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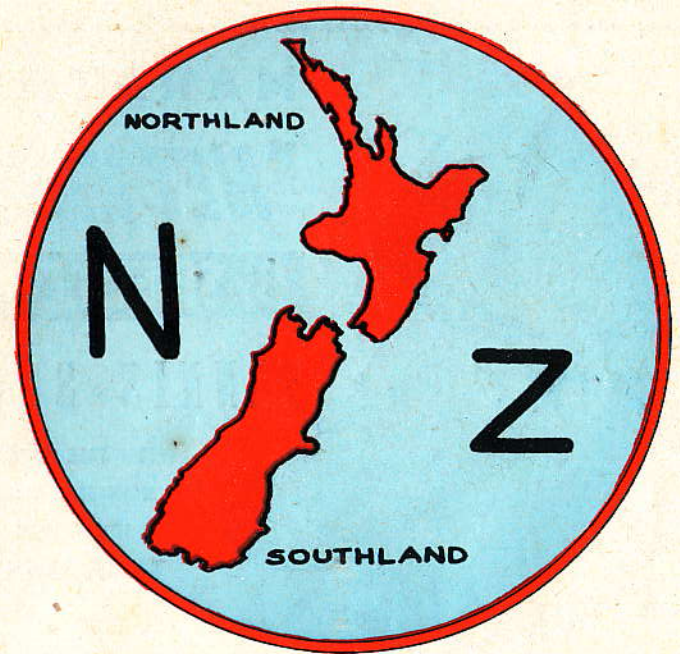


TABLE TENNIS REVIEW

THIS ISSUE

**REPORTS ON
SOUTH ISLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS**



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FOUR TIMES SINCE 1949

N.Z. TABLE TENNIS

REVIEW

VOL. I

No. 3

AUGUST, 1959 - THIRD OF 4 ISSUES

Editorial . . .

REPRESENTATIVE GAMES TOO LONG?

From a spectator's point of view, the Inter-Association Teams' Tourney is normally worth seeing. Possibly the reason for this is the fact that the actual match between two Associations takes place on **one** table. Unfortunately this does not always apply to other representative fixtures during the year, and to take the North-South clash last year as an example, spectators were faced with four tables with sometimes four matches on at the same time. Without doubt, representative table tennis does attract a small audience, and I am of the opinion that if the matches were played on one table more spectators would attend. This would, of course, mean that the teams would have less players and also the players less games, but the public would see only the best available. Summed up, quality as against quantity.

The overseas methods for International fixtures vary according to conditions and availability of players, etc., but in most instances only 8, 9 or 10 matches are played on one table. In a men's fixture the normal method for four players would be two singles and one double each, making a total of 10 matches. In a mixed fixture three men each play one single and two ladies one single, then for doubles one men's, one ladies' and one mixed, making a total of 8 matches.

While some Associations tend to look at a representative fixture as experience for their players, other Associations go to great lengths with trials and practice before selecting the team. Cutting down the teams is frowned on by some people, but there is no doubt that the standard improves. Consider the inter-island fixture on one table, five players instead of eight and each player only getting one single. Surely if a player is only engaged in one singles match, he or she would really turn on something worth watching. The same could apply with representative fixtures during the year, but again this would be dependent on Association policy.

If table tennis is to be a major spectator sport the change will have to be made, but if Associations are content with the present set-up whereby organisation and presentation is slaphappy and haphazard then we can remain a minor sport until overseas players boost the game with a tour.

New Zealand Table Tennis Review has met with a mixed reception; unfortunately costs have had to be amended and this has made extra work to Association Secretaries. If the magazine is to continue next season some thoughts will have to be given to circulation. It may well be that one person in each centre rather than the Association is the answer. Do we have any volunteers?

Our First National Coaching School For Juniors

By Laurie Wilson

As to the trainees, in my opinion, they were all great triers and it is hard to single out many in particular. However, one whose play did appeal to me was Warren Evans (Hutt Valley), who, apart from a little tendency to endeavour to play a spectacular but dangerous shot when a quiet, orthodox one would suffice, showed that he has a pretty effective technique and he must surely have a big future in table tennis. Others to impress me were the local Manawatu lads, Stan Galloway and Brian Free while a lad who appeared to benefit especially from the concentrated match play was Peter Wood, from distant Winchester in South Canterbury.

By way of contrast with the Palmerston North set-up, the centrally-heated Ohaupo Town Hall was commodious for players, officials and spectators, while the Waikato Association earn full marks for being able to supply a full team of observers and umpires throughout the entire period of the school. Outstanding workers included the five members of the Rolley family, Ivan Houghton (Hamilton President), Keith Fraser (Waikato President), and Colin Campbell (Waikato Secretary). The programme followed much the same lines as the Boys' School, and I thought the outstanding player was undoubtedly the North Auckland Maori lass, Neti Davis, whose effortless style made the game look easy. It would certainly be interesting to speculate just how good this girl could become with an abundance of hard competitive play. At this stage she seems destined to add many more New Zealand open titles to the one she already possesses. Others at the school to show great promise were Jeanette Crosby (Franklin), an excellent all-round player against ordinary shots, although a little lacking in confidence against

CANTERBURY COME NORTH

The Canterbury team, comprised of Brightwell, Flint, Radford and Dowie in the men's, and Mesdames Purdon, May, Misses Donald and Taylor in the ladies', met with mixed fortune on their northern visit. Against the Wellington

variations in spin, and Catherine Johnson, an already shrewd exponent of top spin, back spin (with a bit of side spin thrown in), whose main quest must now be for greater mobility. The two charming South Island selections for the school, Beverley Dasler from Waimate and Jennifer Sara from Takaka, were out of touch on the first day, doubtless due to lack of competitive play, but they showed a marked improvement by the time the school concluded. The patience shown by Barbara Packwood and Alan Tomlinson, in particular, when endeavouring to improve the girls' weak strokes after a match created a fine impression with the large number of interested spectators, amongst whom were many parents of the girls who had travelled long distances to be present at the school. This interest in the juniors by both their parents and our top players must, I think, augur well for the future of our sport.

Naturally, the players are now keen to have a follow-up school. In fact, no one is keener than Mr. Williams, especially in view of the fine form shown by such apt pupils as Warren Evans, Jeanette Crosby, Catherine Johnson, Kay Florence and Lola Larsen in the North Island championships, and Neti Davis and Zoe Attwood in the Northland open, but there is one big snag—lack of finance. When it is realised that the total cost of the schools is expected to be in the vicinity of £200 and the profit made by the New Zealand Association last year—which could be cited as a fairly average year—was only £95, it is obvious that affiliated Associations will have to contribute some extra finance if these schools are to be continued. The problem is one that might well be given some serious thought prior to the next annual general meeting.

