



Take a note of these Dates!

Sat-Sun	July 26-27	Auckland Open
Sat-Sun	July 26-27	Canterbury Open
Sat-Sun	July 26-27	Manawatu Open
Sun	Aug 3	North Taranaki Open (Hawera)
Sun - Sat	Aug 3 - 9	NZ Senior Championships (Timaru)
Sat-Sun	Aug 23-24	Wellington Open
Sun	Aug 24	Counties Manukau Junior Open
Sun	Aug 24	Auckland Veteran Open
Sat-Sun	Sep 6-7	North Harbour Open
Sat-Sun	Sep 13-14	Nelson Open
Sun	Sep 21	Waitemata Junior Open
Sat-Sun	Sep 27 - 28	Secondary Schools teams finals (Timaru)
Mon - Fri	Sep 29 - Oct 3	NZ Junior Championships (Timaru)
	Sep (late)	Board Meeting
	October	Next issue TABLE TENNIS INFO

TABLE TENNIS INFO

JULY 1997



Issue: 4



Table Tennis loses its Statesman..

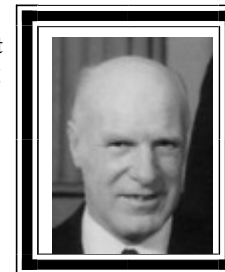
Any player or official whose interest in table tennis goes back longer than ten years will be familiar with the name of Ken Wilkinson. He served as NZTTA Secretary for more than 36 years; was the first paid Executive Director, retiring at the 1985 Annual Meeting (to be replaced by Merv Allardyce) and remained active in various International Table Tennis and Oceania TTF positions until 1993. Even after that his interest in the sport showed no sign of waning until his final brief illness overtook him.

was constantly thwarting his efforts to play good shots, so he decided his real strength lay in administration.

He became Wellington's first post-war Secretary and in 1949 served as Secretary for both Wellington Association and the New Zealand Association. It was the beginning of his 36 year term in the latter position, first as Honorary Secretary, then paid Secretary, and finally as salaried Executive Officer.

It was in 1949 that he married Phyllis.

Ken often spoke fondly of the days when overseas touring teams paraded through New Zealand with a regularity never seen since: the Rowe Twins from England in 1953; Tanaka and Ogimura from Japan in 1957; Neale and Gibbs from England in 1967,



Ken Wilkinson MBE
17 March 1917 - 26 May 1997

Alser and Johansson from Sweden in 1970, the "Ping Pong Diplomacy" team from China in 1971; a team of young Chinese players in 1980 (including a youthful Li Chunli)..... the list goes on.

Needless to say, Ken's role in organising these events was enormous, and the itineraries give a hint of the volume of work involved - 28 matches, all in different towns and cities, were played in 40 days on the Tanaka/Ogimura tour.

Ken made a total of 45 overseas trips on table tennis business. He had a remarkable memory for anecdote and had a million stories to tell.

It was on 23 May that TTNZ learned that he had developed cancer of the liver, and that doctors didn't expect him to last longer than a week. He died 3 days later. Only two weeks before he had been busy making arrangements to meet with TTNZ's new Executive Director, Mike Brown - a meeting which sadly never took place.

The Ken Wilkinson story began when, as a 20 year old, he was a triumphant member of the winning G Grade team in Wellington's 1937 interclub competition. His triumph turned to disillusionment when officialdom forgot to present the team with their hard earned certificate. He decided the best way to register his indignance on behalf of the team was to attend the AGM and speak forthrightly on the unacceptability of such inefficiency. His eloquence made an immediate impression - he was unanimously elected to the Management Committee.

His playing days ceased soon thereafter. The net

Continued - page 3

FOR



Contact John Kiley

National Office

- Shirts** - Red with "South" printed on back \$5
- Green with "North" printed on back \$5
- Tie Pins** - Gold - boxed - \$3
- Books** - "50 yrs Across the Table" \$3.50
- Shoulder bags** - Green \$5

Old Table Tennis players never die!



They just lose the PING from their SPONGE.



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Articles and letters published herein do not necessarily reflect the views of Table Tennis New Zealand Inc.

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From the Executive Director

I've been in my job nearly six months now. I've learnt a lot. I've talked to a lot of people. I hope that you can see some progress being made with Table Tennis.

I came into the job with a few ideas for Table Tennis and over the course of these six months have modified, changed and grown these ideas, and added lots more. I thought I'd use this column to distil a few of these ideas and open some discussion on what I see as two key issues facing Table Tennis in New Zealand.

Doing Things Differently

At all levels of Table Tennis we need to look critically at how we do things. It's no longer enough to keep doing things in ways that we always have. I put it to you that if we don't re-evaluate, and are not prepared to change, we'll continue to lose our players to other sports and recreational opportunities.

What do we need to look at? Everything!

