the sports he has been associated with. His athletics activities began in 1960 and continue to this day.

In 1971 he organised a Sports Medicine Seminar attended by **Arthur Lydiard**, coach of the legendary **Peter Snell**, and he was a committee member of the local branch of the NZ Federation of Sports Medicine for ten years.

His sports administration awards include a diploma from the International Olympic Committee for his contribution to the development of sport and Olympism.

*Continued over:*

To this can be added his own sporting achievements which include several high placings in long distance running events. He won the Kaiapoi to Christchurch road race in 1962.

And this still left time for table tennis. He was an A grade interclub player in the 1950's, a member of Table Tennis Canterbury's Management Committee from 1995-2000, and Chairman from 2000-2003.

These days Ron is seen running for two hours twice a week and has said he would like to have a crack at a marathon next year. He turns 73 next month, in case you're wondering.

To add a final touch to his versatility, he stepped comfortably into the boots of Father Christmas and spent a year or two bringing twinkle-eyed cheer to all ages, including TT Info's editor (right).



## South Korea Army Team Visits Christchurch

An all-male team of eight top Korean players, including 2003 World Singles runner-up **Joo Se Hyuk**, spent a week in Christchurch before competing in the NZ Open in Auckland.

During their stay they held ten practice sessions where they showed a willingness to practise with local players. On Saturday, 18 September they played exhibition matches against a Canterbury team which acquitted itself well by taking the odd game here and there. Of particular interest was the contest between six times New Zealand Champion **Aaron Li** and Joo Se Hyuk. The Korean won 12-10, 11-8, 11-8.

An audience of more than 200 appreciated the skills and agility of the visiting players.

## OBITUARY

### Keith Armstrong

The death occurred on 25 July, 2004, of **Keith Armstrong**, a high-profile Table Tennis Canterbury administrator and veteran player. He was 72.

Keith was a member of the team responsible for the Association's move from their former Selwyn Street premises to the sparkling new Blenheim Road Stadium. He was heavily involved in the process through all its stages: negotiating the business transactions, physically moving the equipment, decorating the new premises and obtaining the spectator seating. Keith would be the first to acknowledge that the project depended on major contributions from others, notably **Eddie Moore** (now of Wellington), but with Keith's passing the stadium will doubtless be seen by many as a monument to his memory.

As a player, Keith was a regular supporter of NZ Veteran and South Island Championships. He won several doubles titles at these events, again partnered by Eddie Moore.

Keith's all-round administrative skills will be greatly missed by Table Tennis Canterbury, and also by the Harewood Club which he has led for many years and originally helped to set up.



## MANAWATU

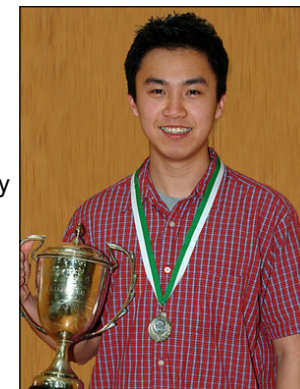
### NZ Junior of the Year: Three in a row for Manawatu

Table Tennis Manawatu is pleased to announce that they have been successful with their nomination of **Calvin Kwong** (photo below) for 2004 TTNZ Junior of the Year.

In presenting the award, Table Tennis Manawatu took a moment to reflect on the past three years, whereby they have had their candidates win the award each year - 2002 with **Blair Paterson**, 2003 with **Grant Gordon** and 2004 with **Calvin Kwong**.

All three have seriously taken on the challenge to help build up the profile of table tennis in the Manawatu and their actions are encouraging others to take up the same challenge. These young men share a passionate view of where they want to be in table tennis. They set themselves targets and actively go about achieving them. They take the opportunities put to all players in the Manawatu and are proactive in creating their own opportunities beyond this. They do not shy away from the hard work needed to improve their game; and voluntarily assist with demos, coaching at schools and generally help at association events. They are well supported from home, and share a real desire to achieve. This has drawn them together and collectively they have reaped the rewards. It is wonderful to see them make such a positive impact. They are instrumental in the rebuilding of Table Tennis Manawatu, with its culture of working collectively towards common goals.

Whilst all three are yet to break through to representing their country, they fit well into the required Junior of the Year criteria of playing performance/results, conduct, contribution to their local association and potential in the sport.



