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TABLE TENNIS REVIEW

THIS ISSUE

JOHN STEWART REVIEWS
NORTH ISLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS



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FOUR TIMES SINCE 1949

N.Z. TABLE TENNIS
REVIEW

VOL. I

No. 2

JULY, 1959 - SECOND OF 4 ISSUES

Editorial . . .

SOLVING THAT UMPIRE PROBLEM

In a recent Hutt Valley "A" grade fixture the score ended 6 matches all. A check revealed that games were even, and, when points were added, it was found that one team won by a solitary point. As could be expected, an "inquest" on each individual game was held, and it eventuated that during one of the singles a player was not penalised when the ball hit the back of his playing hand on the full. Although there was no after-match protest, one cannot help thinking that the result was unsatisfactory for a top-grade fixture.

The players in inter-club are always required to umpire, but it would appear that some do not know all the rules. Although it is agreed that this is the fault of the players themselves, it is also a fact that they are never taught the rules. The Provisional Umpires Scheme has not attracted the attention that the originators envisaged, but surely the players are required to lay out enough finance on the sport without further expenditure on the test paper to qualify as a Provisional Umpire?

Possibly the answer to this is to make the scheme free to all and have our present qualified umpires lecture officials of each club, so that they can do likewise at club level. If this suggestion is considered unsuitable on the score of cost, it is not a happy state of affairs, for after twenty-five years the N.E.C. should be able to budget to correct what is surely a major fault in the administration of the sport. A good umpire provides service to the sport; let the sport pay for this service, not the individual available to give the service.

From the information received to date, the first issue of N.Z. Table Tennis Review was considered a worthwhile purchase. It is hoped that the standard will be continually improved and that you, the players, will send your views on any subject connected with the sport.

ARNOLD PERCY

NEXT ISSUE — EARLY AUGUST

Our First National Coaching School For Juniors

By Laurie Wilson

"Hands up those who have a table-tennis table at home" was the question put to the trainees at the recent National Junior Coaching Schools, and a count revealed that no fewer than 8 out of 12 boys and 10 out of 12 girls did, in fact, have such a useful article at home. From the high standard of play exhibited by this group of talented youngsters it seemed to me that the secret of the already considerable success at the game achieved by many of them must be the opportunity for constant practice.

By common accord, both the boys' school, held at Palmerston North on May 15-17, and the girls' school, at Ohaupo (10 miles from Hamilton), on May 22-24, were tremendous successes. Haphazard methods of coaching any juniors—let alone the top 24 in the country—by well-meaning but inexperienced coaches might have had disastrous results, and I think therefore that the New Zealand executive were very wise in appointing Mr. T. S. Williams as director of this initial national coaching venture. There has been no keener student of table tennis since its inception in New Zealand and his vast experience in tennis coaching methods enabled him to plan a programme whereby the trainees got the maximum benefit from the coaching with the least possible alteration to their present playing technique. On the first day and a-half the trainees each played eleven singles matches under the critical eyes of the director and his team of observers, who noted on specially designed error charts the strokes where the trainees made most of their errors. The first error chart used showed the main strokes, both forehand and backhand, and a further dissection was then made on a second chart which enabled the director to concentrate on improving each player's weakest stroke. Several table tennis films were also shown, and then four senior guest players were invited to each school to play against the trainees and discuss with them any weaknesses in their play. Wellington reps. Murray Dunn, Garry Roselli and Brian Sim, together with Dick Moffat, a former Otago rep., made the trip to Palmerston North and afforded the boys some valuable practice, although the standard of play of the latter was so high that Warren Evans was able to defeat three of the visitors, including

Murray Dunn. At the Waikato school, the assistance given by New Zealand reps. Alan Tomlinson and Barbara Packwood, who travelled down from Auckland, as well as Gavin Shewan and Ivan Houghton (Waikato), was obviously much appreciated by the girls.

New Zealand table tennis should be deeply indebted to the Manawatu and Waikato Associations, who acted as hosts on this occasion and arranged billets for the trainees. It is a most difficult matter to obtain a hall that is available all day Friday, Saturday and Sunday, and in this respect the Manawatu Association was unfortunate in that the only hall that could be obtained was really too small for comfort for players, observers, officials and spectators. In addition, a combination of the flu germ and the school holidays had reduced the number of observers and umpires who were expected to be in attendance, and, as a result, the boys had to do all their own umpiring on the first day. This meant that some of them were either playing or umpiring every game, but such was their enthusiasm that they cheerfully met every call made on them. Harry Jones, Manawatu secretary, was indefatigable in his efforts to attend to the needs of the visitors, who included other national executive members Bill Mullins (chairman), Margaret Guthrie and John Stewart, as well as vice-president Frank O'Gorman, from Timaru—one of our keenest advocates of junior coaching. Incidentally, a special award must go to Margaret for her sterling efforts in organising score cards, error sheets and summary sheets for all the matches, plus the inevitable cup of tea for "T.S." within the narrow confines of a thickly-populated supper room.

(To be continued)

North Island Championships

Reviewed by John Stewart

The North Island Championships, in the Horticultural Hall, Lower Hutt, during Queen's Birthday week-end, were held for the first time ever under fluorescent lights, and at an earlier stage of the season than before. The lighting was quickly accepted by most players, but the early dates may partly account for the slightly disappointing number of entries. The only real complaint about conditions of play was the extreme slowness of the newly painted tables, which caused the balls to become green. There were more than the usual number of upsets among seeded players, and these were more likely to occur because of early season variations of form.

An encouraging feature was the fine play of a number of juniors in the "open" events. In the women's singles, two girls stood out; Miss J. Crosby (Franklin) was just beaten in the third round by Miss J. Brown (H.V.), No. 1 seed, —13, 7, 11, —23, 18. This game featured some very fine attacking by Miss Crosby, with Miss Brown's experience just prevailing. Miss C. Johnson (Waikato) was only beaten by finalist Mrs. V. Muirhead, —19, 8, 20, —11, 15, in a match which could have gone either way.

In the Men's Open, the N.Z. junior champion, Warren Evans, found the game of No. 1 seed Murray Dunn very much to his liking, and in the quarter-finals only lost —20, —16, 19, 12, —14. While our game is in the hands of youngsters such as these the standard is sure to improve. OUR JUNIORS DESERVE THE SUPPORT, FINANCIAL AND OTHERWISE, OF ALL ASSOCIATIONS. Ted Walsh and Len McPhee, of Hutt Valley, provided major upsets by beating seeded players John Crossley and Gary Roselli respectively, both of Wellington. They went on to reach the semi-finals, and both are to be congratulated on their outstanding efforts. Bob Taylor, of Auckland, was another seeded player to fall by the wayside. N. R. Gwynne, of Wellington, a defensive player who last year played "A" reserve grade, proved far too steady.

About 280 people watched the finals.

In the men's singles, Alan Tomlinson settled in early and, showing excellent control over the table, won the first two games convincingly. At this stage Murray Dunn, moving more freely, began to take control and won the third game 21—12. However, at 6—2 in the fourth game Murray sank to the floor with cramp in the legs, and, although he continued to play, another attack while leading 10—5 made it obvious that his number was up. He held the lead till 17—17, but just going through the motions at the end. The final was one of the most spectacular that the writer has seen, and was an example to juniors of the importance of being fit, and the fate of Dunn must have impressed many. My sympathy to Alan, who must have been disappointed to win under the circumstances he did. However, his title was fully deserved and his win a most popular one.