(To be concluded)

team of Dunn, Crossley, Roselli and Moffat in the men's, and Mesdames McGregor, Harris, Misses White and Orchan in the ladies', they scraped home 15-13 due to superior women's play. Flint and Brightwell played in the bottom

bracket, each beating Moffat but losing to Roselli. Dunn and Crossley had no difficulty against Radford and Dowie.

Against Hutt Valley the same Canterbury team lost a close tussle which was not decided until the last mixed doubles of the evening. At this stage Canterbury led 14-13 with games level at 31. The four leading players of each Association were involved in the final game—Bright-

well and Mrs. Purdon lost the toss but won the first, then Roberts and Miss Brown slowly took command and clinched the next two to make the score 14 each and 33 against 32. The Hutt Valley team also included McPhee, Walsh, and Sim in the men's and Mesdames Choy, Anderson and Meddings in the ladies'. Canterbury thus regained the Clapshaw Trophy but lost the Brightwell Cup.

WELLINGTON RETAIN CROUDIS SHIELD

The annual Wellington v. Hutt Valley clash did not produce the excitement that the very few spectators expected. As is usual in Wellington, the matches are contested on four tables, and it is difficult to give an accurate report on how the various players performed. After the Canterbury visit, local enthusiasts forecast a very close game, but Hutt Valley's North Island semi-finalists, Walsh and McPhee, were out of form, both losing all their matches in the lower bracket. Then Wellington men won 10-2 rather effortlessly, although Crossley was involved in a close tussle with Sim. Dunn, Gwynne and Roselli were much too consistent for

the Valley players, but Crossley went down to Roberts (who also teamed well with Sim to beat Dunn and Crossley).

Hutt Valley won 8-4 in the ladies' section—Joan Brown, Mary Anderson and Val Muirhead each won two singles, but Joyce Harris and Thyra McGregor were too strong for Marion Choy. Wellington's other players, Pam Dean and Val White, appeared rather lethargic and did not trouble either Anderson or Muirhead. The mixed doubles were all won by Wellington in straight games, making the final result 18-10. This was a poor evening's table tennis very badly organised.

N.E.C. CHAIRMAN, BILL MULLINS, WRITES

According to a statement in the initial issue of this magazine it was to be a journal for the players, by the players, and it is, therefore, with a measure of trepidation that I attempt to write something of interest for the third issue. However, we cannot have organised sport without administrative bodies, and I think it will be readily agreed that the standard of equipment and conditions for play have been gradually improved over the years as a result of administrative action until today the standard set for national tournaments at any rate is very good. Progress in administrative control has been continuous over the years, the remaining obstacle to be overcome being that of finance. That, however, is quite a story.

The introduction of this magazine is another step forward, and I would like to congratulate Mr. Percy on his courage and enterprise (albeit he gave me

socks in the last issue) and wish him every success in the venture. I trust the magazine will meet with the success it deserves. Players alone will decide its fate.

I was fortunate enough to be present at the South Island Championships conducted by the Marlborough Association at Blenheim on July 24 and 25 last. The tournament was held in the Blenheim Town Hall and attracted a representative entry from the Southland, Otago, Buller, Nelson, Wellington, Hutt Valley, South Canterbury, Canterbury and West Coast Associations. It was the Association's first venture in the staging of a national tournament, and under the capable control of Messrs. Neal and Perry everything went very smoothly. Excellent conditions were provided and the Association is to be congratulated on a successful tournament, generally agreed by those taking part as most enjoyable.

An entry of 45 was received for the girls' singles and 25 entered for the boys' singles. The boys' singles, under 18, attracted an entry of 13, while an entry of 10 was received for the girls' singles under 18. The under-16 events received only small support.

There were few surprises. In the men's singles Warren Evans (H.V.), New Zealand junior champion, played well to beat R. W. Mercer (S.) 21—18 in the fifth. In the women's singles Miss Eden (N.) ran Mrs. T. May (C.) to a thrilling finish, the latter winning 16, 16, —18, —14, 20. Mrs. P. Pretty (M.) scored a convincing win over Mrs. P. Dean (W.) in three straight. A notable absentee from this event was Mrs. J. E. Magorian (O.), last year's winner and runner-up in the N.Z. finals. An entrant in the women's events was Miss Thelma Davis (a sister of Neti), now temporarily domiciled in Motueka. Popular wins were secured by a local player, Maris McKay, in both the girls' singles junior events.

In the semi-finals of the men's singles, Brian Foster (O.) proved too steady for J. Catto (S.), the scores being 18, 21, —20, 19, while W. Evans (H.V.) went down to J. Armstrong (C.) —20, 9, 8, 13. The latter player displayed good form with steady and accurate play to beat Foster in four games, the scores being 15, 5, —16, 15. The winner is to be congratulated on his retention of the title won last year.

In the semi-finals of the women's singles, Mrs. P. M. Purdon (C.) beat Mrs. Pretty (M.), 6, 13, 14, and Mrs.

Shadbolt (C.) beat Mrs. T. May (C.), 19, 16, 9. In the final Mrs. Purdon beat Mrs. Shadbolt, 12, 19, —20, 16.

The mixed doubles final was nearly an all-Southland affair, three of those taking part being members of that Association. In a hard-fought game R. W. Mercer and J. Catto (holders) defeated the Foster brothers 18, 18, —15, 14, 16. In the women's doubles final Mrs. Purdon and Mrs. Dean, after a rather shaky start, defeated Mrs. May and Miss Donald (C.), —19, 9, 18, 17. The mixed doubles event went very much as expected, Nos. 1 and 2 seedings fighting out the final with Mrs. Purdon and R. W. Mercer defeating the Canterbury pair Mrs. Shadbolt and J. Armstrong, 14, 16, —15, —21, 16.

Warren Evans had little difficulty in annexing the under-18 singles title, going through without losing a game. In the final he defeated A. Vermes (W.), 17, 17. In the girls' singles under 18 final, Maris McKay defeated Janice Ward-Holmes, 15, 18. Maris also won the under-16 girls' singles, defeating I. Black, 17, 11. T. Underdown (S.C.) was successful in the boys' singles under 16, defeating R. D. Cloak (S.C.), 11, 19.

