

## Dates Coming Up

April	Thu 1 – Mon 5	NZ Veterans Championships	North Harbour
	Sat 17 – Sun 18	Aotearoa Marae Tournament	Port Waikato
	Sat 24 – Sun 25	Wanganui Open	Wanganui
	Sun 25	Anzac Day Open	Auckland
May	Sat 1 – Sun 2	Marlborough Open	Blenheim
	Sat 8 – Sun 9	Manawatu Open	Palmerston North
	Sat 15 – Sun 16	Northland Open	Whangarei
	Sat 15 – Sun 16	Southland Open	Invercargill
	Sat 15 – Sun 16	Wellington Autumn Open	Wellington
	Sat 29 – Sun 30	North Harbour Open	North Harbour
June	Sat 5 – Mon 7	South Island Open	Invercargill
	Sat 12 – Sun 13	North Taranaki Open	Hawera
	Sat 12 – Sun 13	South Island Teams Tournament	Christchurch
	Sat 19 – Sun 20	Nelson Open	Nelson
	Sun 20	Auckland Junior Open	Auckland
	Sat 26	Hawkes Bay Open	Napier
	Sun 27	North Island Teams Tournament	Napier
July	Sat 3 – Sun 4	Waitemata Open	Waitemata
	Sat 3 – Sun 4	Otago Open	Dunedin
	Sun 4	Wairarapa Open	Carterton
	Fri 9 – Sun 11	North Island Championships	Auckland
	Sat 17 – Sun 18	South Canterbury Open	Timaru
	Sun 24 – Sun 25	Counties Manukau Open	Manurewa
August	Sat 7 – Sun 8	Wellington Open	Wellington
	Sun 8	Warkworth Open	Warkworth
	Sat 14 – Sun 15	Canterbury Open	Christchurch
	Sat 21 – Sun 22	Auckland Open	Auckland
	Sat 28 – Sun 29	Waikato Open	Hamilton
	Sat 28 – Sun 29	Manawatu Veterans	Palmerston North
September	Sat 4 – Sun 5	Hutt Valley Open	Hutt Valley
	Sat 4 – Sun 5	Waitemata Junior Open	Waitemata
	Sat 11 – Sun 12	Aotearoa Maori Championships	North Harbour
	Sat 11 – Sat 18	Australian Veterans Open	Gold Coast
	Mon 20 – Thu 30	New Zealand Open	Palmerston North
	Mon 27 – Sat 2 Oct	Australian Junior Open	To be advised

## TABLE TENNIS INFO

Issue: 10

March 1999



### CHINESE TEAM TO VISIT

**Great news from the Executive Director:**

**“Mention China and Table Tennis and you get the same reaction as Brazil and Soccer, or the Dream Team and Basketball. No other country has consistently dominated the modern era of Table Tennis like China, and no other country commands the same respect and excitement when they play.**

In a major coup **Table Tennis New Zealand** is very pleased to announce that a Chinese National side will be touring New Zealand **early June**. The six player side has still to be finalised, but one player definitely confirmed is current number one ranked woman in the world, **Wang Nan**. In a recent conversation, the Chinese Table Tennis Association said, "We will need to send our strongest side as we know how good Li Chunli is!".

*Continued page 2*

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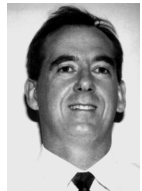


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do not necessarily reflect the views  
of Table Tennis New Zealand Inc.



**Hall of Fame** – page 15



Executive Director

**A**t the Table Tennis New Zealand AGM in December last year, a significantly reduced budget for TTNZ was approved. We presented a budget to our member Associations that reduced their affiliation fees to TTNZ and dropped the \$5 Individual Membership fee. These two measures have effectively meant that income from our members has dropped by \$15,000.

We did this because it has become clear that, right now, Table Tennis as a sport does not have the money to keep affiliation fees at last year's level. Numbers have fallen at club and Association level, income has not risen in many Associations, and we have had to recognise those facts and adjust our operations accordingly. The drop in affiliation fees was well received by Associations as an indication that TTNZ is receptive to their financial position.

So, where does this leave TTNZ as an organisation? The most obvious impact will be on the National office. From now, I will be working three days a week rather than full-time, as this is where the bulk of the money is being saved. This will mean we can achieve less as an organisation than previously, but I'm confident that much of the slack will be able to be picked up by volunteers.

It does, however, mean that TTNZ will need to continually look at ways of meeting our budget and that we will have to be very focused on the activities we carry out as a national body. At the TTNZ Board meeting earlier this month, clear priorities were set for the office and we'll be working hard this year to achieve those.

I believe the decision to make membership of TTNZ free is a positive one. It is crucial for the sport that we can accurately show the numbers playing our game and to do this we need to register all players. Enclosed with this magazine is a membership renewal form. Please fill this out and return it to your local Association immediately. This will ensure your continued membership of TTNZ and we can then get your new membership card out to you.

Finally, I believe 1999 promises to be an exciting one for Table Tennis, especially with the tour by a Chinese side in early June. I hope you continue to enjoy your involvement with Table Tennis.

Michael Brown  
Executive Director

## EIGHT COLOURFUL SPEAKERS AND A CREATIVE MINUTE

It's a delightful subtitle for a conference. The actual name was "How to make table tennis more attractive for spectators and the media." It was held in Copenhagen and featured eight speakers with each speech followed by one minute of rapid fire creative ideas from the floor.

We haven't got room for all eight but can summarise two of the best. Mikael Andersson from the ITTF spoke about the possibility of making the ball bigger (40mm diameter instead 38mm). A huge amount of research has gone into this, with the end result that the larger size makes very little difference when the ball is hit really hard, but when it's hit at the speed that most of us would hit it, the ball slows down up to 20% faster. The "creative ideas" segment included the suggestion that the ball is heavily printed with large shapes, or even divided into two colours, so that the amount of spin shows up better – useful for both spectators, television, and players.

Henrik Saaby, TV Producer with Denmark's DR Sport, open his remarks with some nice positive euphemisms (eg, "Table Tennis is a sport on standby for more TV coverage and better exposure") His message was very clear: "Adjust your sport to what producers and viewers want." And the adjustment has to be big. What seems big to us (eg, a scoring system change) is negligible to a TV audience. His suggestions included:

- allow time for super slow-motion replays on a large screen – using red and green lights to signal when the players should restart play
- adjust the presentation of the sport to the needs of TV – no dead spots
- create interesting events which involve the players in entertaining challenges
- create **stars** (personalities among players and coaches) and divulge as much information about them as possible to make them interesting
- get people **emotionally** involved in selling the sport (be passionate about it).

The conference agreed that, at the moment, other sports are winning the contest for TV viewers – and they're doing it by making major changes to their sports, changes specifically designed to attract the TV audience. It's time we did the same, and did it better.

### Table Tennis Electronic Mailing List

TTNZ has set up an e-mail mailing list as a way of starting and facilitating discussion on all Table Tennis matters of interest to members.

This is something new, but TTNZ thinks it has a lot of potential as a way to communicate, as information sharing, and as an opportunity to meet other Table Tennis people around the country.

It's free to join, all you need is access to the Internet and an e-mail address.

Go to: <http://www.onelist.com/subscribe/ttnz>

(Or go to the "What's New" page of the TTNZ Web site.)

and follow the instructions. You will need to become a member at OneList by giving your e-mail address and a password, and you will then be able to subscribe to the TTNZ mailing list. Once you're a member, any e-mail you send to the list will be seen by all others on the list, and you can reply to any e-mail that you receive.

Look forward to seeing you online!



### CHINESE TOUR *continued*

**A**n exciting programme of test matches is planned, combining matches against New Zealand and exhibition matches by the Chinese players.

