

The Teams Results

Women

beat Northern Ireland 3-1
 beat Wales 3-2
 lost to India 2-3

Quarter -Final

beat England 3-1

Semi-Final

lost to Singapore (**Bronze Medal**) 2-3

Men

beat Kenya 3-0
 beat Jamaica 3-0
 beat Mauritius 3-0
 lost to India 1-3
 beat Maldives 3-0

Quarter-Final

lost to Singapore 0-3

5 to 8 position

lost to Wales 1-3

7 to 8 position

lost to Canada 2-3



How our team fared in the Individual Events

Women's Singles

Group D Qualifying

Laura-Lee Smith lost to
 Tracey McLauchlan lost to

Ghazala Rohi (Pak)
 Krystie Harvey (Bar)
 Agnes Ngodoki (Tan)
 Katy Parker (Eng)
 Jiin Soo Chu(Mas)

Round of 32

Karen Li beat

Jan Fang Lay (Aust)

Round of 16

Karen Li beat
 Li Chunli beat

Bethan Daunton (Wal)
 Poulomi Ghatac (Ind)

Quarter Final

Karen Li lost to
 Li Chunli beat

Jia Wei Li (Sing)
 Zhang Xue Ling

Semi-Final

Li Chunli beat

Jing Jun Hong

Final

Li Chunli beat

Li Jia Wei **GOLD MEDAL**

Mens Singles

Round of 64

Andrew Hubbard beat
 Shane Laugesen lost to

Patrick Sahajasen (Mri)
 John Tawadrous (Aus)

Round of 32

Andrew Hubbard lost to
 Peter Jackson lost to
 Aaron Li beat

Andrew Baggaley (Eng)
 Dexter St Louis (Tri)
 Sourav Chakraborty (Ind)

Round of 16

Aaron Li lost to

Segun Moses Tariola (Ngr)

Womens Doubles

Round of 32

McLauchlan/Smith beat

Gulrajani/Picon Achong (Mri)

Round of 16

McLauchlan/Smith lost to
 Li/Li beat

Jing/Li (Sing)
 Walker/Steward (Eng)

Quarter Final

Li/Li beat

Gough/Cho (Aust)

Semi Final

Li/Li beat

Tan/Zhang (Sing)

Final

Li/Li lost to

Jing/Li (Sing) **SILVER MEDAL**

Mens Doubles

Round of 32

Jackson/Li beat
 Hubbard/Laugesen beat

Griffiths/Jenkins (Wales)
 Tawadrous/Clarke (Aust)

Li Chunli

GOLD



Silver Medal to Sisters

Li Chunli and Karen Li with their Women's Doubles Silver medals.

<i>Round of 16</i>		
Jackson/Li	beat	Cirbin/Burke (Tri)
Hubbard/Laugesen	lost to	Huang/Peter Paul (Can)
<i>Quarter Final</i>		
Jackson/Li	lost to	Baggaley/Herbert (Eng)
Mixed Doubles		
<i>Round of 64</i>		
Li/McLauchlan	beat	Gita/Kisakye (Uga)
Hubbard/Smith	lost to	Subramanian/Ghosh (Ind)
<i>Round of 32</i>		
Laugesen/K Li	beat	Sen/Tan (Sing)
Jackson/Li Chunli	beat	Perry/Lower (Eng)
Li/McLauchlan	lost to	Peter Paul/Rossey (Can)
<i>Round of 16</i>		
Laugesen/K Li	beat	Baggaley/Walker (Eng)
Jackson/Li Chunli	beat	Merotohlin/Offiong (Ngr)
<i>Quarter Final</i>		
Laugesen/K Li	lost to	Clarke/Lay (Aust)
Jackson/Li Chunli	beat	Jenkins/Daunton (Wal)
Semi Final		
Jackson/Li Chunli	lost to	Duan/Li (Sing) BRONZE MEDAL

COMMONWEALTH GAMES – A MANAGER’S VIEW

The following are some brief comments on my role as Sport Manager of the NZ Table Tennis team within the NZ Commonwealth Games Team.

Elsewhere in this magazine are further details and viewpoints on the team’s success so I will not repeat them.

In July 2001 I decided to throw my hat in the ring. One of the criteria was “experience as manager of a senior team at international events”. This I did not have - my experience was at junior team level plus attendance at two world championships in a private capacity.

Considering I had experience at management level in the business world and “how does one gain previous experience if a position has not been available in recent years”, an application was lodged and I landed the position.

I received a thick folder from the Games Committee and wondered what I had let myself in for. However, it was common sense and in line with my own views on management.

In brief, the table tennis team’s goal was to win medals and my job was to take care of all the incidentals such as transport, accommodation, meal arrangements, meetings etc, and allow the players and coaches to pursue the team goals without worrying about anything else. In effect the management team for table tennis was myself, James Morris and Simeon Cairns, and I was the liaison with the Games Committee.

Where necessary the full team was involved in decisions. While not everyone was always in agreement, this was expected since all of us are different. While some decisions were not liked, they were accepted and the reason understood.

My first involvement with most team members was at the camp in Whangarei in January this year. My wife Ngairé and I took the chance of a holiday in Northland at this time and thanks are due to James for putting us up for the two or three part days we spent at the camp. This trip was at no cost to TTNZ.

My first contact with other Games officials and team managers was a three day conference in Palmerston North in April. I thought “what are we going to do for three days?” However it was a great and interesting meeting covering team organisation, leadership, sport psychology, health services, security, media training, arrivals procedure, village layout and conditions.

The pre-Games period involved a lot of correspondence, not all part of a manager’s job but someone had to do it. Some players were great replying with information, and others were, let us say, not so great.

Time was spent in liaison with James Morris, High Performance Director and Head Coach, trying to get the best training facilities within the tight budget we had. This proved a headache at times but we got a good deal in England with the help Dave Fairholm and Gail McCulloch. Some of you will remember them from visits to NZ.

I arranged a sponsorship for shirts which was appreciated but even this had a hiccup with seven turning up with long sleeves. Luckily time was on our side to replace them.

We left for the Oceania’s in Suva at the end of June. There was success for the men’s team here and then on to England.

The first week was relatively easy from my position as I only had to liaise with a few people, drive the mini bus and buy our food for lunch.

Then into the Games Village - a wonderful set up and the reason we are here. A NZ Team managers meeting at 6.30 every morning started the day off nicely, then to breakfast, to the stadium, back to the village, eat, and to bed. This was the general routine for all days, mixed in with meetings at the table tennis venue including attendance at the official draws.

