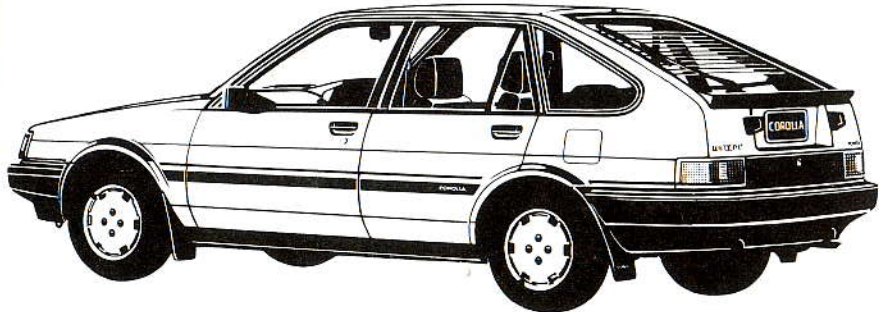


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JAPAN V NEW ZEALAND**

**INTERNATIONAL TABLE TENNIS CONTEST**

**VENUE — WALTER NASH STADIUM  
TOCKER STREET, TAITA, HUTT VALLEY**

**SATURDAY 1 SEPTEMBER 1984  
AT 1.30 P.M.**

Conducted under the auspices of the New Zealand Table Tennis Association

'The New Zealand Table Tennis Association wishes to acknowledge the assistance of the Japan Foundation'

**OFFICERS:**

- |   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| President N.Z. Table Tennis Association | — Dick Rassie MBE        |
| Contest Manager                         | — John Lelliot           |
| Contest Referee                         | — Ivan Houghton          |
| Official Ball                           | — Nittaku — 3 star white |

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## TABLE TENNIS IN JAPAN

Japan is a top nation in table tennis. The national men's team is currently world placed at No. 5, after China, Sweden, Hungary and England.

Table Tennis in Japan is an organised sport with emphasis on discipline, physical fitness and technical skills. The many varieties of rubber for bats come from Japan. High class table tennis clothing, shoes, bats, tables and accessories are also manufactured there.

This is the fourth visit of a Japanese team to New Zealand. The first was in 1957 when world champions Toshiaki Tanaka and Ichiro Ogimura came here. They were followed in 1960 by two women world champions, Kimijo Matsuzaki and Kazuko Yamaizumi. The last visit was in 1973 when a team of two men and two women toured the country.

### THE PLAYERS — JAPAN

For this contest Japan will be represented by experienced international players led by HIROSHI YAOITA, vice-chairman, Japan Table Tennis Association. The three men players are:

MASAHIRO MAEHARA, 30, who has a good record in the All-Japan championships taking the singles and doubles titles in 1981. He won the All-Japan Workers' Championships in 1983 and earned third place in the 1983 All-Japan Championships (singles). A graduate from the Meiji University, MAEHARA has represented Japan at four world championships. A small, bespectacled attacking player, MAEHARA has a current world ranking of 44.

HIROYUKI ABE, 28, is a right-handed penholder grip attacking player. He burst into prominence in 1974 when he downed reigning Chinese world champion Xi Enting at the Afro-Asian Friendship tournament in Peking. Since then he has won All-Japan titles in singles, doubles and mixed. ABE has competed in four world championships and has a current world ranking of 39. He is a tremendous fighter, chasing everything. His hitting from all angles and distances is spectacular. A pen-gripper of the old school, his good footwork makes his seemingly awkward backhand as lethal as his forehand. ABE has previously visited New Zealand when he competed with success at the 1981 NZ Summer Games in Auckland, losing in the final of the singles to Cai (China) 16-21, 17-21, 15-21. (Cai Zhenhua was runner-up to the world's men's singles champion in 1981 and 1983).

ICHIRO HOSHINO, 29, is the current All-Japan soft-ball men's singles champion, a title which he also won in 1980 and 1981. This record indicates that HOSHINO is a strong defensive player. A graduate from Rikkyo University, HOSHINO represented Japan at the 8th Asian Games in Bangkok.