In the third round of the women's singles a N.Z. ranked player, Mrs. Pat Purdon (Canterbury) was beaten by Mrs. Val. Muirhead (H.V.), who in the semi-final beat another seeded player, Mary Broadbent (Wanganui). The dour defence of Miss Joan Brown (H.V.) proved too much for Val in the final, but she deserves every credit for making the match worth watching with some spectacular hitting.

John Crossley and Murray Dunn, a tried pair, defeated Gary Roselli and Roy Lea, of the Onslow Club, Wellington, in the final of the men's doubles. The No. 1 seeds in this event were beaten in the quarter-finals, when Tomlinson and R. G. Taylor (Auckland) were defeated by Hutt Valley juniors W. N. Evans and M. Mabbett, 12, 17, —7, 19. One of the best matches was the mixed doubles final. Miss K. Florence (North Taranaki), another of the large group of promising junior girls, was outstanding in this match for the way she handled some of Dunn's hardest drives. With all four players going well, many of the rallies were most spectacular. Dunn and Brown beat Tomlinson and Florence, 18, 14, —17, —16, 12.

RESULTS

Men's Singles: A. R. Tomlinson (Auckland) beat M. L. Dunn (Wellington), 16, 19, —12, 17.

Women's Singles: Miss J. E. Brown (H.V.) beat Mrs. V. Muirhead (H.V.), 14, 14, —10, 11.

Men's Doubles: Dunn and Crossley (Wellington) beat G. Rosselli and R. Lea (Wellington), 15, 19, 19.

Women's Doubles: Mrs. P. Purdon (Canterbury) and Mrs. P. Dean (Wellington) beat Miss J. Brown and Mrs. V. Muirhead (Hutt Valley), —11, 16, 20, 19.

Mixed Doubles: Dunn (Wellington) and Miss Brown (H.V.) beat Tomlinson (Auckland) and Miss K. Florence (North Taranaki), 18, 14, —17, —16, 12.

Boys' Singles, Under 18 Years: W. N. Evans (H.V.) beat A. Vermes (Wellington), —17, 7, 13.

Girls' Singles, Under 18 Years: C. Johnson (Waikato) beat J. Crosby (Franklin), —17, 10, 19.

Boys' Doubles, Under 18 Years: W. N. Evans and M. Mabbett (H.V.) beat P. McLauchlan (H.V.) and Vermes (Wellington), 19, 14.

Girls' Doubles, Under 18 Years: L.

V. Larsen (Wairarapa) and J. Crosby (Franklin) beat R. Bush (H.V.) and C. Johnson (Waikato), 8, —18, 18.

Mixed Doubles, Under 18 Years: W. N. Evans (H.V.) and Miss Crosby (Franklin) beat B. Clegg (H.V.) and Miss Bush (H.V.), 10, 15.

Boys' Singles, Under 16 Years: B. Evans (H.V.) beat M. Borlace (H.V.), 14, —16, 19.

Girls' Singles, Under 16 Years: L. V. Larsen (Wairarapa) beat S. Galloway (Manawatu), —19, 9, 5.

Boys' Doubles, Under 16 Years: B. Evans and B. Cross (H.V.) beat B. Free (Manawatu) and B. Gillbanks (South Taranaki), 9, 14.

Mixed Doubles, Under 16 Years: B. Gillbanks (South Taranaki) and Miss L. V. Larsen (Wairarapa) beat B. Free and Miss S. Galloway (Manawatu), 12, 13.

Veteran Men's: K. Florence (North Taranaki) beat A. R. Harding (H.V.), 12, 8.

Veteran Women's: Mrs. E. R. Rush (Wanganui) beat Mrs. Oben (H.V.), 11, 10.

Plate: G. Roselli (Wellington) beat B. Clegg (H.V.), 23, 12.

Bracelet: C. Johnson (Waikato) beat A. Dravitzki, 14, 13.

(Taranaki) beat H. B. Crispin (Whangarei), 9—21, 21—11, 21—12, 21—10; G. Frew (Whangarei) beat N. W. Larsen (Auckland), 16—21, 21—11, 21—23, 21—11, 21—12. Semi-finals: Tomlinson beat Smith, 21—19, 21—17, 21—13; Frew beat Parsons, 21—17, 24—22, 16—21, 21—9. Final: Tomlinson beat Frew, 23—21, 16—21, 16—21, 21—18, 21—18.

WOMEN'S SINGLES.—Final: Miss N. Davis (Whangarei) beat Mrs. C. Eagle (Auckland), 21—18, 21—16, 21—15.

MEN'S DOUBLES.—Final: Tomlinson and Gardiner beat Frew and D. Woodman (Whangarei), 21—9, 21—15, 21—18.

WOMEN'S DOUBLES.—Final: Misses Davis and Z. Attwood beat Mrs. Eagle and Miss J. Crosby (Franklin), 21—18, 21—15.

COMBINED DOUBLES.—Final: Frew and Miss Davis beat Tomlinson and Mrs. Eagle, 21—14, 21—15.

GIRLS' SINGLES.—Final: Miss N. Davis beat Miss Z. Attwood, 21—8, 21—19.

BOYS' SINGLES.—Final: M. Green (Whangarei) beat C. Bailey (Bay of Islands), 21—14, 21—16.

MEN'S VETERAN SINGLES.—Final: B. Roberts (Auckland) beat M. Green, Snr. (Whangarei), 21—18, 17—21, 22—20.

HAWERA TEAMS TOURNEY By John B. Phillips

The popularity of the South Taranaki Association's teams tourney, held at Hawera in May, was proved beyond doubt by the large number of entries from all over the North Island. So great were the entries that the rules had to be altered to one single instead of two, to enable all the matches to be completed in the one day.

For the second year running, the Cornwall Club (Auckland) carried off the men's trophy, beating Roskill (Auckland) 7—3 in the final. The women's section was won by a strong Empire (Hutt Valley) team that beat the title-holders, Wanganui, 6—4.

Alan Tomlinson, 1959 North Island champion, headed the strong Cornwall side, along with Gary Smith, Bob Taylor and Ken MacMurray. Highlight of

the tourney was undoubtedly the performance of Hawera top man Norm Parsons, who beat Smith 14, —21, —16, and lost to Tomlinson 20, —10, —13 in the semi-final, which Cornwall won 7—3. In the other semi, Roskill accounted for West End Blue (New Plymouth), also 7—3.

The Roskill team consisted of N. W. Larsen, D. F. Rielly, B. Kennerly and B. L. Roberts. In the final, Larsen and Roberts beat MacMurray in the singles, Kennerly and Larsen beat Tomlinson and MacMurray in a doubles. Incidentally, this defeat was the Cornwall pair's first loss at the tournament.

In the women's event, Empire and Wanganui dominated their section. Wanganui lined up with Misses G. Schneider, C. Gifford-Moore, P. Haywood and Mrs. J. Williams; Empire with Miss J. Brown, Mrs. V. Muirhead, Miss B. Gardner and Mrs. B. Christensen. Empire used Mrs. V. Muirhead in the lower bracket and won the singles 5—3; the doubles were shared and the final score 6—4.

REPRESENTATIVE FIXTURES

Hutt Valley outclassed Wairarapa 30—6 in a representative fixture played in Petone on Sunday, June 21. Both teams were almost at full strength, except for the Hutt Valley ladies' team, which was without its usual captain, Mrs. V. Muirhead. For the visitors, Peter Greenlees played well and almost beat Warren Evans. The Wairarapa junior Miss L. Larsen also played well to beat Mrs. M. Anderson in straight games. It was noticeable that of the 24 players on view, only 5 used pimple-rubber bats. Two Wairarapa players, the junior G. Curry and also Mrs. J. Gregory (who won both singles), used yellow bats which were illegal.