From where Table Tennis is played, to when it is played, to how we charge for it. From the tournaments we offer, to what's offered in the tournaments, to how we run them.

We need to look at why more girls and women are not playing Table Tennis. Surely it's not the game itself that's unappealing? Are we not providing the right environment for women?

If you're a player, think about why you play Table Tennis and compare it to your other recreation. Tell us the administrators how we can make Table Tennis more user-friendly, more appealing.

If you're an administrator, constantly talk to people about improving what you offer. Get feedback. Be prepared to try new things.

The Table Tennis Experience

Are we selling Table Tennis too cheaply? A heresy you might say. Surely the cheaper Table Tennis is, the more people will play?

Fact 1 Table Tennis numbers have dropped off significantly in the past 20 years.

Fact 2 Table Tennis is one of the cheapest sports to play, and a lot cheaper than other recreational activities like the movies, eating out and watching videos.

These facts combined indicate to me that we're not fighting a battle about the price of Table Tennis. Keeping it cheap hasn't been enough to keep our numbers up.

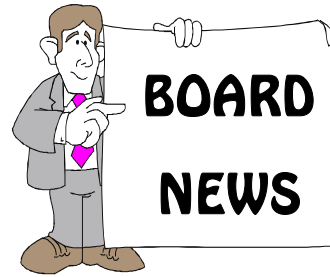
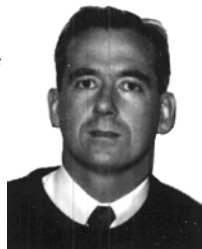
I think the real battle is over people's time. Spare time is becoming a scarcer commodity, and we're in the market along with lots of others trying to win a share of that time. Because spare time is scarce, people will pay more if they know they'll get value from using that time.

I'm not proposing this, but I suspect we could increase our prices significantly and still keep most of our players. What we should do, is increase the value of the experience we are offering people when they play Table Tennis, and then look at what we can charge for that experience.

People will pay for value, and people will value what they pay for.

We need to think of Table Tennis in New Zealand as being in the business of selling a Table Tennis experience to people.

Mike Brown



INDIVIDUAL MEMBER REGISTRATION

There was substantial discussion on the concept of basing association fees on **individual member registration**, an idea which was widely supported when Michael Brown travelled the country visiting associations. A preliminary paper was considered by the Board and it is to be distributed to all associations as a discussion document. A final paper will be put to the Board after Associations' input.

Points which arose from the Board discussion were:

- * The need for associations to be provided with guidelines for the actual implementation of the scheme.
- * The need to ensure that the "price" fits the "product".
- * The need to convince players as well as Associations of the value of the scheme and its benefits to them individually.

BOARD VACANCIES

A letter from **Philippa Baker** tendering her resignation from the Board was tabled. It appears that she is severing her connection with all matters relating to sport and is not able to wait until the expiry of her term before resigning. The resignation was accepted with regret.

It was decided not to seek a replacement as the time is approaching when three Board members are required by the Constitution to stand down. It was left to the Chairman to set up an appointments committee to consider applications to fill the three vacancies. In due course associations will be officially advised that applications are being sought. In the meantime, Associations should give thought to the question of possible candidates in their area.

Ken Wilkinson MBE

from front page

In 1984 he put pen to paper and wrote "**Fifty Years Across the Table**", 153 page hardback book commemorating the Golden Jubilee of the NZ Table Tennis Association.

Long before his retirement in 1985 Ken had accepted a wide range of overseas table tennis positions. His ITTF involvement covered an expanse of 18 years from 1967, varying between Council Member and Vice-President (Oceania). In 1978 he, with Keith Bowler of Australia, had set up the Oceania Table Tennis Federation. He was Oceania's founding President and remained in the position until 1993.

Quite early in his impressive table tennis career his status was recognised well beyond the international table tennis fraternity. In 1975 he received the Queen's honour of BEM. A succession of table tennis awards followed: Life Member, NZTTA in 1976; one of the first to receive the ITTF Gold Award for Merit in 1989; Life Member, Oceania Federation in 1990, and ITTF Personal Honorary Member in 1991.

Always the kindly father figure, unflappable, hardworking, and meticulous to the minutest detail, Ken will be remembered with fondness by hundreds – for his knowledge, his international contacts, his willingness to serve the interests of table tennis first, himself second, and most of all, for his wonderful personality.

Donations to the Te Omanga Hospice, PO Box 30-814, Lower Hutt were asked for in lieu of flowers at the funeral. The ITTF responded to the news of Ken's death with an immediate donation of \$100. Further donations are still welcome.

On behalf of all who new Ken, Table Tennis New Zealand extends condolences to his wife Phyllis and daughters Susan and Kathryn.

