

# 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.



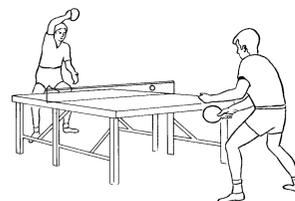
It was extremely useful to have an "outsider" give an impression of the state of Table Tennis in New Zealand, and especially an impression after spending time travelling around New Zealand.

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.

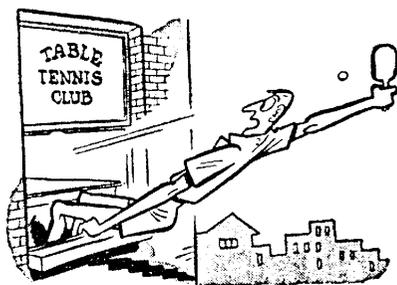
The first Open Championship of the new Millennium! (worldwide ??)

## 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.



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.**

#### Men's Open

1. Peter Jackson
2. Aaron Li
3. Shane Laugesen
4. Andrew Hubbard
5. Hagen Bower
6. Aaron Winborn
7. Hu Binquan
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

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

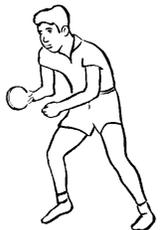
**The August issue of ITTF magazine *Table Tennis Illustrated* contains a first hand account by coach Djuro Zifko of the burden of keeping the national spirit of table tennis alive in a country at war.**

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 25<sup>th</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> to February 18<sup>th</sup> 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)