BULLER CHAMPIONSHIPS By Frank O'Gorman

Congratulations, President Ernie Butts and his hard-working team of keen officials on the most representative tournament ever held in the South Island—all eight associations were represented at Westport. Matches commenced on the Saturday evening in two halls and concluded with the finals on the Sunday evening of Queen's Birthday week-end, allowing visitors the

Tournament News

NORTHLAND OPEN

The Northland Open was held at Whangarei on June 6, and, although entries were smaller than usual, the field was of a high quality.

Northland's champion young Maori lass, Neti Davis, who needs no introduction, completely dominated the Northland open championships in Whangarei last month.

She won all 13 games in which she played, and collected the women's singles, women's doubles, combined doubles and girls' singles titles.

Neti had not been playing so well in interclub matches, and it was most pleasing to Northland officials that she managed to "come right".

She effortlessly beat last season's winner, Mrs. C. Eagle (Auckland) in the women's singles final.

Two of her hardest matches of the day were against her doubles partner, Miss Zoe Attwood, in both the women's singles and girls' singles.

Alan Tomlinson beat Garry Frew in an exciting men's final which lasted over an hour, including 17 minutes for the last game, which did not include a great deal of pushing. Frew was chopping much lower and more consistently than he usually does at this stage of the season, and this was, no doubt, due to his hard battles with Noel Larsen and Norm. Parsons in the two previous rounds.

Results:

MEN'S SINGLES.—Quarter-finals: A. R. Tomlinson (Auckland) beat G. P. Gardiner (Whangarei), 21—14, 21—7, 21—12; G. E. Smith (Auckland) beat R. G. Taylor (Auckland), 21—14, 21—15, 14—21, 21—19; N. W. Parsons

Monday to journey back home. Southlanders Ray Mercer and Ronnie Foster (a recent gain from Otago) travelled for 16 hours over the 600-mile route through snow and the like to compete, and ended up meeting in a 21—19 five-set final. Ronnie's trophy was a barometer, and after his efforts through the snow on the outward journey it was quite appropriate. R. Foster reversed the decision of last year's South Island singles final by defeating his conqueror, John Armstrong (Canterbury), 21—15, 21—15, 21—16, in the semi-final, whilst Ray Mercer reversed the result of the previous year's South Island final at Timaru by eliminating New Zealand's No. 3 player, Bryan Foster (Otago), 21—18 in the fourth set. The final was "champagne table tennis" to those who saw last year's dreary hour-long sponge final (being a badge-holder, I was umpire last year), and these two versatile pimpled-rubber players really enthralled the large audience. Down 12—18 in the fifth, Mercer recovered to 20—19, only to mishit a likely point.

Lyndsey Butts, 17-year-old daughter of the Buller president, created the major surprise in the women's singles by eliminating last year's South Island under-18 champion, Jennifer Sara (Nelson), 21—16 in the fifth set in the early rounds. Valerie Braumann (Otago) was really working overtime in the final to defeat this up-and-coming champion in four hard sets. With Miss Sara now in the open ranks, Miss Lyndsey Butts will be a distinct threat to Miss Beverley Dasler (South Canterbury) in South Island under-18 events this season.

The Foster brothers teamed well to win the men's doubles from N. Radford and J. Armstrong, while Jennifer Sara and Lyndsey Butts annexed the women's doubles, and last year's New Zealand finalists, B. Foster and Miss V. Braumann, the mixed.

Burly Don McKenzie (South Canterbury) was eclipsed by his team mate, Mervyn Cloake, in straight sets in the junior semi-finals. Cloake defeated R. Wratt (Nelson) in four sets (yes, four sets), in the final. McKenzie teamed with Bill Taylor (South Canterbury) and Lorraine Butts (sister of Lyndsey), to take the doubles titles. Lyndsey

Butts teamed with her youngest sister, Alison, to win the junior girls' doubles from Lorraine Butts and Miss M. McKay (Marlborough).

A small error in the junior events was the playing of the junior finals over the best of five sets. I spoke to several finalists on their return to Timaru, and they really enjoyed the longer matches.

An entry of close on 70 in the men's singles and 30 in the women's singles bettered the entries for the North Island championships, which were held at Lower Hutt on the same week-end.

From all accounts, these most enjoyable Buller open championships will be a real must for the Queen's Birthday week-end next year, so travel to Westport for a marvellous week-end of table tennis and Buller hospitality, with the possibility of a snowstorm being thrown in for further enjoyment. Congratulations, Buller.

OTAGO INVITATION TOURNEY (Reviewed by Allan Kwok)

The Stanton-Brown and Brightwell-Todd Cups, an invitation tournament for players in Otago, resulted in a win for Brian Foster and Dorothy Chapman respectively.

Foster was never in serious trouble in the final, beating W. Scott 3—1 in a fast attacking game on the part of both players. The sponge ban has not affected Foster's game in any way, with the exception that he rarely bothers with spin services now, a medium which collected him many points in the past. He could have a good chance in upsetting the North Island stronghold on the game since Russ Algie left Dunedin.

W. Scott, the other New Zealand ranked player in Otago, had considerable opposition from former New Zealand champion W. Fogarty, who is much slower now but still retains the brainy widely varied game which could still be copied by more of our present-day players.

K. Dolan, who also gave Scott a tough tussle in the semi-final, catches the eye as a possible member of the provincial team to travel to Auckland this year. The possessor of a steady defence and a strong forehand drive, he appears as the most likely player to improve with experience. The provin-

cial team is weakened considerably by the absence of Ron Foster on transfer to Invercargill, and with the likelihood of Scott and Fogarty not being able to travel, a place could go to Jim Dougal, with possibly Ryan Sonntagg, Trevor Hall and Peter South battling it out for the other position.

As regards the women's team, this will be definitely weaker, as former New Zealand champion June Magorian has not been playing this season. Dorothy Chapman, who beat Pam Crowe in the final of the Brightwell-Todd Cup, in a not very exciting final, has still been playing her usual steady game, and these two, with Val Brauman, who was unable to compete, and Rita Cameron appear most likely at the moment to make the team for the nationals.

The standard of women's play has slipped considerably since the days when Otago was so strong as to be able to field two women's teams in the annual interprovincial championships in 1947. For a point of interest, two members of the No. 1 team reached the semi-final and final of the Otago Championship of last year, which is fairly convincing evidence.

But the most disconcerting point at the moment is the lack of good juniors. There are none who can approach the standard of Albert Kwok and Brian Foster, who were both extending players of N.Z. ranking standard and beating them when still juniors. Another aspect of the game is the poor footwork and slow-moving action of most top-line players. Those who remember Russell Algie and Kevin Dwyer in their prime will know what is meant.

Details of Stanton-Brown Cup results: Quarter-finals: W. Scott beat W. Fogarty 11—21, 21—18, 13—21, 21—15, 21—18; K. Dolan beat P. South 21—16, 21—10, 21—7; J. Dougal beat J. Huddart 21—16, 16—21, 21—16, 21—17; B. Foster beat T. Hall 21—11, 21—18, 21—14. Semi-finals: W. Scott beat K. Dolan 21—10, 21—15, 19—21, 16—21, 21—10; B. Foster beat J. Dougal 21—12, 24—22, 21—10. Final: B. Foster (N.E.V.) beat W. Scott (Y.M.C.A.) 21—12, 21—16, 20—22, 21—14.