- John Kiley



More **BOARD STUFF**

TOURNAMENTS

Michael Brown reported that he had seen a need to carry out a detailed review of National tournaments. The reasons for the review include the unwieldy number of events at each tournament; the number of certificates issued (more certificates than competitors at a recent National tournament); and the fact that TTNZ has less "ownership" of the events than it perhaps should have at this level. The review is to be carried out by **Sarah Sandley, Paul Kyle, James Morris, John Bower** and **Michael Brown**.

Meanwhile, 1998 tournaments will proceed as in the past. Allocations confirmed so far are:

- * NZ Veterans Championships Hutt Valley
- * NZ Junior Championships Wanganui
- * North Island Championships Auckland

Applications to host the NZ Senior Championships and the South Island Championships are invited from any interested Association.

NEW HIGH PERFORMANCE PLAN

A ten-page document setting out three broad goals, a SWOT analysis, and Management plans for each of the next four years was considered by the Board. The paper, entitled "Leading Table Tennis into the Next Century" defines clear objectives relating to Oceania and World standings; proposes the establishment of three coaching positions (National Coach, Director of Coaching, and Academy Coach); and advocates the setting up of development squads with the aim of providing a pool of players able to take the step to full international Table Tennis as well as performing with distinction at age group events in Oceania, Australia and Asia.

The Board welcomed the report and gave approval for its wider distribution. It will be discussed and if necessary modified at the Olympic Solidarity Course; then distributed to all associations.

STRATEGIC PLAN

The plan is part of a wider **Strategic Plan**, also submitted to the Board and also approved for distribution.

This is a first class document and members should ask their associations for a look at it.

It is most important for the sport as it sets out in brief the plan to the year 2000 and covers what needs and should be done to develop table tennis. The plan in it's self will not do it - YOU are needed to change the TT culture in NZ and advance our sport, leisure and social activity.

PAUL INNES: TABLE TENNIS GLOBETROTTER



Waikato junior Paul Innes leaves New Zealand in November to begin seven months training at the Raldohindas club in Gothenberg, Sweden. He will train for 5 – 6 hours a day, play for the club's second team in the 4th Swedish Division, and take lessons in Swedish during the day.

The opportunity arose through William Henzell, one of Australia's top juniors, whom Paul met up with in Japan at the recent Butterfly Dohjo training course, arranged by HB Sports for Paul and three other young NZ players.

Paul is not a stranger to Sweden. "I have been there once before, when I went to England for seven weeks. I travelled to the Lyckeby club, one of the top clubs in Sweden. This time I'll be living with Svante Altas, who used to coach the South Australian team and is now the Raldohindas coach. William lives there as well and we will travel to all the major tournaments in Sweden. When I arrive, the temperature will be around – 20 / -25 degrees so that's something to look forward to."

Paul has just turned seventeen and his name is first noted in national table tennis records in 1991 when he beat a field of 13 to win the North Island Under 13 Boys' Singles, three days before his eleventh birthday. Since then his titles include the 1992 and 1993 North Island U13 Boys' Singles; the 1993 NZ and South Island U13 Boys' Singles; the 1993 South Island U15 Boys' Singles; the 1994 South Island U17 Boys' Singles; and the 1993 Oceania U14 Boys' Singles. He has represented NZ at the Australian Junior Championships (1993-5), in an U20 team at the Oceania Championships (1996), and was selected for a senior team competing in an Australian Interstate tournament (1996). He will attend the Olympic Solidarity Course in Nelson after the North Island Championships and is likely to be among those selected for a development squad to be formed as part of TTNZ's High Performance Plan.

TRAINING IN JAPAN

CALLING **COACHES** and **UMPIRES**

The National office is setting up databases of table tennis coaches and umpires in New Zealand. The word is out to associations. If you are in the above category contact your association secretary for a form or contact national office.(04.8014160)

WHY WAIT - DO IT NOW!

Earlier this year, courtesy of **Butterfly** and **HB Sports, Chris Herlihy, Jason Ng, Paul Innes** and **Alison Thomson**, travelled to Japan to train at the Butterfly Dohjo (training center).

The participants paid their own air fares but were provided with accommodation, lunches and 2 1/2 months coaching and training. There was always a fully trained coach present when the players trained each morning among themselves and a team from Brazil. In the afternoons - 3 days each week, they would play at different high schools for 3-4 hours. The standard was high, one off the Jissen School's players, in the top 5 in Japan, attended the World Championships in Manchester.

Paul Innes considered that the thing that stood out in Japan was the amount of match practice carried out. New Zealand players do not do enough.

Bronze Medal: Peter Jackson & Shane Laugesen

Fair Play Award: Shane Laugesen

COMMONWEALTH & WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

A strong performance from the men, a valuable learning experience for the women: that's the word from Team and Delegation leader, Peter Hirst, on the

The men's team can indeed hold their heads up with pride – their actual results were good, and they came perilously close to doing considerably better. In the Commonwealths they finished fifth (NZ's best ever position) but came within a single point of finishing third after leading Australia 2-0 and 20-18 in the third. In the Worlds they came 42nd (out of 103), but were deprived of the right to play off for positions 21 - 28 by a heart-breaking loss to Egypt 2-3. Shane Laugesen and Aaron Winborn had great wins in this contest but Peter Jackson, NZ's top player, didn't quite put it together and lost his two matches when he would normally be expected to have won both.