New Zealand's top players, **Li Chunli** and **Peter Jackson** will be pitted against the Chinese team in what promises to be the best Table Tennis ever seen in New Zealand.

The tour itinerary is:

- 2 June** Bruce Mason Centre, Takapuna.
- 3 June** Michael Fowler Centre, Wellington.
- 5 June** Christchurch – Venue to be advised.
- 6 June** Auckland – Venue to be advised.

Interest in the tour from both media and sponsors has been strong, and confirming sponsorship soon, is essential to the tours success.

Keep an eye on your local paper and TTNZ Web Site for more details.

This is a rare opportunity to see Table Tennis at its best. Make sure you don't miss it!"

- Sports Trusts don't want to help us – they're only interested in the major sports like rugby...
- Schools don't seem to care about table tennis – they're all major sport oriented too.....
- Unaffiliated Clubs don't want to join our Association – they're happy doing their own thing and they think we just want their money...

## GETTING A FOOT IN THE DOOR

Even the most progressive thinking people sometimes become despondent when they feel they're being denied assistance in accessing large bodies of potential new members.

There's a way around this problem – starting at the bottom rather than at the top. If a Sports Trust doesn't want to help, it could be simply because the Chief Executive Officer is major-sport oriented – not the Sports Trust as a whole. Solution – talk to someone else. Somewhere in that organisation will be a person whose targets and responsibilities are closely aligned to table tennis's needs, and helping us would also help that person meet their own targets. It's simply a matter of identifying the right person.

A school principal or Head of Sport might be unaware that table tennis exists, but somewhere in that school there could be a teacher, or even a student, who would be more than happy to take the lead in setting up table tennis as a new activity.

The leader of the unaffiliated club might want to remain fiercely independent, but what about the players? Wouldn't they like the opportunity to play different people, in a different environment, and participate in a variety of different activities?

If there are players out there keen to appreciate what we can offer, we do both them and ourselves a service by identifying them.

### INTERCLUB – IT MAY NEVER BE THE SAME AGAIN.

Even in some of our strongest associations, interclub team numbers have fallen by as much as 50% over the past three years. Either this means table tennis is in serious trouble, or interclub is no longer our sport's key activity.

Clearly it's the latter - trends in other sports unmistakably bear this out. Research indicates that 60% of all people participating in sport now do so on a casual basis, without any form of commitment to a regular competition. And even the competitions that do exist often run for no more than 4 – 6 weeks, to minimise the commitment. Not too many years ago participants in whole-season weekly competitions totalled as high as 80%.

All this suggests:

- 1 That we don't panic when our interclub team numbers drop.
- 2 That we introduce activities that fit in with the new trend (emphasis on casual play, or fun rather than competition; more one-off events and more "user-pays" activities)
- 3 That we become more "participant" focussed rather than "membership" focussed.
- 4 That on-going competitions should be kept as short as possible, open to everyone and then re-started before interest lags.

How does all this fit in with Individual Membership Registration (IMR), if we lose our "membership" focus? Easily. Now that IMR registration is free, we should record every participant in every activity and register them. This will finally give a true picture of the number of people participating in table tennis.

**Falling interclub numbers aren't a threat. They're an opportunity.**



## NAPIER TABLE TENNIS CLUB

**A club with over 50 years of history continues to provide the locals with a venue to test their table tennis prowess.**



Our club nights are Thursdays and are held at the local St. Pats school hall. Usually a minimum of 4 tables are put up from April through to September.

Tables are set up at 7pm and by 7.30pm competitions and organised activity commence. Some of the activities we conduct include opposite - hand, round robin, handicap, 'donkey', short 3 point games using old style poor quality bats, placing small targets on the tables, singles and doubles. Towards the end of the season we hold our club champs. The club continually searches for new forms of events to keep members satisfied.

We have maintained a steady membership, albeit having our share of gains and losses in players annually. We have a good mix of regulars who vary in talent, age and ability.

Each year we endeavour to organise exchange visits with other clubs.

The club is well served by coaches at all levels. Two of our members, Maureen Slater and Sue Downing conduct school time clinics.

The club's (and more often than not the district's) top local player, Russell Winkley has often represented and accompanied teams to the nationals.

Our current most promising juniors are Michael and Kelly Winkley. Kelly has received a nomination for 'A Passport to Gold' and has been ranked nationally in the top 10 for her age group.

As one of the strongest clubs in the district we have been able to enter several teams in the local interclub competition. Local support from Suvic Engineering and the Eastern & Central Community Trust have enabled interclub teams to be well looked after and equipment kept up to date.

Our administration has a wealth of experience, several members having also served many years on the Hawkes Bay executive.

Perhaps the most important aspect of the club is the opportunity to get together for a good social evening where conversation brings out the best of individual experiences and laughter.

### FUN GAME

### Cricket

Players form two teams - any number from two to eight in a team. The fielding side spreads round one end of the table, several paces back from it.

The first person in the batting team stands at the other end of the table, drops the ball on the table and hits it with a forehand stroke to bounce on the "fielders" side. If it bounces on the fielders side, a run is scored. Fielders try to catch the ball before it touches the floor or the wall. If they fail, 4 runs are scored.

The batter is never dismissed. Each has a set number of strikes (say, 10) and then retires for the next one to have a turn.

The team scoring the highest number of runs in the winner.

### TABLE TENNIS PLAYERS DICTIONARY

**Bat:**



Device for fanning, grazing, clipping, and occasionally making direct contact with the ball.

**Table Tennis appreciates the support given by**





## SOCIAL TABLE TENNIS FROM THE DEEP SOUTH.

In the November 1998 issue of TT Info, there was a report on Veteran Table Tennis players in Hobart. At the end of the report there was a message to younger players to stay with Table Tennis, as "there's plenty to look forward to".

There was also a report from a speech by Mr Hikosuke Tamasu in Bratislava in September 1998. He himself at the age of 78 was still playing and stated that his theory is that table tennis stimulates the brain more than any other sport. He gave several examples of people in Japan who had benefited by playing the game, many of them in the senior age group.

In Invercargill, Southland, there is a very active social club which was formed in 1993. The members play in the very good stadium in the city, which houses eight DONIC tables, which were purchased recently. There are 51 members, who play once or twice a week, on Tuesdays and Fridays, 10 am to 12 noon.

Among the social club members there are two over 80 still playing and many in their 70s. Most learnt their skills when very much younger, and have not forgotten them, although they admit they are not as quick as they used to be. There are also younger and newer players as well, who learn from playing with the more experienced players.

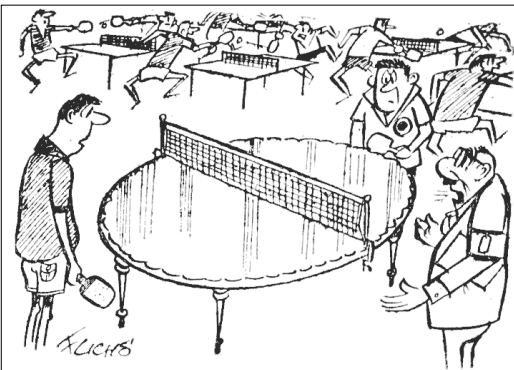
Another bonus some members have received is the help that the sport gives to those recovering from strokes or heart ailments and surgery. It is wonderful to see the physical improvement in these folk after some months of regular play.

Perhaps the most important benefit to all is the friendly way in which everyone mixes and enjoys the exercise, as well as the regular contact with other people interested in table tennis.

Social club activities further enjoyed are the mid-winter dinner and the Christmas luncheon. The Invercargill Table Tennis Social Club is very much a success story.

*Doreen Humphries.*

"The length of a progress report is inversely proportionate to the amount of progress."



"Sorry! This is the only table available."