Results of Brightwell-Todd Cup, for women: Semi-finals: Miss P. Crowe beat Miss R. Cameron 21—15, 21—9,

21—15; Mrs. D. Chapman beat Mrs. M. Barnes 21—16, 21—14, 21—10. Final: Mrs. D. Chapman (Aotea) beat Miss P. Crowe (Kaikorai) 23—25, 21—17, 10—21, 21—15, 21—17.

SOUTHLAND v. OTAGO

Played recently in Dunedin, the fixture between Southland and Otago table tennis teams, was noteworthy in that the Southland men's team was the strongest it has ever produced. If they had a fourth player of higher standard they may have come close to defeating Otago, who came out winners by eight matches to four matches.

The outstanding player was undoubtedly Ron Foster, who recently transferred from Dunedin to Invercargill, and his performance in defeating his brother Brian and Bill Scott was full of merit. He won both in three sets, with a very close tussle against Bill Scott, 24—22, in the third game. Brian Foster, for Otago, in his match with Ray Mercer was in excellent attacking form and came out winner in three sets. Also in the top half Ray Mercer was too strong for Bill Scott, whom he defeated in straight sets.

In the bottom half Kevin Dolan and Bill Fogarty, for Otago, were too strong for both John Catto and John Cornish, both going through without defeat, although Catto offered stern opposition without managing to win a match.

In the women's section, Otago, fielding its strongest available team, completely outclassed Southland. All four players, Pam Crowe, Dorothy Chapman, Val Brauman and Rita Cameron, winning all their matches.

Of interest to readers: Recently Ron Foster and Ray Mercer travelled from Invercargill to Mosgiel and return on a week night to participate in an open tournament—a distance of 260 miles.

—Gordon Homer

* * *

Silent Table Tennis Players

It has been said that the introduction of sponge brought an era of silent table tennis. Would also appear that the players have been affected, as there just hasn't been any letters to the editor. Have heard numerous verbal moans, but as yet am unable to get anyone to sign a letter. Any offers?

Over the past few years the N.E.C. have made every endeavour to gain finance for overseas tours. This year association delegates rejected N.E.C. proposals and the outcome was a successful resolution to organise a national raffle in 1960. While it is admitted that this system has proved successful in the past, the problems of distribution and return are very real during a busy season.

The N.E.C. proposal for a levy on players was, I believe, rejected because delegates did not think they could reasonably ask for money without the possibility of something in return. Let's look at a new proposal then.

Consider this magazine as a source of income. A conservative estimate of table tennis players in New Zealand is 16,000 individuals, of whom 8,000 play regular interclub matches. If the association made a stipulation that each interclub player pay the association 3/- for the four magazines and then remitted 1/- for each interclub player to the N.Z.T.T.A. the handsome amount of £400 would be able to be set aside for overseas tours each season. Surely the players are "getting something in return" for their donation (i.e., this magazine). Of course, if the complete 16,000 could be relied upon to purchase the magazine then the fund would gain £800 per annum, and I may say associations, on the present wholesale cost of the magazines, would still make a profit, although it is agreed that the higher cost of printing may entail a slight revision of prices.

I believe this scheme could succeed providing associations co-operate. After all, 3/- per individual per table tennis season is not a hardship. This scheme would benefit New Zealand in world events, so let's have each association examine the proposal and, most of all, send me your views. Let's discuss the possible snags in print for every reader of this magazine to consider.

Our leading players have proved they can compete favourably against overseas stars who have toured New Zealand. A tour by our players is just reward for these players. Let's give our numerous juniors who are showing

such great promise something to play for. Let's keep them interested in table tennis as a major sport by the introduction of regular tours overseas. This entails finance and plenty of work by all concerned, but the answer lies with the associations themselves.

Some associations are well aware of the work involved and have been fortunate to elect a committee able to cope with administration problems. Unfortunately a minority of our associations—who, incidentally, are often severe critics at the annual general meeting—do not appear to be so well placed. One recalls the old major versus minor episodes at the annual general meeting, but, nevertheless, it is the associations which were most criticised that have really supported the circulation of this magazine.

Again it is emphasised that this is a democratic game, and local administrators probably know local conditions better than the outsider. Nevertheless, sheer endeavour can prosper an association just as much as lack of action can be the beginning of the end for an association. Our chances of an overseas tour depend on *all* associations. It is not pleasing to record that one South Island association returned its quota of magazines without apparently letting them out for sale. It simply advised that it did not want them.

Does this show the spirit of table tennis in New Zealand? For the sake of our present top players and also promising juniors let's hope not.

* * *

Headaches for Hutt Valley Selector

Sole selector Bob Campbell has an unenviable job. Who will be his best four players? Only certainty in the men's team is Albert Roberts. Then there must be about ten players who could get the other three positions—W. N. Evans, B. R. Sim, T. A. Walsh, A. Kemp, K. Barnes, L. McPhee, C. A. Anderson, D. R. Marple, M. Stevens and K. L. Pointon are all available, plus three other improving juniors, M. Mabbett, P. McLaughlan and B. Clegg.

Valley Players in Form

Hutt Valley's players were in good form "on their own ground" at the North Island Championships. The women players, Joan Brown, Val Muirhead and Mary Anderson all played good table tennis. Ted Walsh and Len McPhee surprised seeded players in the singles, while Warren Evans and Mike Mabbett ousted the top seeded men's doubles pair.

Personality

Alan Tomlinson is a super enthusiast who is available for tournaments, coaching schools, development tours—anything, in fact, that involves table tennis. Of all the players who put something back into the game, surely Alan would be the most co-operative. He is also interested in junior play, and would make an outstanding selector if ever a national junior team was required.

Controversial Seedings

Many enthusiasts disagreed with the seedings for some of the North Island championship events. This, of course, is usual, but for a major N.Z. tournament seeding is of the utmost importance, and administrators need as much information on players as possible. The N.E.C. have access to these records, and it would appear more beneficial to all concerned if the ranking and seeding subcommittee decide the seedings for Island championships as well as national.

Stratford Juniors Impress

Joy Bamford and Barry Gillbanks took the eye at the Hawera Teams Tourney. They also continued to impress at the North Island events, and only need coaching in the basic push strokes to be strong contenders for junior honours. Good coaching and hard work are wanted here.

Jottings

John Crossley won three titles at Hawera in the South Taranaki open. Believe the Stratford junior Joy Bamford won the women's singles, but as no review has been sent from Hawera we cannot give details.

A special pre-North Island tourna-

ment for Wellington and Hutt Valley players attracted such a huge entry that a further session was necessary to find the winners. Hutt Valley's top players, Albert Roberts and Joan Brown, won the singles events and also shared the doubles events. Roberts beat Roselli and Brown beat Muirhead in the singles. Roberts and Percy beat Evans and Mabbett in the men's and Brown and Muirhead beat Anderson and White in the women's.

Gordon Homer will be very popular as the new South Island selector. Wonder if he will be given the amount of tournament details, plus representative results in detail, as T. S. Williams, who, apart from being North Island selector, is also a member of the N.E.C. subcommittee for ranking and seeding.

Form Over One Week

What makes table tennis worth playing? Surely the glorious uncertainty attached to this nerve-racking sport! N.Z. junior champion Warren Evans, after playing poorly in an interclub game, was rather despondent over his form. Three days later, at the Junior Coaching School, Warren defeated senior players, including Dunn and Roselli. Four days later Warren lost again in interclub play.

Time Limit de Luxe

Merv Dymond, South Taranaki stalwart, although not so active on the playing side these days, remains a table tennis enthusiast. Discussing games in which we had both chiselled around for the odd point, Merv had the brilliant idea of a special "Chisellers' Tourney". We humorously discussed the length of time it would take and the practice the umpires would get.