The Women's team finished 11th (out of 12) in the Commonwealths and 55th (out of 78) in the Worlds. They gave of their very best and were not out of their depth as is shown in the number of close game scores.

INDIVIDUALS

The highlight in the individual events was the Commonwealths Bronze medal win by Peter Jackson and Shane Laugesen. They beat pairs from Mauritius, South Africa, Scotland and Singapore before their semi-final loss 12-21, 18-21 to top seeds Cooke and Billington (England).

RATINGS

We had hoped to publish the latest top 10 ratings in this issue but unfortunately computer problems arose as a result of conversion to the new PC system in the national office. The GIC (Guru in Charge) of the software was overseas and the problem has, it is thought, only just been sussed out. At printing time, the office slave (JK) was still slogging away inputting this years results to date. It should be complete any day.

In the Worlds Peter Jackson dipped out in the final game of his key group match - a win would have put him into the main draw.

Shane Laugesen was the recipient of the "Fair Play" award at the Commonwealths.

LOOKING BACK

Peter Hirst is convinced that Peter Jackson remains this country's best player, while Shane Laugesen and Aaron Winborn both performed extremely well and are clearly poised to make their mark on the international scene. Peter Hirst praised the efforts of the women, saying they fought hard and learned well.

The team was engaged in a wide range of activities during the three days between the Commonwealths and the Worlds. The time was spent in East Kilbride (Scotland) where teams from Scotland, Australia, South Africa and New Zealand were involved with training, school demonstrations, coach education, and four international matches.

THE TEAM

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

Women: **Tracey Epps, Sarah Finch, Debbie Garrett, Tracey Phillips**

Managers: **Peter Hirst, Murray Finch**

North Harbour Association has a new stadium, (in Akoranga Drive Northcote) this season and although the car park isn't sealed, the canteen is only half built, and we haven't got our pool table yet, in a few years or maybe months it will be hard to imagine the conditions we are currently playing under.

Construction work has been and is still going on every weekend in preparation for the North Island Championships. We have only just recently begun operating 7 days a week and believe me it is hard yakka. A roster system has been put into operation so as not to overload anyone unduly. It is all volunteer labour, as we cannot afford to pay anyone with the \$22,000 a year mortgage interest payment to be serviced. This will increase in 3 years to include principle repayments as well.

The stadium can house 12 tables and schools, veterans day club, casual hire, coaching and business house, all areas previously neglected, are now being given the space and time they deserve.

Our objective is to increase membership by 50% over the next 12 months, to enable us to break even in our stadium's first year. Our other aim is that our men's team shall win more matches than the North Harbour Rugby team this season.

With the Waitemata Association we have planned a great social occasion for the North Island Championships. People have the opportunity to play on the number of days they want and join in the various social activities. We hope those attending the Championships will be at the opening social function on the Friday night.

NHTTA



DONIC NEWS

DONIC IS BACK IN NEW ZEALAND

DONIC is the leading Table Tennis brand in the European Table Tennis Competition market, comparable with Butterfly in Asia. Now **DONIC** is back in New Zealand offering high quality Table tennis equipment, from balls to tables.

* We are looking for interested, motivated, "Table Tennis People" who would like to deal with **DONIC** Equipment.

* If you think you are the right person, contact JOACHIM KUSCHE
Ph 03 313 3449

Special - Ends 30.9.97
TT Shoe - Donic -Viper
\$59.95 + Postage
Ph 03 313 3449

Board Member Profile

HELEN MATHIESON

Table Tennis New Zealand welcomes the appointment of Helen Mathieson to its Board.

Helen's professional speciality is sponsorship management and public relations. She has served several high profile organisations in these roles and has earned generous accolades for the quality of her work. Her knowledge of the mechanics of sponsorship requirements and how a sport can be "sold" to a potential sponsor give immense value to her presence on the Board. She looks forward to guiding the sport in areas such as event creation, profile raising, and the building up of player numbers.



Helen's sporting exploits demonstrate just as much energy as her spectacular professional career. She is a three-time participant in the Coast to Coast mountain bike race; is a keen triathlete; and takes an avid interest in a variety of other sports.

Her personal message below describes how she sees her role on the Board, how she thinks table tennis can be developed with sponsorship support, and what she feels she can offer table tennis.

We wish Helen a rewarding term of office with Table Tennis N Z.

Helen writes: : "I was at the Atlanta Olympics, and managed to get some tickets to the Men's semi-final matches. I'd just been appointed to the Board of Table Tennis New Zealand.