Congratulations to J. Armstrong and to Mrs. Purdon, who won three titles, also to Ray Mercer, whose consistent performances earned him two titles. And thanks to the Marlborough Association for good organisation, resulting in reasonably early finishing times, and for the hospitality extended to participants at the conclusion of the tournament.

SOUTH ISLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS

Although the majority of the leading southern players competed in the 1959 championships at Blenheim, play never reached a high standard. Many important matches degenerated into chiselling affairs, mainly, I think, because the majority of players were using pimple rackets. A review of the finals will be found elsewhere in this magazine, but for the record here are the results of the main events:—

MEN'S SINGLES

Quarter-finals

J. Catto beat R. Foster, 16, 12, 11.
W. N. Evans beat R. W. R. Mercer, —18, —15, 18, 11, 18.
J. Armstrong beat K. Stephenson, —19, 7, 11, 10.
B. Foster beat B. Radford, 16, 14, 16.

Semi-finals

B. Foster beat J. Catto, 18, 21, —20, 19.

J. Armstrong beat W. N. Evans, —20, 9, 8, 13.

Final

J. Armstrong beat B. Foster, 15, 5, —16, 14.

LADIES' SINGLES

Quarter-finals

P. Purdon beat A. M. Brown, 11, 15, 20.
P. Pretty beat P. Dean, 9, 19, 7.
J. Shadbolt beat V. Braumann, 18, 12, 12.
T. May beat J. Sara, 14, —22, 19, 20.

Semi-finals

P. Purdon beat P. Pretty, 6, 13, 14.
J. Shadbolt beat T. May, 19, 16, 9.

Final

P. Purdon beat J. Shadbolt, 12, 19, —20, 16.

MIXED DOUBLES

Semi-finals

J. Armstrong and J. Shadbolt beat A.

Percy and P. Dean, —6, 18, 10, —15, 10.

R. Mercer and P. Purdon beat J. Catto and T. May, 14, 16, 15.

Final

R. Mercer and P. Purdon beat J. Armstrong and J. Shadbolt, 14, 16, —15, —21, 16.

MEN'S DOUBLES

Semi-finals

R. Mercer and J. Catto beat A. Percy and A. Kemp, 22, 22, 19.
Foster and Foster beat Armstrong and Radford, 17, —18, 17, 12.

Final

Mercer and Catto beat Foster and Foster, 18, 15, —15, —14, 16.

LADIES' DOUBLES

Final

Mesdames Purdon and Dean beat Mrs. May and Miss Donald, —19, 9, 18, 17.

Tournament News

THAMES VALLEY OPEN

Condensed from Reports by Ivan Houghton and Brian Kennerley

A very strong field competed in this tourney at Thames. The present top player on current form, Alan Tomlinson, was again too strong for Gary Frew, but it was almost too close for comfort. In the men's semi-finals Tomlinson beat Smith 3—1, and Frew beat Jaine 3—0. In the men's final Frew actually led 20—17 in the fifth, then Tomlinson opened up with first-time hitting and his luck was in—first an edge, then a net which obviously gave him extra confidence and ultimate victory 24—22.

Kay Jaine played excellent table tennis in her final against Neti Davis to recover from 2—1 down to win the singles title. This was a complete reversal of form, because the junior had been successful in their recent encounters over the past season. It appears that Kay showed more patience and was content to wait for the right ball to hit.

Gary Smith and Neil Blunden, from North Shore, were surprise winners of the men's doubles—they defeated top seeds Tomlinson and Taylor in the semi. The junior players Misses Crosby and Ross also surprised by hitting through Mesdames Jaine and Biddle in the women's doubles final. The mixed was contested by three juniors, plus Alan Tomlinson, whose experience was enough to ensure victory. The junior results were generally true to form.

Results:

Men's Singles.—A. R. Tomlinson (A.) beat G. A. J. Frew (N.), —18, 12, 16, —16, 22.

Women's Singles.—Mrs. K. Jaine beat Miss N. Davis (N.), 19, —19, —17, 16, 18.

Men's Doubles.—G. Smith and N. Blunden (N.S.) beat Frew and D. Woodman (N.), 12, 15, —17, 17.

Women's Doubles.—Misses J. Crosby (F.) and M. J. Ross (B.P.) beat Mesdames Jaine and S. Biddle (A.), 16, 11, 9.

Mixed Doubles.—Tomlinson and Miss Ross beat W. N. Evans (H.V.) and

Miss Crosby, —18, 25, 19, 16.

Boys' Singles.—Evans beat J. L. Dunn (Waik.), —19, 18, 16.

Girls' Singles.—Miss Davis beat Miss Ross, 17, 16.

FRANKLIN OPEN

Condensed from Reports by Ivan Houghton and Brian Kennerley

Again a very strong field, with Alan Tomlinson never putting a foot wrong to win the men's singles. Tomlinson was in complete mastery, and his "big" forehand was right on form. Ivan Houghton comments, "Jackson obviously misses the thick sponge; he is not driving accurately from the forehand side, but he will certainly be a threat in the nationals. On current form, Alan Tomlinson has a great show at Auckland in September."

Both semi-finals were one-sided, Len Rau and Ivan Houghton not showing a great deal of opposition. The junior girls took all the honours in the open—both the finalists, Margaret Ross and Cath Johnson, being matched also in the girls' singles. Cath Johnson beat Kay Jaïne in four in the semi-final, and Margaret Ross beat S. Biddle in three. In the final, Margaret Ross hit too consistently for Cath Johnson, who, after winning the first two hitting, decided to defend, thus giving her opponent the advantage and ultimate victory 21—12 in the fifth. Tomlinson and Houghton were too strong for their opponents, L. Rau and A. Rau, in the men's doubles, winning three straight.

Results:

Men's Singles.—Semi-final: A. Tomlinson beat L. Rau, 8, 8, 7; R. V. Jackson beat I. Houghton, 17, 13, 16. Final: A. Tomlinson beat R. Jackson, 16, 10, 19.

Women's Singles.—Semi-final: C. Johnson beat K. Jaïne, —19, 18, 13, 21; M. Ross beat S. Biddle, 8, 17, 18. Final: M. Ross beat C. Johnson, —16, —18, 15, 20, 12.