North Island Entries

The entry for the North Island Championships was disappointing. Can't understand why some players considered they were held too early. The dates were approved in December, 1958, and it was up to players to practise accordingly if they wanted success. The programme was designed to enable players from all centres to compete, with the minimum of time off from business. Bad show, players!

WOMEN'S FAIRY

Long, long ago, sages foretold that ping-pong would be the next major dining-table sport to eating. These wise men and women banded together, scratched up a few basic rules and left it at that.

One day the spirit of "Win at all costs" came along and decided to experiment by altering the bat so that he would have an advantage over his opponent. Was this gentleman guilty of super gamesmanship? In those days the answer was never given, but the shrewd types also decided to experiment until a more lethal bat was found. Such is progress that at length a bat considered to be the maximum in efficiency was adopted and generally became part and parcel of standard table tennis equipment—the name ping-pong having been superseded.

While all this was going on, the scratched-up basic rules were still left as the official rules of table tennis. Then came a period when the political administrators of various countries thought they should rule the world, but rival political administrators from other lands disagreed, and so they decided to fight it out. When it was all over the winning (?) leaders decided that everything

would continue as before hostilities, and so out came the bats and table tennis recommenced.

Within a few years everything of importance in table tennis was held and dominated by the players using the bat with the considered maximum in efficiency. However, during these years the world population was increasing, and in the East more countries were getting facilities to play table tennis. But the newcomers had their share of "Win at all costs", and in 1952, from the Land of the Rising Sun, came a strange bat which was to revolutionise a sport which had been static for too many years.

The pundits gaped at the sight of their beloved weapon wilting before the new lethal instrument of destruction. Then came the excuses—knowing smiles, experts' opinions of "Only a fluke, you know," etc., "Never happen again, of course." Those crafty Eastern types smiled benignly and promptly returned to their haven for concentrated experiments and practice.

Doing exactly as the early European pioneers had done, the gentlemen from the East at last found a covering which they considered, if properly used, could produce the maximum in efficiency. In

VIEW TALE

1954 a determined onslaught from the Land of the Rising Sun brought them every worthwhile trophy in the World Championships.

The pundits repeated their previous gaping, the experts reiterated their views and again the crafty Eastern types acknowledged that they had still plenty to learn from both pundits and experts, packed their bags and trophies, then trekked back to their native soil. Players were then given the experts' opinion on how to defeat the new weapon, and even the "Baron of the Bat" voiced his opinion that the limitations were so great that he couldn't see why the "new weapon" was to be feared.

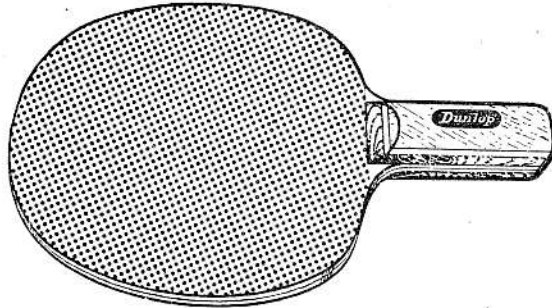
Our friend the "Baron" proceeded to inform his readers how to defeat the "new weapon".

But in subsequent years the gentlemen from the East repeated their success, and the pundits were distinctly unhappy. So unhappy, in fact, that a fierce pundit lobbying went on in the Land of the Lion, until a decision to outlaw sponge on the home front was reached. Not content with just the home front, pundit lobbyists reached for quill and frantically penned words

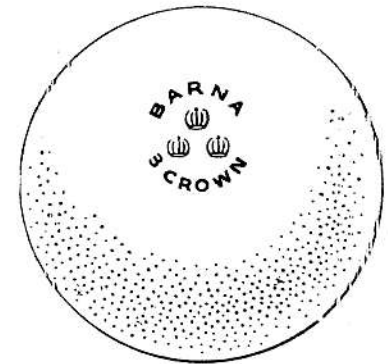
of supposed wisdom on why the Land of the Lion was correct. As always, the arguments on why the ban would be good for the game were the main theme and it became an international issue. Every country became involved, and eventually, being a democratic game, the administrators of each country were asked to vote at the 1959 International Congress.

Then the decision from the modern day sages was reached and formally announced—a virtual compromise between East and West with the odds slightly in favour of the Western pundits. By all rights, being a fairy story, everything should turn out "happily ever after", but away back in the Land of the Lions the pundits hung on to their last strand of power by refusing their top world hope permission to use the "new weapon" in an international contest.

One moment, though; this story has a happy ending, for, guess what! Cinderella (Ann Haydon, who must now become legendary) decided that, rather than pander to the pundits and play with "outdated weapons", she would rather not play at all!



THE PERFECT PAIR
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Around The Associations

NORTHLAND

Watch out, women table tennis players! Northland has another young star following in the footsteps of Neti Davis. She is 13-year-old Norma Attwood, of Ruatangata, who this season has one of the best records in the Whangarei open grade interclub competition. Playing for the Ruatangata team, which consists of four sisters—Noreen, Zoe, Pam and Norma Attwood—the youngster has notched some remarkable wins.

She is practically certain to be a member of the Northland women's team in the national teams event for the Herbert G. Teagle Shield in Auckland this season. The Northland side will probably be one of the youngest which has ever played in the event, with Norma (13), Neti (16) and Zoe Attwood (16) the three leading contenders for places at this stage. Norma has yet to meet Neti in a competition match this season. In the Northland open championships Norma beat Miss J. Crosby (Franklin) in the women's singles before being outstayed by Mrs. C. Eagle (Auckland). She was eliminated by her big sister, Zoe, who is fully aware of all the tricks of her unorthodox style, in the girls' singles.

A bumper entry of Northland players in this year's national championships at Auckland is forecast because of the nearness of the venue. Only a few Northlanders have regularly taken part in the national events since 1950, but many more will take their places in the field at Auckland. For the first time the Northland Association expects to field first-string selected teams. In the past it has just been a matter of who could go and who could afford to go.

One of the heaviest "choppers" of a table tennis ball in New Zealand, Henry Crispin (he was ranked in 1955 after reaching the semi-finals at Napier), will be seen at the national championships again this year. Playing in the Whangarei interclub competition this season, he has already built up a fine record with only one loss against his name. This was to the former Otago player and well-known former All Black half-back Lindsay Townsend.

Henry has not quite found his best form, but is defending just as well as ever with terrifically heavy chop (as Hawera's Norm Parsons found to his dismay in the first set of a quarter-final match in the Northland championships).

But Henry's desire to club winners often leads to his downfall, as he just is not consistent enough with his attacking strokes (as Norm found to his delight later in the above-mentioned match).

But when Henry "digs his toes in" and refuses to be hustled into hitting he is a mighty tough customer.

AUCKLAND

With the Auckland interclub season more than half completed, the biggest sensations have been the two defeats of Bob Jackson, previously undefeated since 1954.

Jackson's first reverse came at the hands of Alan Tomlinson, who, leading early in each game, hung on to win 21—16, 21—19. Surprising as this was, however, it was as nothing to the 21—15, 21—14 win scored over Jackson by Len Rau, a Franklin representative, who also plays for Wembley Blue. Rau seldom had recourse to his excellent backhand flick, as his tight defence held Jackson's uncertain attack with remarkable ease.

At the end of the first round Cornwall leads with 14 points, Crusaders I and Wembley Blue are next with 10, and then come Roskill 8, Crusaders II, University and Wembley Red all with 4 points, and Y.M.C.A. 2.