## **CANTERBURY STADIUM**

We hear that Canterbury are still battling on with their new stadium. They have sold Selwyn St. conditional on securing Blenheim Rd. which is 2 1/2 times larger. They now have to go to a planning consent meeting as 8 out of 11 neighbours have refused to give approval.

This means that they miss the next Lotto Grants round in April as they will not process an application for funding until planning consent is received.

The council and everyone is right behind Canterbury and although it is going to cost more dollars now for the planning hearing, they are confident of getting there.

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**Li Chunli** who had previously been training in China for two weeks, recently played in the Tokyo Open finishing third.

## **Errol and Jean Cheal**

We hear that Errol (92) and Jean (90) celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary in February.

Wonderful news – congratulations from the TT community.

Errol won the first NZ Open men's singles championships in 1934 and the NZ men's doubles in 1946 with Ken Cantley.

## **WHO is doing WHAT nationally.**

**Board:** Alan Hounsell  
John Beatson  
Dennis Galvin  
Ron Garrett  
James Morris  
(One Vacancy)

**Staff:** Mike Brown  
John Kiley

**Technical Committee:** David Jackson  
Ron Menchi

**Players Committee:** Sarah Finch  
Aaron Winborn

**Selectors:** David Jackson  
Bryan Keane  
(One Vacancy)

**Chinese Tour:** Mike Brown  
Julian Chan  
Ron Garrett  
James Morris

**National Development:** John Stapleton

**Ratings and Computer Services:** David Jackson

**Director of Coaching:** (Vacancy)

**Magazine:** Robin Radford  
John Kiley

**Web site:** Mike Brown  
Robin Radford

***BARRY WYNKS*** invited to play overseas.

A tournament for disabled table tennis players is being held in Taipei this month and Paralympics New Zealand has invited Manawatu player **Barry Wynks** (pictured) to participate. It is part of a build-up which could culminate in Barry's selection for the Sydney 2000 Paralympic Games. His selection for the games depends on whether Paralympics New Zealand is able to arrange other overseas tournaments for him, and how he performs at them.

With scant regard for his disability (an artificial leg and an artificial lower arm), Barry Wynks has played regularly in Manawatu since the late



1960's, competing with able-bodied players and achieving creditable results against the best in New Zealand. In recent years he has been nationally ranked in the top five in his age group. He has also coached for many years.

## **TEST YOUR UMPIRING SKILLS.**

Player A is playing spectacular defensive shots several metres back from the table. Player B executes a drop shot and player A sprints forward in an attempt to scoop up the ball before it bounces on the table a second time. When it looks like she's not going to make it, she throws her bat at the ball. The loose bat makes contact with the ball and the ball crosses the net and lands on B's side of the table. The bat lands on A's side of the table without touching the net. B, thrown by what has happened, pushes the ball into the net. The point is triumphantly claimed by A: "Show me a rule in the book which says the bat must be held in the hand when it makes contact with the ball", she challenged.

Can you find such a rule?

(Answer on page 23)

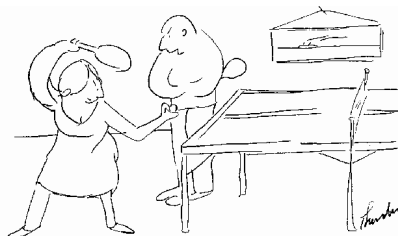
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## ***\$3,000 Grant for Karen Li***

NZ's No 2 woman player **Karen Li** (North Harbour) has received a \$3,000 **Fletcher Challenge Education Scholarship from the New Zealand Sports Foundation**. The scholarships are offered to assist top sportspeople with the cost of their education to allow them more time to train and compete in their chosen sport.

The money is strongly contested and only 34 scholarships were awarded from 148 applications. The value of each scholarship was either \$1000, \$2000, \$3000 or \$4000, so Karen did extremely well in obtaining \$3000.

<b>WORLD RANKINGS</b>	
<b>NZ Players (as at 28 February 1999)</b>	
Li Chunli	25
Karen Li	123
Peter Jackson	133
Shane Laugesen	302
Sarah Finch	373
Andrew Hubbard	395
Aaron Winborn	418
Hagen Bower	438



"I Can Tell You Right Now That Isn't Going to Work".

## **ALL WORKING TOGETHER**

Annual Meetings - where everyone is focussed on a common goal.

At least, that's the way it should be. But sadly, all too often sectional interests have prevailed and delegates have been divided over many issues. However, the 1998 AGM held last December embodied a delightfully fresh attitude and all present appeared to be mindful of the interests of all.

Not surprisingly the major topic of discussion was finance and an offer by TTNZ to reduce national office costs by \$15,000 set a conciliatory tone right from the start which others picked up on. Associations agreed that:

- to ensure everyone knows exactly where they stand, fees need to be finalised at this meeting;
- it's in everyone's interests to get our overall numbers up. As many players as possible should be registered (assurance was given that a sudden increase in registered numbers would not result in a proportionate increase in fees – other factors would also be considered);
- IMR registration should be free of charge as an incentive to increase numbers;
- the percentage of the total fees allocated to each association should be reviewed each year;
- the money paid to TTNZ should be equal to value received;
- Associations should treat their activities as a business.

As the discussions progressed and specific problems being experienced by some associations were aired, it soon became clear that many associations had similar problems, and could apply similar solutions. The meeting also gave smaller associations a chance to appreciate some of the problems faced by larger ones, and vice-versa.

Overall, a positive meeting.

## **A NEW BREED OF ANNUAL MEETING**

Annual Meetings have changed. Up till a year or two ago there were 20 or more remarks put forward for discussion. This year there were none. This doesn't mean Associations are apathetic and no longer interested in putting forward new ideas. It means that ideas are being received via other means and from other sources.

We now have:

- A paid national development officer (first half of 1999), who travels about and can pick up good ideas from one association and introduce them to other associations.
- A paid national coach (most of 1998)
- Access to expertise through the Regional Sports Trusts
- Rapid communication through the internet, and direct communication with members through the magazine.

On page 3 there are details of a table tennis e-mail group, which anyone can join and exchange ideas through. Good ideas relating to national administration can be implemented immediately. Consultation with Associations can be much more rapid.

There will always be a place for annual meetings. The big difference between now and the past is that much more can now happen *between* annual meetings.

***Let the whole team play in each match!!!***

## **TEAM CONTEST WITH A DIFFERENCE**

A player from each team start the match. After five points you don't just change serves – you also change *players*. The next two players play the next five points, and so on to 21.

Play best of three, best of five, or best of seven, or best of anything. It doesn't matter how many players there are in a team. It works whether you've got two, or ten, or any number.

Variation options:

- Change serves every point if you want to ensure each player has an even balance of serves and receives.
- Re-draw the order of play after every player has had one turn at the table if you want to avoid the same two players playing against each other every time they play.
- Have each pair of players play more than five points (say 10, 20), and play each game to higher total (eg 51, 101).

This variant of the traditional team event has obvious advantages. It would make a more genuine team contest, and the rest of the team would always be on hand for support, instead of wandering away and having to be called back when they're on.



It might even catch on at a more serious level. They've always done it in lawn and indoor bowls, Athletics, swimming and relay races.

## **Chas Wong Table Tennis Tables**

**A new Chas Wong table is being developed with a particularly hard-wearing surface.**

The new table will be of international standard construction with the option of a foldaway – wheelaway type. Colours blue or green.

The price range will be \$760 up to \$1100 (for the top foldaway wheelaway model). Economical models from \$365.

**Enquiries and more info:**

**Chas – 04 – 4774898**

## **Editorial Comment.**

I was fortunate enough to be asked to attend the last board meeting when restructuring as a result of affiliation fees reduction, and the magazine, were discussed. Sooooo - here I am making some personal observations which may not necessarily represent board members views.