Men's Doubles.—Semi-final: L. Rau and A. Rau beat D. Reilly and B. Kennerley, 5, 13, 17; A. Tomlinson and I. Houghton beat G. Wilkinson and R. Ellwood, 12, 13, 13. Final: A. Tomlinson and I. Houghton beat L. Rau and A. Rau, 5, 13, 9.

Women's Doubles.—Final: M. Ross and J. Crosby beat J. Bridson and C. Johnson, 18, 10, 19.

Combined Doubles.—Semi-final: R. Taylor and S. Biddle beat O. Jaïne and K. Jaïne, —15, 14, —20, 18, 20; A. Tomlinson and M. Ross beat I. Houghton and J. Crosby, 13, 16, 16. Final: A. Tomlinson and M. Ross beat R. Taylor and S. Biddle, 14, 10, —20, 17.

Boys' Singles.—Final: J. L. Dunn beat A. Ward, 9, 9.

Girls' Singles.—Final: M. Ross beat C. Johnson, 13, 14.

Veteran Women's Singles.—Final: Mrs. Hurrey beat Mrs. Yorke, 14, 17.

Veteran Men's Singles.—Final: F. Paton beat A. E. Cheal, 11, 17.

Women's Bracelet.—Final: C. Eagle beat R. Davies, 16, 7.

Men's Plate.—Final: D. Reilly beat G. Kerr, 19, 12.

NORTH TARANAKI OPEN

John B. Phillips

Auckland's Alan Tomlinson clinched the North Taranaki open title from a strong northern field. In the final he accounted for Bob Taylor (also Auckland) in four sets.

He went on to win three titles at the tournament, as did his combined doubles partner, Miss J. Crosby (Franklin). Miss Crosby had two excellent finals with Miss J. Bamford (North Taranaki), with the Franklin girl winning the women's title in four sets and the Stratford girl taking the girls' final in three sets.

The results were:

Men's Singles.—Semi-finals: R. G. Taylor (Auckland) beat N. W. Parsons (South Taranaki), 17, 13, —19, —12, 20; A. R. Tomlinson (Auckland) beat G. Wilkinson (Auckland), 13, 17, 15. Final: Tomlinson beat Taylor, 15, —19, 11, 15.

Women's Singles.—Semi-finals: Miss J. Crosby (Franklin) beat Miss K. Florence (North Taranaki), 13, 18, —16, 18; Miss J. Bamford (South Taranaki) beat Mrs. M. Baldwin (North Taranaki), 17, —18, 7, 19. Final: Miss Crosby beat Miss Bamford, 18, —16, 18, 13.

Men's Doubles.—Semi-finals: P. Thompson and Wilkinson (Auckland)

beat B. Free and S. Galloway (Manawatu), 9, —14, 15, —17, 16; Tomlinson and Taylor beat T. Dravitski and R. Yeates (North Taranaki), 18, 8, 7. Final: Tomlinson and Taylor beat Thompson and Wilkinson, 19, —16, 20, —17, 17.

Women's Doubles.—Final: Miss Crosby and Mrs. Julian (North Taranaki) beat Mrs. Baldwin and Miss J. Blincoe (North Taranaki), 19, 15, 19.

Mixed Doubles.—Final: Tomlinson and Miss Crosby beat Parsons and Miss Bamford, 8, 14, 10.

Boys' Singles.—Final: R. Yeates (North Taranaki) beat B. Gillbanks (North Taranaki), 12, 15.

Girls' Singles.—Final: Miss Bamford beat Miss Crosby, 18, —4, 16.

Women's Plate.—Final: Mrs. M. Stanford beat Mrs. M. Julian, 10, 14.

Men's Plate.—Final: T. Dravitski beat T. O'Byrne (North Taranaki), 19, —11, 14.

SOUTH TARANAKI OPEN

John B. Phillips

Highlight of the South Taranaki Table Tennis Association's open championships, held at Hawera, was the victory in the women's singles of the youthful Stratford player Joy Bamford. To win the event she had to beat Mary Anderson (Hutt Valley), who had eliminated the top seed, Mary Broadbent (Wanganui), in the semi-finals.

Miss Bamford had a close, exciting game in the final, and the exhibition put up by the two players resulted in one of the best women's finals for many years. Both were prepared to attack, and the stand-up tactics certainly thrilled the spectators. Miss Bamford took the first two games at advantage and won the match with a terrific smash in the third game.

Seeded third at the tournament in the men's singles, John Crossley (Wellington) upset public opinion by winning three titles. His hardest game was in the semi-finals, when he defeated the top seed, Gary Smith (Auckland) in five games. Smith did well to come back after being two down. In the other semi-final the lowly seeded Wellington player Dick Moffatt, a former Otago representative, thrashed the

second seed, Warren Evans (Hutt Valley) in four games.

The final between the two Trojan Club (Wellington) players, Crossley and Moffatt, was not of a very high standard, with the former winning easily in three.

The results were:

Men's Singles.—Semi-finals: Crossley beat Smith, 9, 10, —19, —18, 18; Moffatt beat Evans, —15, 18, 17, 15. Final: Crossley beat Moffatt, 14, 12, 16.

Men's Doubles.—Final: Crossley and Thompson beat J. and L. Elliott, 13, 14, 17.

Men's Plate.—Final: B. Free (Manawatu) beat L. Elliott, 14, 19.

Boys' Singles.—Final: W. Evans beat B. Gillbanks (South Taranaki), 10, 12.

Women's Singles.—Semi-finals: Mrs. M. Anderson (Hutt Valley) beat Miss M. Broadbent, 7, 10, 19; Miss J. Bamford beat Mrs. M. Baldwin (North Taranaki), 9, 18, 20. Final: Miss Bamford beat Mrs. Anderson, 21, 21, 18.

Women's Doubles.—Final: Miss Broadbent and Mrs. J. Mitchell (Wanganui) beat Miss P. Haywood and Mrs. J. Williams (Wanganui), 18, —20, 15, 10.

Women's Bracelet.—Final: Miss B. Aldridge (Auckland) beat Miss M. Stanford (North Taranaki), 12, 17.

Girls' Singles.—Final: Miss Bamford beat Miss K. Florence, 17, 8.

Mixed Doubles.—Final: Crossley and Miss Florence beat N. Parsons and Miss Bamford (South Taranaki), 19, 15, 13.

* * *

INTER-ISLAND TEAMS

North

Men: Jackson (captain), Tomlinson, Dunn, Frew.

Women: Brown, Packwood (captain), Davis, Muirhead.