Crusaders, last year's champions, started off badly with a loss to Wembley Blue on a night when Bob Jackson was unavailable. Cornwall (Alan Tomlinson, Garry Smith, Bob Taylor and Malcolm Lang) survived a hair-raising tussle with Roskill in the third round, after being down 3—6 at one stage. The two top teams were expected to provide a close contest when they met, but with Jackson out of form, Peter Thompson, George Wilkinson and Fred Wong could do nothing to retrieve the position, and Cornwall had an easy 10—2 win.

A preliminary representative trial has been held, and at this stage the bottom three places in the men's team (five players) are fairly open. Malcolm Lang's return has been very successful, and Noel Larsen has had some good wins. Another player who must come into consideration is Bill McClane, a player who has seesawed between the top two grades for some years. McClane lost only one match in the first round of interclub, and with Lang and Larsen is threatening the bottom three players in last year's team.

As the top women players are spread over several open grades it is difficult to assess their form, but with Miss Barbara Packwood and Mrs. Corallie Eagle available again, Auckland should field a strong team.

WAIKATO

Most important events of the 1959 Waikato table tennis season to date have been the New Zealand Girls' Coaching School at Ohaupo and the representative engagements with North Taranaki and Bay of Plenty.

The coaching school was the first national event ever entrusted to the Waikato Association, which is confident that the playing conditions and general organisation of the school left no room for complaint from the New Zealand administrators.

Waikato swamped North Taranaki, 36—4 in the senior match, 21—7 in a B grade fixture, but rather surprisingly went down 22—18 in the junior section. Waikato played two leading juniors, J. Dunn and Miss C. Johnson, in its senior team; however, full credit must go to the North Taranaki youngsters for a fine performance, especially by the three girls, Misses K. Florence, L. Yeates and A. Dravitski, who each won three of their four singles games.

The Waikato senior team scored another comfortable 34—14 win at Tauranga over Bay of Plenty. There were nevertheless rays of hope in the Bay team's performance. Of the four-man and four-woman team, six were juniors, and of these Margaret Ross was outstanding. Tall, graceful and hard-hitting, the 15-year-old Bay girl is fast improving her footwork, and in disposing of all the Waikato women,

including a 21—12, 21—13 win over North Island junior champion Catherine Johnson, she showed form that bodes ill for all New Zealand women in the coming tournaments. Her brother Colin also has improved since last winter, and he notched three singles wins, including an exciting three-set battle with sweat-pouring J. Houghton, the final margin being 23—21 in the third game. In his fourth singles the youngster took the first game from G. Shewan and was then beaten rather easily in the remaining games by the determined Waikato man.

The Waikato team for the first two matches was:

Men: G. Shewan, I. Houghton, J. Dunn, T. Pickering.

Women: Miss A. Emery, Mrs. L. Rolley, Miss C. Johnson, Miss M. Straka.

R. Wells, formerly a regular member of the Waikato team, is away in Australia, and his Matamata team mate, W. Corbett, is short of play at present but may be pressing for inclusion in future matches.

The brilliant junior Ian Crookenden, who is just as much at home on a tennis court, is studying for his School Certificate and not devoting himself fully to table tennis this winter. If available, he would be a certainty for the Waikato team. In his only interclub appearance to date he defeated both Shewan and Onion in straight games, and further evidence of his remarkable ability was given when he accounted for all his adversaries in the Waikato-North Taranaki junior matches.

Tweneie Evans did not appear in either series of Waikato trial games, and as yet her table tennis for the season has been limited to two sub-association matches for Matamata against Cambridge and South Waikato. In the latter event she was upset by Miss M. Straka. If she enters it is certain that Miss Evans will again be favourite for the Waikato residential women's championship, a title she has won on many occasions.

The first major tournament close to home will be the Thames Valley Open on July 4. Special interest will centre on the junior events, where the com-

petitors will include a large number of players with good prospects in the New Zealand Championships in September. Players such as W. Evans, C. Ross, I. Crookenden, J. Dunn, P. Salmon, Misses J. Crosby, M. Ross, J. Bridson and C. Johnson.

This tournament will be followed by the Franklin Open on July 18, then on August 1 the Waikato Open Championship, which is probably the country's biggest one-day tournament.

The first Waikato residential event was staged at Ohaupo on June 20, this being the Waikato B grade championship. The winners were:

Men's Singles: J. Riordan (Te Awamutu).

Women's Singles: Mrs. J. Radford (Hamilton).

Women's Doubles: Miss L. Main (Cambridge) and Miss S. Holmes (Te Awamutu).

Mixed Doubles: Riordan and Miss M. Bridson (Te Awamutu).

—Ivan Houghton

WANGANUI

The strength of rep. table tennis has been increased considerably with the return of Eric Ulrich after a season's break. Eric, who has also played for Wellington, had a spell in Australia before returning to Wanganui, where he is sports editor for the "Chronicle". As well as playing, he is "A" grade selector. In 1957 Ulrich won the Wanganui Open from a strong field, and was the leading player until having a break.

Last season's top player, N. H. Tizard, is expected to return from overseas in the near future. The experience gained during his trip, which included watching the World Championships in Germany, should improve his play.

Of last year's rep. players youthful R. Ditchfield is in form and won a handicap tourney from a strong field. The other members of the squad are R. Crawford, C. Hartnett, A. Langmead, R. Langmead, W. Webber and R. Baron (a defensive player returning after a lengthy spell). Baron is playing for the Gonville Club.

Compared with other centres, Wanganui is quite well off for women players, the Wanganui club team finishing runner-up at the Hawera tourney. Top player, Miss M. Broadbent, reached the

semi-final of the North Island singles, and is mainly a defensive player who performs well against the better players. From the Wanganui Club a quartette comprising Misses G. Schneider, C. Gifford-Moore, P. Haywood and Mrs. J. Williams will all be strong contenders for the women's rep. team. Although inconsistent at present, the two last-mentioned players are both unique among local women players—they really hit the ball.

Mrs. K. Langmead, who is in good form for Durie Hill, and Mrs. E. Wilkinson and Mrs. B. Morrison (St. Laurence) complete the squad. For interclub, Wanganui Club (Ulrich, Crawford and Ditchfield) are favourites, but Durie Hill (Webber and the Langmeads—R. and A.) could be dangerous. Both clubs, along with St. Laurence, are involved in "B" grade, which is wide open.

—John B. Phillips

HUTT VALLEY

A feature of the Hutt Valley Association's A grade interclub matches to date this season has been the dominance of the two Empire Club teams. Empire A, with an unbeaten record, leads Empire B by four points, which in turn is four points clear of all other opposition. In the A team Joan Brown, the present North Island champion, has an outstanding record against the men in the grade, having lost only one single, while Allan Kemp must have strengthened his claims for inclusion in the representative side by compiling a particularly good record. Hutt Valley representative Len McPhee and former Wellington representative Brian Sim have been the mainstays of the Empire No. 2 team.

Undoubtedly the unluckiest team in the competition has been Wainui, which in the last four encounters has halved the matches but in each case has lost on sets. Albert Roberts, the only unbeaten player in the grade, has received solid support from team-mate Keith Barnes, but wins have proved most elusive for the bottom-half members of the team. The team most likely to upset the leaders in the second round are Waterloo, who have recently acquired the services again of Dave Marple.

—C. Gasson

WELLINGTON

Interclub competitions in Wellington could not start until June 2, as the Show Buildings were required for the Industrial Fair. It is indeed unfortunate that table tennis cannot obtain security of tenure.