## VOLUNTARY HOURS COUNTED UP

Table Tennis Manawatu introduced a *Service Performance* statement into its annual accounts this year. Not a dollars and cents document but a statement that outlines the non-dollar aspects of an organization. The most startling piece of information in this is that Table Tennis Manawatu has benefited from almost 4000 hours of volunteer effort. This equates to nearly two full-time employees!!! Of significance is the effort of **Murray Holdaway** for tournament organization and **Alan Pedley** for player development and promotion/publicity. They each have put in on average 20 hours per week throughout the whole year.

During the last 12 months there have been some fundamental shifts in the functioning of Table Tennis Manawatu. Most significant is the inclusion on the Executive committee of several non table tennis people with experience in higher level management. They have assisted the transition to a more strategic operation from a governance perspective. They look forward in an analytical manner for the sport as a whole.

Financially, due to a lot of hard work (all voluntary), Table Tennis Manawatu has *tripled* its net worth this year. We can now say that TT Manawatu is financially stable. This does not mean secure. There is plenty of sound financial management still required to ensure financial viability in the long term.

*Continued over:*



However, the dire situation of financial embarrassment that was faced in 2002 is now a memory. We must ensure that systems and controls are continued to avoid such negligence again.

In 2004 there has again been plenty of activity on the player development front. School demonstrations/promotions, continuation of a Junior Club which ran in Terms 1, 2 and 3 of the school year, and a coaching structure aligned to the TTNZ Skills Awards Program with a Bronze squad, a combined Silver/Gold squad, and a High Performance squad.

23 Manawatu teams in various age categories were selected for the NZ Veterans Championships, 12 for the North Island Teams Events, and two junior boys teams for the NZ Championships. We also had a team represent Manawatu at the NZ School Championships, something which hasn't happened in many years. Representative fixtures were arranged against Wellington, Wairarapa and Hawkes Bay, and Manawatu received an invitation to play in the Sutton Shield - a quadrangular tournament between Waikato, Counties Manukau and North Harbour.

In recognizing the success of 2004, it is vital that the input and support of parents, partners, local businesses, charitable trusts and a small core of dedicated enthusiasts is recognized as fundamental to the growth of table tennis in the Manawatu.

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## MARLBOROUGH

### Marlburian Succeeds at National Tournaments

**Megan Stratford** flew the Marlborough colours with pride at National level in 2004. At the NZ Championships in Auckland she reached the final of the Under 13 girls' doubles with Wellington's **Lauren Watling** and picked up the junior girls' umpiring trophy for the third time. The umpiring award in particular was a remarkable achievement considering Megan is still under 13 and the trophy is open to all players attending the championships under the age of 19. At the South Island Championships Megan won the Under 13 girls' singles, Under 15 mixed doubles, Under 15 girls' doubles, Under 17 mixed doubles, and Under 17 girls' doubles with her sister **Kali**. Kali was runner-up in the Under 19 and Under 17 girls' singles.

It was a busy season for Marlborough with weekly junior coaching, junior competitions, interclub, the Marlborough Open and Marlborough Closed Championships, and the end of season dinner and prize-giving.

#### Domestic title and trophy winners were:

Under 15 Shield: Kieran Houliker and Aaron Stewart; Junior Teams Trophy: Matthew Pigou and Tim Crampton; A Grade Interclub Winners: Redwood Tavern Warriors (Matt Willis, Nigel Schultz, Amanda Niblett); Runners-up: Korotua (Ken Thompsett, Zarko Gorski, Orm Collins);

#### Marlborough Closed Finals -

M/S: M Millar bt M Willis, W/S: A Niblett bt K Stratford, MD: Millar/D Jones bt Willis/ N Schultz, WD: Niblett/K Gilchrist bt K Stratford/M Stratford, XD: Millar/M Stratford bt Schultz/Niblett;

**Rankings** (Top 4 out of 10 in each category) - Men: M Millar, R Malosek, M Willis, P Wells; Women: A Niblett, M Kerwin, K Stratford, K Gilchrist; Boys Under 19: K Houliker, J Zhou, A Stewart, E Diamanti; Girls Under 19: M Stratford, K Stratford, S Lensen, N Burrows; Boys Under 15: K Houliker, A Stewart, E Diamanti, M Bush;

**Special Awards** - Sportsperson of the Year Nominee: Megan Stratford; Most improved player (male): Jeremy Phipps; Most improved player (female): Kali Stratford; Most conscientious player: Janice Thompsett; Most improved under 15 boy: Michael Bush; Most improved under 15 girl: Frances Stubbs; Fair Play Cup: Simon Bush.