One of the hardest things I had to do was exclude players from the opening ceremony, since all were playing the next morning.

We had problems obtaining playing timetables, mainly because of TV who provided a large slice of the funding. We pestered the table tennis officials in a nice way and things did improve while we remained on good terms with the organisers.

I took the opportunity to discuss mutual interests etc, with other countries and developed some contacts. It’s interesting the amount of money some countries put into table tennis. New Zealand with limited funds did very well on the medal count. Only Singapore would have got value for money spent.

The highlight for all of us was the efforts of Chunli in being involved in four medals: a gold, a silver and two bronze. This is a great effort for a player who is now eligible for veteran events.

The team was great to be with and it was a good showing for table tennis in our first ever Commonwealth Games.

Roll on Melbourne 2006.

Ron Garrett Team Manager



Commonwealth Games – a View from the Bench

Coach **Simeon Cairns** (Left) gives a close-up view of the matches:

Men:

The men's team finished second in their group, losing only to India 3 – 1 with Aaron Li beating S Roy (3 – 2). In the quarterfinals NZ (Aaron, Peter Jackson and Andrew Hubbard) lost to Singapore 3 – 0 despite several close games. The team finished 8th.

In the men's singles, the best performance was by Aaron Li who reached the last 16. He lost 4 – 1 to the eventual winner, Toriola from Nigeria. In this match, Aaron played several hard-hit forehands which were looped back by Toriola well back from the table. Aaron's strokes would have been point winners in NZ and many other places but not in this match.

In the men's doubles, Shane Laugesen and Andrew Hubbard had a magnificent victory over Aussies Brett Clarke and John Tawadrous 8, 4, -7, 10, with explosive topspins all around. Their win was well deserved, but they were then defeated by the top seeds from Canada.

Women:

The women's team finished second in their group after losing 3 – 2 to India. However, our luck was soon to change. We unexpectedly, but happily, drew England in the quarterfinals for a "show court" match. We were now assisted by Helen Codlin's video analysis (Sportscode), which allowed a close technical inspection of the English players late the previous night.

Quarterfinal versus England: For this match I switched Karen Li into the No. 3 spot (our players agreed to this) and Tracey McLauchlan into the top bracket. The English No. 3 was a chopper and notably less experienced than the other two. The idea was that Li Chunli would win two singles and Karen would win her one more comfortably. The English could have anticipated our change and blocked it with their top player playing in the No. 3 spot, but they didn't. We consequently won 3 – 1 but not without a scare. Chunli was down 2-1 in her first singles against Lower but, like a true professional, won the crucial points in the fourth game and made it home easily in the fifth. Tracey lost to the English No. 1. Karen then smashed without error to a fine victory over the chopper, and Chunli thrashed the English No. 1 to give us a guaranteed medal.

Semifinal versus Singapore: This was a tough task given Singapore's high world ranking. Chunli started us off well with a smart victory over Jing Jun Hong (World No. 16 and semifinalist at the Sydney Olympics). Tracey lost easily to Li Jia Wei (World No. 9 and the tournament top seed). Karen then played well above her earlier form to test Zhang Xue Ling although she lost 3 – 0. 2-1 to Singapore. Chunli then earned a great but narrow victory over Li Jia Wei, 11 - 8 in the final game: two rubbers all. Jing then beat Tracey 3 – 0 to put Singapore into the final. In this match Tracey had a couple of notable patches where she won deserved points with her topspins to clearly demonstrate her improvement over the last year. **So the first TT medal to NZ – a bronze.**

Individual events: The highlight and possibly the best tournament victory by a New Zealander ever was Chunli's win in the Women's singles for a **NZ Gold medal**. To do this Chunli defeated all three of the Singaporean women. Tremendous backhand attacks and return of serve provided the victory over Zhang Xue Ling. Jing Jun Hong tried to change her tactics from the team event match but wasn't allowed to change by Chunli, hence a surprisingly comfortable victory. This meant Chunli was into the final - a great birthday present for her coach. She dominated Li Jia Wei to win 4 – 1 (4, 8, -5, 5, 8). This time, unlike in the teams event, the full range of tactics were used by Chunli and, apart from one game and the early stages of the final game, she completely dominated. There was huge crowd support and admiration for Chunli's outstanding performance. She was unbeaten in singles matches throughout the Games.

Soon after her victory came the medal ceremony. It was great to hear the NZ anthem and see Chunli parade around the stadium, proudly draped in the NZ flag.

Karen's performance: In the women's singles Karen Li was also outstanding. She reached the quarterfinals where she lost to Li Jia Wei 4 - 0. However, in an earlier match she defeated Jan Fang Lay (Australia) 4–2, the current Oceania champion, in what was probably Karen's best display over the past 3 years. She then beat the left handed looper, Bethan Dauton (Wales), 4–3. This was Karen's first victory over this much improved player in three encounters.

Women's doubles: Although seeded 2nd, based on singles world rankings, the **silver medal** result for Chunli and Karen was extremely well earned. They defeated a Singapore combination 3 – 0 in the semifinal before falling to the top seeds, Jing and Li (Singapore), 3–1.

Mixed Doubles

Peter Jackson and Li Chunli won a **bronze medal**, after being defeated by Duan and Li, 3–0, in the semifinal. This match was spoilt for NZ when the Singaporean coach signaled to his players what the NZ players were serving. This was absolutely crucial in the second game, won at advantage by Singapore. Of special note in the mixed doubles was the performance of Karen Li and Shane Laugesen who had two great wins over a Singapore and English pair, before losing narrowly to the silver medallists Clarke and Lay (Australia), in the quarterfinals.



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/Kate Ball** (Marlborough/Manawatu)

Junior Boy: **Matthew Ball** (Manawatu)

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: **Jiani Hu** (Nelson)

“The BBC wired me up with their microphones. I thought all they would hear was my heart thumping!”

Commonwealth Games: an International Umpire’s story

At international level there’s more to umpiring than just tossing a coin and settling into the umpire’s chair. Averil Roberts describes the complexity of umpiring at this level, and gives an insider’s view of life in the “official” corner of the Games Village

After about 32 hours of travelling and waiting in airports, I finally arrived in Manchester. I was looking forward to some warm weather since I was going from mid-winter to mid-summer. Wrong! It was 12 degrees.

Being part of the ‘Manchester 2002’ family, I was fast tracked through the airport and ushered to a bus which would take me to the TOV (Technical Officers Village). It was about a 30 minute drive.