## **National Office.**

One thing that struck me was the amount of time spent on correspondence, phone calls and general communication. Now, on the one hand this is excellent because communication is one of the most important aspects of life. On the other hand however it takes up a lot of time, and as you know whilst you are on the phone, and it is constantly ringing, one does not get the "work" done. There is now a reduction of 40% in the ED's hours, and some office work has been outsourced, but not enough work reduction has eventuated yet.

As Associations have opted for lesser fees then they and members have to help. It was disturbing to note that following a request for e-mail addresses from associations, response has been zilch! Now - **e-mail** is more efficient, there is a record of the discussion, it does not interrupt work processes, it is much much cheaper than tolls, considered opinions and decisions can be later made, and it saves all that "polite weather - how are ya" talk, which is nice but for it, achieves nothing. Also saves postage. Full marks to **Tracey McLauchlan** for recently initiating e-mail for Hutt Valley. Only 4 associations appear to have e-mail!

In comparative terms NZ is one of the most prolific users of PC's in the world, and any Secretary with a PC should be on the internet/e-mail (the low cost paid by their association) and if this is not possible then someone else closely involved should be. **Save the national office time, peoples - use e-mail!**

## **Magazine.**

A wide range of views on financing was apparent. The fee reduction means there is no budget increase and several options arose. If the expected increase in ttnz registrations eventuates as it is free, then magazine costs increase dramatically. Options ranged from "can it" and use the web page more, distribute via associations, reduce number of issues or charge a subscription.

The end result was that for the financial year to 30 Sept, the magazine would be issued to members free in March and July. Depending on registrations and the budget, a September issue may eventuate. **(\$100 donation from 20 associations would almost guarantee a September issue!).**

Direct dispatch to members is a must. This is fair to all as previously many missed out. Instituting a subscription is fine, but associations would have to really push it, and members support it. The downside is the work load increase to administer a subscription system needing to be part of the IMR system and money handling, so there is a chase your tail situation here at a time when work load reduction is vital. Overall sponsorship is the answer, but numbers may be against this at present. **However readers - do not hesitate to contact us!**

An immediate minor saving is that copy numbers can be reduced where several members live at the same address.

Robin Radford

**DONIC**  
New Zealand

327 Coldstream Rd, Rangiora 8254

Ph: 03-313 3449 Fax: 03-313 3412

**THE NEW RUBBERS – DONIC Desto F1and F3 now available**

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## ***VETERANS TEST MATCH***

New Zealand will face Australia in a test match on the eve of the NZ Veterans Championships in North Harbour at Easter.



It will be a series of five match contests in three age-groups:  
Over 40, Over 50, and Over 60.

### **Teams:**

### NZ

### Australia

O40 men	<b>Sean Chen (Auckland)</b> <b>David Jackson (Auckland)</b>	<b>Igor Klaf (Victoria)</b> <b>Ken Cole (NSW)</b>
O40 women	<b>Ulrike Kusche (Canterbury)</b> <b>Lynley Barker (Canterbury)</b>	<b>Kay Crowell (Sth Aust)</b> <b>Lorraine Baker (Sth Aust)</b>
O50 men	<b>Bob Lassen (Auckland)</b> <b>Doug Pattinson (Auckland)</b>	<b>Mick Wright (Victoria)</b> <b>Michael Ede (Victoria)</b>
O50 women	<b>Val Beaver (Nth Harb)</b> <b>Averil Roberts (Hutt Valley)</b>	<b>Betty Bird (Sth Aust)</b> <b>Carol Hughes (NSW)</b>
O60 men	<b>Nam Hang Lee (Auckland)</b> <b>John Lelliott (Hutt Valley)</b>	<b>Case De Bondt (Victoria)</b> <b>Geoff Nesbitt (NSW)</b>
O60 women	<b>Pat McArthur (Nth Harb)</b> <b>Margaret McGregor (Waitemata)</b>	<b>Prisca Rosario (Victoria)</b> <b>Beryl Davies (NSW)</b>

Predictions are that the men have a good chance of coming out on top but the women could struggle. The result of the test is decided by overall aggregate.

## ***PLAY ON, PLAY THE GAME – NO LET UPS.***

Players:	Let, please.
Umpire:	Play on.
Players:	But there's someone crawling under the table retrieving a ball.
Umpire:	It's not <i>your</i> ball they're retrieving. Play on. <b>They play on.</b>
Players:	He's just bumped the main support and the table's collapsed onto the floor.
Umpire	(checking rule book): It's still horizontal, stationary, dark-coloured and matt. Play on.
Players	(rallying while sitting cross-legged on the floor): But there's a man trapped underneath.
Umpire:	He's an unmoving fixture. Play on. <b>They play on.</b>
Players:	There's thirty people around the table screaming for him to be rescued.
Umpire	(consulting rule book): The noise is at a constant level. Play on. <b>They play on.</b>
Players:	Two ambulance officers have arrived with a stretcher and they're waiting to administer life-saving first aid.
Umpire:	Not illegal as long as they wait outside the playing area. Play on.
Public address announcement:	Morning tea is now available at the cafeteria.
Umpire:	Let. <b>He leaves the chair.</b>



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A full-time Development Officer; new ideas; targeted growth strategies...

## TABLE TENNIS IS ON THE MOVE

With financial backing from the New Zealand Employment Service, Table Tennis New Zealand is employing John Stapleton (pictured) as a full-time Development Officer for six months to help associations throughout New Zealand increase membership, obtain local funding grants and devise local development strategies. What's he telling people; and what's he finding out ?



By and large, John Stapleton is discovering that people in all areas of New Zealand want the sport to grow. Many areas, nonetheless, see difficulties as implementing growth strategies means more work – and there are barely enough people to do the work as it is. Mindful of that, Stapleton's message is, plan for growth, seek assistance from the local Regional Sports Trust, and adjust to a rapidly changing scene in the whole area of sports administration. Then, think positive and go for it. Others are succeeding - so can you.

### Three Areas Targeted

The general growth strategy he is proposing covers three areas: schools, day clubs for older adults, and the corporate sector. He believes all three have tremendous potential to bring large numbers of new people into existing facilities to play table tennis – whether the facility is a multi-table purpose-built stadium, or a rural community hall where a small club operates.

### Schools Easiest

Three things make schools an ideal starting point for membership growth: The Hillary Commission has a Kiwisport programme in place and local funding is available for associations who take it up; the revised Kiwi Table Tennis manual (ready soon) is being aligned to the school physical education curriculum (the first sport to do so), which makes it an attractive option for teachers; and children are likely to take up the invitation to join a school competition if they know their friends are also doing so. Stapleton believes it's important to conduct school competitions away from the school. "If you take them away from their comfort zone within their school and put them in an exciting place they get used to coming to, then you've hooked them. That's hopefully where we're going to get the biggest increase in numbers this year - in the schools area. I've done a marketing plan and we've got a whole lot of different games. If we just went out and took table tennis to the schools, some would say, 'I'm getting beaten 21-1, I can't have a rally, I can't do anything.' That's no good, so we change the product and straightaway they can participate and think, this is fun - I can do this. New fun games. It's all part of the marketing plan."

Once children are sold on the idea that table tennis is a good game, an interschool competition with its social/competitive element is the obvious next step.

### Day Clubs

A number of areas are already running hugely successful day clubs, (mainly for older people), but Stapleton feels that, nationwide, day clubs fall well short of their potential. He sees it as totally illogical that table tennis stadiums or halls equipped with tables should stand empty on any day of the week.

The day club strategy is similar to the schools – sell the fun aspect of the game to existing social groups of older people, and entice them with the prospect of moving out of their familiar environment to a table tennis venue to meet new people, but still retaining their identity as a group. "The smaller day clubs and areas without day clubs could certainly grow with more promotion through the Regional Sports Trusts.