This ill wind for Wellington blew some good to the Hutt Valley Association, as it enabled the Wellington Association to lend their tables to the Hutt Association, who were awaiting delivery of their new tables.

There have been a number of changes in A grade personnel after a period in which teams have changed little, and with the increase in teams from six to eight the composition of the A grade has been considerably changed. Interest in results has thereby been intensified, and there have already been a number of entertaining matches played.

Among the more noticeable changes are R. Moffat, from Otago, who has replaced John Sigley in the Trojans team, Arnold Percy from the Hutt Valley, who has replaced John Roach, Norm Gwynne, from Wales, in place of Harold Chapman, and John Torrode, from the Channel Islands, in place of Tony Darroch.

Except for Tony Darroch, who is playing for the Technical B team, owing to restricted opportunities for practice, the players who have been replaced have retired either permanently or temporarily, but their replacements are producing attractive table tennis.

On the women's side, Mrs. Val Darroch and Miss Angela Williamson are on the side lines, but a number of other girls have shown improved form and have won promotion to a higher grade of interclub. Amongst these are Misses Val White and Colleen Ryan, who join Mrs. Joyce Harris (nee Bratton), Mrs. Pam Dean and Mrs. Thyra McGregor in the A reserve grade. As the A reserve grade consists of the second group of eight teams in a competition of 327 teams altogether, these girls are to be complimented on the good results they have so far produced.

SOUTH CANTERBURY

Features of the season to date have been the remarkable change-over from sandpaper bat to pimped rubber of

veteran grandfather enthusiast 18-stone Sid Bremford, the consistent play of the South Island under-16 champion, young Timmy Underdown, and the success of our junior boys in the Buller championships (see Buller notes).

Like some Auckland players who write good articles when they are not getting used to their new-surface bats, Sid Bremford has found that the new sponge ban eliminates bats with cork or sandpaper coverings. "Brem" has played with the same sandpaper-surfaced bat for 36 years (1 repeat, "thirty-six years"), and the manner in which he has become accustomed to his new pimped bat shows that he could have changed over some few years ago. He won the St. Patrick's Club's open invitation tournament from a strong field early in June, and could be a force to be reckoned with in the forthcoming quadrangular tournament in Timaru on July 11. It's 22 years since he first represented South Canterbury, along with Frank O'Gorman.

Young Tim Underdown (15 in early July) represented South Canterbury seniors in a recent representative match against Mid Canterbury, and acquitted himself very well. Winner of the South Island under-16 title last year and runner-up to Hutt Valley's Warren Evans in the under-18 final, Tim should be a firm favourite to retain his title at Blenheim in July and should he journey to Auckland for the national championships this year he may repeat the earlier South Canterbury successes of Peter Sullivan (1948) and Keith Cullen (1949) in the under-16 events.

Peter Wood, South Canterbury under-16 and under-18 champion last year, is progressing well after his stay at the National Coaching School at Palmerston North. However, a recent football injury with seven stitches in the head plus a clot of blood for good measure, has restricted his table tennis for the last few weeks. Nevertheless, he will be close to a place in the South Canterbury senior team this year.

Don McKenzie has not got over his defeat by team-mate Mervyn Cloake in the Buller championships. However, he may make amends.

Cam McFarlane, youthful son of former Wellington representative W. T.

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McFarlane. (N.Z. mixed doubles champion in 1936 and 1939), is playing particularly well in his first year as a senior, and may make the South Canterbury team for Auckland.

Peter England is concentrating on his No. 8 position in senior football, and may make the combined team to play the Lions at Timaru on July 8. [Ed.'s note: He did.] Whether or not his casual appearances at interclub competitions may cause the selector (Albert Young) to nod in his direction is another matter. Keith Green is in the same position.

Mrs. June Brown, Mrs. Joe Bennett Norma Campbell and Mrs. Harry Cloake all competed in the Buller championships, but found the going too hard, although they reached the semi-finals in the women's doubles. Beverley Dasler, in her last year as a junior, has been hampered by a leg burn sustained at the Hamilton Coaching School, but should make the South Canterbury team once again.

With Albert Young retiring from the presidency, Tom Rae (Fire Station) has taken over as president, and will be out to "fire" the hopes of South Island table tennis by a highly successful running of the quadrangular tournament between Southland, Otago, South Canterbury and Canterbury, at Timaru on Saturday, July 11. Southland, headed by Ray Mercer and Ronnie Foster, ably assisted by John Catto, may make Otago (men's holders) work, while Canterbury (present New Zealand women's team champions) should retain the women's team event in the possible absence of Mrs. June Magorian (Otago), who may not be playing this season.

South Canterbury congratulates Arnold Percy on a fine first issue.

—Frank O'Gorman

OTAGO

The player to beat this year in Otago is the New Zealand representative Brian Foster. Already with the season still young he has won four open tournaments.

Taieri Sub-association is to be congratulated on the running of its open

tournament at Mosgiel. This always proves to be a popular tournament, but the interest shown this year in attracting entries from as far south as Invercargill and Balclutha shows that some thought will have to be put into making this an all-day Saturday tournament instead of the Monday night only as previously.

The keenness shown by Ron Foster and Ray Mercer in travelling from Invercargill and returning the same night augurs well for the game in the south.

For the records, Ron Foster defeated Kevin Dolan in one semi-final while Brian Foster beat Ray Mercer in the other. In an all-Foster final Brian showed his class to beat Ron in straight sets.

Sunday night handicap tournaments run by the Kaikorai Club have proved very popular events in Otago table tennis this year. With an average attendance of about forty enthusiasts every fortnight some excellent games and match practice are to be had. Two attractive prizes are put up for competition each night, and with popular Allan Crowe in charge of organisation these nights have proved a distinct success.

A recent shock defeat in an interclub match was the defeat of W. Scott by R. Sonntag and T. Hall in straight sets. Ryan Sonntag's effort in particular was a very good one, as at one stage he was down 5—15 in the second, then showed remarkable fighting spirit to pull the game out of the fire.

* * *

N.E.C. DECISIONS

Inter-Island Selectors

North: T. S. Williams.

South: G. Homer.

Teams (Inter-Island)

To comprise four players.

Yellow or Light-coloured Bats

The new ruling on bats is that they must be dark-coloured. Officials are advised that yellow covering is not considered dark.

ARE YOUR ASSOCIATION NOTES HERE?

N.Z.T.T.A. Secretary—K. C. WILKINSON, Says—

I welcome this opportunity of having space in this magazine to give you jottings from the national headquarters.

So let's start by saying that entries for the Inter-association Teams Championships, to be held at Auckland on August 31 and September 1, close with me on Thursday, July 16. Team entries require to be sponsored by the association, which is also responsible for the payment of the entry fee of £2 per team. Although ample notice is given to associations inviting entries, it is most disappointing to me to find that some associations have failed to note the closing date and then seek (unsuccessfully, I must add) to make a late entry. In such cases it is the players who suffer, and this magazine, therefore, gives me the opportunity to say to the players that they can help by exhorting their association secretary to make the entry in sufficient time prior to the closing date.

Americans are noted for their colourful approach to life in general, and the U.S. Table Tennis Association is no different, as shown in the instructions contained in the official entry form for the national championships. Under the heading of "Rules" it is stated: "... Players may be defaulted for unbecoming conduct, gambling or any other reason detrimental to the game. Any player will be defaulted five minutes after his or her match has been called."