The TOV, housing 1100 officials, was a student village obviously purpose built. It was a huge complex comprising 4 blocks. Floor 5, B Block, Room 34 was to be my home for the next two weeks. The registration process completed, a volunteer was assigned to show me to my room. I was the first B Block person to arrive. The poor guy. After numerous trips up and down in the lift and hauling luggage up and down stairs, we finally found it. I guess it was obvious that if we wanted floor 5 we should press 6!

30 Second Shower

The accommodation was single rooms in apartments of 4 bedrooms, kitchen, bathroom and toilet. My original intention was to have a sleep, unpack, and then go to the Accreditation and Uniform Centre. But as a bus was going there at 10.30am and it was now 9.30am, I decided to get all that out of the way now. Quick shower. That was a mission! You could not adjust anything. You pushed a button and whatever temperature came out was what you were stuck with. That was okay but the water only lasted about 30 seconds then switched off. You had to keep pushing the button. Washing your hair was not easy! Anyway, 10am and off I go to catch the bus. After 15 minutes of being lost in B Block and the basement I found a friendly face who showed me the way out. Phew!

Dress Rehearsal

Accreditation took a while as everyone had to try on every article of clothing. One puzzling aspect was that table tennis officials received only one pair of dress trousers for 10 days work, compared with two pairs for synchronised swimming officials who only worked 2 days!! Also, the women’s jackets had no pockets and my request for a men’s one was denied. Over the next couple of days the other table tennis officials arrived, a few of whom I knew from previous championships. Then the venue orientation, umpires briefing and rehearsals began. At the rehearsal I was lucky (didn’t think so at the time) to be one of four chosen to try out the show courts - from marshalling area, to marching on, to an actual match. We got an insight into problems which could (and did) occur in these areas.

Working in Pairs

All the Umpires were paired up for the majority of the Games and informed that from semi-finals onwards the Umpires would be selected. I was lucky to be paired with Richard Avent, one of England’s top Umpires whom I had met at the Paralympics. There were 24 pairs with two Umpire Managers in charge of 12 pairs each.

The conditions we had to work in were not ideal. The show court section of the Stadium held courts 1 and 2 which were the televised tables. The BBC filmed every session, every day. With the extra lighting needed, the temperature on those courts was around 44 degrees most days. Very uncomfortable, as we had to wear our jackets on those courts. The outer section housed 8 tables. Jackets were optional there but each pair had to be uniform. The Umpires room, as well as the gluing area, players lounge, racket control, medical room and call area, were all tents and not big enough. The wet days, which there were plenty of, were interesting! In the call area at the beginning of each team session there were up to 100 sweaty bodies in a very confined area and we were expected to toss, check rackets, check clothing for adverts, tape any illegal adverts, and organise ball selection. With not many countries submitting uniform samples, and more stringent Commonwealth Games rules on advertising, the Umpires had to be very vigilant. Even coaches on the show courts had to have manufacturers’ names on their shirts covered. Named towels were also a no-no. The New Zealand uniform was perfect. Well done, Ron (Garrett, NZ Team Manager).

The Umpire’s chair up until the finals was quite high with the Assistant Umpire at ground level. Hand signals were used in all matches by the Umpire. The Assistant was in charge of the flipcards and the timing machine. The Umpire and Assistant swapped roles after each match in the team events. While team matches were on we worked two consecutive sessions a day. Richard and I were selected as a team to umpire the women’s semi final between Australia and Canada on the TV court.

Gold Medal Match

Individual events were more disjointed for the Umpires. Some early round matches lasted only 20-25 minutes. Even so, I was spending long hours at the Stadium supporting the NZ players before or after my umpiring sessions. In the 10 days of play I had only one complete day off. In the later rounds I had to umpire with various partners as there always seemed to be an English or New Zealand player on the table we were scheduled for.

I was honoured and very nervous to be selected to umpire a gold medal match on finals day. Which match I was to do was dependant on the result of Peter Jackson and Li Chunli’s semi final mixed doubles match. I was to umpire the mixed doubles final if NZ was not competing, otherwise the Wheelchair women’s singles final. This was all a bit unsettling as the Wheelchair match was timed for 12.30pm and at 11.50am the mixed doubles semi still had not been decided. Peter and Chunli lost so it was the mixed doubles final.

My Assistant for the match was David Edwards of England. For some unfathomable reason, for the finals, the powers that be replaced the high Umpires chairs with ground level ones. Not a sensible decision, especially for doubles. I had to stand. The match was between Brett Clarke and Jan Fang Lay of Australia and Duan and Li of Singapore. After completing the pre-match duties, the BBC wired me up with their microphones. I thought all they would hear was my heart thumping! It was nerve-wracking but once the match started, normality prevailed. Singapore won 3-1. My only problem was with a Singapore coach who was sitting in the audience but thought he should be part of the act!



Continued over page

Memorable

I thoroughly enjoyed being given the opportunity to officiate at such a large multi-sport event. I was also pleased to be invited to attend the New Zealand Reception held at the new Manchester War Memorial Museum, which was only officially opened that day by the Duke of Edinburgh. It was a magnificent venue and an impressive reception. A locally based Maori group welcomed the team. The table tennis players found it rather tiring as they had to stand for the full 2 hours.

All Technical Officials received tickets for both the Opening and Closing Ceremonies. For the Opening I was lucky enough to be seated in the front row so had great views. For the Closing – well, we were in the open stands along with the athletes and got absolutely drowned.

All in all a most memorable event.

Averil Roberts

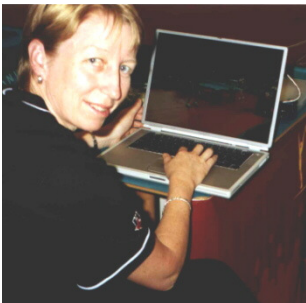
Table Tennis Turns High Tech

Helen Codlin (pictured below) attended the Commonwealth Games in Manchester – not as a player, not as a coach or manager, not as an umpire – but as the operator of a video analysis system providing high tech assistance to the players and coaches. She recounts the experience....

New Zealand led the way in more ways than one in the table tennis competition at the Commonwealth Games. Our Table Tennis team, along with 3 other sports, had the benefit of a Computer Video Analysis System called "Sportscode."

It all started with a vision, a James Morris vision, to be the first country using computer-aided video technology to analyse table tennis. With assistance from Simeon Cairns, and Martin Dowson of Digital Sports, analysis codes were developed and the system was first taken to the Commonwealth Championships in New Delhi in 2001. Unfortunately, there was no time for coaches to implement it. Not one to give up on a good idea, James, through TTNZ, arranged to lodge a Prime Minister's Scholarship application for funding to train a Table Tennis coach in the use of 'Sportscode' and take it to the Commonwealth Games.