Marlborough is a small Association but with the continued dedication and enthusiasm of the committee and players, the 2005 season should be another busy and rewarding one.

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## NORTHLAND

### Obituary

#### Bill Hurrey - (1912 – 2004)

In 1947 Bill Hurrey and his wife Mavis were instrumental in founding the Northland Table Tennis Association. He built interest in table tennis and saw five sub-associations affiliated to Northland: Whangarei, Bay of Islands, Mangonui, Awanui and Northern Wairoa. Whangarei alone probably had 10–12 clubs. He fostered the game in the north with association and club contests.

An average interclub player, he was noted for his steady backhand.

He was often seen at the helm running tournaments at the old A & P buildings. Northland tournaments were well patronised from as far south as the Waikato.

He took me as a young up-and-coming player to many tournaments around the country. This gave me the opportunity for match play away from Northland.

Bill had very strong administrative skills and held various posts for Northland for more than 30 years including President/Chairman. He attended many NZ AGMs as advocate for Northland table tennis and was NZ President from 1968 to 1969.

In 1998, as Northland Patron, Bill unveiled a plaque to commemorate 50 years of table tennis in Northland. He remained Patron until the time of his death.

Along with his wife, he was a tireless worker for Northland Table Tennis for many years and will be sadly missed.

His memory is preserved at national level with the Bill Hurrey Cup, presented annually since 1979 to the Association winning the most junior titles at the NZ Championships.

### James Morris

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## Novelty Doubles

Table Tennis Northland held its 4th Annual **Garry Frew** Memorial Doubles Tournament on 16 October. 40 players took part. Partners were drawn and hard bats and large balls were used. The emphasis was on fun. Competitors ranged in age from 7 to 70+. Round robins were played in groups of four with the first and second place-getters going through to a main draw and the third and fourth pairings playing in a second division draw.

*Continued over:*

The winners were:

Main draw

1st: **Cynthia Luke & Merv Luke**

Runners-up:

**Robyn Cross & Gavin Ball**

Second division

1st: **Graeme Jackson & Alf Moselen**

Runners-up:

**Paul Newman & Jamie Ball**



**Presentations**

L/R: **Paul Newman, Alf Moselen, Jamie Ball** (in front), **Cynthia Luke, Graeme Jackson, Merv Luke, Robyn Cross, Gavin Ball.**

Also presented to **Matthew Cross** was the Peter Woodman Memorial trophy for the Most Improved Junior Player for 2004.

## WAIKATO

### Waikato Open Junior Championships

Sunday, 29 August, 2004

These championships attracted only 20 boys and 9 girls, competing variously in Under 19, 17, 15 and 13 singles, doubles and mixed doubles events. This is despite the U19 and U15 Boys and U17 Girls singles being part of the Northern Grand Prix Circuit. However, I believe the quality of players in some events reflected the attraction of Grand Prix points and believe we should continue to support the Grand Prix concept.

The event started at 8.30 am and was completed by 4 pm, with a prize-giving at 3.15 that included all but the U19 doubles. Some top class table tennis was played featuring NZ representatives. From a parochial perspective, I was pleased to see ALL Waikato juniors receive either a winner or runner-up certificate. Auckland's **Nathan Lowe** dominated the U19 and U17 Boys events. **Authman Al-Saudi** (Auckland) won his first open title and **Villa Yan** confirmed her form in the senior events with upset wins over **Sally Ho** and **Armindeep Singh** to finish surprise runner-up in the U19 Girls as well as winner of the U13 Girls. The expected clash between **Sarah Ho** and **Sophie Shu** did not eventuate as Sophie won the U15 and U17 singles, whereas Sarah made a clean sweep of the U19 events.

Once again the tournament is indebted to the volunteers, especially **Marc Nichol, Lynnette Bellamy, Alan Ward** (Tournament Referee), and several people who helped with the food and cleaning.

**Hamish Rennie** Tournament Controller

#### On the Web from Waikato:

The association has launched their new web site which can be seen at:

<http://www.plumbpak.co.nz/wtta/>

They have also created a chat group at:

<http://groups.msn.com/TableTennisWaikato>

## WAIARAPA

### CHANGE OF PERSONNEL

At the Annual General Meeting of Table Tennis Wairarapa on 4<sup>th</sup> October, Ken Brader was unanimously re-elected as Patron. Ken is believed to be the oldest person playing table tennis in New Zealand.