The atmosphere was just incredible, a huge stadium was filled with cheering, flag waving supporters (predominantly Chinese, as China featured in both semi-finals). The table tennis itself was fast and dynamic, and the skill level incredible.

For someone who has not been involved at a players level in the game before, apart from the family table, it was very, very exciting.

Seeing this international enthusiasm and support for the players, it made me realise how much potential the sport has in New Zealand. It's a game so many people play and know about, yet at the elite level we have just a handful of players.

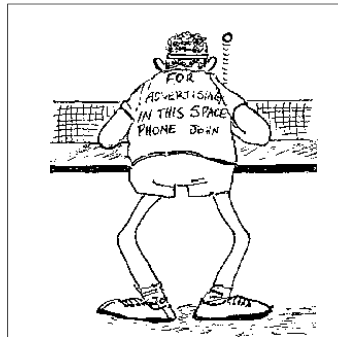
Coming from a strong sponsorship and public relations background, I know that growing and developing the sport can very often only come from increased financial assistance as well as an increased profile.

This means finding a sponsor who wants to be fully integrated in all aspects of the

sport, by growing with the sport they also have the opportunity to enhance their own promotional opportunities.

It's got to be a win-win situation for sponsor/sport relationship to work. I think table tennis has got all the right ingredients and the right attitude and the international profile to make sponsorship at a national level work effectively.

I'm looking forward to further developing these opportunities with Mike over the next year. For me, it is a way forward for TTNZ to get the funding to develop it's programmes so maybe next time I'm sitting at the Olympics I'll be watching a New Zealander and there will be crowds of New Zealand supporters cheering them on."



IMR is INDIVIDUAL MEMBER REGISTRATION

Mike Brown (Executive Director) has distributed a paper to all associations which sets out his thoughts on what is needed for IMR to work. The paper has been circulated for feedback and in view of its importance it is hoped that all associations respond.

Mike has made some good points:

***We Are All In This Together
Table Tennis As A Unified Experience
Major Changes need to be Undertaken to Make It Work***

After consultation, detailed planning and approval at this years AGM the system could be in operation in 1998.

It is anticipated that there will be 3 classes of membership - Social, School and Competitive, with membership renewed each year.

Full final details will be distributed later of course.

The absolute, full, enthusiastic and committed backing by everyone will be necessary if the scheme is to work, to ensure members are enrolled in such numbers as to give sufficient funds to TTNZ to carry out the wishes of the very members so enrolled, and associations.



SPECTACULAR TABLE TENNIS AT SOUTH ISLAND CHAMPS

A feast of top level table tennis was on display at Nelson on Queen's Birthday weekend. The men's field was the best seen at the South Island Championships for many a year. Spectators thrilled to four sizzling quarter-finals as New Zealand's best fought it out with two quality overseas players.

Ultimately prevailing was Ye Zeng Li, defeating Ralf Neumaier from Germany in the final. Li is the latest in a succession of Chinese players brought to New Zealand by Table Tennis Nelson, following Hu Binquan and Chen Lei. Time will tell just what Li's true potential is. In this event he was pushed by Aaron Winborn and dropped a game in the final, but by the end of the championships was showing glimpses of what could turn out to be his true class. He will compete at the North Island Championships (as Aaron Li) and will no doubt be watched with interest.

The women's field was depleted by the absence of our international players. Shelley Neal beat Ulrike Kusche in a long, hard fought final.

Shane Laugesen and Hagen Bower defeated Neumaier and Andrew Hubbard in an absorbing men's doubles final; the women's doubles went to Neal and Kusche, and top mixed doubles seeds Hu Binquan and Kylie Ferguson were surprisingly beaten by Chen Lei and Leisa Ferguson in an all-Nelson final.

Title winners - see page 10-11.

South Island Championships Results

Nelson May 31 - June 2 1997

Open

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

Winner

Ye Zeng Lee (China)
Shelley Neal (Nth Harb)
H Bower & S Laugesen (Auck)
U Kusche & S Neale (Canty/Nth Harb)
Chen Lei & L Ferguson (Nelson)

Singles Runner Up

Ralf Neumaier (Germany)
Ulrike Kusche (Canty)

B Grade

Men's Singles
Women's Singles

Graeme Windley (HV)
Kylie Ferguson (Nelson)

Brendon Adam (Auck)
Val Scarr (Wairarapa)

C Grade

Men's Singles
Women's Singles

Bruce Penberthy (Auck)
Oea Burnett (HV)

John Fogarty (Otago)
Leisa Ferguson (Nelson)

Over 60 years

Men's Singles
Men's Doubles
Mixed Doubles

John Lelliott (HV)
J Lelliott & E Moore (HV/Canty)
C Adamson & M Montigue (Sthld/Canty)

Eddie Moore (Canty)

Over 50 years

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

Alan Alabaster (Canty)
Val Scarr (Wairarapa)
J Lelliott & B Penberthy (HV/Auck)
O Burnett & V Scarr (HV/Wair.)
J Lelliott & O Burnett (HV)