As PM Scholarship applications are awarded to individual coaches rather than National Sporting Organisations I had to prepare a detailed application, along with my work CV which demonstrated other skills and abilities. I am honoured that I was considered a worthy recipient of the scholarship as the project was definitely a worthy one. I was even able to introduce myself to Trevor Mallard (Minister of Sport and Recreation), while we were watching the women's doubles final and I was very proud to tell him that I was one of the Prime Minister's Scholarship recipients.



The \$10,000 Scholarship paid all my costs relating to the project. The costs included training in Auckland and associated travel, accommodation and travel for the Oceania Championships in Fiji where I was practising videoing and coding as well as assisting Murray Finch coach the junior team, and travel and expenses associated with the Commonwealth Games.

They also included equipment such as a digital video camera, tripod, an external hard drive (EHD), cables, and DV tapes. This equipment is now an important resource for New Zealand Table Tennis. The laptop computer was very generously loaned by Apple NZ.

I packed everything into a computer backpack which I tied, along with the video bag and tripod, to a luggage trolley with 3 stretch ties. I felt and looked like the 'trolley lady'. The load was reasonably heavy and the trolley wasn't really designed for English footpaths and makeshift groundcovers. It got the speed wobbles a few times and tipped over. It also developed a rather loud squeak, which we rectified with a bit of dishwashing liquid. It needed maintenance a few times during the Games.

So what is 'Sportscode'?

The software was developed in Australia and can be customised to any sport. It runs on an Apple Mac. In brief, it allows you to make mini movies, either from video or captured "live", and to show them back to the player or coach at various speeds or in specific sequences. It provides for the coding of segments into categories such as points won or lost by forced or unforced errors, returns of serve or faults. This allowed us to select and play any sequence – eg, a sequence of all points won when NZ forced the error, or all points lost on return of serve, etc.

The Set Up

At the Games, there was a specific video policy but fortunately it wasn't enforced as strictly as it might have been. (It is the friendly Games after all). We had a position in our part of the playing area to set up the camera and I usually got there early enough to get the best end of the table (from a videoing point of view anyway - ie the right hand side so we could see the serve and the score cards). I had access to power via an extension cord and a multi box at the electronic scoring table so I didn't have to worry about batteries running low in either the video or the computer. Most of the time, I coded 'live' so the laptop was on my knee throughout the match. The stadium was warm enough anyway, but with a hot laptop on my knee I was sweating more than the players, much to Tracey McL's amusement!

Coding live means watching the game itself (not the screen) and coding at the same time by pressing different keys to indicate various statistical data: who served, what game, when the rally started and stopped, whether NZ won or lost, whether it was a forced error, return of serve, fault or a 'lucky' (ie a net or an edge, or a net or an edge which gave some advantage). It sounds a lot but it amounted to 3 keys at the beginning of each rally and 4 keys at the end of each rally.

Capacity stretched

Each match took a lot of space on the laptop. For those in the know, the laptop had 16 GB's available on the hard drive and that's a lot! I could fit four or five games on the computer - one team match. So I basically had to 'clear the decks' before the next match started in 3-4 hours time, as well as pack up and get back to the village for a meal and then return to the stadium again. 'Clearing the decks' involved fixing any coding errors (which usually occurred when I was distracted or busy clapping and yelling), databasing each game which could take 10-15 minutes each, and then transferring them to the EHD (75 GB's available) which took about 5-10 minutes. Multiply that by 4-5 games and time got a little tight between matches. By the end of the team event, I had only 13 GB's left on the EHD.

Computer gremlins

Gremlins were my biggest fear, and they visited on a couple of occasions. The scariest moment was when an error message came up suggesting a problem between the laptop and the EHD (the hard drive that I had just transferred all the databased games to!).

It suggested that I should undo whatever I had just done. The trouble was, I hadn't done anything for at least 15 minutes. At the time Chunli and I were sorting through DV tapes to see if she had any spares I could use (as I thought I might run out). All I could do was turn everything off and turn it all on again, oh, that's right, and swear! Chunli learnt a new word that evening. Turning it off and on didn't work!! I was starting to panic. Karen Li suggested it needed a rest so as there was no better advice offered I packed it up and trundled off to the NZ Team Support Base down the road from the Village. It was with some trepidation that I set it up again at my desk and flicked on the switch of the external hard drive. The magical whirring sound of the fan in the EHD was music to my ears and all was saved. But there was always the thought in the back of my mind that when I turned off the EHD to pack up, it wouldn't go again. I am pleased to report that it did.



How was the analysis used?

Initially I was in data collection mode, coding all the women's matches in the team event and some men's team matches when there wasn't a clash in scheduling. I also taped a few games of opponents that our players might meet in a team match and that coding was also reviewed prior to the match. Chunli and Karen would review some of their own games but the analysis became more important in the individual competition. As it turned out, most of the players that Chunli and Karen were to meet were already on the computer so they were able to review those games and discuss or confirm strategy.

Otherwise, we basically reviewed the draw and looked for matches involving players a New Zealander would later meet, which I taped for future coding.

Chunli made the most use of the analysis (as our main medal prospect, she was my priority) but other NZ team members also used it to review the occasional game. The coaches, **James Morris** and **Simeon Cairns**, reviewed some matches to assist in their own assessment and the best strategy to employ.

Video tapes

I have now dubbed the games that I taped at both the Commonwealth Games and the Oceania Championships onto VHS tapes. They are owned by TTNZ and are an excellent resource for both players and coaches wanting to watch some top class table tennis.

Future use of Sportscode

We used Sportscode for match analysis only. It is a very powerful tool and could be employed in many different ways including technical stroke analysis, serve analysis, identifying patterns of play and so on.

Did it help?

As a bench coaching/analysis tool, it provided a very quick easy way of reviewing a match, enabling key rallies which were pivotal to winning or losing the game to be quickly identified and easily reviewed repeatedly in order to assimilate the information. It also provided a psychological advantage for players in that they had the benefit of reviewing their match or previewing an opponent in an upcoming match. No other country had a similar tool so other players may have felt threatened by the knowledge that we may have gleaned from reviewing their games.

With 4 medals out of 7 events, it was a very successful Games for New Zealand Table Tennis and I am proud to have had the opportunity to make a contribution towards that success.

Helen Codlin

Obituary

Tanya Maree Hefferan

17.3.68 - 23.7.02



A feeling of great shock and sadness was felt by many players, not only in Manawatu but all around New Zealand, as we heard of the sudden ill health and consequent passing of one of our top NZ players - Tanya Hefferan (nee McAvinue).