Delegates from affiliated clubs then decided it was time for a change of administrative personnel. The new Executive Committee is:

Patron	<b>Ken Brader</b>	President	<b>Jim Collins</b>
Secretary	<b>Karen Collins</b> – 66i Paierau Road, R D 1, Masterton, Ph 06 378 2535		
Auditor	<b>W Whiteman</b>	Treasurer	<b>Judy Leckie</b>
Committee	<b>Garry Hewson, Terry Down, Joe Quaadvlieg, Rose Orange, Des Orange, Chris Tait, Malcolm Willoughby, Paddy Field</b>		

The new Executive looks forward to working closely with all clubs within the Wairarapa, and all Associations in New Zealand, to promote the game of table tennis. Their aim is to encourage and promote table tennis at all levels.

#### PETER GREENLEES REMEMBERED

During the meeting delegates were honoured to receive a trophy in memory of their late former Patron Peter Greenlees. The lovely trophy was kindly donated by Jennifer Greenlees on behalf of her family, and is for annual presentation to Wairarapa's most promising junior table tennis player.

## WELLINGTON

### Midweek Morning Club Turns 30

The midweek club run by the **Empire** Table Tennis Club in Petone has recently celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> birthday.

It began modestly with an average attendance of 12 players. The average is now 57, maintained over almost six times as many club mornings per year. The early seasons consisted of one morning per week for about four months. The club now operates twice a week throughout the year.

Most members are over 55 years of age - very different from the way things started out. "In the early days club mornings were rather like a crèche or kindergarten," said **Margaret Allardyce**, who set up the club in 1974. "There were often as many children as players but it met a need - a meeting place and a recreational time for young Mums and older women."

As well as the increase in older members, another change in the club over its thirty years is the gender mix. It was seven years before the first male joined but now men and women attend in roughly equal proportions. As these changes took place, and after a big membership surge in the early 1990's, Margaret Allardyce observed a new dynamic. "The atmosphere became more vibrant. Morning talks began - a time to share events and notices and have a laugh."

Very early in its life the club became a focal point for other midweek clubs in the greater Wellington area. At the end of each season players from clubs in Paraparaumu, Tawa, Johnsonville, Paparangi, Vogelmorn and Wainuiomata joined Empire players to compete in an open tournament. Numbers at this event reached 100 in 1981. It remains an annual fixture.

Margaret Allardyce retired from the club in 1998. **Trevor Billows** (now deceased) took over for two years, and **Lois McStay** is now the club's main co-ordinator. ☒

## COMMONWEALTH CHAMPIONSHIPS AN IMPORTANT EVENT FOR NZ

After expressing doubt earlier in the year over the value of New Zealand teams attending the World Championships (see previous issue of *TT Info*), Director of Coaching **James Morris** is emphatically in favour of our teams regularly competing in the Commonwealth Championships.

"Posting creditable results at the Commonwealths gives TTNZ the opportunity to put a strong case to the NZ Olympic Committee and SPARC for funding our high performance athletes," he said after the team returned from the Championships in Kuala Lumpur in June.

With Li Chunli and Karen Li both preparing for the Olympics and unavailable, New Zealand was represented by a men's team only – led by the experienced **Peter Jackson** and also comprising **Andy Huang, Simon Wallace** and **John Cordue**. (*Shane Laugesen, Andrew Hubbard, Aaron Li and Peter Craven were all unavailable for various reasons.*)

In section play the team beat Sri Lanka, Isle of Man and Malaysia; and lost to Australia, Wales and India. In a play-off for 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> place, they lost to Scotland.

In the individual events, Peter Jackson reached the singles quarter-finals and Andy Huang was runner-up in the consolation singles.

"We have shown that we are capable of achieving competitive results," said Morris. "Peter Jackson's individual ranking is 5<sup>th</sup> and the team result 6<sup>th</sup>, out of 18 teams. This was a good performance considering NZ finished ahead of teams such as Canada and Singapore, with a young developing team. It indicates our potential for medals at the Commonwealth Games in 2006. As the World individual and team championships are now held separately, the



L/R: **Peter Jackson, Andy Huang, James Morris, John Cordue & Simon Wallace.**

Commonwealth event should be a high priority for NZ players."

