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TABLE TENNIS INFO

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What's left this year and due early next year			
September	Sun 26 – Sat 2 Oct	Australian U14 & U16 Open	Townsville
October	Sun 3 – Sat 9	Australian Senior & U18	Townsville
November	Sat 27 – Sun 28	AGM and Conference	Wellington
2000			
January	Sat 8 – Fri 14	Summer Nationals	Nelson
April	21 – 24	NZ Veterans Championships	Palm North
May	21 – 27	World Veterans Championships	Vancouver
		Website: http://www.meet-ics.com/worldvets	

Oceania Olympic Qualifying Tournament...

THREE NEW ZEALANDERS HEAD FOR SYDNEY 2000

Subject to final approval by the TTNZ selection panel and New Zealand Olympic Committee, Li Chunli, Karen Li, and Peter Jackson will represent Table Tennis in the New Zealand Olympic Team.

From 2 – 8 September in the Auckland Table Tennis Stadium the best players in Oceania battled to secure a strictly limited number of singles and doubles positions. The table tennis that resulted was staggering to watch – a tremendously high standard and many close games.

Australia and New Zealand each entered four men and four women. One outclassed Fijian brought the total singles entry to seventeen, with three extra doubles players, all from New Zealand.

The number of qualifiers is held in check by a complex set of International Olympic Committee and International Table Tennis Federation regulations.

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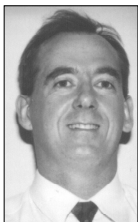
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Articles and letters published herein do not necessarily reflect the views of Table Tennis New Zealand Inc.





Mike Brown says farewell....

In my last piece to the Table Tennis community, I'd like to wish everyone involved the very best for the future. It is with a lot of mixed feelings that I leave the job, and although it's the right decision for me personally, I'll certainly miss working with a lot of people I've met over the past two and half years.

I think that it's going to be a trying time for Table Tennis in the near future, along with a lot of other sports in New Zealand. I think that the way sport is moving in this country is going to make it increasingly hard for smaller sports to develop and prosper. There is a vicious cycle, in that sports who can command sponsorship revenue, in addition to public sector funding through the Hillary Commission and the Sports Foundation, have a huge advantage in gaining media exposure at all levels. This in turn allows them to access increased sponsorship and exposure, and perhaps most importantly, place themselves in the hearts and minds of kids as the sports to play.

It is very, very hard to fight against that, and I don't see much evidence that it is a problem being addressed at the policy making level of New Zealand sport. Leaving aside how this affects Table Tennis, New Zealand as a society will be a poorer one without a diverse range of sport and recreation opportunities available to us all.

That's the bad news! The good news is that I think Table Tennis can do something about this trend, and maybe the small size of Table Tennis can be an advantage in this. It should be easier for everyone to work together.

There is a lot of good, exciting initiatives taking place within Table Tennis. The work John Stapleton has done travelling the country, showing people proven ways of attracting more people to the game. The Kiwi Table Tennis manual that resulted from that is one of the best around. The work Robin Radford is putting in on the TTNZ website means we have one of the best and most up to date sporting websites in New Zealand. This means of communication is going to become increasingly important, and Table Tennis needs to be at the forefront of that. And the initiative the Southland, Manawatu and North Harbour Associations have shown in employing Development Officers is one that should be copied if possible.

All of these things should be built on, shared, expanded. And other ideas too.

But I believe the real key, and what Table Tennis needs to be doing, is developing a sense of common ground and a commitment to working together. There is too much antagonism, mistrust and just plain lack of understanding about what the various parties involved in Table Tennis are trying to accomplish. The sport is too small for wasted energy over affiliation fees; over how much money is allocated to players for trips away; over what the National office is doing; over whether Associations are registering all their members. And the list could go on.

Yes, debate on these things is important, but at some stage there needs to be an element of trust that everyone is trying to do their best for the sport as a whole. If there is one thing I have tried to accomplish in my time in this job, it is to try and engender this feeling of all being in the same boat, of all working together. Although the situation has improved, I believe, there is still a long way to go. So if I could make one final plea, it would be to think more broadly than your own area of interest and work with everyone for Table Tennis as a whole. Because if you don't, the sport stands little chance of prospering in today's environment.

continued page 4

National Office Changes

The following letter was sent to the Chairperson of all Associations:

Following the resignation of our Executive Director **Mike Brown**, effective from 1 September, the Board took the opportunity to review the overall position of table tennis in New Zealand.

We considered many facts concerning table tennis including the following:

- Player numbers have dropped from near to 6000 in 1995/1996 to just over 2000 in 1999 (Slightly less than in 1998).
- Player numbers entering tournaments are down.
- Hillary Commission funding has been reduced by \$5000 for the next 12 months
- Associations are struggling to increase numbers, and some are therefore finding it difficult to meet the national office fee instalments on time.
- The sponsorship dollar is becoming increasingly difficult to obtain for sports with a low profile, and especially those that are not TV audience friendly.

Having considered the foregoing along with many other factors, it was concluded that it is not possible to financially justify an Executive Director, and an Administrator for table tennis. By reducing National Office staff, and making changes, funds will be released directly into the sport.

Therefore, the Board offered the fulltime position of Administration Officer to our remaining employee **John Kiley**, (pictured) and I am pleased to advise that John has accepted the position in the National Office from 1 September.

It has been agreed he will not be responsible for Budgeting, Individual Membership Registration, Entries to National Championships including North and South Islands, High Performance, Coaching Co-ordination, Sponsorship, Hillary Commission, Strategic Planning, and Newsletter Co-ordination. These functions will be carried out by volunteers, and we will advise you who will be responsible for these various functions in due course.

The AGM is scheduled to be held on Saturday 27 November, with the 1999/2000 budget being presented and open for discussion prior to the meeting. I would expect next years Association fees to only increase by a small percentage and so ensure that table tennis has funds available to develop the sport.

Alan R Hounsell
Chairman of the Board
Table Tennis New Zealand



"JK" (John Kiley) busy at the office.

Some words from JK over page.

Mike Brown... *continued from page 2.*

There are too many people to thank individually for their help and assistance during my time as Executive Director. But to the Board of TTNZ, and to those players, coaches and administrators who I've met, thank you for your help. It has been much appreciated and welcome.

I would like to thank the following people specifically though. John Kiley especially for all of his help, his unfailing good humour, and most of all his support. David Jackson for the immense amount of work he puts into Table Tennis for TTNZ, and his countless e-mails! John Stapleton for his work as National Development Officer. I can't think of anyone who could have done the job better. Bryan Keane for his always positive attitude and faith in what can be achieved. Murray Finch for being a great sounding board and his ability to look at issues in a balanced way. And finally Robin Radford, who I know feels is too old to be learning all these new software packages, but who is doing an outstanding job with the website and this magazine.

I wish the sport the best, and look forward to hearing good things about Table Tennis in the future.

Michael Brown

Administration Officer's View...