South

Men: Armstrong, B. Foster, R. Foster, Mercer (captain).

Women: Purdon (captain), Shadbolt, May, Crowe.

* * *

I.T.T.F. Decision

The centre line can now be permanently painted on the table. No more chalk and string necessary!

COMMENT

The willingness of some players to continually criticise officials and do nothing about trying to help with organisation themselves and the lack of fitness generally in table tennis competitors are two features of the game in New Zealand which could be considerably improved.

But criticism of the official in control is common to all sports, and if we are really fair we must admit that most of it is unjustified.

This does not mean there is not room for improvement, and many officials that I know welcome criticism so long as it is constructive.

Slipshod and ignorant officiating can ruin the greatest sporting spectacle.

In table tennis, perhaps more than any other sport, we do not have instances of "hooting" the referee or anything like that.

But in this game players are called on to act as officials and umpires more than in any other sport.

Whereas some willingly step forward to do their bit, others shirk away when it comes to their turn to help.

These people know who they are and should be ashamed at failing to assist others who are doing their utmost to give enjoyment to the greatest possible number.

Strangely enough these same people, many of them excellent players, are usually the first ones to complain when things do not suit them.

How many of the exponents who have got so much out of the game in recent years have put something back into the game? Very few, apart from Laurie Wilson and his select band.

The question of physical fitness brings to mind the question, "Do New Zealand players train enough?"

Physical fitness seems to be the one permanent subject hammered by practically all sports at present.

The sponge bat era probably helped some players into believing that supreme physical fitness was not necessary for table tennis.

But such players are due for a rude awakening

The growing number of matches and

BY GARY FREW

the stiffening of competition bring with them the depressing need for consistency over long periods.

And consistency is the enemy of inspiration.

It has been proved that almost any style of stroke can produce results in big table tennis—but only one style of temperament—the real fighter.

You cannot be a real fighter unless your physical condition is such that it allows to battle right to the last ditch.

According to the world-renowned authority Jack Carrington, a first-class player should have:—

Eyes, keen and fresh.

Ears, keen and fresh.

Fingers, sensitive and supple.

Wrist, forearm, upper arm and shoulder muscles, all capable of smooth acceleration, of accurate circular motion up or down of accurate piston motion, forward or backward. (The free arm must be trained to almost equal sensitivity to perform its function of a balancer, a rudder, a gauge of distance.)

Back, waist and hip muscles, all

capable of assisting or opposing the arms' actions in infinite variety.

Leg muscles, capable of accurate and speedy locomotion—forward, backward and sideways in unpredictable sequence.

No other sport except boxing demands such sudden and frequent reversals of movement as does table tennis.

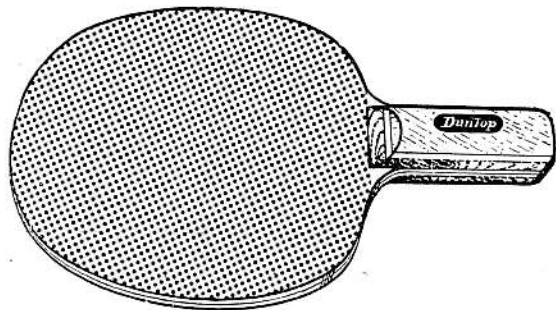
Whereas boxers must also build up strength, the table tennis player needs to perfect his or her "touch".

Even Victor Barna and all the great coaches cannot over-emphasise the value of perfect physical fitness.

Prior to the world championships some years ago he had the Rowe twins running around the Alderton cinder track in London like two sprinters, preparing for the Olympic Games.

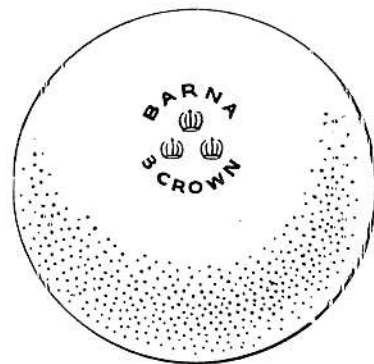
Also before each training session of table tennis he would have his squad run around the room leaping over chairs.

Up and coming youngsters should also remember that the more they can train and balance their physical talents the more margin they will have to experiment with personal gifts of tactics and stroke combinations.



THE PERFECT PAIR

DUNLOP - BARNALAT & BALL



HUTT VALLEY OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

ROSELLI WINS HUTT VALLEY OPEN SINGLES

Played this year on two Wednesday evenings, the Hutt Valley open championships did not attract a large entry, but nevertheless, with the exception of M. L. Dunn, all the leading Hutt Valley and Wellington players were playing.

Early surprises were the defeats of Ted Walsh and Dick Moffatt in the first round. The defending title-holder, Brian Sim, was defeated in the singles semi-final by Gary Roselli, who went on to win the title. John Crossley reached the final by beating R. M. Taylor.

The final itself was very entertaining. Some fierce counter-hitting rallies were seen played at great speed due to the fact that both players had full control of their Japanese sandwich bats. This was first-class table tennis, with both players going for their shots.

The ladies' singles was a triumph for the North Island champion, Joan Brown. In the semi-final, Miss Brown had a very dour struggle against Pam Dean, just getting home in four long-drawn-out games, but won the final three straight against Mary Anderson, who had easily defeated Val Muirhead in the semi.

Dick Moffatt, who has not had a particularly good season to date, struck

really brilliant form in the men's doubles, his play in the semi-final and final being of a high standard. The losing finalists, Ted Walsh and Len McPhee, never hit peak form in their game against Crossley and Moffatt.

Pam Dean teamed with Val White and they had a well merited victory against Val Muirhead and Joan Brown in the ladies' doubles final.

In the mixed doubles Arnold Percy and Joan Brown defeated Ted Walsh and Val Muirhead in five games. The players in this match have met so many times that it was more tactical than spectacular.

RESULTS

Men's Singles: Roselli beat Crossley, —21, 14, —15, 19, 17.

Ladies' Singles: Brown beat Anderson, 13, 9, 20.

Men's Doubles: Crossley and Moffatt beat Walsh and McPhee, 25, 12, 15.

Ladies' Doubles: Dean and White beat Brown and Muirhead, 13, 20, 21.

Mixed Doubles: Percy and Brown beat Walsh and Muirhead, 15, 9, —13, —15, 17.