Dress is strictly enforced, and the

only acceptable dress is solid navy blue shirt, medium grey shorts, skirts or slacks, white socks and white rubber-soled shoes. Players must wear identification numbers furnished by the tournament championships unless the backs of their shirts bear the name and city of player.

Umpires are called "referees", and any person offering to referee 10 matches will receive a special remembrance of the annual open championships.

Players may enter no more than four events, which is apparently the solution of the control of junior entrants. Veterans are doubly catered for with Senior singles (40 years and over) and Esquire singles (50 years and over). Trophies are awarded to finalists in all events, semi-finalists in men's and women's singles, quarter-finalists in men's singles. A party is held on the final night, commencing at 10 p.m., and, while refreshments are served free of charge to all players, there is an admission charge to non-players.

The tables are donated by a firm specialising in the manufacture, Olympia Super select 3-star balls are donated by Sol Schiff, and official nets are donated by Jimmy McClure Table Tennis Company. They have a tournament supervisor, tournament chairman and chief referee.

K. C. WILKINSON,
Hon. Secretary, N.Z.T.T.A.

NORTH ISLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS BRICKBATS and BOUQUETS

Without doubt, the H.V.T.T.A. provided good facilities, and in general held a successful tourney. Nevertheless, many players considered that some improvements could have been made, and personally I feel that we shall never be a major spectator sport until organisers learn better methods of presentation.

The blackboard used for indicating games was useless from over five yards—rapping on the official table with any handy implement before calling a let for an announcement is surely stone-age presentation. The tables situated in the

two key positions were not the best available, and also important games with spectator appeal were played in various odd corners away from the main body of spectators (many of whom paid for the privilege of witnessing the best available games). More matches should have taken place on the Saturday, and this would have enabled the Monday to be almost free for finals and semi-finals.

Possibly the major brickbat was the lack of organisation for the finals. Spectators were faced with two tables—

which should they view? Where would they play the finals? After all, they pay for admission and should be able to occupy a seat to witness what was supposed to be, and was, the climax of the tourney.

As stated previously, however, the tournament was a success generally and bouquets must go to the H.V.T.T.A. for

the work they did. The prizes appeared excellent, the cafeteria service good (but why 1/- on finals day?), the dressing-room facilities more than adequate. Umpiring (including linesmen) for the finals was of a high order. All in all, the whole show was worth witnessing.

ARNOLD PERCY

UMPIRES CORNER

By Ray Giles

In the previous issue Mr. Gary Frew drew attention to a number of unsatisfactory features of our organised table tennis which cause much concern. Among the bad features brought to notice by Mr. Frew was what he described as deliberate instances of illegal serving in tournaments and representative matches.

Mr. Frew did not pinpoint the particular breaches of the service rule about which he expressed concern. But if the position is as he described, then obviously it is serious. It becomes much more serious, however, if deliberate breaches of the service rule are permitted to go unchecked by qualified umpires.

It is not proposed in this column to attempt to deny or confirm that this state of affairs prevails, nor does space in this issue permit me to suggest what the remedies might be—and several will be obvious to most readers. One must, however, agree wholeheartedly with Mr. Frew that any attempts to score points by illegal methods must be squashed. The responsibility for this rests squarely on the shoulders of the umpires, irrespective of whether or not they are badge-holders under the Provisional Umpires Scheme.

The service rule is clear enough, and it is the duty of all players and umpires to make themselves conversant with what is required. It would seem to be a most appropriate time to quote the rule here and now.

A Good Service

The service shall begin by the server projecting the ball by hand only, without imparting of spin, up into the air.

The ball shall then be struck so that it touches first the server's court and then, passing directly over or around the net, touch the striker-out's court.

The free hand, while in contact with the ball in service, shall be open with the fingers together, thumb free, and the ball resting on the palm without being cupped or pinched in any way by the fingers.

At the moment of the impact of the racquet on the ball in service, the latter shall be behind the end line of the server's court and between an imaginary continuation of the side lines.

* * *

Revolutionary

Many players would like to see the "fluke" element in table tennis reduced to a minimum. What say that as soon as a ball touches the net *during play* a let be called? Could we go further and lessen both players' annoyance and spectators' dislike at seeing games which, in fact, hinge on spin service, by introducing a law which will make it impossible for the server to win a point from service? If so, what happens on edges? We wonder.

* * *

Play a Let

How often have you heard umpires (some badge-holders) say "Play a let"? Is it possible to do just that? Surely the correct call is "Let, please"?

* * *

Standardisation

Sorry you were misinformed last issue; if you do not use sponge, then those pimples must be on the playing surface. Pimple rubber can only be reversed if over sponge.

SUPPORT YOUR ADVERTISERS

WHAT'S ON AND WHERE

Open Tournaments

July 4: Thames Valley, at Thames.
 July 11: Bush, at Pahiatua.
 July 15 and 22: Hutt Valley, at Lower Hutt.
 July 18: Nelson, at Nelson.
 July 18: Wanganui, at Wanganui.
 July 18: Franklin, at Pukekohe.
 July 24 and 25: SOUTH ISLAND, at BLENHEIM.
 July 25: North Taranaki, at New Plymouth.
 August 1: Waikato, at Hamilton.
 August 7: Canterbury JUNIORS, at Christchurch.
 August 8: West Coast, at Greymouth.
 August 8: North Shore, at Takapuna.
 August 14 and 15: Auckland, at Auckland.
 August 14 and 15: Marlborough, at Blenheim.
 August 15: Rotorua, at Rotorua.
 August 15: South Canterbury, at Timaru.
 August 15, 21 and 22: Otago, at Dunedin.
 August 21 to 23: Canterbury SENIORS, at Christchurch.
 August 22: Southland, at Invercargill.
 August 22: Wairarapa, at Masterton.
 September 2 to 4: N.Z. CHAMPIONSHIPS, AT AUCKLAND.
 September 12: Bay of Plenty, at Tauranga.

Representative Matches

July 11: Manawatu v. Wanganui (Sweetman Shield).
 July 11: Waikato v. Thames Valley (Sutton Shield).
 August 8: Waikato v. Rotorua (Sutton Shield).
 September 19: Waikato v. Franklin (Sutton Shield).

Closed Championships

July 6 and 7: South Canterbury, at Timaru.
 July 11: Northland, at Whangarei.
 July 12 and 14: Wairarapa, at Masterton.
 September 7 to 9: North Shore, at Takapuna.

Teams Tournament

July 11: Juniors, at Hawera (Calder Cup).
 July 11: Quadrangular, at Timaru (Otago, Southland, South Canterbury and Canterbury).
 August 15: Club teams, at New Plymouth.
 August 29: Inter-island, at Auckland.
 August 31, September 1: Inter-association, at Auckland.

YOUR CONTRIBUTORS

John Stewart: Present member of N.E.C. Also plays for Trojan Club in Wellington. Represented N.Z. in Swaythling Cup.

Laurie Wilson: Present member of N.E.C. Former N.Z. representative who captained Wellington and North Island.

Frank O'Gorman: N.Z.T.T.A. vice-president. Has represented South Canterbury and South Island.

Ken Wilkinson: Hon. secretary of N.Z.T.T.A.

John B. Phillips: Journalist for a Wanganui newspaper.

Allan Kwok: Former Otago representative.

Gordon Homer: Present South Island selector.

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Not Mentioned

Are your association notes conspicuous by their absence? If so, why not appoint a publicity officer and take advantage of this magazine as a source for all table tennis news.

Southland Gain

Ron Foster, the Otago and South Island representative, is now working in Invercargill. Southland have now Mercer, Catto and Foster, a formidable trio in any company.

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