John Lelliott (HV)
Oea Burnett (HV)

Over 40 years

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

Kevin Fogarty (Nth Harb)
Val Scarr (Wairarapa)
S Crow & S Wallace (Canty)
O Burnett & V Scarr (HV/Wair.)
A Alabaster & G Ferguson (Canty/Nelson)

Alan Alabaster (Canty)
Oea Burnett (HV)

Over 35 years

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

Simon Cairns (Nth Harb)
Ulrike Kusche (Canty)
J Fogarty & K Fogarty (Otago/Nth Harb)
S Drew & G Ferguson (Nelson)
D Jackson & U Kusche (Auck/Canty)

David Jackson (Auck)
Susan Drew (Nelson)

Under 21 years

Men's Singles
Women's Singles

Chen Lei (Nelson)
Belinda Beazer (HV)

Chris Herlihy (Waikato)
Melissa Beazer (HV)

Under 19 years

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

Paul Innes (Waikato)
Melissa Beazer (HV)
K George & G Windley (HV/Wgton)
B Beazer & M Beazer (HV)
Chen Lei & A Danby (Nelson/Auck)

Chen Lei (Nelson)
Anna Danby (Auck)

Under 17 years

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

Chen Lei (Nelson)
Rachel Griffiths (Waitemata)
L Chen & Y Lin (Nelson/Canty)
L Boaden & D Morrison (HV/Sth Canty)
G Williams & A Thomson (Wanganui)

Jason Ng (Auck)
Deborah Morrison (Sth Canty)

Under 15 years

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

Adrian Soh (Auck)
Deborah Morrison (Sth Canty)
Y Lin & A Soh (Canty/Auck)
A Thomson & L Wight (Wanganui)
J Cordue & L Boaden (Wgton/HV)

Yi-Sien Lin (Canty)
Alison Thomson (Wanganui)

What about "Funny" rubber?

In a recent article in the International Table Tennis Federation official journal, **Desmond Douglas** wrote *"Keep the game simple and natural, then the public can understand what is happening and the sport will flourish: to me this is of paramount importance and then the players who have the skill will gain their just rewards"*.

He goes on to say " I do not like the large number of racket coverings that have appeared in the last 20 years, materials are artificial. England has become a nation of material players and I do not think that is good for the sport in general, points should be won by skill not be trickery or deception. The trouble is that once you allow long pimples, anti-loop, glue or whatever, you cannot stop and players rely on materials for success.

We have been slow to react to the influx of materials in table tennis. I remember several years ago a double strung tennis racket appeared on the scene, it gave incredible topspin: immediately it was banned. A few years later the Australian cricketer Dennis Lillee used a metal cricket bat, again the authorities reacted quickly and it was banned. It is now too late to ban the various materials in table tennis, it has gone too far, we must not let it go any further.

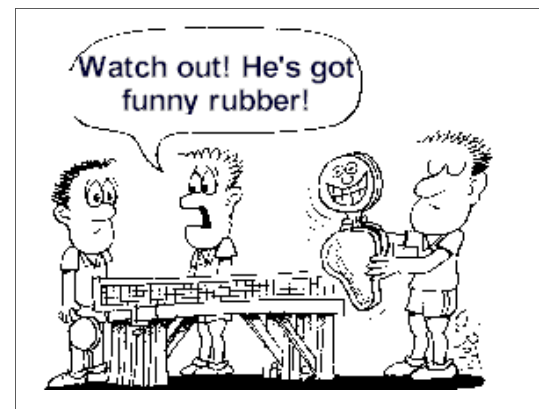
There was no modern speed glue in the 1970's and top players were a joy to watch, I cannot believe that a match in which most of the points are won before the 5th ball by using sheer power is an entertaining spectacle".

(Condensed from an article covering this and other aspects of the game)

Desmond Douglas (England) is one of the most respected players in the world of table tennis, a sportsman in the very best sense of the word and a credit to the game. He first played for England in the World Championships in 1973 and was recalled again 2 years ago beating Liu Guoliang (currently Olympic Champion and #3 in world) in the teams event.

Yes, so why cannot NZ try and do something about this funny rubber? Do we have to internally at least put up with it? It is hard to believe that players like playing against it and it is more difficult to accept that social players and veterans enjoy it. Table tennis is only one of the reasons they play in the first place - even for those attending championships to suit their age and skill. A 5 year lead time to a ban internationally would be looked back on as having been the right move.

Robin Radford



South Island Results cont'd ~

Winner

Under 13 years

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

Kelsey Fagan (Waitemata)
Jiani Hu (Nelson)
K Fagan & K Strid (Waitemata)
J Colvin & J Hu (Nelson)
A Williams & J Hu ((Wang./Nelson)

Singles Runner Up

Kurt Strid (Waitemata)
Jaimee Colvin (Nelson)

How to Win at Table Tennis by A. Flichtie Barker, Champion.