At a meeting during the championships a progress report on the 2006 Commonwealth Games in Brisbane was received, and the allocation of the 2010 Commonwealth Games to New Delhi, India, was confirmed.

## Special Tribute

# Coach Education Pioneer

By John Kiley

**Three years ago we published a profile on Canterbury's Trevor Flint. He had just been made a Life Member of TTNZ in recognition of more than sixty years dedicated to table tennis. Aged 79, he is still active today.**

The profile included his remarkable record of 200 representative matches for Canterbury. He was also Canterbury President for 20 years, and managed or assisted at several NZ Championships and two specialist international events – the 1983 World Deaf Games and the 1999 World Wheelchair Games.

He competed in the 1951 World Championships, achieved a peak ranking of No 2 in New Zealand, represented the South Island five times, and served a term as a New Zealand Selector.

And yet Trevor's enduring legacy lies in none of these achievements. He will be remembered primarily for his pioneering work in coaching and, especially, coach education.

### Vision

Whether or not they realise it, present day coaches at all levels are benefiting from Trevor's trail-blazing vision which began in 1964, leapt forward in 1968, bore fruit throughout the 1970's, and has been steadily built on and refined by countless other coaches since his retirement as NZ Director of Coaching in 1980.

Trevor Flint turned to coaching in 1964 after business commitments and a back ailment forced his premature withdrawal from top level competitive play. He had previously coached on a casual basis but now devoted all his energy to it.

He trained a pool of coaches to each take a weekly squad of up to 12 young Canterbury players nominated by schools and clubs, and Trevor himself coached an elite squad. There was fierce competition among the coaches to produce the best players, and equally fierce competition among the players to make the elite group.

It was a popular move and quickly became a talking point in Canterbury. Even players not in the squads were inspired to try harder knowing there was now more to aim for and more opportunities of success. The whole culture of Canterbury table tennis changed.

Eventually the results were reflected at national level. Canterbury juniors began winning more New Zealand titles and reaching more finals than ever before and Trevor's reputation as a coach soared. It soon eclipsed his status as a former top player and his coaching skills were in demand well beyond Canterbury.



### Concrete Plan

By 1968 Trevor Flint's long term vision had materialised into a concrete plan for a nationwide co-ordinated approach to coaching. It was a watershed year for Trevor. He undertook, at his own expense, a fact-finding trip to Japan, Singapore, Hong Kong and Australia. He consulted with coaches, studied coaching methods, and observed the attitudes of young players to training. "In Tokyo I saw a large group of girls of about 17 or 18 concentrating solidly on the game for about three hours," he said. "Those who were not playing were picking up balls for the others. Their attitude to practice was terribly serious."

He returned home convinced that the key to raising New Zealand's international standing lay in setting up a national coaching structure, educating a large pool of coaches, and raising the standard of training by our top players, senior and junior. His work in Canterbury and the manifest results of it could be paraded as a model and as proof that it worked. The plan became an obsession for Trevor and he was never to rest until it became a reality.

His vision was ahead of its time and his proposals initially met resistance from the national decision-makers. But his determination prevailed and he was appointed New Zealand Director of Coaching in 1970.

### Green Light

With stored up energy and enthusiasm to burn, Trevor moved instantly into top gear on receiving the long-awaited green light. By the early 1970's national senior coaching clinics were regular events, regional live-in schools for juniors up to a week in length had been introduced, and a series of regional "Coaching of Coaches" seminars were held. The resulting nationwide pool of trained coaches enabled schemes similar to Canterbury's to be set up in other regions. Players at all levels now saw a clear development path ahead of them: selection for local, regional and national training squads, paving the way to the pinnacle achievement - national team selection. Unlike before, when selection in a New Zealand team was an impossible dream for most and NZ Junior teams were unheard of, a system was now in place where at least the next step on the ladder was an achievable goal. Junior teams began a succession of annual trips to the Australian Junior Championships in 1978 and the Oceania Championships were inaugurated the same year.

### Hard Work

As head of the whole operation, Trevor's work throughout the 1970's was gruelling. As well as running the coach education courses and conducting the national schools, he travelled to World and Commonwealth Championships as coach of New Zealand teams and also coached a team on a memorable trip to China. These experiences gave him further opportunities to observe coaches with international expertise and to apply and pass on his gained knowledge.

### Indelible Mark

Coaching has come a long way in the decades since Trevor finally stepped down in 1980. Overseas coaches have worked here and NZ coaches have attended international workshops and generic courses with top level coaches from other sporting codes. New techniques are constantly evolving and our recently introduced Player Development Framework has even more clearly mapped out the promotional opportunities for young players.