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The Sports Trusts have active living programmes, they know where large numbers of older people gather, and they could assist associations being proactive to get more members. Sports Trusts are ideally set up for membership development. They have targets of their own and their programmes can be adapted to fit in with ours. In a number of cases people we're working with are on the Community Boards that actually give out the money for these projects so they're the perfect ones to deal with. They know what the project is and they'll help get the money."

### Corporates

While marketing table tennis to corporate organisations is not quite as easy as schools and day clubs, and more time consuming, ultimately it's potential is even greater. Again, the formula is the same – work through a selected contact in a large firm, offer the fun element of table tennis to a large staff social group; invite them to a sports evening away from their place of work, and follow up with the offer of a place in a business-house competition. "Southland have got a development officer and they're going door to door, targeting a block of businesses and saying, come along for a sports night at our stadium, which is in fairly close vicinity. If the first one's a success, word of mouth grows and you've got a successful venture. There are actually people doing this professionally, but they're not including table tennis. They're making money by having these multi-sport event nights. If we can do it better, and we've got better facilities, why not make it work."

Stapleton believes that table tennis should be marketed as a fun activity and not a competitive one, to all three target groups. The fun games in the Kiwisport manual can easily be adapted for adults.

### But all this means extra work – who's going to do it?

Regional Sports Trusts can help, and are helping. Their staff have offered to supervise a schools table tennis competition in at least one area, until a leader and helpers emerge as parents

- **Fully utilise your facilities and equipment.**
- **Don't try to gather new people individually into clubs or stadiums, but gather them in groups.**
- **Don't put new players in a situation where they're going to get beaten; put them in a situation where they're going to have fun.**

become interested. The same natural process can occur with Day Clubs and Corporate activity - once things start, helpers and leaders emerge from the new people coming in. But there's a more fundamental change looming. John Stapleton sums up the trend. "I've always been brought up that you work for your sport on a volunteer basis because you love it. These days it's a career choice. They're training people up now on sport courses at university. There are two lines of thought. One is that you have a professionally paid administration base. The other is that you get somebody in to co-ordinate your volunteer base, so you get your part time paid person to do the roles that nobody really wants to do, or take up a lot of time, and the volunteer roles are the ones that people enjoy doing."

Inevitably, this new trend will eventually cost more to the consumer (although fee increases must be gradual), but in return players would receive more dedicated service from people who enjoy what they do.

John Stapleton took on the job of Development Officer fully aware of the situation table tennis is in. He knows table tennis is a great game, he knows it has many advantages over other sports (safe, indoor, never gets cancelled, physical, easy to learn, fun to play), and he knows that, with targeted marketing techniques, the sport has potential for massive growth.

His contract ends on 30 April.

After that, it's up to us.

John Kiley

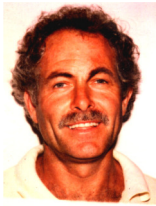


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New Board member:

## James Morris



Many long serving members will recall that great action photo on the cover of "Fifty years Across The Table", (the History of NZ Table tennis 1934-84, written by the late Ken Wilkinson for the Golden Jubilee.) James Morris was the popular dark haired young man in that photo, and although the hair is now much lighter, beneath it is much knowledge, experience and common sense. James is well known for his sportsmanship and could be called one of the true gentlemen of the sport.

He is a dairy farmer and has been part of Northland table tennis for almost 40 years. He is an outstanding all round sportsman - having participated in hunting, diving, fishing, squash, gliding, tennis and has run a marathon and contested a triathlon. He is a piper in the Whangarei District Pipe Band.

James was New Zealand singles champion in 1976 and 1983, winner of nine NZ Open Men's Doubles titles, two NZ Open Mixed doubles, some NZ Junior titles and regularly represented and often captained New Zealand between 1971 and 1983. Since then he has been an outstanding coach and administrator.

His personal game saw him develop uncanny ball control originally with a pimple and then a sponge bat and became a tremendous attacking player renowned for his fighting spirit, his wonderful temperament and a knack of winning the "clutch" points. He trained in China and Japan and in 1974 beat a top Chinese player before a crowd of 18000 chanting spectators in Peking.

Back in the 80's James coached Gary and Murray Traill when they dominated the New Zealand Championships. He is still coaching today, one of his proteges is top junior Peter Craven.

He was organiser and promoter of a monster raffle in the 1970's resulting in the building of

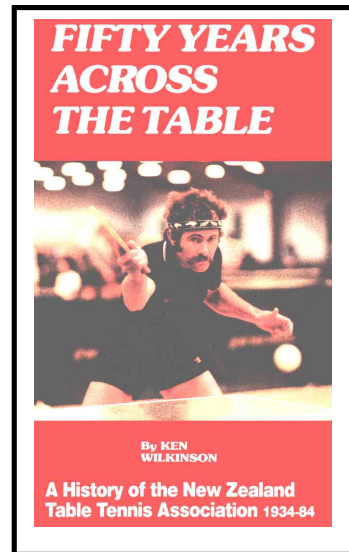
the Northland stadium, which is currently being extended. James is still involved in this project as Northland President.

An even greater triumph as an administrator was his superb leadership when Northland hosted the 1995 New Zealand Championships for the first time, resulting in one of the best nationals ever held.

James believes that "table tennis combines mental challenges with high degrees of skills and that it is a sport for all ages and standards. Like all sports, it helps you make countless friends."

He is keen to do what he can to help make New Zealand table tennis prosper and his experience, knowledge and energy make him a valuable and welcome addition to the TTNZ board.

(Thanks to Gary Frew for the info upon which this article is based)



### NEW ZEALANDER ELECTED TO OCEANIA ASSOCIATION.

John Stapleton (North Harbour) has been recently appointed to the Oceania Table Tennis Federation Management Committee.

Who has earned the ultimate honour ???

## TABLE TENNIS HALL OF FAME TO BE LAUNCHED

At a function on Monday, 5 April (Easter Monday), at the conclusion of the NZ Veterans Championships, a ceremony will take place in the North Harbour stadium at which the first group of New Zealand table tennis personalities will be inducted into a "Hall of Fame".

The Hall of Fame is a new initiative designed to recognise and honour outstanding performers for New Zealand Table Tennis. As we move into a new millennium, it is appropriate that the rich history of the game in New Zealand be remembered in this way. The inductees are being chosen by a panel convened by Gary Frew, with Ron Menchi and Trevor Flint, and it is anticipated that new members to the Hall of Fame will be inducted at regular intervals.

The identities of the people to be inducted are a closely guarded secret, but this much is known:

- Either five or six people will be inducted
- They are all players (no coaches or administrators are being inducted at this stage)
- They all reached the high point of their careers prior to 1970

Speculation is alive over who the players might be. Among the male players it is difficult to see how the two men who completely dominated the 1940's and 50's (Russell Algie and Bob Jackson) could possibly be omitted. Algie won the NZ Men's Singles title six times (and it could have been more but for the cancellation of four championships due to the second world war), and Jackson won it seven times. Algie was largely a defensive player with magnificent footwork, a delicate touch, and an excellent finishing backhand; Jackson demonstrated superb all-round control over the table and proved during the tour by two Japanese former world champions in 1957 that he was a match for the world's best.

Two women were equally dominant in the 50's and 60's: Margaret Hoar, who won seven singles titles, and Neti Traill (nee Davis) who surpassed everyone by winning eight between 1960 and 1970. Hoar was a brilliant defensive player whose successes included the Australian women's singles title; Traill had a devastating all-round game and a totally unflappable temperament.

Looking at other fine performers during New Zealand table tennis's first 36 years, Canterbury's Joyce Williamson won titles while very young, lost a spectacular 1953 final to Margaret Hoar, and years later returned to make the New Zealand team and perform brilliantly in it; Norma Attwood (Northland) was selected to play for New Zealand while still aged 13, and remained at the top for a decade, largely in the shadow of Neti Traill; Murray Dunn and Alan Tomlinson performed consistently in the late 50's and 60's and can't be ignored, nor can their long-term doubles partners Gary Frew and Bryan Foster. And what about Errol Cheal – the NZ's first men's singles champion in 1934 and still administratively active many years later.