A Chance for TTNZ To Spread its Wings

The decision by the TTNZ Board not to replace Executive Director Mike Brown following his resignation will change the whole table tennis scene at national level. While the national office will continue to provide administrative service and backup, the decision-making procedures at national level are poised for radical change.

The intention is for a paid executive day-to-day decision-maker to be replaced by volunteer workers throughout the country who will assume leadership roles in areas they have a specific interest in, a proven talent for, and a willingness to work at simply as a reflection of their love for the sport. These specialist areas include coaching, high performance, promotion and strategic planning.

My personal view is that this is a positive step. It will enable some of TTNZ's key functions to be driven by people who are also involved with "hands on" work at regional and club level, it could generate a level of creativity in promoting table tennis that is often evident only among volunteers, and it could dissolve the line that sometimes divides "TTNZ" from "The Rest". It is also an opportunity to heed the many calls for more to be done at national level in specific areas, as under this structure there is no limit to the number of volunteers that can be brought in.

With the tremendous growth of electronic communication, I look forward to working with, and for, a large team of people throughout New Zealand that have an eye for developing the full potential of table tennis in this country, who are able to impart their enthusiasm to others, and who recognise the need to turn TTNZ into one large family.

John Kiley

Olympics – continued from front cover.

The process in essence:

- Li Chunli qualified for automatic direct entry on the strength of her world ranking.
- Australia, as Olympic host nation, is entitled to automatic direct entry for one male and one female singles player, and one men's and one women's doubles pair.
- A two-day round robin was played to determine a men's and women's qualifier (Peter Jackson won the men's, Australia's Miao Miao won the women's)
- The remaining players played a knock-out tournament to decide a second qualifier (Australia's Russell Lavale won the men's, Karen Li the women's)
- The remaining players played another knock-out tournament to decide a third qualifier (Australia's Simon Gerada and Stella Zhou were the respective winners)

Normally, a doubles tournament would then be held but positions were already determined by either automatic entries or players previously qualified for the singles.

The end result is that the following have qualified to represent Oceania at the Olympics:

Men's singles: Mark Smythe (A), Peter Jackson (NZ), Russell Lavale (A), Simon Gerada (A).

Women's singles: Li Chunli (NZ), Shirley Zhou (A), Miao Miao (A), Karen Li (NZ), Stella Zhou (A)

Men's doubles: Brett Clarke & Jeff Plumb (A), Mark Smythe & Simon Gerada (A)

Women's doubles: Jian Fang Lay & Stella Zhou (A), Miao Miao & Shirley Zhou (A), Li Chunli & Karen Li (NZ)

PETER'S PLACE WELL-DESERVED

Peter Jackson won't have forgotten Atlanta, 96 when he coasted through the qualifying event unbeaten but was denied a place in the Olympic team by the criteria imposed on the NZ Olympic selectors. The same situation no longer exists and Peter is expected to qualify for final selection. His Olympic record is remarkable: 7 wins and one loss in this tournament, and selection for Barcelona 92 and Seoul 88.

KAREN PROVES HERSELF

Karen Li's performance proved that when the heat is on she can handle the pressure. She had to topple some good players to emerge winner of the post round-robin knock-out and we will follow her fortunes in Sydney with interest, particularly the doubles with her sister Chunli.

SHANE UNLUCKY

After finishing 3rd in the round robin and reaching the final in both the knock-out stages, Shane Laugesen was extremely unlucky not to qualify. His "last chance" match against Simon Gerada saw his earlier good form fall away a little but he still had his chances, losing 6-21, 21-17, 17-21, 17-21. Unfortunate, too, was the fact that the automatic Australian doubles entry (decided in a tournament within Australia) consisted of two players who did not qualify for the singles, thus denying Peter and Shane the opportunity to play for the second doubles position. There is a possibility that another continent could leave half a doubles position unused, which is all Shane and Peter need to get in as Peter has already qualified.

OTHERS DID WELL

Also competing were Andrew Hubbard, Aaron Winborn, Maxine Goldie, Sarah Finch, Tracey McLauchlan, Sean Chen, Chris Herlihy and Tanya Hefferan. Debbie Garrett was originally selected but withdrew. Notable were the performances of Aaron Winborn, the only player to beat Peter Jackson, and Andrew Hubbard, who finished 6th overall, ahead of automatic doubles qualifier Brett Clarke.

SUPPORT FROM AUCKLAND Table Tennis Association

The Oceania Table Tennis Federation is grateful to the Auckland TTA for making the stadium, tables, facilities and refreshments available free of charge for this event, and to the local stalwarts who turned up to watch and were treated to a feast of spectacular table tennis.

My Serve

by **James Morris**



The Rise and Fall of the Tournament

Where do we go from here!

Tournaments have been an intricate part of Table Tennis in New Zealand for years but one must wonder the long term outcome and the future of tournaments as we know them, if they are to survive into the 21st Century.

Indeed over the years we have seen a decline in entries, at both provincial and national tournaments. Already this year one association has had to cancel their provincial open through lack of entries. It's not difficult to conclude a fresh look is needed to attract players.

Remember the huge fields 20 years ago. The NZ Open events entries numbered in the 100s. 1995 men's singles entries in Whangarei were only 58.

For the 1995 tournament, I was involved in bringing in new consolation events (2nd and 3rd division system) - basically to guarantee the player more games, but with falling entries this system struggles as it was designed for multiples of 16 players, creating no byes. This division system should be used in this way for table tennis tournaments. I believe tournaments need to change their format. With ratings upgraded and hopefully more accurate, perhaps more provincial tournaments could be run in line with the rating system. e.g. Men's/women's singles and other event entries would reflect the rating system. That means open events would be restricted to 16 or 32 players etc.

The rating system is still not foolproof. Maybe players with no tournament result for 3 months lose 10 places!!

My idea would be to identify North and South Island provinces to hold prestigious Grand Slam tournaments based on ratings. To tie in a national sponsor offering reasonable prize money for all events, attracting all levels of players to travel and participate. These tournaments could be worth more rating points. Another argument is should all players be eligible to play in open championship events or should only top players be eligible?

Should TTNZ still hold North and South Island and National championships?

The negatives are:

1. It's difficult to find associations to host them.
2. Entries are low if away from main centres.
3. It's difficult to find volunteers to organise them.

The pluses are:

1. Opportunities for players to compete and win prestige titles.
2. Island championships present a build-up before the national championships.
3. An opportunity to play players outside own regions.
4. Promotional opportunity for associations to promote top table tennis in their region.
5. Different regions present unique championships.

I personally feel as a past player the value of 3 top NZ tournaments during the season with many regional tournaments sprinkled around those dates as an important part of the competitive yearly calendar. Perhaps there should be more tournaments for social players.

With the present dramatic falling in player numbers, as IMR indicates, maintaining or increasing tournament events will be hard to justify.

Have your say and write to "My Serve" giving your opinion. Or have you an opinion / or a can of worms to open!