But it is no exaggeration to say that Trevor Flint's vision laid the foundation for it all. A nationwide structure would doubtless have still arisen (eventually) without him, but by identifying the need forty years ago Trevor made a unique contribution. His tenacity, original ideas, sixteen years of hard work, and limitless enthusiasm to inspire others have all combined to leave an indelible mark on the history of coaching in New Zealand.

To fittingly crown his career, in 2002 at the age of 77 Trevor was awarded the Order of Merit in the Queen's Birthday Honours List for his services to Table Tennis.

## WHO'S THAT??

"These days Trevor promotes the game he loves by helping to run the Tuesday and Thursday mornings for the not so young at the Blenheim Road Stadium," says Canterbury Publicity Officer **Bruce Gloistein**. "One of his duties is looking after the stadium bookings."

Trevor is now barely known among the age-group he was once so dedicated to. Bruce recalls a recent incident: "A young boy standing beside me in the stadium pointed to Trevor Flint and asked 'Who is that?'"

It was a timely reminder that monumental careers like Trevor's need to be preserved for the inspiration of all who follow. Trevor took up the sport at about the same age as the boy who pointed him out. Perhaps his story will inspire that boy, and other young table tennis enthusiasts, to try and emulate his achievements.

## TABLE TENNIS COULD HAVE LOST TREVOR FLINT IN 1954

Ten years before Trevor Flint's remarkable coaching career began in 1964, he was the victim of a cruel selection fiasco that could well have seen him turn his back on the sport for ever.

Representing New Zealand is an honour that lies beyond the reach of most players even today. But in Trevor Flint's peak playing years it was a rarity for there to even *be* a New Zealand representative team, much less to get selected in one. The first officially selected team travelled to Australia in 1939 – only to have the tour curtailed due to the outbreak of the Second World War. One player (**Russell Algie**) represented NZ at the 1948 World Championships - not an official selection but endorsed by the NZ Association, as were the New Zealand players at the 1950 and 1951 World Championships (Trevor was one of three to attend in 1951).

The first time New Zealand sent an officially selected team to the World Championships was in 1954. There was great excitement among the top players when the decision to send a team was announced. Trials were scheduled and the players advised that the best performers would be selected. Interest was widespread and all over the country a host of armchair "selectors" sharpened their pencils and confidently declared their team predictions.

### About Turn

Then, without public announcement and without even informing the players, the national body did an about turn and instructed the selectors to favour young players with potential rather than automatically select those with the best results in the trials and major tournaments.

With no knowledge of this revised selection criteria, Trevor Flint awaited the naming of the team with confidence. He had reached the final of the 1953 men's singles, losing only to the legendary **Bob Jackson**. He was ranked No 2 in New Zealand that same year. He had performed well in the trials.

He was not selected.

And he had beaten all four selected players in the trials.

The selection process was appallingly handled by the national body and the Canterbury Association protested on behalf of Trevor, and on behalf of another top Canterbury player, **John Armstrong**, who could also justifiably claim to have earned a place in the team. They didn't question the policy of selecting young players (the 1954 Worlds launched the international careers of **Murray Dunn** and **Garry Frew**), but deplored the lack of communication of the criteria to the trialists.

It turned out to be Trevor's only real chance of NZ selection and it was a bitter disappointment. He had every reason to respond by giving the sport away altogether but to his honour appears to have never even considered it.

The rest is history.

# Four Rackets, One Sport: Racketlon!!

By John Kiley

The racket sport equivalent of Triathlon, Decathlon, and all the other “lons” has arrived. In fact, more than arrived – it’s been around for 19 years.

A group of enthusiasts in Finland got together in the mid-1980’s to organise a multi-racket sports tournament. Players competed in Table Tennis, Squash, Badminton and Tennis to determine the *mailapelit* (Racket Games) champion. The idea caught on – in 1986 the first Finnish Open was held and it’s been an annual event ever since. As many as 400 players compete.

By coincidence, a year or two later the same idea was independently developed in neighbouring Sweden where it also became popular.

By the early 1990’s the sport had spread to other European countries and the first international event was held in Sweden in 1991. The code was given an official name (RACKETLON); an official logo (see below); a website ([www.racketlon.com](http://www.racketlon.com)); there is now a World Ranking List with more than 800 players on it; and a World Tour was introduced in 2003. Now in its second year, it includes 12 tournaments in ten countries and will culminate in the World Racketlon Championships in Vienna, Austria, in November, 2004.