HUTT VALLEY CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIP

THREE TITLES TO JOAN BROWN

Joan Brown retained all three titles and was the outstanding player in this tourney. Ron Sandilands mixed badminton with table tennis, and although not playing inter-club, managed to strike good form to beat present top player Albert Roberts in a close tussle. Ted Walsh beat Ron Sandilands in the semi, then Brian Sim in the final, each match going to five games. Generally speaking, the standard of play was mediocre, although the all pimple men's singles final and also the ladies' singles final did occasionally enthuse the small crowd. Mary Anderson appeared unfortunate to lose three finals.

RESULTS

Men's Singles

Semi-finals: Walsh beat Sandilands, Sim beat Anderson.

Final: Walsh beat Sim.

Ladies' Singles

Final: Miss Brown beat Mrs. Anderson.

Men's Doubles

Sim and McPhee beat Roberts and Barnes.

Ladies' Doubles

Misses Brown and McNeill beat Mrs. Anderson and Miss Bush.

Mixed Doubles

Roberts and Miss Brown beat Anderson and Mrs. Anderson.

NELSON OPEN

D. R. Winstanley

The Nelson Open Table Tennis Championships were played at the Sports Hall on Saturday, 19th July, with competitors from Auckland, Wellington, Hutt Valley, Nelson, West Coast, Marlborough, Canterbury and Southland, making a record entry of 154 with 55 in the men's singles.

There were two upsets in the first round of the men's singles when, first, M. Smith defeated the No. 3, seed R. Sheridan, three straight, and then the defeat of R. Moffatt (seeded 6th) by J. Hall.

Outstanding player of the tournament was N.Z. junior champion W. N. Evans (H.V.), who won the men's open and junior boys' singles events. In the men's singles he defeated the holder, P. Thompson (Auck.) in four games. This final was somewhat better than this event's final of the past two years, with Evans regularly hitting away winners backhand.

The women's singles went to Miss J. Sara, of Takaka, who defeated Miss A. Eden, a previous winner of this event, in the final. These two players teamed to win the doubles event.

The men's doubles went to P. Thompson and B. Shewan (West Coast).

The mixed doubles was a success for M. Smith and Miss A. Eden, who earlier in the season won the Nelson closed championship title.

In the junior events Miss M. McKay (Marl.) showed that she was by far the top girl player in the tournament by winning the girls' singles, girls' doubles with Miss J. Douglas, and the mixed doubles partnered with R. Wratt.

Results:

Men's Singles.—Semi-final: P. Thompson (Auckland) beat M. Smith (Nelson), 7, 21, 18; W. Evans (Hutt Valley) beat B. Shewan (West Coast), 5, 17, 19. Final: W. Evans beat P. Thompson, —8, 15, 18, 12.

Women's Singles.—Semi-finals: Miss A. Eden (Nelson) beat Mrs. P. Pretty (Marlborough), —18, 10, 13, 16; Miss J. Sara (Takaka) beat Miss J. Stagg (Marlborough), —16, 13, 15, 16. Final: Miss J. Sara beat Miss A. Eden, —21, 16, 13, 18.

Men's Doubles.—Final: P. Thompson and B. Shewan beat W. Evans and R. Moffatt (Wellington), —19, 17, —20, 8, 15.

Women's Doubles: Miss A. Eden and Miss J. Sara beat Mrs. P. Pretty and Miss M. McKay (Marlborough), 10, 13, 15.

Mixed Doubles.—Final: M. Smith and Miss A. Eden beat R. Sheridan and Mrs. P. Pretty (Marlborough), 12, 16, 19.

Junior Boys' Singles.—Final: W. Evans beat B. Riordan (Takaka), 12, 1.

Junior Girls' Singles.—Final: Miss M. McKay beat Miss J. Douglas (Marlborough), —18, 18, 15.

Junior Boys' Doubles.—Final: W. Evans and E. Ofoski beat J. Douglas (Marlborough) and D. Heatherbell (Nelson), 6, 17.

Junior Mixed Doubles.—Final: R. Wratt and Miss M. McKay (Nelson) beat J. Douglas and Miss J. Douglas 15, 12.

Junior Girls' Doubles.—Misses M. McKay and J. Douglas beat Misses J. Davis and P. Kemp, 5, 13.

Women's Bracelet.—Miss M. Sheridan (Marlborough) beat Miss E. Stewart (Nelson), 21, —14, 15.

Men's Plate.—R. Moffatt (Wellington) beat R. Sheridan (Marlborough), 20, 14.

CANTERBURY WIN SOUTHERN QUADRANGULAR

Played this year at Timaru, the quadrangular contest between Southland, Otago, South Canterbury and Canterbury was another success for the South Canterbury organisers. The locals were trounced by Canterbury 11-1 in the men's and 8-4 in the women's. Otago were successful 8-4 in the men's and 11-1 in the women's against Southland. Canterbury then beat Southland 8-4 in the men's and 12-0 in the women's. Southland defeated South Canterbury 11-1 in the men's, but lost 9-3 in the women's. The final game between Canterbury and Otago resulted in a win for Otago 7-5 in the men's, but Canterbury won easily 10-2 in the women's. The teams were:—

SOUTH CANTERBURY

Angland, O'Gorman, Underdown, McKenzie, Aitken, Bremner, Denny, Brown, Bennett, Dasler, Wallace and Campbell.

CANTERBURY

Brightwell, Flint, Dowie, Stevenson, Radford, Purdon, May, Taylor, Donald, Ward-Holmes.

OTAGO

Foster, Scott, Dougal, Dolan, Crowe, Braumann, Cameron, Barnes.

SOUTHLAND

Mercer, Foster, Catto, Cornish T. Mathieson, McKenzie, R. Mathieson, Hawthorn.

Canterbury were declared winners after winning 54 to 46, with both themselves and Otago level at 5 wins each. The feature match between Foster and Brightwell was the highlight of the tourney—Foster winning 23-21 and 24-22.

KAIKORAI OPEN

With the absence of B. Foster at the South Island championships the Kaikorai tournament was really wide open, and some close games were contested.

Players to catch the eye were J. Bain, who was rather unlucky in a close three-setter against the eventual winner, K. Dolan, and T. Hall, who fully extended Dolan also. Detailed results were as follows:

Quarter-finals: T. Hall beat R. Sonntag, 22—20, 23—21; J. Dougal beat J. Hughes, 21—9, 16—21, 21—17; P. Collett beat Miss P. Crowe, 21—18, 22—20; K. Dolan beat R. Jenkins, 21—12, 19—21, 21—8.