### THE PLAYERS — NEW ZEALAND

BARRY GRIFFITHS — In his search for international recognition, 20-year-old Barry Griffiths from Auckland has been assisted by the NZ Sports Foundation. He spent six months training in Sweden in 1981-82 and has recently returned from Japan after completing a second course to improve his technical skills.

Tall and slim, Griffiths has a free-flowing fast attack. His lightning drives, changing suddenly from forehand to backhand during a rally are his outstanding forte.

Griffiths has won every title possible from the under 16 events to the senior events on the New Zealand circuit. He first represented New Zealand as a junior in 1978 at the age of 14 and is now a regular member of the New Zealand national team.

His most recent overseas success was at the Queensland Open 26/27 May, 1984, where he played superbly to win the men's singles title defeating ranked Australian players including Gary Haberl, the current Australian champion. His good form continued on his return to New Zealand and at the North Island championships, played in this stadium early in July, he won the men's singles title, beating fellow team-mate Peter Jackson in the final.

Barry Griffiths is currently ranked No. 1 in New Zealand.

PETER JACKSON, aged 19, come from Auckland. Jackson is left-handed with a shakehand grip and favours the topspin drive attack.

In his international debut in world team championships in Tokyo last year, Jackson demonstrated his class and determination in a most positive manner. In two important contests to determine New Zealand's world rating, Jackson won the deciding match against both Spain and the Dominican Republic to give New Zealand two victories 5-4. In the final classification, New Zealand men were listed at No. 37 out of a total of 59 countries. For his outstanding performance, Jackson earned the prestigious NZ Player of the Year award in 1983.

Jackson has represented New Zealand at junior level on two visits to Australia in 1980 and 1981 and he has the potential which could lead him to being a regular member of the NZ National team for

years to come. Jackson has recently returned from Japan after being accepted for one month's training at the world recognised Butterfly Table Tennis Academy in Tokyo. Peter Jackson is a son of Bob Jackson, seven time winner of the NZ men's singles title. He is currently ranked No. 3 in New Zealand.

GRAHAM LASSEN, who recently celebrated his 30th birthday, comes from Auckland. He first represented New Zealand in 1977 touring Czechoslovakia and competing in the Commonwealth Championships in Guernsey and at the 34th World Championship in Birmingham, England. After winning the NZ men's singles title in 1980, Lassen was a controversial non-selection for the 1981 World Championships team. However, he was called back in 1982, as a replacement for the Commonwealth Championships at Bombay.

In 1979, he captured his first national men's singles title and in doing so displayed tremendous fighting ability. On that occasion, he beat Richard Lee, the 1974 titleholder, in the quarter finals; beat Kerry Palmer (Auckland) the defending champion in the semis and in the final beat the 1976 titleholder, James Morris in a sensational match which invoked the 'expedite rule'. Lassen won 15-21, 21-18, 21-15, 22-20. He retained the men's singles title at the 1980 championships.

A strong defensive player, Lassen is a model of concentration, determination and maturity. When least expected, he will unleash a short attack which generally wins the point.

## CONTEST RESULT SHEET

### Japan:

Masahiro Maehara

Hiroyuki Abe

Ichiro Hoshino

### New Zealand:

Barry Griffiths

Peter Jackson

Graham Lassen

### SCORES

Match No.	Name of Player	Name of Player	Won by	1st Game	2nd Game	3rd Game
1st	.....	v .....	.....	.....	.....	.....
2nd	.....	v .....	.....	.....	.....	.....
3rd	.....	v .....	.....	.....	.....	.....
4th	.....	v .....	.....	.....	.....	.....
5th	.....	v .....	.....	.....	.....	.....
6th	.....	v .....	.....	.....	.....	.....
7th	.....	v .....	.....	.....	.....	.....
8th	.....	v .....	.....	.....	.....	.....
9th	.....	v .....	.....	.....	.....	.....

Won by \_\_\_\_\_