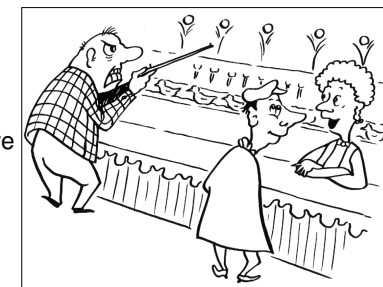
How the tournaments can rise - how would you improve association tournaments?

North and South Island championships - Many would say they should be wiped!

I say if they are to go what will replace them?

I'd love to hear from you - Good serving.

James



"He always comes here after the tournaments are finished!"

World Championships

TOP NEW ZEALAND PAIR BOWLS SEEDS

Sensation occurred in Eindhoven when **Peter Jackson** and **Li Chunli** beat the 15th seeded pair Yang Min and Alessia Arisi of Italy 21-16, 21-11. It is thought to be the first time ever that a NZ player or pair has beaten a seeded player or pair at a World Table Tennis Championship. The Italian pair had reached the semi-finals of last years European Championships.

Round four of the Mixed Doubles saw the New Zealand pair lose to Zoltan Batorfi & Krisztina Toth (HUN) 12-21, 21-17, 21-14.

Peter Jackson won his qualification singles group to reach the main draw, but lost to Allan Bentsen of Denmark in the 1st round 21-23, 15-21, 18-21. **Li Chunli** reached the third round only to lose to Yang Ying (CHN) by a walkover.

In the Women's Singles Qualifying matches **Kadia Keller-Rice** lost to Kinga Stefanska (POL) 22-20, 21-13.

Who is Kadia Keller-Rice ?

A few days before the World Championships started **Kadia Keller-Rice** was added to the New Zealand team to replace Karen Li. She was already in Europe and advised the selectors of her availability.

Kadia, has played in 2 World Championships during the 80's, was a contemporary of Barry Griffiths and Peter Jackson, and was both NZ and Australian Junior Singles Champion. She is also one of only 2 NZ players to win medals at the World Championships! Both Kadia and Barry Griffiths won bronze medals at the World Championships in the Consolation singles, where players who lost in up to the 4th round were eligible to enter.

Our Olympic team manager — **Murray Finch**

One can imagine the disappointment of the players and officials following the cancellation of the Belgrade World Championships. For those who read Murray Finch's article in the March issue, it is easy to grasp his enthusiasm and realise his pool of knowledge. He must have been quite disappointed not to have attended that event.



With his appointment as Manager of the New Zealand team to the 2000 Olympics in Sydney, it was an opportune time to find out a little more about Murray, and, what a wealth of table tennis experience emerges!

Murray did not start playing until he was nearly 16 years old when noticed by the unmissable Cath Tadema who brought him into her Hamilton Junior squad. He made the under 18 and senior teams to the 1978 Nationals and has played for Waikato at all but one Nationals since. Because he was such a late starter little impact was made on the national scene until his mid to late 20's when, in association championships he regularly made the semi finals, quarter finals and the odd final. He was chosen to represent NZ in 1989 in the Hong Kong and Japan championships. In successive

years he was ranked 9th, 7th and 10th in New Zealand with wins over most of the top players of the time. In his own words Murray said his successes came through analysis and hard work.

On the coaching side he had always helped other players and went to his first coaching course as early as 1980. His coaching career was really kick started by Keith Herbert who asked him to coach regularly and he developed his passion for coaching by watching many young people improve as players, experience successes and failures, and grow as people.

From the start his focus was on making table tennis a part of each person's life, each player had it explained that education and family came first and table tennis was third at best. They were all asked to tell him privately what they wanted to achieve in the sport and he would then treat them accordingly in training - if they wanted to be social players they could expect attention and help but less than those that were serious. And the serious ones had it explained to them that there was always a price to pay for success, most likely their social life.

Murray has always been a strong team man and as a senior player has been able to instil this in his teams which led to some good results. He says he copied the positive aspects of the Hutt Valley association culture who adapted an "us against the world" attitude when their teams were playing at National championships, which greatly added to the atmosphere and gave them a lot of fun and success.

Coaching on a national basis began in 1991 when he was one of the 4 coaches on the under 19 and 21 trip to the Australian Championships in Geelong. Murray learned and as his involvement grew, especially in the junior area, he tried to develop a disciplined culture amongst the juniors at National level, with some level of success. He has tried to put himself in the shoes of the parents who would want their children in a safe environment, given the best opportunity to play to their potential, and enjoy themselves during the experience.

Since becoming involved at senior level he has been impressed by the way in which the players pull together and become totally focused on the job at hand when playing for their country. Murray has much experience with NZ National teams – since 1991 he has been involved with numerous New Zealand teams in Australia, Malaysia, Japan, UK and NZ.

Murray is the Waikato Association coach, has attended many coaching courses in New Zealand and in 1997 attended a high performance course in Manchester conducted by the current German national coach.

There is life outside table tennis for Murray - he is married to Sarah and is a senior financial planner and office manager in a Financial Services company in Hamilton. His other interests include, golf, cricket and cycling and is now learning to play a musical instrument and loving it.

Among the players he has coached are New Zealand representatives: Barbara Dickey, Daniel Hempstead, Chris Herlihy, Paul Innes and Stuart Jones.

Murray tells us he loves travelling and the experiences that it brings.

He probably finds it hard to get away from the subject of table tennis as wife Sarah is rated number 3 in New Zealand and frequently travels as a member of the New Zealand team.

Top 10 Junior Ratings

As at 5 September 1999

Boys Under 19	Girls Under 19	Boys Under 17	Girls Under 17
1. Chen Lei	1. Samara Collins	1. Andy Huang	1. Lisa Boaden
2. Paul Innes	2. Lisa Boaden	2. Xiao Zhang	2. Rachel Griffiths
3. Peter Craven	3. Rachel Griffiths	3. Yi-Sien Lin	3. Jenny Brewerton
4. Jason Ng	4. Jenny Brewerton	4. Adrian Soh	4. Jiani Hu
5. Andy Huang	5. Tamsyn Burgess	5. Simon Wallace	5. Deborah Morrison
6. Xiao Zhang	6. Jiani Hu	6. Oscar Elwell	6. Alison Thomson
7. Vincent Ho	7. Deborah Morrison	7. John Cordue	7. Laura-Jane Young
8. Yi-Sien Lin	8. Monique Neal	8. Greg Burton	8. Andrea Gosney
9. Adrian Soh	9. Clara So	9. Allen Tsai	9. Claire Dimmock
10. Paul Stewart	10. Alison Thomson	10. Kelsey Fagan	10. Leanne Wight
Boys Under 15	Girls Under 15	Boys Under 13	Girls Under 13
1. Andy Huang	1. Jiani Hu	1. Jonathan Chen	1. Jiani Hu
2. Xiao Zhang	2. Sacha Welsh	2. Albert Cheng	2. Sandy Wang
3. Simon Wallace	3. Sandy Wang	3. Nathan Lowe	3. Florence Li
4. Kelsey Fagan	4. Jacqui Wood	4. Rhys Van Stipriaan	4. Kelly Samson
5. Josh Alexandre	5. Eileen Schwab	5. Adam Ryland	5. Leanne Ridder
6. Kurt Strid	6. Janice Chen	6. Chris Erskine	6. Sophie Shu
7. Frank Tsai	7. Jennifer Lo	7. Philip Thompson	7. Anna Chan
8. Anthony Wilson	8. Jaimee Colvin	8. James Silverwood	8. Elizabeth Perry
9. Hadleigh Bunce	9. Kelly Winkley	9. Wojtek Adamski	9. Katie Stretton
10. Ian Loubachevskii	10. Florence Li	10. Martin Lau	10. Suzannah Judson