Semi-finals: P. Collett beat J. Dougal, 13—21, 21—18, 21—19; K. Dolan beat T. Hall, 21—9, 14—21, 21—19.

Final: K. Dolan beat P. Collett, 21—18, 23—21.

* * *

Miss Pat Hill, the star of a current Australian stage production, was formerly a well-known Australian player. Under her actual name, Pat Cathcart, this talented actress also won Australian titles when competing regularly. During the current season both Hutt Valley and South Canterbury have arranged for Pat to "have a hit" against local opposition.

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Around The Associations

WANGANUI

John B. Phillips

As was expected, Wanganui proved a little too strong for Manawatu, and regained the Sweetman Shield. In beating Manawatu 20—8 Wanganui showed that it will take a lot of beating.

The Wanganui women won 11 out of 12 games, and this is where Wanganui's strength lies. Top player Eric Urlich had two wins over the youngsters S. Galloway and B. Free, and in the lower half of the team Bill Webber recorded two victories.

In other grades Wanganui's superiority was even more pronounced. In the B grade Wanganui won 21—7, the C team triumphed 24—4, and the D grade team won 25—7.

The results in the Sweetman Shield were:

Men's Singles.—E. J. Urlich beat S. Galloway, 18, 17; beat B. Free, 15, 16. C. J. Hartnett lost to S. Galloway, 9, —16, 16; lost to Free, 14, 10. W. J. Webber beat K. Galloway, 12, 17; beat E. H. Jones, —16, 14, 17. R. S. Ditchfield lost to K. Galloway, 19, —20, 13; lost to Jones, —15, —15.

Men's Doubles.—Urlich and Hartnett beat S. Galloway and Free, —18, 17, 22; beat K. Galloway and Jones, 14, 17. Webber and Ditchfield lost to S. Galloway and Free, 13, 16; lost to K. Galloway and Jones, —17, 17, —18.

Women's Singles.—Miss M. Broadbent beat Miss M. Rolston, 13, 18; beat Miss D. Brill, 14, 16. Miss G. Schneider lost to Miss Rolston, 16, —12, —16; beat Miss Brill, 12, 15. Mrs. E. Wilkinson beat Miss D. Galloway, 19, —10, 19; beat Miss D. Rowe, 13, —16, 19. Miss C. Gifford-Moore beat Miss Galloway, 18, —20, 12; beat Miss Rowe, 22, 12.

Women's Doubles.—Misses Broadbent and Schneider beat Misses Rolston and Rowe, 18, 17; beat Misses Brill and Galloway, —16, 16, 18. Mrs. Wilkinson and Miss Gifford-Moore beat Misses Rolston and Rowe, —11, 13, 11; beat Misses Brill and Galloway, 12, 17.

Combined Doubles.—Webber and Miss Broadbent beat Jones and Miss Rolston, 10, 13. Urlich and Miss

Schneider beat Free and Miss Brill, 14, 10. Hartnett and Mrs. Wilkinson beat K. Galloway and Miss Rowe, 22, 16. Ditchfield and Miss Gifford-Moore lost to S. Galloway and Miss Galloway, 17, —12, —16.

HUTT VALLEY

With only one round of matches still to be played in the Hutt Valley A grade interclub competition, Empire No. 1 team have established an unassailable lead with the defeat of the club's No. 2 team by the improving Petone Catholic side. They are now 4 points clear of the second team, who are 2 points in advance of Petone Catholic. The mainstay of the winning combination has undoubtedly been No. 1 seed in the coming N.Z. Women's Championships, Joan Brown, who has compiled the outstanding record of 16 wins in 18 games.

The team with the brightest prospects for next season is Petone Catholic, comprising veteran Ted Walsh and a highly promising trio of youngsters, Brian Clegg, Peter McLaughlin and Len Kane. Of these, Peter McLaughlin in particular has a very bright future in the game and could be a coming New Zealand junior champion.

The most notable personal achievement in the grade has been the unbeaten record of unassuming Englishman Albert Roberts, who has consistency as the keynote of his play.

Warren Evans, present New Zealand junior champion, has suffered some unaccountable losses in interclub play.

The team to represent Hutt Valley in the inter-association teams tournament is:

Men: A. Roberts (Wainui), T. A. Walsh (captain, Petone Catholic), B. Sim and L. McPhee (Empire).

Women: Miss J. Brown, Mrs. V. Muirhead (Empire), Mrs. M. Anderson (Waterloo) and Mrs. M. Choy (Wainui).

Congratulations of all local enthusiasts are offered to Miss J. Brown and Mrs. V. Muirhead in their selection for the North Island team.

—Colin Gasson

WELLINGTON

Table tennis in Wellington is now under way, and the Trojans team has gone into a narrow lead from P. and T. Workshops and Technical A.

The number of teams in the grade has been increased to eight after some years of six, and consequently a good number of new faces have appeared. Not only that, but they have settled down quickly and many long-established A graders have been on the losing end of some good matches. Could it be that some of the players, through long participation in what was virtually a closed circle, have lost the art of adjusting their tactics, if necessary, when meeting a strange player for the first time?

In any case, the influx of new blood has added interest to a competition already more open because of the reduced strength of the hitherto dominant Trojans.

Wellington's representative programme is also under way, and after a narrow loss to Canterbury at 15-13 the team beat Hutt Valley 18-10 to retain the Croudis Shield. One player to make an impression here was Norm Gwynne, recently arrived from Wales, who won all his matches in his first major rep. match. Norm has beaten Murray Dunn and John Crossley (twice) in interclub, and could be a real threat at the nationals.

The latest major news is, of course, the announcement of the interprovincial teams, which are:

Men: M. L. Dunn (captain), N. Gwynne, G. H. Roselli and R. J. Moffat.

Women: Mrs. J. Harris (captain), Mrs. P. Dean and Misses H. Orchan and V. White.

Despite John Crossley and Thyra McGregor not being available, both teams are expected to be hard to beat. It is thought that doubles play could have considerable bearing on the outcome of the interprovincial matches, and the Wellington teams will be given intensive doubles practice with this in mind.

WEST COAST

It has been a very full season on the Coast, and in many ways a successful one, despite several defeats. Our rep.

team was defeated 84-12 by Marlborough at Blenheim in a challenge for the Perry Shield, and lost to South Canterbury and North Otago in a match at Christchurch. Our gains were in experience, the enjoyment of the hospitality of the home clubs, and the growing interest for such contests.