Starting table tennis at age 8 ½ she became well known at an early age, winning numerous titles throughout New Zealand. These began with national under 12 titles in 1979 and progressed through to the 2000 North Island women's doubles title. Her prowess with the bat took her to Australia in 1982 and 1983 with the New Zealand junior team.

In 1984, one of her best years, she won 33 titles at various open tournaments, reached five other finals, and won two under 17 bronze medals in Australia. In 1985 she moved to North Harbour and continued her winning streak in the under 18 age category.

She will be remembered by the many who encountered her as an aggressive and passionate player. Her speed around the table to retrieve seemingly impossible shots was quite amazing, and her accuracy and power were very impressive.

She married in 1989 and although from then on she made fewer tournament appearances, her love for the game continued. Her involvement on committees throughout her career showed her interest in helping sporting organisations.

The loss of Tanya at such a young age will be felt by both the North Harbour and Manawatu associations. As a player and administrator she could have had a tremendous effect on table tennis in the future.

The players of Table Tennis Manawatu send their thoughts to her husband Alan, son Daniel and also to their families. We know that Tanya will be sadly missed.

Eddie Millard
President, Table Tennis Manawatu

Top Ratings We regret we simply ran out of space in this issue and were therefore unable to publish the top 10 ratings that we traditionally include for the end of the year.

The full rating lists are at: <http://www.tabletennis.org.nz>. The tops of the pops as at **7 Oct 2002** (includes NZ Open results) however are:

Men's Open	Aaron Li	Women's O40	Lynda Simpson
Women's Open	Mi Ryung Chun	Men's O50	William Weinstock
Men's U21	Johnny Liang	Women's O50	Val Beaver
Women's U21	Sun Yang	Men's O60	Chip Eade
Men's O40	Malcolm Darroch	Women's O60	Margaret McGregor

The Junior Top Ratings are on page 39

South Island Championships Nelson August 2002

<u>Open</u>	<u>Winner</u>	<u>Singles Runner Up</u>
Men's Singles	Aaron Li (C)	Johnny Liang (N)
Women's Singles	Mi Ryung Chun (C)	Jiang Yang (C)
Men's Doubles	A Li & Simon Wallace (C)	
Women's Doubles	V Beaver & A Roberts (NH/W)	
Mixed Doubles	A Li & Wu Chen (C)	
<u>B Grade</u>		
Men's Singles	Lyndon White (C)	Albert Yee (C)
Women's Singles	Hanna Squire (W)	Jacqui Wood (C)
Men's Doubles	P de Boer & L White (C)	
Women's Doubles	M Chang & J Murray (C/NH)	
<u>C Grade</u>		
Men's Singles	Sam Wong (C)	John Armstrong (N)
Women's Singles	Sheng Chen (C)	Glenda Ferguson (N)
Men's Doubles	L Brandt & J Li (C)	
Women's Doubles	S Chang & J Wood (C)	
<u>Over 60 years</u>		
Men's Singles	Wes Willis (A)	Eddie Moore (C)
Men's Doubles	B Penberthy & W Willis (A)	
<u>Over 50 years</u>		
Men's Singles	Sam Wong (C)	Bruce Penberthy (A)
Women's Singles	Val Beaver (NH)	Lynley Barker (C)
Men's Doubles	S Crow & D Glass (C)	
Women's Doubles	V Beaver & J Murray (NH)	
Mixed Doubles	B Penberthy & V Beaver (A/NH)	
<u>Over 40 years</u>		
Men's Singles	Peter de Boer (C)	Dave Samson (C)
Women's Singles	Val Beaver (NH)	Averil Roberts (W)
Men's Doubles	P de Boer & D Samson (C)	
Women's Doubles	V Beaver & A Roberts (NH/W)	
Mixed Doubles	D Samson & L Barker (C)	
<u>Over 35 years</u>		
Men's Singles	Peter de Boer (C)	Lyndon White (C)
Men's Doubles	J Armstrong & L White (N/C)	
<u>Under 21 years</u>		
Men's Singles	Johnny Liang (N)	Yi-Sien Lin (C)
Women's Singles	Jiang Yang (C)	Jiani Hu (N)
<u>Under 19 years</u>		
Boys' Singles	Simon Wallace (C)	John Cordue (C)
Girls' Singles	Mornica Li (C)	Andrea Gosney (C)
Boys' Doubles	K Samson & S Wallace (C)	
Girls' Doubles	M Li & S Linton (C/N)	
Mixed Doubles	S Wallace & A Gosney (C)	
<u>Under 17 years</u>		
Boys' Singles	Simon Wallace (C)	Chris Erskine (N)
Girls' Singles	Mornica Li (C)	Wu Chen (C)
Boys' Doubles	C Erskine & J Wells (N)	
Girls' Doubles	M Li & Wu Chen (C)	
Mixed Doubles	S Wallace & Wu Chen (C)	

Under 15 years

Boys' Singles	Jack Wells (N)	Chris Erskine (N)
Girls' Singles	Wu Chen (C)	Jiani Hu (N)
Boys' Doubles	C Erskine & J Wells (N)	
Girls' Doubles	K Samson & Wu Chen (C)	
Mixed Doubles	C Erskine & J Hu (N)	

Under 13 years

Boys' Singles	Andrew Rieper (W)	Jack Chaney (SC)
Girls' Singles	Jiani Hu (N)	Megan Stratford (ML)
Boys' Doubles	J Chaney & A Rieper (SC/W)	
Girls' Doubles	K Ball & M Stratford (MN/ML)	
Mixed Doubles	T Davey & J Hu (C/N)	

TALLER TABLES FOR TALLER PEOPLE?

Regular readers of *Table Tennis Info* will recall that we've recently featured stories about long tables, round tables, clover-leaf tables - so it came as no surprise when ITTF's *Table Tennis Illustrated* magazine published an article making a plausible case for the table to be made *higher*. The reason? Over the past hundred years, people have grown taller.

Here's an abridged version of the article:

Time To Raise The Height Of Table Tennis Tables?

By Michael I. Scott M.D.

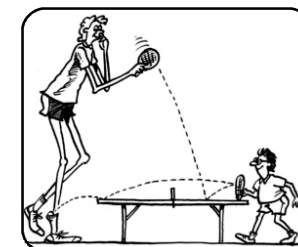
The average height of people throughout the world has steadily been increasing. In America in 1850 the average male height was 162.5 cm. By 1925 it was 167.5cm and today it's 172.5cm. Similar increases were recorded in England. Several Japanese physicians have concluded that the Japanese male in the last generation grew an average of 10cm. By personal observation in China I would estimate the same growth.