Table Tennis Hall of Fame

In this issue we bring you two of the six first inductees:

Russell Algie

Six times New Zealand open singles champion between 1939 and 1951, Russell Algie's record would have been more impressive but for World War 2. Russell was noted for his fast and elegant footwork, his impeccable manners, perfect temperament, left handed defensive game and finishing backhand flick.

Russell started playing as a pupil of Waitaki Boys' High and later between 1937 and 1948 won the Otago Open singles title 11 times. In 1939 he toured Australia with the New Zealand team where he defeated the New South Wales Champion. Whilst serving with the army in the Pacific he was an easy winner of the Pacific Islands championships.

In 1948 he had the distinction of being the first New Zealander to compete at a World Championship.

In addition to table tennis Russell had success as a cricketer and as a prominent amateur boxer.



Russell in 1949

National Titles:

New Zealand Open

Men's Singles - 1939, 40, 45, 47, 49, 51

Men's Doubles - 1939, 40

Mixed Doubles - 1949, 52

Men's Singles Over 45 - 1969

Note: Association titles not included and South Island titles still to be researched.



In the Otago associations 50th year Anniversary booklet Russell relates the story of him going AWOL during the war to play in the first rounds of the Otago Champs, and being found out was confined to barracks.

However he went over the fence and won the final and headlines in the next mornings paper read "ALGIE RETAINS TITLE". It wasn't long before he was in front of the Colonel, who said that it was a very good job for Russell that he hadn't got his glasses with him that day otherwise he would have stood a good chance of a court-martial!

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Murray Dunn

Murray was the possessor of a wonderful match temperament coupled with quick reflexes and nimble footwork. His backhand kill was a consistent and accurate winner. He was selected in the first New Zealand team to compete at a World Championship in 1954. His last outing was in the 1967 World Championships where he finished in the last 32 of the men's singles. Slow to convert to sponge, he did so in 1957 and in 1960 won his first NZ men's singles title, retaining it for the next 3 years.

National Titles:

New Zealand Open

Men's Singles - 1960, 61, 62, 63

Men's Doubles - 1952, 54, 60, 61, 63, 64, 65, 66

Mixed Doubles - 1961, 62, 63, 64, 66,

Boys Singles Under 18 - 1952

Boys Doubles Under 18 - 1951

Mixed Doubles Under 18 - 1951

Boys' Singles Under 16 - 1950

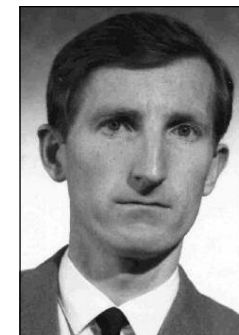
North Island Open

Men's Singles - 1960, 65

Men's Doubles - 1959, 60, 61, 66

Mixed Doubles - 1959, 65, 66

Boys' Singles Under 18 - 1952



Murray in 1966

Note: Association titles not included and South Island titles still to be researched.



Paralympics New Zealand is the national sporting body for disability sport. Over the next 18 months our focus is on supporting our athletes in their preparation for the Sydney 2000 Paralympics.

We are aware there may be some table tennis players out there, who have a disability - and to be able to provide you with additional opportunities, WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

So, if you are a player with a disability who currently plays table tennis at any level, please contact Paralympics New Zealand TODAY!

Kathy Barwell
Sport Development

Tel: (09) 522-4601 Fax: (09) 522-4602
Mobile: 025 542 202
Email: kbarwell@paralympicsnz.org.nz

GLENN TEPPER POPULAR

From Whangarei to Invercargill, there's a new buzz in Table Tennis after the recent visit by Oceania Table Tennis Development Officer, Glenn Tepper. In a month long trip, Glenn traversed the country, visiting schools, talking with coaches and passing on his vast Table Tennis knowledge. Rapturous responses to the visits flooded in. "He's brilliant," enthused Hutt Valley, the first Association to host him, and others responded in like vein as the tour progressed. We caught up with Glenn just before he left, to get his thoughts on Table Tennis in New Zealand.

Glenn's overall view was that New Zealand was in a unique situation in world Table Tennis due to our isolation from the power bases of the game in Europe and Asia. However, this can be used as a positive if we look at the rest of the world and what they are doing, take what seems appropriate for New Zealand, and then develop it to suit our own situation. We shouldn't be afraid to adapt and modify the overseas experience to New Zealand.

Glenn saw many positives about New Zealand Table Tennis, including a number of excellent venues spread around the country, some knowledgeable and active coaches (even if small in number), and some excellent administrators and paid development officers. He saw all of these as things to build on, expanding the pockets of New Zealand where Table Tennis is thriving so as to include more of the country.

As might be expected given his coaching background, Glenn saw coaching development as a priority for TTNZ. He said we need to formalise our Level 1 Coaching Accreditation and then provide a series of regionally based courses to allow coaches to gain this qualification. Glenn mentioned he was impressed by the thirst for knowledge of those coaches he met during his trip. He also believed we should do more to encourage players into coaching whilst they are still playing, thereby passing their knowledge as players into the system through their coaching.

Another key priority was continuing the work John Stapleton started in encouraging new children into Table Tennis and then into clubs to further their development. Glenn thought the system John had developed, of going into schools and introducing Table Tennis with the Kiwi Table Tennis manual, and at the same time having a system in place whereby it is easy for the children to continue their Table Tennis in a club and schools competition environment, was an excellent one and should be adopted widely.



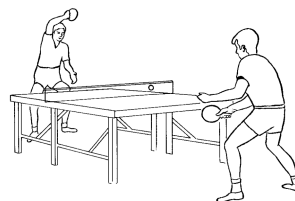
It was extremely useful to have an "outsider" give an impression of the state of Table Tennis in New Zealand, and especially an impression after spending time travelling around New Zealand.

Glen Tepper and keen onlookers in Invercargill. Reproduced permission Southland Times.

It's sometimes hard to see the wood for the trees, and one benefit of Glenn's visit has been to help us see that there are many things we are doing well here, in addition to the areas we do need to improve on.