A four-towns tournament held in Hokitika resulted in a win for Greymouth with 35, Westport 29, Hokitika 19 and Reefton 13. Greymouth thus won the Sutherland Shield from Westport (holders).

In the town matches Hokitika are leading, having so far defeated Greymouth and Reefton; Greymouth has defeated Reefton. Greymouth has improved since the early defeat by Hokitika, and will no doubt be out for revenge in the return match on 4th August.

West Coast play Buller on 15th August (provisional), a date which unfortunately clashes with South Canterbury championships, but this has so often been the case this season. It has been difficult to avoid other Associations' and championship fixtures (take into account the Lions' itinerary), and comply with the demands of the kitchen, indoor bowls and all the other fronts. It has, however, been enjoyable and there promises to be a good entry for our open championships in Greymouth on 8th August.

CANTERBURY

In spite of a late start of the competitions in Christchurch, due to a disastrous fire at the table tennis headquarters (more affectionately or commonly known as the "fowlhouse") last October, Canterbury table tennis is now well under way. There is a limit of eight teams in the A grade competitions.

Much success has attended the Canterbury representative teams, wins being gained against Wellington, Marlborough, West Coast and a handsome win in the quadrangular tournament held in Timaru. Much of the success is due to the women's team, but for the first time since 1955, Canterbury will be represented by its strongest possible team at the National Championships. With the South Island champions John Armstrong and Patricia Purdon in fine form, Canterbury will be off to Auck-

land with some confidence.

The one sad note about all the success of the women's team is that Mrs. Purdon has announced that this is her last season of big table tennis. She has served her province well, and it is a pity that she will be giving the game best when she appears to be at the peak of her fine career. She will certainly be ending her first-class run on a high note.

Janice Ward-Homes, from Takaka, is a decided asset to Canterbury table tennis. A student at the Teachers' College, she is playing in the A reserve grade for Selwyn. Already she has represented Canterbury as a senior, and is definitely the best junior girl in the province.

Another promising player to emerge is Helen Burrows, of the University Club. She is the second junior girl in the province and should go a long way.

OTAGO NOTES

By ALAN KWOK

The Dunedin interclub competition has already been won by the North-East Valley team, which comprised Brian Foster, Peter South and Johnny Hughes. The games are of three singles and three doubles each, making twelve games in all. It is strange to note that although this is the logical and fairest method of conducting any teams event, there has been strong opposition against it until recently.

Of these twelve games Foster would invariably win all his singles as well as lending a hand in collecting a couple of doubles, thus accounting for nearly half of the total. Even then the team just scraped home a number of times on a count-back of sets. The main reason for this state of affairs was the slightly casual approach of the other two members of the team, and it cannot be put down to lack of practice only.

Particularly so is the case of Peter South, who a few years ago looked to be a coming topliner, but who has gradually slipped away to be no more than an ordinary A grade player. He has all the strokes, moves better than most, and has fairly good concentration, but this is not enough in his case. Amongst the other players the same

could be said of Albert Kwok, who has drifted down since the days when he was a nationally ranked player and mentioned by Victor Barna as one of the most promising players he played when he visited New Zealand in 1950.

As the other young player praised by Barna was Bob Jackson, who is only one year younger than Kwok, there should be no reason why there is such a marked difference in the standards of the two. Strange to say, the same fault which appears in Kwok's play is identical to the one which South has.

The most improved players in the competition were St. Bernadette's Pat Collett, who is under the wing of New Zealand rep. Bill Fogarty, and Kai-korai's Trevor Hall. Collett, who started off with a bang when he beat Brian Foster in an early club match, slumped a bit halfway through the season, but has found form again to finally deserve a place in the Otago team to travel to Auckland. A hard-hitting left-hander, he should find the experience in inter-association matches invaluable to the furtherment of his game. Another left-hander well known up north, but not quite so hard-hitting, although he can produce a slick backhand, is Jim Dougal, who this year is captain of the Otago team; the other member is Brian Foster. Bill Scott, Bill Fogarty and Kevin Dolan were unable to travel, thereby weakening the team somewhat.

SOUTHLAND

For the first time in Southland a Development Tour covering all sub-associations and many town clubs was conducted, and has proved most successful. This tour was undertaken by Ray Mercer and Ron Foster, two of Southland's leading players. The evenings commenced with Ron giving general talks on table tennis strokes, followed by a question period and exhibition match. Finally all players were coached personally for a few minutes.

From Southland John Catto, Ron Foster and Ray Mercer travelled to Blenheim to play in the South Island championships. Ray and John retained their men's doubles title, and Ray shared with Mrs. Patricia Purdon, Canterbury, in winning the mixed doubles title.

Inter-club competitions are drawing to a close after nearly four months' play. The following are the leading teams in their respective grades: A grade: Olympic 1. A grade reserve: Olympic. B grade: Commercial Bank. C grade: Tisbury.

Southland's men's team for this year's national tournament will be John

Cornish, Ron Foster and Ray Mercer. John Catto is unavailable.

Events for local players to watch for are the Stanley Robson doubles tournament, Invercargill championships, and Southland Championships.

—R. W. R. Mercer.

UMPIRES CORNER

By Ray Giles

During a recent interclub match at which I was present the server on one occasion projected the ball into the air but caught it again without striking. There was no interference to either the server or the striker-out, and the provisions of Law 12, under which a "let" could have been called, did not apply. The umpire (one of the players) permitted another service to be taken.

This was *wrong*, as the ball was *in play* immediately it was projected into the air by the server. When the ball was caught by him a fault service should have been called.

I am therefore quoting Law 15, "In Play", and Law 12, "A Let", both of which are worthy of careful study:

Fifteen in Play

The ball is in play from the moment at which it is projected from the hand in service until:

- It has touched one court twice consecutively.
- It has, except in service, touched each court alternately without having been struck by the racquet immediately.
- It has been struck by either player more than once consecutively.

WHAT'S ON AND WHERE

Open Tournaments

August 14 and 15: Auckland, at Auckland.

August 14 and 15: Marlborough, at Blenheim.

August 15: South Canterbury, at Timaru.

August 15, 21 and 22: Otago, at Dunedin.

August 21 to 23: Canterbury, at Christchurch.

August 22: Wairarapa, at Carterton.

August 22: Southland, at Invercargill.

September 2 to 4: New Zealand, at Auckland.

September 4 to 15: Wellington, at Wellington.

September 26: Bay of Plenty, at Tauranga.

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