Former Swedish tennis star Stefan Edberg is a recent open tournament winner.

*Racketlon Logo.  
Pingis is the Swedish word for Ping Pong.  
A new logo is being considered with  
all four sports in English.*



## Rules

The sports are played in the following order (from smaller to larger courts): Table Tennis, Squash, Badminton, Tennis. Players, or pairs, play one table tennis set to 21, changing serve after each five points. A two point winning margin is required. They then play a set of squash, a set of badminton, and a set of tennis - all under the same scoring system as for the table tennis. Scores are totalled at the end, and if they are even, a single point tie-break is played in tennis, drawing lots for serve and with the second serve eliminated to offset the server’s advantage. The normal rules for each code apply in all other respects, including the second serve in tennis.

A break of up to three minutes is allowed between codes and there is a further three minutes warm-up period in the new code before scoring starts.

The detailed rules, and a wide range of background information, news, and links, are on the website.

## Widespread Participation

The ranking list contains 685 men, 109 women, and there are smaller veteran and junior lists. Most ranked players are from Europe but there are some from countries as diverse as Nigeria, Egypt, South Africa, Australia, and yes, one from New Zealand (Andrew Sceats, No 514 - see adjoining article). But so far all major tournaments have been held either in Europe or Canada. There is no sign yet of the sport reaching the United States or Asia.

## ANDREW SCEATS – NZ’S RACKETLON CONNECTION

Andrew is primarily a Squash player, with some Tennis experience. He comes from Warkworth, boarded at Auckland Grammar and remained in Auckland until heading overseas in 1997. He now lives in Amsterdam and travelled to Belgium in June to play Racketlon. He saw it as a challenge to his all-round racket skills. “I had never played a game of Badminton in my life and very little Table Tennis,” he said. “I was intrigued how well I would perform knowing that I would probably hold my own in Squash and Tennis. I thought it was a great way to have a go at a couple of other disciplines I knew I would be poor at, in a low pressure environment. I had also heard it was a very sociable tournament and a great way to meet different people and cultures.”

The tournament well and truly met Andrew’s expectations, in fact surpassed them. “I absolutely loved it. I’d have played more by now but for an injury. I was surprised at the international flavour. There were players who, in their strongest sport, play at top level, including highly ranked Swedish TT and Badminton players.”

It was also a learning curve for the New Zealander. “I was beating one of my opponents really easily in the Squash and took it a bit easy and gave him a few more points but then at the end of the contest (after we had played the four disciplines) I found he had beaten me overall despite thinking I was the better all round player. The difference was that he was ruthless in the disciplines he was good at and I wasn’t!!”

So the popular maxim, *never let up*, applies to Racketlon as well.

Andrew has lived in the Netherlands for 18 months and operates an agency for sportspeople of all codes, especially rugby, seeking playing contracts in Europe.



## Clubs, Clubs, Clubs!

**Table Tennis New Zealand is seeking information regarding Table Tennis clubs** around the country, as it builds a register of clubs (both affiliated and non-affiliated) as an aid to development and communication with existing, new and potential members.

If, as an association or club administrator, you can supply names and contacts of clubs, please contact the national body at P O Box 867 Wellington or email [ttnz@tabletennis.org.nz](mailto:ttnz@tabletennis.org.nz) with the details. If as a player you also have such information they would also like to hear from you. Your help with this would be appreciated.

## Veterans Magazine

Produced 3 times per year by Dennis Galvin “**Vetspeak**” concentrates on news of Veteran players (said to be over 40!).



It is available at \$3 per calendar year. If you wish to subscribe, pay to Dennis at P O Box 21-386 Henderson Waitakere City. (Ph 09 835-0993).

Dennis’s email is [dennisgalvin@clear.net.nz](mailto:dennisgalvin@clear.net.nz) for contributions.

It is worthy of your support.