Choose the best end of the table, and stay there - if you can.

Serve when it suits yourself. When your opponent is picking up a ball or adjusting his neck tie is a good time. Remember you play to win.

To cultivate a brilliant service - stand close to the table and hold your hand high, should your opponent object, be very surprised and suggest this is your first tournament. Should he return a ball occasionally it will be a simple lob, easy to kill.

Object to your opponent's serve - it will make him nervous, or cross, and he cannot play in either case.

Don't argue about a doubtful point: firmly claim it every time. You will often gain most unexpectedly, and you have nothing to lose. Some umpires trust their memory as being easier than using a pencil. You can often assist them - and yourself - by suggesting the score. If it doesn't come off simply say sorry. Talk to your opponent in the middle of a rally - this requires some practice, but is very effective. Say, That was lucky! or What a long rally!

Some players pause before they serve, as if they are working out some shots in their mind first. A very useful reply to this is to catch the ball in the left hand and say you were not ready. There is no rule against not being ready, and a cold in the head must be attended to. Your vis à vis will then watch you instead of the ball if he is at all polite. He feels so small serving before you are ready, don't you know!

A supercilious bad temper will work wonders against a person not used to public play. He will worry himself thinking what he has done wrong, and will wish he had bought this week's edition of the rules and not relied on a copy a week old.

If you are a lady, we recommend a chalk colour blouse to match the ball.

We hear Kate Greenaway overall what's-his-names are coming in again; if made white, these will serve two purposes - a high waist (not that this is necessary, rules are only made for men), and a larger show of white behind the ball. Cricketers are very fidgety about their sight screen so they, at least, will be sure to appreciate this item when wielding the ping pong bat.

At a public tournament do not leave the balls about for the committee to squabble over - take them home to practice serving with. Finally should you lose a game now and then, it is essential that you have your excuse ready, or people will think you have met a better player.

NO SCRUMS ON THE TABLE!

The National office received a call from a leading hotel in Wellington, seeking a table tennis table and from some names supplied of local associations Kapiti drew the straw and was asked to assist.

Apparently the **ALL BLACKS** had requested a table for their leisure time prior to the first Argentine test and a table was duly transported into Wellington. Word has it that some of them were "guns" (at TT). Clearly they wanted to practice with the high scoring experienced in table tennis!

NEXT INFO ISSUE

The next issue is expected to be in October. We have had some worthy contributions from other than the publishers but NOT ENOUGH!

Perhaps the question is - "What do you want to read about"? Are we communicating as you expect and is it what you want?

Happy to hear from you!

Technical Committee

Ron Menchi and **David Jackson** are the Technical Committee, and they will provide advice and recommendations to the National office on a wide range of TT issues. Included will be rankings, seedings, allocation of tournaments, adoption of official ball, and players of the year awards.

It is intended that they will call upon other people to assist them as required.

OH Heck! What next? some gossip received:

At a certain tournament not far from Wanganui, the lovely Averil emerged from the ladies powder room and asked a local official the whereabouts of the mirror, feeling needlessly that she should be assured of her comeliness. Whilst genuinely offering that surety, the said official was somewhat surprised at the mirror's absence. Having found it in the gents, it was returned to its rightful place.

Not long after, it was again found in the gents. All became clear when a link was made between the mirror's travels and the appearance of certain southern bucks wearing scarves, or should I say headbands coquettishly arranged for their playing appearances.

Anon.



"I play tennis in the summer too!"

OUR PEOPLE AND SOME ITEMS ON THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE

David Jackson was New Zealand delegate at the 1997 world championships in Manchester and attended various meetings. **David** is a member of the ITTF Ranking Committee and is on the Advisory Board to the new Research Centre. (To look at areas such as making the game more interesting, getting more people involved, marketing etc)

Li ChunLi and **Peter Jackson** were given the first option to attend the World cup in 1997 as Oceania representatives.

Geoff Rau is project leader of a working group to look at the service rule.

Peter Jackson is the Oceania representative on the ITTF Athletics Commission.

The ball in future shall be either white or orange but not yellow.

The Hawkes Bay Association

decided to give TT a boost before their season started by holding an "Open day"

The Centennial Hall in Napier played host between 1 and 5 pm one Sunday, to about 80 people, who came along to try out the game. Bats and Balls were supplied.

The secretary - Richard Bayley says it was worthwhile and intends to do it again next year.

Seventeen teams (of 3 people) play interclub in Hawkes Bay.

Future **World Championships** are:

1999 Belgrade - Yugoslavia
2001 Osaka - Japan

Table Tennis has been included in the **2002 Commonwealth Games** and will be included in the prospectus for Melbourne's bid for the **2006 games**.