Regardless of who gets in and who misses out, the players mentioned and many others all contributed to what was a golden era for New Zealand table tennis.

Table Tennis Info is indebted to John Stewart and Ivan Houghton for their assistance in compiling this article.



The difference between stumbling blocks and stepping stones is the way a person uses them.



## 1999 World Championships – Belgrade, Yugoslavia

As this article goes to print the jokes about whether this year's Worlds teams should be issued with track suits or flack jackets are still very topical. With the standoff in Kosovo between the ethnic Albanian rebels, who are seeking independence, and the Serbian government of Yugoslavia being played out on the international stage and under the threat of UN intervention (read "bombings") we are keeping one eye on the practice table and the other on the news media as we prepare for the tournament.

The teams and officials representing New Zealand at the World Champs are,

Men: **Andrew Hubbard, Peter Jackson, Shane Laugesen, Aaron Winborn.**

Women: **Sarah Finch, Maxine Goldie, Li Chunli and Karen Li.**

Team Officials: **Murray Finch and David Jackson.**

Umpire: **Mike McAvinue.**

ITTF Committee

Members: **David Jackson, Peter Jackson and Geoff Rau.**

This is arguably the strongest women's team that New Zealand has ever fielded at the World Champs with Chunli ranked at 25 in the World and Karen at 123 as well as Sarah and Maxine being experienced and proven performers in their own right. The men's team is identical to the team that performed with such distinction in the 1997 Commonwealth and World Champs and won the Oceania Champs in 1998 and all but Aaron were together for the 1995 Worlds as well. With this additional experience and success under their belts we hope that they can build on the success of the 1997 tournament where they finished a creditable 42<sup>nd</sup> (of 120).

The two major keys to the performance of the teams will be preparation and luck. The first is obvious, the hard work put in before the tournament will have a huge impact on the quality of the performances on the table in Belgrade. In the area of preparation we have some notable differences (and potential difficulties) from 1997 to overcome. In 1997 the men's team were all full time professionals playing in Europe. This meant that the team came from Europe with a season's hard training and match-play under their belts. This time both Andrew and Aaron are working from an amateur base in New Zealand. Secondly, with the cancellation of the Commonwealth Champs immediately before the Worlds we are robbed of what is an excellent build-up tournament, not to mention a great opportunity to gain success for the teams and New Zealand. While the hard training can be replicated in New Zealand (although difficulties exist with the geographical spread of the players) the lost match-play can't and the impact of this loss will only be assessed in hindsight. The women's team, especially, will miss the Commonwealths as a buildup because, apart from Chunli, all of our players are amateurs and they only get access to quality women's competition on rare occasions. In an ideal world we would arrive in Europe perhaps 2 – 4 weeks before the World Champs and train and compete with the world's best players as part of our buildup. However, as always funding is a big issue and apart from a generous grant from the Sports Foundation that pay's for approximately 1/3 of the cost of the trip for the New Zealand based players, the players and officials must fund themselves. The cost of such a preparation and the additional time away from work is difficult (if not impossible) to find and justify for amateur athletes.

As for the second key to success being luck, those that don't believe that luck plays a major part in any sporting success, at least in the short term, have either been very lucky or not participated in relatively high level sport. Getting a good draw, particularly in the first phase of the World Champs is crucial to your chances of improving your overall ranking. With the constant influx of quality players into the national teams of many countries (from the breakup of Eastern European countries and China in the men and China in the women), the strength of any team can change virtually overnight.

(Cont. bottom page 17 —>)

## TTNZ Life Membership to Barry Butler

South Canterbury's **Barry Butler** has been elected a Life Member of Table Tennis New Zealand.



The proposal was put forward by Board Member Ron Garrett, who summarised Barry Butler's monumental contribution to table tennis in a speech at the Annual General Meeting. Barry's achievements include:

- Organising three New Zealand Championships.
- Managing New Zealand teams overseas on eight occasions.
- Serving TTNZ as President, Vice-President, Regional Councilor and National Director of Coaching.
- Leading a fundraising and building project which resulted in South Canterbury's 12 table stadium.
- 35 years representative play for South Canterbury.
- Many years coaching juniors in South Canterbury at all levels.

Gay Morrison in support of the proposal referred to **Barry as a genuine man and spoke of his whole-hearted dedication to others.** She said he will be badly missed as he reduces his activities.

The decision to elect Barry Butler as a Life Member was warmly applauded by all delegates. Unfortunately Barry was prevented by seriously ill health from attending the meeting himself.

Until now TTNZ's most recently elected Life Member was Ron Menchi, (1992), and before him Dick Rassie (1982). There are seven in total.

### Worlds from page 16.

This combined with the likelihood of a number of teams withdrawing from the tournament perhaps at the last minute because of the political situation in the region gives the teams event draw the look of a lottery and it assumes even greater importance than usual.

Taking all of this into account I have absolutely no doubt that the teams chosen to represent New Zealand will produce results that will do themselves proud as they strive and test themselves against the very best that the world can offer in our chosen sport.



**Murray Finch**  
Team Coach

(Update on current position –  
page 21)

**ZEST** - a zest for living??? - No, not when we were faced with seemingly absolute chaos as we entered the work room!

**ZEST** – meant "**Z**ealous **E**nvelope **S**tuffing **T**eam."

The team, who with great care and expertise placed over 2000 November TT Infos into envelopes, consisted of: John Kiley (Officer Commanding), Robin Radford, Ron Menchi, Merv Allardyce, Bryan Thomson and Don Shallish. Worthy of mention also – John Beatson and Jean Radford who assisted prior to the stuffing in applying the sticky address labels.

The duties as defined by the "OC" fell into two categories:

**Mandatory:** Won't bore you, but were to ensure job done correctly and,  
**Optional:** Conversation, Joke-telling, Gossip and as a last resort TV watching.

And.... After 3 hours, the old fingers were feeling the strain.

## Profile - Michael McAvinue

Michael is one of a select breed who have opted for that part of the sport where there will occasionally be controversy - umpiring.

Michael's interest in umpiring goes as far back as 1966 and he has umpired as many as 17 matches in one day. He became a Qualified NZ umpire in 1974 and an International Umpire in 1989.



Michael has officiated at an incredible variety of tournaments, and it is clear his expertise is required and welcome around NZ and the world. The following summarises his major umpiring involvement and, but for financial constraints, there would have been more:

**World Championships:** 1991 Chiba (Japan), 1995 (Tianjin) China, 1997 Manchester

**Olympic Games:** 1992 Olympics (Barcelona)

**Asia:** 1998 Asian Championships Osaka Japan.

**Oceania:** 1988 Open, 1990 Open,

**Australia:** 1996 World Veterans (Melbourne), 1998 International Pro-Tournament.

**New Zealand:** Referee at a total of 18 national tournaments between 1987 and 1999

In 1991 he umpired 5 finals on Television at the NZ Open Championships. The Australian Pro Tour in 1998 saw him umpire the Women's Singles final and a Semi final Men's Doubles match.

At the 1998 Asian Championships in Japan he was one of 17 foreign umpires - the rest, about 80, were Japanese. He received the honour of being the chief umpire of the Men's team final, a Men's Doubles semi and Men's and Women's quarter finals plus reserve umpire for both singles finals.

1999 and 2000 would appear to be developing into busy umpiring years for Michael. He is hoping for duties at the Sydney Olympics.