The height of a table tennis table has remained constant at 76cm from the 1930's to the present day. From an orthopedic standpoint an increase in table height is almost mandatory. In view of the alterations being made to improve our sport aesthetically some effort should be directed to also improving it from a medical standpoint. Based on several factors, I have arrived at the conclusion that the height of table tennis tables should be elevated a minimum of 5cm.

Favourable responses

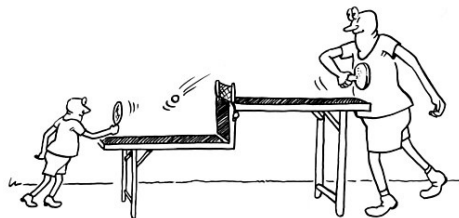
Upon discussing my opinion and recommendation with international coaches and players I have, surprisingly, not encountered any major objections and instead have had generally favourable responses. When I mentioned it to coach Li Zhen Zhi he immediately agreed. Any adjustment had not occurred to him. He believed a 5 - 7.5cm increase would be an excellent improvement. Swedish coaches also thought experimenting with a higher table would be justified.

To put my theory to a practical test I had a new table elevated precisely 5 cm and asked Sean O'Neill (172cm, five times USA Champion and twice Olympian) to try it. He was immediately well pleased with the adjustment.



Being USATT Team Physician for over 15 years I can confirm that as players' height increases there has been a slight increase in the number of players with lumbo-sacral and other related orthopedic and muscular strains.

My suggested increase is approximately one-half the average increase in the height of people.



Bathroom cabinets

Table tennis officials may have completely ignored the increased height statistics, but not bathroom cabinet manufacturers in the USA. Instead of the standardised 76cm high cabinets in vogue since the 1930's they are now raising their height to a minimum of 86.25cm. Cabinet makers have become aware that the average height of people, not only in the USA but worldwide, has steadily been increasing. Realising that just washing your face can be a back breaking task, they adjusted the height to fit the average individual's physical requirements. Table tennis manufacturers should do the same.

To allay suspicions be assured there is no personal motive or agenda involved in this proposal. With a new pair of thickly soled shoes I personally am capable of reaching only 167.5 cm in height.

Michael I. Scott M.D. is a member of the ITTF Sports Science Committee and a member of the ITTF Research and Development Advisory Board. Furthermore, he is an International Umpire, the Swaythling Club International North America Representative and has been the team physician to the United States national team on many occasions.



Table Tennis hits Paraparamu Mall

As part of the Coastlands Sport and Fitness week during the school holidays **Bob Knight, Alan Thompson** and **Peter Jones** set up a table in the mall to promote the three local clubs.

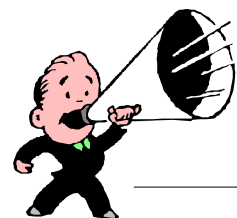
They soon had children lining up to have a hit and many Asian

students stopped to challenge them. At times they had 4 to 6 people waiting and crowds stopped to watch. About 40 people had a hit and it was good fun and a great spectacle.

The Thursday night club subsequently enrolled several new people and they were hoping for an influx of juniors to see in later days.

Photo shows Director of Operations, Bob Knight (centre), supervising rising star Alan Thompson (r) showing his winning style. Just off-camera Promotion Officer Peter Jones was busy discussing clubs with a prospective member.

Bob Knight.



Reporting briefly.....

Congratulations to **Bruce Penberthy** (Auckland) who recently passed his International Umpires Exam. Bruce was presented with his certificate and badge at the South Island Championships.

David Jackson has resigned from the Board of TTNZ. There are now 2 vacancies on the Board and it is expected they will be filled at the AGM in November.

There has been an update to the **coaching logbook**. The nutrition page has been updated. The new page can be printed from the TTNZ web site, or obtained from the National office.

Marie Rau has stepped down as Secretary of Counties Manukau. Marie tells us she took on the job for one year - 21 years ago but.....! She remains secretary of the Manurewa club and has been for many many years. We wish her all the best in her retirement!!??!!

The new secretary is **Dave Slight** and we wish him all the best in the commencement of his stint.

We hear of a new book - **Sizzling Chops and Devilish Spins** by Jerome Charyn. The book was reviewed in the Listener 11/5/02 and there is a review at <http://www.previewport.com>. American orientated but could make entertaining reading.

There is now a **Selectors** page in the TTNZ web site. It is hoped that the selectors will constantly update the info therein and keep players informed on issues that may affect selection - details of upcoming events etc.

The **Canterbury** Association has employed **Raina McKechnie** as their Administration Officer on a part time time basis. Raina commenced duties on May 1st and occupies an office in the Canterbury stadium.

It is good to hear that willing volunteer workers are rewarded by their clubs. **Russell Wiseman**, the mainstay of the Cambridge BHP Table Tennis Club for so long, was made it's first Life Member for his long service. The announcement and presentation was made by the club's youngest club captain ever, **Jim Morrison** (12).

Tracey McLauchlan has resigned from the position of Player Liaison Officer as from 1 October 2002.

The **2004 Oceania Championships** have been allocated to New Zealand and will be held in Northland.



Congratulations to **James Morris** and **Christine Craven** who tied the knot in Orlando on a recent trip to USA. We hear they went to a relatives wedding so added theirs to the trip as well. Best wishes.

The **Empire Club** in Petone has just received resource consent to extend its club rooms. The extension will dramatically improve playing conditions by allowing more space between tables and providing an access way and seating between two rows of tables. The redevelopment will increase the capacity of the stadium to 14 tables with up to 18 with closer spacing.

The club has received \$60,000 in funding from the Hutt City Council and has some of its own towards the project. Fundraising activities will now be increased and the \$240,000 project is expected to commence early in 2003.

The Board, following **Li Chunli's** success at the Commonwealth Games, is investigating the possibility of having **China** send it's World number one woman and another player to play a series of matches against Chunli and one other player to be selected.

Now - that would be a great spectator event!

Only 200 completed **survey forms** (which was included in April TT INFO) were completed and returned. The survey is being collated but results are not available yet.

TTNZ Board meetings will in future be in line with the TT season and will be held in February, July and September. The Chairman will however be elected in a short meeting after the AGM.

Cadet Challenge

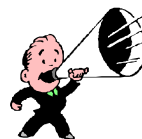
Jiani Hu and **Binbin Zhu** were selected in the Oceania team to compete in a World Cadet Challenge event held in Hungary in June. **James Morris** accompanied the team as one of two coaches. The boys finished 6th out of 8 teams and the girls 8th out of 8. Binbin qualified in group play for the main draw and Jiani reached the last 8 in the consolation girls event. (Photo page 41).