Olympic Solidarity Course

Immediately after the North Island Champs, the Table Tennis Academy at Nelson will become the focus of attention. Thanks to funding from the International Olympic Committee, we are able to bring out Tomas Stenberg, one of the top coaches in Sweden to run a training course for some of our top coaches and players.

The coaches will attend the week long course and work with Tomas, sharing ideas and techniques and working with these on the players. The players, a mixture of seniors and juniors, will attend for 3 days each. The funding available has allowed TTNZ to bring Peter Jackson and Li Chunli back to New Zealand to take part in the course, and share their experience and skill.

One day of the course will be taken up with a workshop focusing on a High Performance strategy for Table Tennis in New Zealand. This will be conducted by Professor Dai Gilbertson from Victoria University, and the expectation is that it will provide a new beginning for this area of Table Tennis.

One of our top players recently competed in the 1997 Arafura Games in Darwin as a member of the Aotearoa Table Tennis team, and the following feedback has been received:

Wayne Gear, tells us that the games are held every two years and attended by teams from Australia and South East Asia.

Other sports played include Badminton, Baseball, Basketball, Boxing, Tennis, Triathlon, Volleyball and Waterpolo. The aim of the games is to bring together sportspeople in a festival of sport, towards a better mutual understanding and stronger cultural and social ties. The games provide an opportunity for "bleeding" young up and coming players by exposing them to International competition against players not part of the normal NZ touring circuit.

Ten world ranked players took part this year. The well organised games produced an impressive opening ceremony. The Athletes village housed 5000 competitors.

The Haikau China A team beat Hong Kong in the final and in the Women the Hong Kong team beat Thailand.

"The Games provided me with valuable international experience, giving me also the opportunity to make friends with players throughout Asia.

I believe the games would provide an ideal

Debra King, in 1988 had the distinction of being the first Southlander to represent NZ which was in a junior team to Perth.

She has been overseas for the past 4 1/2 years, presently in London, and she took the train to Manchester to watch the World championships.

She writes "My day trip to Manchester was nearly a disaster but semi salvaged. Rocked up there in a 2 1/2 hour train ride and couldn't find the New Zealand players. The men's team was scheduled to play Iraq but they were denied entry into UK so NZ won by default. woman's team had played that morning and were not scheduled to play again until the next day. Anyway I found the men having a practise and there was a mad panic on to find the women (out shopping - what else!) as their schedule had been changed and they had to play the Philippines. They lost but played well. The stadium was pretty darn awesome with over 100 countries competing -flags everywhere. It was well worth the effort."

opportunity for other New Zealand emerging players to gain international experience without the pressure of a World Cup event."

Wayne Gear

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New Zealand Veteran Championships Results - Invercargill - Easter 1997

Winner

Over 40 years

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

Thomas Samuelsson (New South Wales)
Val Beaver (Counties Manukau)
Ken Cole & T Samuelsson (NSW)
Val Beaver & Averil Roberts (Canty/Hutt Valley)
Michael Warren & Averil Roberts (Canty/Hutt Valley)

Over 50 years

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

Bob Lassen (Auckland)
Val Scarr (Wairarapa)
Bob Lassen & Bruce Penberthy (Auckland)
Ruth Foster & Ngaire Garrett (Otago/Southland)
Bob Lassen & Kaylene Findlay (Auckland/North Harbour)

Over 60 years

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

Ken Sands (New South Wales)
Shirley Smith (New South Wales)
John Lelliott & Ken Sands (Hutt Valley /NSW)
John Lelliott & Elsie Spooner (Hutt Valley/Wanganui)

Over 65 years

Men's Singles
Men's Doubles
Mixed Doubles

John Lelliott (Hutt Valley)
Merv Allardyce & John Lelliott (Hutt Valley)
John Lelliott & Elsie Spooner (Hutt Valley/Wanganui)

Over 70 years

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

John Place (Queensland)
Elsie Spooner (Wanganui)
John Place & Col Roden (Queensland/NSW)
Miriam Montigue & Alice Stevenson (Canty/Manawatu)
John Place & Elsie Spooner (Queensland/Wanganui)

Over 75 years

Men's Singles
Women's Singles
Mixed Doubles

Harry Taylor (Canterbury)
Alice Stevenson (Manawatu)
Harry Taylor & Alice Stevenson (Canty/Manawatu)

COMMENT ON THE VETERAN CHAMPIONSHIPS.

- Ron Menchi

The organising committee ran a very good happy tournament, on 13 tables, with Southern hospitality reaching it's very high standard. It was wonderful to see so many Australians (18 in all) attending. Due to the yellow tone of the lighting a white ball had to be used instead of the intended orange one.

The lack of entries from Otago was notable, and lack of support from nearby areas could make it difficult to allocate such championships to the far away places.

Of concern was the number of composite teams (10 of of the 44 teams entered).

A Social dinner was held at a hotel when individual medals were presented and the merit lists announced.

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