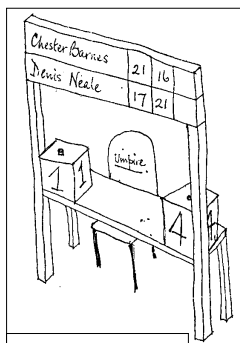
In addition to his umpiring activities, he was elected Life Member of the Manawatu Association in recognition of his active involvement in the association since 1958. He has been Treasurer and served on many committees in a variety of positions. He has also been involved with the national body as a Regional Councillor, Executive Committee Member and was Convenor of Selectors for 3 years.

Among his Championship organising involvement appear the 1984 New Zealand Championships, 1991 Olympic Qualifying Tournament, and several NZ Veteran and North Island Championships.

He was recently the winner of the Manawatu Sports Official of the Year, which he has now won 3 times.

Life has also included other interests - Palmerston North Showgrounds Board, Awatapu College Board, Kiwi Roller Skating Club and president of Manawatu Fruit and Vegetables Retailers Association.

Wife Mirie has been involved in administration of TT and played while daughter Tanya (Hefferan) has won national titles and is currently secretary of the newly formed Aotearoa Maori Association.



Suggestion in 1971 English T T News.

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## 1999 OCEAN LODGE SUMMER NATIONALS at Nelson

### Open

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

### Winner

Aaron Li (N)  
Karen Li (NH)  
Chen Lei & A Li (N)  
J Hu & K Li (N/NH)  
A Soh & K Li (N/NH)

### Singles Runner Up

Chen Lei (N)  
Rachel Griffiths (WT)

### B Grade

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

John Cordue (W)  
Rachel Griffiths (WT)  
Stuart Wallace & Simon Wallace (C)  
J Colvin & R McKechnie (N/C)  
Stuart Wallace & R McKechnie (C)

Stuart Wallace (C)  
Laura-Jane Young (WT)

### Over 50 years

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

Stephen Craw (C)  
Raina McKechnie (C)  
S Craw & D Glass (C)  
R McKechnie & S Williams (C/N)  
R Pedersen & B Russ (HV/N)

Denver Glass (C)  
Betty Russ (N)

### Over 40 years

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

Stuart Wallace (C)  
Raina McKechnie (C)  
S Craw & Stuart Wallace (C)  
R McKechnie & S Williams (C/N)  
Stuart Wallace & R McKechnie (C)

Stephen Craw (C)  
Betty Russ (N)

### Under 20 years

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

Chen Lei (N)  
Laura-Jane Young (WT)  
Chen Lei & A Soh (N)  
L Boaden & R Griffiths (HV/WT)  
Chen Lei & J Hu (N)

Peter Craven (NL)  
Lisa Boaden (HV)

### Under 17 years

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

Adrian Soh (N)  
Lisa Boaden (HV)  
J Cordue & A Hovey (W/WG)  
L Boaden & R Griffiths (HV/WT)  
A Hovey & A Thomson (WG)

John Cordue (W)  
Rachel Griffiths (WT)

### Under 14 years

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

Simon Wallace (C)  
Jiani Hu (N)  
J Chen & Simon Wallace (C)  
S Shu & S White (MN/C)  
J Alexandre & S Shu (A/MN)

Josh Alexandre (A)  
Sophie Shu (MN)



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World champions (J.O.Waldner and J.Persson) play DONIC

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# How much did we learn from THAT final?

A view from Dennis Galvin

The controversial final of the New Zealand men's singles championship at Auckland has been described variously from humbug to humdinger, but forgetting about the technical side I had an underlying feeling that there was something to learn.

At the time **Mike McAvinue** had just returned from the world championships. Then, by special request, the Asian champs, and he must have felt he had landed on another planet when he ran into THAT final.

Mike is, without doubt, our No 1 umpire. Love him or leave him Mike McAvinue has devoted a lifetime to officiating in the chair. It takes study to absorb the rules, it takes study to keep up with the changes, and it takes a lot of guts to make a decision that it is not going to be accepted gladly by someone. He has umpired some of the darned worst games, the most boring games, the most lowly rated games you can imagine (these were mine) but at any tournament you only have to ask and he is one of the most obliging chaps around.

And when he does umpire that lowly rated game you know damn well that as far as he is concerned it is a world title match. You don't get any favours from Mike, and that's how it should be. That is why, for my book, he is a top umpire.

But unfortunately there is always the player who wants to get that extra inch from an umpire, and there is always the umpire who is prepared to be lenient and forgive the trespassers.

That is why you can see table tennis played in any club or association in New Zealand under the loosest interpretation of the rules. Decisions are graded down in relation to the importance of the match. Services are about as legal as a rugby kick-off. Umpires are chatted to, sworn at and abused. Players, particularly the club juniors, flick over scorecards as if any contact with them will impregnate them with a horrible disease, sit in the chair reading the results sheets during a serve or rally, dive into their pockets for some chewies completely oblivious to what is going on in the match, or chat to their mate on the next table.

Are these the umpires of the future? I think not. But if not, where are we going to get the next generation of umpires? What happens when the present-day Mike McAvinues raise the white flag? Where are the umpires now? There needs to be some thought given to improving, then maintaining, the quality and quantity of the umpires of the future.

Umpires should be encouraged to reach and maintain world standards, not fired or penalised for being too efficient for certain players. Let the players raise their thinking and play to meet the standards set by our best umpires; not allow umpires and/or referees to lower their standards for the sake of player or public approval.

I recommend to all players to read Peter Korbel's story on Professional Umpires on page 18 of issue 16 of ITTF's official journal "Table Tennis".

*(No doubt TTNZ can supply a copy of the article on request -Ed.)*

## KIRWEE CLUB

Kirwee is a village 30 mins from Christchurch. The majority of its club members participate in the Canterbury Association's lower grades interclub competition, and it seems that this small club has the highest number of players in the Junior E grade.

Club guru **Kieron Doak** organised a

tournament for the D and E grade players, who at other tournaments have to compete against mostly stronger and more experienced players, which is not always beneficial to anyone. The tournament was played on 4 tables at the club, enjoyed by all, with **Seth Irving** (D grade) and **Bob Deverson** (E grade) the eventual winners. Prizes were donated by DONIC. 20

## Trainee administrators – they're out there, and they're available for volunteer work.

With the new trend towards professionalism in sports administration, students undergoing sports courses at polytechnics or universities are now a potential source of back-up administrative assistance. There are programmes where students are required to do up to a year's volunteer work with a sports association or club as part of their course. Regional Sports Trusts should be able to help associations access assistance from these sources.

Not all areas have the scheme but another option is the Kiwisport leadership programme for 6th or 7th form students in secondary schools. This age-group is targeted to look after intermediate children or third and fourth formers within their school. There is obvious potential here for assistance with interschool competitions. Again, Sports Trusts can be consulted for guidance.

## WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS - Update

The ITTF has received a progress report from the Organising Committee of the **Dawei 45th World Table Tennis Championships** to be held in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, 26 April to 9 May, 1999.

Based on the outcome of the recent talks held in Rambouillet, France, regarding the situation in Kosovo, and based on the positive report received from the Organising Committee of the Championships, the Executive Committee decided to extend the Entry Deadline to 22 March 1999.

The ITTF intends to consider whether to continue to hold the Championships in Belgrade or to move it, on March 25, when the draw for the teams events is due to be made.

Sweden who is reported not to be sending an official team is urging the ITTF to abandon the championships. USA and Germany have indicated they will not be sending teams.

TTNZ are monitoring the position, but the crisis is deepening and it does not look promising!



## OBITUARY

### C E (CATH) TADEMA

(nee JOHNSON) - passed away Jan 99.