We're already thinking about bringing Glenn back again as soon as possible. His expansive knowledge, easy going manner, and natural rapport with his audience, whether young children or advanced coaches, made him an instant hit wherever he went. There's sure to be widespread demand for him on any future visit.

Mike Brown



Glenn Tepper tells the media:

NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA PLAY LIKE PROS

Several media stories featuring large photographs of Glenn Tepper coaching school children appeared in provincial and metropolitan newspapers during his month-long visit. In his interviews for these stories Glenn repeatedly emphasised that both New Zealand and Australia can beat many countries where table tennis is played professionally.

"The world's leading 60 countries are fully professional in the sport, whereas Australia and New Zealand are still amateur," he was quoted as saying by the Southland Times. "But New Zealand and Australia perform at about No 30."

Glenn's enthusiasm, easy going style, and immense knowledge of world table tennis made him a popular target for the media. This was helped by energetic promotion of him by local officials.

VIEW FROM THE GRASS ROOTS

"I've done 130 bounces in 30 seconds!" claimed a member of one of Glenn Tepper's school groups during a "bouncing the ball on the bat" session. Glenn's response was every bit as quick as his table tennis reflexes: "Either you're very good at table tennis or very bad at maths."

Lindsay Beer, who accompanied Glenn Tepper on an extensive round of school visits and coaching sessions in Southland, was particularly impressed with the rapport he rapidly built up with children and more advanced coaching trainees, and with his flexibility when moving from one level to another. "He moves on to an advanced group as though he's been working at that level all day, and then comes back to a group of children who had never played before and demonstrates the same professionalism at their level as well."

"He is able to make each session fresh even when an identical routine is presented at one school after another."

"It was exciting and a pleasure to be with him throughout his visit." said Lindsay with enthusiasm.

Plan for the -

Y2K SUMMER NATIONALS

January 8th – 14th, 2000 in Nelson.

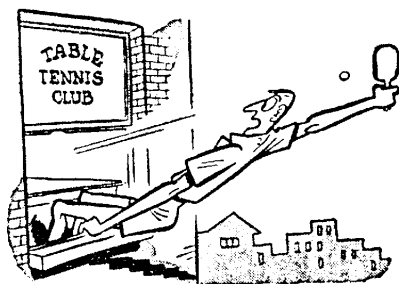
The first Open Championship of the new Millennium! (worldwide ??)

TABLE TENNIS PLAYERS DICTIONARY



Rally:

Brief interruption to players' time-honoured ritual of toweling down, wiping table, bouncing ball on floor,



"As I was saying – we really must try to rent a larger room."

JUNIORS PACK FOR AUSTRALIA

Twenty-two juniors in three age-groups will head for Townsville, North Queensland at the end of this month to compete in the Australian Junior Championships.

The selection process began several weeks ago when a short list of players in each age group were asked if they were available and able to meet the cost. Sadly, the cost, which was originally predicted to exceed \$2000, prevented several promising players from making the trip. As it turned out, cheap airfares and budget accommodation brought the cost per player down by several hundred dollars but still out of reach for some.

Those lucky enough to be going are now eagerly looking forward to the trip. The timing of the event means play will barely finish at the NZ Junior Championships in Palmerston North before the two younger age groups head for Auckland and their international departure.

The championships follow the same format as the NZ Championships – teams events followed by singles, doubles and mixed doubles individual events.

The teams are:

UNDER 18 BOYS

Greg Burton (North Harbour)
Peter Craven (Northland)
Anthony Simons (Waitemata)
Paul Stewart (Canterbury)

UNDER 18 GIRLS

Lisa Boaden (Hutt Valley)
Rachel Griffiths (North Harbour)
Deborah Morrison (Canterbury)
Alison Thomson (Wanganui)

UNDER 16 BOYS

John Cordue (Wellington)
Andrew Hovey (Wanganui)
Evan Kramer (Wellington)
Adrian Soh (Nelson)

UNDER 16 GIRLS

Andrea Gosney (Canterbury)
Sacha Welsh (Northland)
Laura-Jane Young (Waitemata)

UNDER 14 BOYS

Hadleigh Bunce (North Harbour)
Simon Wallace (Canterbury)
Anthony Wilson (Southland)

UNDER 14 GIRLS

Florence Li (Auckland)
Jennifer Lo (North Harbour)
Eileen Schwab (North Harbour)
Sandy Wang (Auckland)

John Stapleton will be the manager for the Under 16 and Under 14 teams, who leave a week earlier; and **Gay Morrison** for the Under 18's. **Simeon Cairns, David McBride** and **Mrs Jane Bunce** will accompany the younger group, and an Under 18 coach is yet to be appointed.

OTAGO NEWS

Otago continues to hold its' head above water despite all the criticism on changing venues (when Otago sold its' own premises and moved to a multi sports venue). Schools are coming in their droves to the Edgar Centre which houses many sports of which table tennis is one.

I, as Schools Development Officer, have been busy around the schools. Lately the Secondary and Intermediate schools competition was well attended and enjoyed by all so much that the competition went on longer than intended.

Table tennis in Otago has a higher profile than it had before as people involved at the Edgar Centre can see table tennis being played and many a night when we have coaching or inter-club onlookers take an interest. These people are approached and spoken to.

A few ex players have said that they do not play any more because of the concrete floor, but we have about 100 players who love the game playing inter-club and take no notice of the floor.

With Sport Otago through the Dunedin City Council, we have successfully gained a coach from Shanghai. He is Shi Meisheng, Senior Coach from the Shanghai Sports Federation. He is 52 and has coached the likes of Yang Min, Feng Zhe, Wang Liqin, Xi Minjie and Guo Jinhao. He is a professional and does not coach groups. He was most enthralled by the work we do with the school kids and wanted to get involved when I did my Kiwi Sport. We had him in Otago for a week.

I looked forward to hosting him although my wife was busy trying out new Chinese meals on ME! It is a new concept and it is hoped that reciprocal arrangements will be that some players can go to Shanghai for coaching in a year or so.

Ben Hurr (Secretary, Otago Association.)

COMMONWEALTH NEWS

The Singapore Table Tennis Association has been awarded the staging of the Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships from 11 to 17 February 2000.

It has been confirmed that table tennis will be included in the Commonwealth Games in Manchester in July – August 2002. It is likely that table tennis will also be included in the section being organised for People with Disabilities.

It is understood that table tennis has been included in Australia's prospectus for the 2006 Commonwealth games, the host city yet to be decided.

Oceania World Cup Qualifying Tournament

Spectators were treated to some world class spectacular play by Australia's *Jian Fang Lay* and New Zealand's *Li Chunli* at the Auckland stadium, on 1st September.

Chunli survived 7 match points before finally going down to Jian Fang. It was the 1st time ever that Chunli has lost to another female player from the Oceania Federation in her 13 years in New Zealand. And it was a match that those who witnessed it will never forget, with ferocious smashing from Chunli and amazing blocking and counter hitting from Jian Fang.