A level one **coaching course** will be held at Port Waikato on the weekend of 14/15 December, 2002. Table Tennis in the area is growing and **Mrs Phyllis Hoete** has arranged for National Coach **James Morris** to conduct the course which she says will fulfill a need for more grass root coaches in the area. Mrs Hoete (09 2329643) or James Morris (09 433-8565) can be contacted for more information.

TT INFO Logo

Notice anything different this issue? Seems we ran foul of a certain large sporting body (who recently had a large turnover of administrators) by using their silver fern beneath the little ball person! No, we did not knowingly copy theirs – it was marginally different and taken from an old publication not related to you know who.

Begging a quiet existence we decided a redesign of the fern was prudent.



North Harbour have a player aged 88 (Bert Robinson) who plays once a week.

They have issued a challenge - does any club have anyone older who plays regularly? If so, send a photo and details to TTNZ, PO Box 867, Wellington."



2003 Australian Youth Olympic Festival to Include Table Tennis

TTNZ has accepted an invitation to attend the **Australian Youth Olympic Festival**, to be held in Sydney from 8 to 12 January next year. This event is designed to give elite athletes in the 15-18 age

range an "Olympic type" experience at a multi-sport event attended by many of the world's best junior athletes.

In a publicity statement Australian Olympic Committee Secretary-General Bob Elphinston said that famous Olympians will play a leading role in the Opening Ceremony and act as team leaders throughout the event, helping and encouraging the younger athletes. "Imagine the thrill for these young athletes competing at the Olympic venues in an Olympic style event," Elphinston said. "This again highlights one of the great legacies of the Sydney 2000 Games."

The festival was first held in Sydney in 2001, featuring only ten sports and excluding Table Tennis. There will be 17 sports participating in 2003: Archery, Athletics, Badminton, Canoe/Kayak (sprint & slalom), Cycling (road & track), Fencing, Gymnastics (artistic, rhythmic & trampoline), Judo, Rowing, Shooting, Swimming, Table Tennis, Tae Kwon Do, Water polo, Weightlifting, and Wrestling. Countries expected to compete in the Table Tennis include China, Australia, Hong Kong, Korea, New Zealand, Oceania (excluding Australia and NZ), and Singapore.

Table Tennis teams will comprise 2 males and 2 females. The event is restricted to athletes born between, and including, 1 January 1985 and 31 December 1988 (ie, anyone turning 15, 16, 17 or 18 any time during 2003 is eligible).

The New Zealand team is:

Josh Alexandre, Nathan Lowe, Sarah Ho, Hanna Squire.

The non travelling reserves are:

Chris Erskine, Michelle McCarthy, Florence Li

The selectors have based selections on results from the 2002 season with emphasis on the major events (Oceania's, New Zealand, North and South Island Championships). They also took into account the training ethic of the players they considered.



Juniors - Top Rated

(refer page 33)

Boys' U19	Andy Huang	Boys' U15	Binbin Zhu
Girls' U19	Sun Yang	Girls' U15	Wu Chen
Boys' U17	Andy Huang	Boys' U13	Steven Zeng
Girls' U17	Mornica Li	Girls' U13	Jiani Hu

Coaches' Page - Footwork

Liu Hongwei (Tom Liu) is a professional coach from Beijing, and a former representative for his province. While studying English in New Zealand he has played a number of tournaments (semi-finalist at 2001 NZ Men's Singles) and has coached Waikato players in squad and one-on-one situations. The following are pointers from him on footwork.

To be an excellent player you **must have good footwork!** Any player's development will be determined by the quality of their footwork.

Basic Footwork:

- ◆ **Step.** This means the foot closest to the ball steps towards the ball. The step must be fast. This is suitable for short balls or when the ball is not too far from the body.
- ◆ **Feet apart, together, apart.** This is when the feet come together as the player moves sideways. This is effective when the ball is close to the body and for 'push' players.
- ◆ **Skipping or bounding.** This is when a player uses the strength in their legs to move position without noticeably changing the distance between the feet. This suits players with natural explosive power and is especially effective when turning from the backhand to hit a forehand.
- ◆ **Cross Step.** This involves taking a smaller step towards the ball and then a large step crossing the legs and striking the ball as you land. This is used for covering long distances, especially when you have hit a forehand from the backhand side and need to get to a ball wide on the forehand.
- ◆ **Small quick steps.** This is a more advanced footwork pattern involving taking small quick steps towards where you **think** your opponent may hit the ball (before they hit it) without fully committing yourself until the ball is hit.

We use many footwork patterns during a game. No player uses one footwork pattern alone - all must be mastered.

What to watch when practising footwork:

- ◆ **Waist.** You must use your waist (turn your body) every time.
- ◆ **Balance.** You must be well balanced and stable although your weight is constantly being transferred between your feet. Your weight must be on the front of your feet.
- ◆ **Choosing the best footwork for the situation.** Accurate footwork is not only quick - it must also give you maximum advantage for the **next ball**.

Requirements:

- ◆ **A good 'ready position'.** Legs bent, body bent forward at the waist, weight on the front of the feet, feet approximately the width of the shoulders apart.
- ◆ **Good timing.** Hitting the ball at the correct height and as the weight is moving forward, or in the case of the cross step, as the foot lands.
- ◆ **Good judgment.** Knowing which footwork pattern to use.
- ◆ **Leg power.**

Liu Hongwei

Explanation and intent of the new service rule



The new service rule comes into operation in NZ on 1 January 2003. The following was published by the International TT Federation to help players understand the "new way".

The **intent** of the new service rule is to make the **rule itself** clear and easy to interpret. The new rule is designed to make the service in table tennis an open technique which is fully visible to the receiver at all times.

In order for the server to ensure that he/she complies with the new service rule, here are a few pointers to help achieve this objective:

- ◆ As soon as the free hand (the hand holding the ball in service) and arm has projected the ball upwards, the free hand/arm must be immediately removed to the side. In other words, the free arm must not remain in any area between the ball and the receiver - it has to be out of the line of sight of the receiver and the ball.
- ◆ If the server could imagine a triangular space created by the ball and both net posts, then extends this space upwards to head level, the server must then ensure that no part of his body or clothing enters this space (or remains in this space) after he projects the ball upwards in service. This will ensure that the space between the ball and the receiver remains clear of any obstructions. This is a simple way to ensure that the service meets the legal requirements.
- ◆ A slight modification from current services is required. Players must learn, in forehand services, to swing their free arm out of the way as fast as possible to create a legal, open and visible service.