# South Island Championships - Invercargill

## 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

## Over 65 years

Men's Singles

## Over 60 years

Men's Singles

## Over 50 years

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

## Over 40 years

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

## Under 17 years

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

## Under 15 years

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

## Winner

**Malcolm Darroch (C)**  
**Leanne Ridder (S)**  
**M Darroch & K Samson (C)**  
**S Mitchell & L Ridder (S)**  
**M Darroch & J King (C/S)**

**Karl Samson (C)**  
**Sandra Mitchell (S)**  
**D Samson & K Samson (C)**  
**S Mitchell & L Ridder (S)**

**Jack Chaney (C)**  
**Jessica MacAskill (S)**  
**J Chaney & W Pringle (C)**  
**J MacAskill & P Swale (S)**

**Barrie Kendall (O)**

**Barrie Kendall (O)**

**Dave Samson (C)**  
**Sandra Mitchell (S)**  
**D Samson & C Tipper (C)**  
**D Samson & S Mitchell (C/S)**

**Malcolm Darroch (C)**  
**Patricia Swale (S)**  
**M Darroch & D Samson (C)**  
**J Fogarty & S Mitchell (O/S)**

**Anthony Wilson (O)**  
**Jessica MacAskill (S)**  
**K Samson & A Wilson (C/O)**  
**J MacAskill & L Ridder (S)**  
**A Wilson & L Ridder (O/S)**

**William Pringle (C)**  
**Leanne Ridder (S)**  
**A Wilson & Y Yuen (O/WK)**  
**A Wilson & L Ridder (O/S)**

**William Pringle (C)**  
**Jessica MacAskill (S)**  
**J Chaney & W Pringle (C)**  
**K Stratford & M Stratford (ML)**  
**B Smith & M Stratford (S/ML)**

**Jack Chaney (C)**  
**Jessica MacAskill (S)**  
**J Chaney & W Sew Hoy (C/O)**  
**J MacAskill & M Stratford (S/ML)**  
**J Chaney & M Stratford (C/ML)**

## Singles Runner Up

**Karl Samson (C)**  
**Sandra Mitchell (S)**

**Anthony Wilson (O)**  
**Leanne Ridder (S)**

**Peter Hau (O)**  
**Patricia Swale (S)**

**Colin Neutze (S)**

**Colin Neutze (S)**

**Colin Tipper (C)**  
**June King (S)**

**John Fogarty (O)**  
**Sandra Mitchell (S)**

**Karl Samson (C)**  
**Leanne Ridder (S)**

**Anthony Wilson (O)**  
**Kali Stratford (ML)**

**Jack Chaney (C)**  
**Kali Stratford (ML)**

**Stewart Van Zanten (C)**  
**Megan Stratford (ML)**

## Under 13 years

Boys' Singles  
Girls' Singles  
Boys' Doubles

**Thomas Gudsell (SC)**  
**Megan Stratford (ML)**  
**T Gudsell & A Nahar (SC/S)**

**Devon Baillie (S)**  
**Gemma Buzzard (S)**

## Entry Numbers Down at South Island Champs

Despite Southland's hospitable reputation, the 2004 South Island Championships attracted only 41 participants. This was well down on the last time Southland hosted the event in 1999 and shows that more and more players are reluctant to travel as far south as Invercargill. This seems unfair when, in other years, Southland players loyally support the South Island and New Zealand Championships wherever they are played.

Those that did make the effort to attend the event, some from as far away as Marlborough and Waikato, were treated to a well-run tournament at a first class venue.

Canterbury's veteran star and former New Zealand representative **Malcolm Darroch** won the men's singles – a title he first won in 1984. **Leanne Ridder** of Southland won the women's title.

Southland junior **Jessica MacAskill** performed well, winning the Under 21, Under 17 and Under 15 girls' singles.

The event was supported by the **Invercargill Licensing Trust**.

## Australian Vets Champs

A small contingent consisting of **Lynley Barker**, **Val Beaver**, **Averil Roberts** and **Janice Stead** (manager) ventured across the Tasman to Canberra in October and participated in the Australian Veteran Championships.

As a team in the over 50's event, they finished 4<sup>th</sup> in the playing results after Japan (1), Victoria (2) and South Australia (3). But because Japan are not part of Oceania, New Zealand earned the third spot Bronze medal. A very fine effort.

In the Over 50's singles, Val and Averil advanced to the knockout draw by winning their sections with Averil then reaching the quarter finals. It is a tough competition. Combining in doubles they lost in the quarter finals to the eventual winners (Baker and Langley of South Australia). Val Beaver was the best of the Kiwis in the mixed doubles, reaching the semi finals partnered by M Wright (Victoria).

Val and Averil also participated in the over 40 women's doubles, reaching the quarter finals.