Chunli had led in the 1st game only to be pipped at the post 23-21. Jian Fang led in the 2nd game until coach Aleks Jakubczak called timeout late in the game. When play resumed Chunli won the next 5 points and secured that game also 23-21.

In the 3rd Jian Fang got off to a good start and led throughout and held 6 match points at 20-14 up! Chunli however had other ideas, and won the next point which gave her the serve at 15-20. From there she won another 6 points in a row before finally losing the last 3!

In the final match in the men's competition Peter Jackson defeated Australia's Russell Lavale to secure victory. Tied on 3 wins each were New Zealand's 2 entrants, Jackson and Shane Laugesen, but Jackson had beaten Laugesen in the 1st match of the day 21-18 in the 3rd game, which proved to be the decider!

This will be Jackson's 7th World Cup which is a record for Oceania.

David Jackson

FINAL PLACINGS:

MEN

1. Peter Jackson (NZL)
2. Shane Laugesen (NZL)
3. Russell Lavale (AUS)
4. Mark Smythe (AUS)

WOMEN

1. Jian Fang Lay (AUS)
2. Li Chunli (NZL)
3. Miao Miao (AUS)
4. Karen Li (NZL)

The World Cup for men is in Xiaolan, China on 28-31st October next. Total prize money is US\$130,000 with US\$40,000 for 1st, US\$21,000 for 2nd, US\$15000 for 3rd and lesser amounts as the order goes down to 16th.

The Women's World Cup is in Taipei on 10 – 12 December next.

Men's Open

1. Peter Jackson
2. Aaron Li
3. Shane Laugesen
4. Andrew Hubbard
5. Hagen Bower
6. Aaron Winborn
7. Hu Binqun
8. Sean Chen
9. David Jackson
10. Chen Lei

Women's Open

1. Li Chunli
2. Karen Li
3. Maxine Goldie
4. Sarah Finch
5. Sabine Westenra
6. Tracey Phillips
7. Tracey Epps
8. Yvonne Fogarty
9. Val Beaver
10. Tanya Hefferan

Men's Under 21

1. Chen Lei
2. Paul Innes
3. Peter Craven
4. Jason Ng
5. Andy Huang
6. Shane Warbrooke
7. Xiao Zhang
8. Vincent Ho
9. Yi-Sien Lin
10. Stephen Hirst

Women's Under 21

1. Tracey McLauchlan
2. Samara Collins
3. Anna Danby
4. Melissa Beazer
5. Amber Johnson
6. Catherine Danby
7. Belinda Beazer
8. Tanya Daly
9. Lisa Boaden
10. Rachel Griffiths

Men's Over 40

1. Sean Chen
2. David Jackson
3. Bob Lassen
4. Kevin Barry
5. Maurice Burrowes
6. Lindsay Ward
7. David Hall
8. Pat Low
9. Warren Evans
10. Alan Tomlinson

TOP 10 SENIOR Ratings

as at
5 September 1999
Includes Olympic and World qualifying tournaments.

Women's Over 40

1. Yvonne Fogarty
2. Val Beaver
3. Ulrike Kusche
4. Lynley Barker
5. Chris. Cunningham
6. Pat McArthur
7. Jill Murray
8. Averil Roberts
9. Anne McLean
10. Linda Wynks

Men's Over 50

1. Bob Lassen
2. Pat Low
3. Warren Evans
4. Alan Tomlinson
5. William Weinstock
6. Doug Pattinson
7. Alan Alabaster
8. Bruce Connolly
9. Chris Williams
10. Nam Hang Lee

Women's Over 50

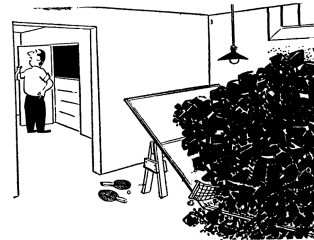
1. Val Beaver
2. Lynley Barker
3. Chris. Cunningham
4. Pat McArthur
5. Jill Murray
6. Averil Roberts
7. Anne McLean
8. Val Scarr
9. Joyce Coleman
10. Kaylene Findlay

Men's Over 60

1. Alan Tomlinson
2. Nam Hang Lee
3. Albert Roberts
4. Gerry Doyle
5. John Lelliott
6. Man Tin Lee
7. Colin Tipper
8. Bill Otene
9. Norm Parsons
10. Colin Neutze

Women's Over 60

1. Pat McArthur
2. Joyce Coleman
3. Margaret McGregor
4. Jean. Wharehoka
5. Margurette Green
6. Kath Thompson
7. Phyllis Hoete
8. Elsie Spooner
9. Annice Robottom
10. Gladys Halford



"I thought you said they delivered our coal today."

Wanted

Northland TTA require a motivated and experienced table tennis coach for 3 - 4 months in 2000. The successful applicant needs to have good communication skills, ability to organise and implement a seasonal coaching plan, and have the confidence to demonstrate and promote table tennis through schools. We offer one of the top stadiums in the country, having recently extended to cater for 11 tables. Apply with CV stating qualifications and experience. Accommodation is available. Remuneration is on application. Apply in writing to the Secretary, PO Box 597 Whangarei by 15 November 1999

DONIC
New Zealand
Joachim Kusche
327 Coldstream Rd, Rangiora 8254
Ph: 03-313 3449 Fax: 03-313 3412

New rep. in the North Island – Terry Down 06 379 5158.

One player's view about

TABLE TENNIS IN NEW ZEALAND

I believe that table tennis in New Zealand struggles as a sport due to the distance between the corporate body, TTNZ, and the players, and because it receives insufficient public exposure. As long as this remains the case table tennis in New Zealand will never reach its full potential. We live in a media dominated world that revolves around television, and if table tennis is to thrive here we need to take advantage of this.

Firstly, I think that an underlying problem with our sport is the isolation of TTNZ from the players. Many players only ever hear of TTNZ when people are talking of the crippling fees imposed upon our associations, and what do we see as being given in return? A newsletter three or four times a year and reports of a cancelled trip to this county by the Chinese national side.

Don't get me wrong. The Executive Director, Mike Brown (soon-to-resign), should be congratulated for his efforts to try to organise the Chinese visit which would have been great for the game's promotion in NZ. Unfortunately, events occurred that were beyond his control and the tour could not proceed. His "think big" attitude is what we need. However, first and foremost it is important to establish good links between TTNZ and the players so we can operate as one unit rather than being distracted from the important issues through the internal bickering that exists today.

To start with, we have to make more of a spectacle of the table tennis that is already being played in NZ. Advertisements could be used in local papers to promote the major tournaments around the country. Sports-Talk talkback radio is an excellent way of reaching a large audience and has the added benefit of being free. But promoting the sport starts with the players ourselves. I was shocked at the North Island Championships to be one of only

three or four spectators at the U21 Men's Singles final between Northland's Peter Craven and Canterbury's Paul Stewart, while other lesser games were being played non-stop around them. How about some respect for the players who have put in the hard work to make finals by having a policy of stopping other games so they can be the centre of attention! Likewise, division games were still being played while the men's semi-finals were taking place. I believe that having both second and third divisions not only places the host association under more pressure than necessary, but also encourages mediocrity. I agree with a consolation event for first round losers as it increases players' enjoyment of the game by letting the weaker at each level have more experience. Having a second division is redundant. Men's quarter finalist losers at the North Island Championships were still eligible for the men's second division!