Those of more recent vintage will not know Cath because she finished her coaching and playing career in the early 1980's. But her influence continues today with those she coached and taught and the people they coach and teach. The facts and figures about Cath are impressive enough but her impact went far beyond her achievements. A big woman both in stature and personality Cath left an indelible impression with her determination to win, her (at times wicked) sense of humour, her complete intolerance of fools, her immense patience with students, her high moral standards and her willingness to share knowledge. She was intelligent and her tactical appreciation of the game made her a formidable opponent right to the end of her career.

For the record, Cath played for Waikato (or Hamilton) almost every year from 1959 to 1981. During that time she was ranked number one in the association most years. Cath led Hamilton to the National 'A' Grade teams title in 1967, 1969 and 1974. 1967 was Cath's best year when she was ranked number one, was chosen to represent New Zealand at the World Champs in Stockholm, was runner-up in both the women's singles and doubles at the Nationals and Hamilton won the A grade team's event for the first time. In the build-up to the World Champs that year the NZ teams competed in a number of tournaments and Cath's results included winning the Ladies Doubles in the Scottish Open (with Yvonne Fogarty), North East England Open (with Neti Trill), and Scarborough Open (with Neti Trill).

In addition to her playing and coaching achievements Cath was an active member of the Hamilton Executive Committee for a number of years.

Sincere sympathy is expressed to Cath's family and friends.

*Murray Finch*



## Mr Waitemata flicks from table to golf course.

**Roy Gregory** completed 41 years of table tennis in West Auckland then handed in his commission of his many chores and quietly disappeared from Waitemata Table Tennis. The suddenness was a bit of a shock to the "westies", but with an extraordinary obsession with golf, he is now pursuing the little white ball with the same enthusiasm -- but with considerably less skill --- as he did in table tennis.

Born in Derby, England, more than 70 years ago Roy had an early love affair with basketball and compensated for his vertical deprivation with enough speed to help his club mates to a national club title. He attended a coaching course at the world famous Loughborough College and began table tennis coaching after attending a Johnny Leach school. He was also an accomplished grass track cyclist.

In 1957 he arrived in New Zealand and within a week he joined the Titirangi table tennis Club. Since then he has filled every position on the Waitemata administration and regularly attended national meetings as the Waitemata delegate. In 1980 Roy was co-ordinator of the 1980 Oceania championships and in 1997 was manager of the veterans section of the North Island championships at Waitemata. He also had three years as NZTTA vice-president.

He took up golf six years ago and has gradually eased out of a hectic TT playing programme which earned him numerous national titles. His name is also plastered all over the honours board at Waitemata and he has won tournaments all over New Zealand.

A builder by trade, Roy has a permanent reminder of his presence in the west --- the Waitemata stadium which he and ex-Wanganui and Waitemata player George Robinson put up almost entirely between them in their "spare" time.

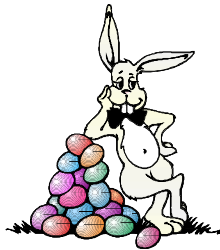
Roy had a passion for Waitemata and whenever moves in the west arose to change the name to Waitakere when the city absorbed Waitemata Roy stopped all further discussion with a grating: "Over my dead body." And so Waitemata has remained Waitemata.



By Dennis Galvin

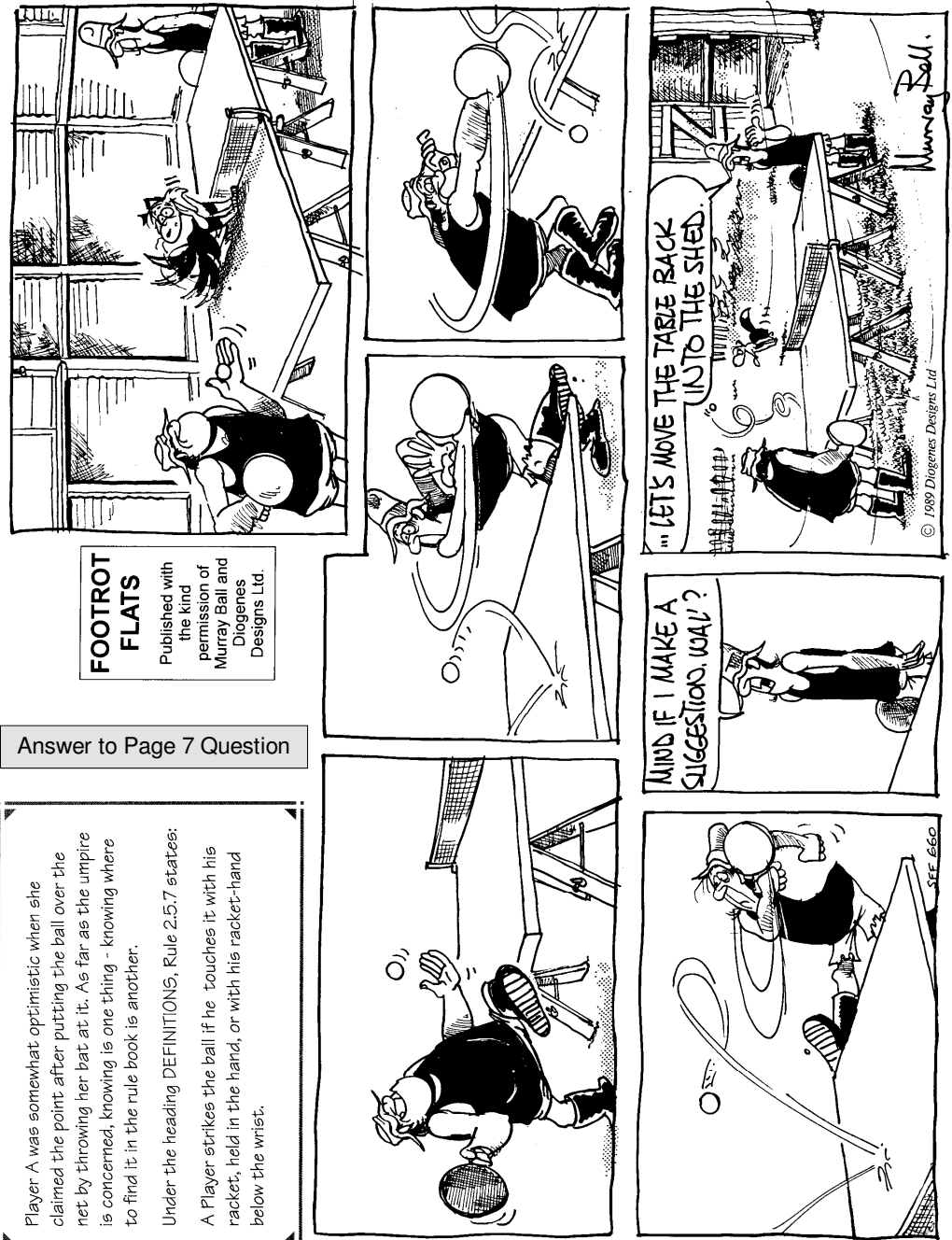
### 1998 NEW ZEALAND CHINESE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Open	Winner	Singles Runner Up
Men's Singles	Aaron Li (N)	Chen Lei (N)
Women's Singles	Liping Bai (A)	Shuilian Yang (A)
<b>Under 19 years</b>		
Boys' Singles	Adrian Soh (N)	Allen Tsai (A)
Girls' Singles	Syn-Hun Tsen (NH)	Sandy Wang (A)
<b>Under 15 years</b>		
Boys' Singles	Adrian Soh (N)	Andy Huang (A)
Girls' Singles	Janice Chen (NH)	Cindy Lin (NH)



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Answer to Page 7 Question

Player A was somewhat optimistic when she claimed the point after putting the ball over the net by throwing her bat at it. As far as the umpire is concerned, knowing is one thing - knowing where to find it in the rule book is another.

Under the heading DEFINITIONS, Rule 2.5.7 states:

A Player strikes the ball if he touches it with his racket, held in the hand, or with his racket-hand below the wrist.