The new service rule is at: <http://www.tabletennis.org.nz>

The rule, explanation, intent, powerpoint presentation and video are available at <http://www.ittf.com> Click on the "New Service Rule" red square at the bottom right of the home page.



(Left) The **Oceania Team** at the **World Cadet Challenge** in Hungary in June (see Reporting briefly - page 38)

Kiwis present are: (Back left) **James Morris** (Boys Coach), (3rd from left) **Binbin Zhu** and (front row 2nd from left) **Jiani Hu**.

North Island Open Championships Auckland July 2002

<u>Open</u>	<u>Winner</u>	<u>Singles Runner Up</u>
Men's Singles	Andy Huang (A)	Shane Warbrooke (A)
Women's Singles	Sun Yang (BP)	Kadia Keller-Rice (BP)
Men's Doubles	B Collins & A Huang (A)	
Women's Doubles	K Keller-Rice & Sun Yang (BP)	
Mixed Doubles	T Armstrong & Sun Yang (BP)	
<u>B Grade</u>		
Men's Singles	Shane Warbrooke (A)	Dominic Chan (W)
Women's Singles	Raewyn Young (W)	Sophie Shu (A)
Men's Doubles	G Burton & T Hanna (NH/W)	
Women's Doubles	S Ho & S Shu (WK/A)	
<u>C Grade</u>		
Men's Singles	Trevor Coad (A)	Paul Whitehead (WK)
Women's Singles	Florence Li (A)	Katie Stretton (NH)
Men's Doubles	P Johnston & P Whitehead (NH/WK)	
Women's Doubles	S Ho & Y Lee (A/NH)	
<u>Over 60 years</u>		
Men's Singles	Chip Eade (WT)	Nam Hang Lee (A)
Women's Singles	Annice Robottom (MN)	Nellie Milich (NL)
Men's Doubles	B Penberthy & P Winder (A)	
Women's Doubles	N Milich & A Robottom (NL/MN)	
Mixed Doubles	B Penberthy & A Robottom (A/MN)	
<u>Over 50 years</u>		
Men's Singles	William Weinstock (A)	David Scott (NH)
Women's Singles	Averil Roberts (W)	Val Beaver (NH)
Men's Doubles	P Low & D Scott (A/NH)	
Women's Doubles	V Beaver & J Murray (NH)	
Mixed Doubles	W Weinstock & A Roberts (A/W)	
<u>Over 40 years</u>		
Men's Singles	William Weinstock (A)	Patrick Low (A)
Women's Singles	Val Beaver (NH)	Averil Roberts (W)
Men's Doubles	P Low & D Scott (A/NH)	
Women's Doubles	V Beaver & A Roberts (NH/W)	
Mixed Doubles	B Rakovica & V Beaver (A/NH)	
<u>Over 35 years</u>		
Men's Singles	Dominic Chan (W)	Jun Tang (A)
Women's Singles	Hilary Low (CM)	Raewyn Young (W)
<u>Under 21 years</u>		
Men's Singles	Peter Craven (A)	Andy Huang (A)
Women's Singles	Sarah Ho (WK)	Jenny Hung (C)
Men's Doubles	P Craven & A Soh (A)	
Mixed Doubles	M Jones-Middleton & S Ho (W/WK)	
<u>Under 19 years</u>		
Boys' Singles	Adrian Soh (A)	Andy Huang (A)
Girls' Singles	Sun Yang (BP)	Florence Li (A)
Boys' Doubles	J Alexandre & A Soh (A)	
Girls' Doubles	F Li & Sun Yang (A/BP)	
Mixed Doubles	J Alexandre & S Ho (A/WK)	

Under 17 years

Boys' Singles	Andy Huang (A)	Binbin Zhu (A)
Girls' Singles	Sarah Ho (WK)	Florence Li (A)
Boys' Doubles	J Alexandre & B Zhu (A)	
Girls' Doubles	Sarah Ho & F Li (WK/A)	
Mixed Doubles	Y Yuen & Sarah Ho (WK)	

Under 15 years

Boys' Singles	Binbin Zhu (A)	Jack Wells (N)
Girls' Singles	Sophie Shu (A)	Katie Stretton (NH)
Boys' Doubles	S Zeng & T Zeng (A)	
Girls' Doubles	S Shu & S Zeng (A)	
Mixed Doubles	B Zhu & S Shu (A)	

Under 13 years

Boys' Singles	Michael Wu (A)	Steven Zeng (A)
Girls' Singles	Sophie Shu (A)	Sally Ho (A)
Boys' Doubles	M Lowe & M Wu (A)	
Girls' Doubles	Sally Ho & S Shu (A)	
Mixed Doubles	S Zeng & S Shu (A)	

The stars were not out at Auckland

By Dennis Galvin

Some cross-booking of New Zealand's top players robbed the North Island championships of a quality field in the men's open events.

The championships had been taken over by Auckland after Taupo withdrew as host, then an 11th hour arrangement for a training camp in England by the Commonwealth Games team stripped the North Island event of the stars.

It seemed strange for four of the younger players to reach the semis of the men's singles, although two were reshaping their careers after periods of absence. Andy Huang won the final on his home tables from Shane Warbrooke, another Auckland, and the losers of the last four were Paul Innes of Waikato and the nomad Adrian Soh, previously of Waitemata and Nelson and now of Auckland.

Huang and Soh, and Peter Craven of Auckland (formerly Northland), have been attending training camps with the NZ team and must be considered fringe players, but Warbrooke and Innes are returning to form after breaks. Craven was beaten in the quarters by Warbrooke who further confused the standing of graded events by winning the B grade. Ben Collins of Auckland teamed with Huang to win the doubles from Craven and Soh.

In the women's singles former New Zealand representative Kadia Keller-Rice was beaten by fellow Tauranga player Sun Yang who had the rare distinction of winning three titles. Kadia was playing for NZ before Sun Yang was born and nowadays spends more time with a tennis racquet than a table tennis bat. Kadia and Sun Yang won the doubles from the Neal sisters Monique and Shelley and Sun Yang and her Tauranga partner Tim Armstrong won the mixed doubles.

So Tim, Kadia and Sun Yang now have five more golds to add to their CVs. They have been involved in junior coaching in the Bay and their work showed in the age group results.

Annice Robottom made a worthwhile trip from Wanganui to win all three over 60 titles as did William Weinstock (Auckland) in the over 50 men's events.