Next week World Cup and Olympic qualifying play is taking place in Auckland. Some of the best table tennis ever to be seen in NZ will be on show, yet I have not seen or heard any advertisements either inside or outside of table tennis promote it. The Auckland Association has decided that it would lose too much money by holding the competition, so has postponed play on the Sunday (in the middle of the tournament) in order to hold the Sunday Club which has the stadium packed out with paying players. Had advertisements been placed in local papers particularly in Chinese ones and an entry fee charged TTNZ and Auckland could have made considerable profit by filling the stadium every day of the tournament. Instead we are left with the negative effects for the players many of whom are professional and whose careers depend upon results here, by unnecessarily disrupting the tournament.

Table tennis has missed an opportunity to attract many new players and supporters to the game.

For table tennis in NZ to get more exposure we need to take advantage of these opportunities and such events as the World Championships. Highlights should continually be sent by TTNZ to television companies to try and get coverage. National finals should be professionally recorded in the hope that highlights might be shown on prime-time sports coverage, which would undoubtedly be brilliant for our game's promotion.

Table tennis will continue to be a minority sport in NZ until we have a Kiwi doing well overseas winning major tournaments and getting major media coverage. The impact of a NZ player winning a medal at the Olympic or Commonwealth Games (including TT for the first time in 2002) would be tremendously positive. However, our chances of doing this are slim and will continue to remain so until we get many more players participating overseas in much higher standard table tennis. This is where TTNZ is really failing to benefit the people it represents. I know through personal experience that the only way for a New Zealander to train overseas is to go through the top players such as Hagen Bower, Chen Lei, Andrew Hubbard and a few others. TTNZ should work with these players to establish links with overseas clubs and promote them to juniors. Players could work with TTNZ and make training arrangements through them. Table tennis within NZ would become more unified and the standard of play would be raised upon the return of the players.

Greater contact is needed between players and administration to foster high quality table tennis in NZ. Combine this with an aggressive media policy and we will reach our full potential.

BEN COLLINS (Auckland)

(This article was written about one week prior to the Olympic Qualifying tournament - Ed.)

THE EFFECTS OF WAR ON TABLE TENNIS

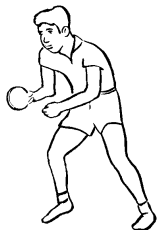
The August issue of ITTF magazine *Table Tennis Illustrated* contains a first hand account by coach Djuro Zifko of the burden of keeping the national spirit of table tennis alive in a country at war.

Bosnia- Herzegovina, lacking the star players enjoyed by neighbouring Croatia and Serbia, has always been fiercely independent and had a memorable moment of glory when it hosted of the 1973 World Championships in Sarajevo.

During the years of war many of Bosnia's best players looked for clubs elsewhere (Zagreb, Belgrade, Luxembourg, France, Belgium). "The consequences of the war were drastic for the sport and its infrastructure", said Zifko. "Playing halls were used as refugee camps and tables were burned as fuel to protect from cold. Play during that time was possible only in cellars and your life was in danger travelling to and from such venues. Some players and coaches lost their lives in the turmoil."

National management during the troublesome years was assisted by an offer from the Luxembourg Olympic Committee, who made office facilities available, and Japanese equipment company Butterfly which was exceedingly generous in supplying equipment.

The country gradually emerged from the crisis after the war, now no longer needs the Luxembourg office, and recently celebrated, on the 25th anniversary of the 1973 World Championships, the survival of Bosnia's identity as a table tennis nation. They are considering bidding again for the glamour event.



TRAINING in Japan

Earlier this year **Andy Huang** and **Oscar Elwell** of Auckland travelled to Japan for training on a trip organised by Hagen Bower and Butterfly (Tamasu Co of Japan).

Richard Lee caught up with the young players on their return and discussed the trip:

Question: How long were you over there, at what time of the year was it and in what city?

Andy & Oscar: Five weeks; January 11th to February 18th in Butterfly Dohjo, Tokyo.
Q: Outline a typical day's training and how many days a week did you train?

A & O: 10am to noon at the Dohjo, then in the afternoon, either trained again at the Dohjo 2 to 7pm or went to Jissen High School and trained 2pm to about 8pm. This was six days a week.

Q: Who did you practice with and what was their level?

A & O: When we first arrived at Jissen High School we were probably about the worst players but, as we got used to the training and level of practice, we both improved dramatically. At the end, the players at Jissen were either about our level or a little better. At the Dohjo, we just practised with each other.

Q: What did you learn most about Table Tennis from your training and trip?

A & O: With the amount of practice we were doing, our footwork improved along with our concentration levels. A lot of technical work was done in the morning with our coach at the Dohjo but in the afternoon, the coach spoke only Japanese, so we only did individual work.

Q: What did you find the main difference in training from what you did over there to what you normally do in New Zealand?

A & O: The level was very high, no relaxing, short breaks and very hard physical training. Apart from that, most of the technical information was relatively similar.

Q: Did the coaches try and make changes or adjustments in your techniques?

A & O: In Japan there are a lot of choppers so this side of our play was refined and practised a lot, along with our short play technique.

Q: What are your current ambitions in Table Tennis and do you have any aims past those?

Oscar: For me, international play is a long term goal; this is still very far away but after then, maybe the Olympics.

Andy: I would like to play professionally in Europe.

Q: Apart from the Table Tennis side of things, what else did you do during the trip?

A & O: We made a visit to Tokyo Disneyland for a day (probably one of the coldest days). We also went to a large shopping area another day and almost got lost. Also one day we spent travelling on the Subway until 11.30 at night after catching the wrong train seven times.

Q: Anything else you would like to add?

A & O: Both of us would like to thank Hagen Bower and Butterfly for the experience.

Board Vacancies There are currently two vacancies plus a further two with John Beatson retiring from the Board and in accordance with the Rules, Dennis Galvin is standing down but is offering himself for reappointment.

Nominations to the Board are being sought, which must be with the National office by October 8th. Nominations have to be accompanied by a CV.

Tremendous activity in NELSON

News for Nelsonians from their secretary.....

- ◆ Nelson wins the Perry and Angel Shields, against Marlborough.
- ◆ 11 year-old **Chris Erskine** stars at Canterbury Open, narrowly beaten in Under 13 singles final.
- ◆ Five junior teams head for NZ Championships in Palmerston North.
- ◆ Academy programmes bring in 350 – 400 new junior players (great support from Enner Glynn school and Nelson College. 17 new schools visited recently).
- ◆ End of season function: barbecue on 17 October.
- ◆ Summer Interclub starts 28 October.
- ◆ Nelson AGM 10 November.

Call Nelson Secretary Bryan Keane (03 547 7530) with any queries.

New Zealand Championships...

Ninety provincial teams and 265 individuals will contest the 1999 New Zealand Championships in Palmerston North from 20 – 30 September.

Apart from overseas-based Peter Jackson and Li Chunli, all the top players in the country are competing.

The venue is the Barber Hall in Waldegrave Street. Junior events occupy the first six days, followed by senior and veteran team events. The open individual finals commence at 7.00 pm on Thursday, 30 September.

Draws for Individual events of National Championships on the TTNZ Web site!

Is this a good idea? Does not knowing the draw until arriving at the championships better? Do players want it?

Feed back to TTNZ welcome to gauge the views.

Web Site gets busy

New Zealand Championships - Details of the Championships with various links. *Includes some individual draws and all team draws.*

Hall of Fame - details of the first 6 inductees.

Olympic and World Cup qualifying tournaments - reports and full results.

Kiwi Table Tennis manual - coaching beginners - lots of fun games.

Soon -----

Summer Nationals - Details and [an entry form for printing out.](#)

Entry Forms. The National Office would like to hear your views on whether or not [online entry](#) to the National Championships would be an advantage.

As with E-Commerce payment would need to be by credit card.

Such a facility would come at a cost (yet to be investigated and determined) most of which could possibly be offset by savings in the processing of entries over several years.

NEW CLUB GROWS FAST

The **Wakefield club**, just south of **Nelson**, is a prime example of what one man can do. **Neil Davis** has got a huge number of people involved in this community club which boasts approx. 50 people turning up each week. Neil has got his work cut out coaching anything from 15 to 40 juniors a week and is ably assisted by many parents who also stay on for the senior club which starts at 7.30pm. The secret to Neil's success is keeping the coaching fun and simple, and giving the children something new to learn each week. This really works. If a small town can do this anyone can. All it takes is one or two enthusiastic people to get the ball ping-pong.

Table Tennis Nelson has supported Neil by going out to his club on 3 or 4 occasions to give a little help with the coaching. Sending some of Nelson's older juniors like **Ian Alino**, **Kurt Strid** and **Clark Jia**, to help has been a tremendous success and Neil expressed his grateful thanks to these boys.

It's a simple idea: just get a few children interested and the snowball effect will continue on as kids love talking about something new they are doing especially to their classmates. Well done to all concerned at Wakefield is the message from Association President **Mark Nalder**.
Bryan Keane

International Federation News

David Jackson re-elected

New Zealand's David Jackson was confirmed as a member of the ITTF Council, and re-elected to the Ranking Committee.

Attempt to increase size of ball fails

The ITTF's two-yearly meeting voted on a proposal, submitted by the ITTF Executive Committee, to increase the diameter of the ball from 38mm to 40mm. It was hoped that such a change would make the sport more attractive for spectators.

As the proposal called for a law change, it required a ¾ majority to be adopted. It missed out by only three votes.

WORLD RANKINGS

NZ Players
(as at 5 Sept. 1999)

Li Chunli	31
Karen Li	120
Peter Jackson	132
Shane Laugesen	290
Sarah Finch	378
Andrew Hubbard	404
Aaron Winborn	429
Hagen Bower	446

Academy Summer Training Camps

The NZ Academy of Table Tennis has published its programme of summer training camps and is now inviting applications.

The fees include accommodation and meals, and there will be outdoor and social activities as well. Trainees can register for more than one camp. The maximum number of trainees at each camp is 10 so early booking is essential.

Enquiries and bookings to:
Bryan Keane, phone 03 547 7530; fax 03 547 4828

Programme:

	Dates	Cost
Camp 1	28-30 December	\$145
Camp 2	31 Dec – 2 January	\$145
Camp 3	3-6 January	\$175
(Summer Nationals in Nelson, 8 – 14 Jan)		
Camp 4	16-19 January	\$175
Camp 5	20-23 January	\$175

TRAINING IN BEIJING, CHINA THIS SUMMER

Do you want to train with better players, under top coaches?

Do you want to watch world champions training, competing and have a hit with them?

A three week training trip is being arranged for late December 1999, early January 2000 depending on flight times. Anyone welcome, preferably not beginners.

Arranged by **Zhu Hui** - National Coach NZ 1998 and now based in China.

New Zealand contact -

Ron Garrett Ph 03 218 3169 (work)
03 218 8245 (home),
Fax 03218 7635
E-Mail rgarrett@clear.net.nz

Details:

Duration: 20 days.

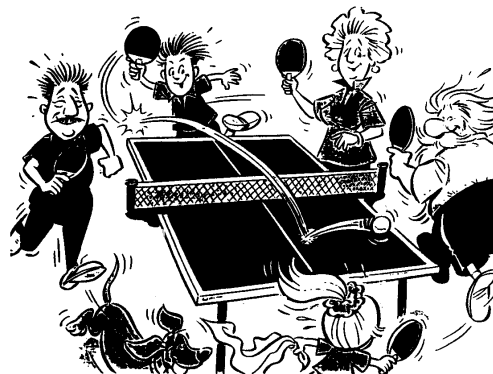
Where: Beijing Shi Shahai Sports School

Number of players: 10 - 16.

Training: with Chinese players.

Costs: Accommodation, training, food, sightseeing - \$860 US approx. \$1667NZ Airfares ex Christchurch or Auckland \$2350 approx. This is based on an individual adult rate – will be cheaper with a group. Other costs will be insurance and departure tax.

Payments Airfares by end of October, remainder at departure.



NEWS FROM SOUTHLAND - The Midweek Social Side.

Only \$2.00

I am well on the wrong side of 70, retired, widower, living alone. My days are very full with the usual chores in the house and garden. I have hobbies using my hands and like to read. I look forward every week especially to Tuesday and Friday. Why? because I play table tennis with the **Invercargill Social Table Tennis Group**.

The company is wonderful, the fun is even better and I get to exercise my brain, my eye, my hand and my body and we also contribute to the local Table Tennis Association.

When I joined, over two years ago after I had retired, I along with many others had not played for many years, in my case it was for more than forty years. It did not take me too long to regain some of my skills. Up to nine tables of doubles play and in the first hour we usually play three sets of three games with different partners and opponents. At eleven o'clock we have a cup of tea or coffee and lots of chat. After that we team up to play singles or in fours of our choice. One only has to listen to the laughter and chat going on to know that everyone without exception is having a good time.

We are a motley lot, both ethnically and age wise, male and female. Ages range from young marrieds to over eighty and at school holidays some bring children and grandchildren along as well.

We share the tea making etc month about and I have never heard a grizzle from anyone. Where else can you get such good company, camaraderie, fun, entertainment and exercise for only \$2.00 in this day and age?

Tony Johnson (Invercargill)

