



## Dates of note

Sun-Mon	Mar 30-31	Hutt Valley Easter Open
Sat-Sun	April 19-20	Wanganui Open
Fri	April 25	Auckland Anzac Day Open
Sat-Sun	May 3-4	Marlborough Open
Fri-Sat	May 16-17	Southland Open
Sat	May 24	Wairarapa Open
Sun	May 25	Counties Manukau Senior Open
Fri-Mon	May 31 - Jun 2	Sth Isl Champs (Nelson)
Sat	Jun 14	Northland Open
Sat	Jun 21	Board Meeting
Sun	Jun 22	Auckland Junior Open
Sat-Sun	Jun 28-29	Hutt Valley Open
Sat-Sun	Jun 28-29	Otago Open
early	July	Next TABLE TENNIS INFO
Sat	July 5	Hawkes Bay Open
Sat-Sun	Jul 5-6	South Canterbury Open
Thur	July 10	Nth Island Championships - Teams -(NH)
Fri - Mon	July 11-14	Nth Island Championships - Indiv (NH & WT)
Sat	July 19	Kapiti Open
Sat-Sun	July 19-20	Waikato Open
Sat-Sun	July 26-27	Auckland Open
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



Take a note of this - TTNZ office -EMAIL address is - [ttnz@clear.net.nz](mailto:ttnz@clear.net.nz)

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## TABLE TENNIS INFO

March 1997

Issue: 3



### New Executive Director



### Association Award.

#### How about this for an idea!

In Aalen, Germany, the local club took the opportunity to try and increase membership. They set up 19 tables in the "open to the sky" pedestrian area and the public were encouraged to try the sport.

Could this be done in NZ?

This award, instituted in 1993 for significant achievement, was presented by Alan Hounsell at the AGM, to **NELSON** for outstanding achievement in the areas of publicity and membership development in 1996. Nelson increased club members by 35%. Schools were targeted. Their Chinese players Chen Lei and Binqan Hu were given as much publicity as possible and local newspapers were bombarded with table tennis articles.

Full marks to Nelson.

## Have a Happy Easter

— Drive Carefully —

# Chairman's Spot

I hope that 1997 has got off to a good start for everyone.

We welcome Mike Brown to Table Tennis New Zealand as our new Executive Director who took up the appointment in January. Mike will be visiting many of the Associations in March and April to gain first hand knowledge of your requirements, and please take this opportunity to air your views on the future of table tennis in New Zealand.

1997 will see continuing changes to benefit and develop table tennis. Your input is most important to ensure Table Tennis New Zealand takes the right direction.

Finally, good luck to the players and coaches attending the forthcoming Commonwealth and World Championships in the United Kingdom. We have high expectations of success from both teams.

Alan R Hounsell



## MAJOR CHANGES AHEAD FOR ASSOCIATION LEVIES

The Board decided that, as soon as possible, Association levies should be based on a system of full player registration. As an interim step, a formula for 1997 fees was set which combines elements of the population-based system used previously, with team and player numbers as declared in membership returns. Associations are to be advised of the change, and each advised of the figure allocated to them for 1997.

A system based on player registration has the potential to draw clubs, associations and the national body closer together as the financial strength of all three will become dependent on the same sources of income: player numbers, activities, grants, donations and sponsorship. The Executive Director has dispatched an overview paper to associations for comment and input which will be discussed during his visits in March and April.

## COACHING

The Board favoured the appointment of a national coach for seniors and a national coach for juniors. They decided that Barry Butler's appointment as National Director of Coaching should continue throughout 1997. In the event of a new person being appointed for 1998, the appointment needs to be finalised by September, 1997 to enable that person to set up programmes to commence early in 1998.

## REVISED BUDGET

A new budget was approved which includes a number of one-off costs associated with the change to new management; and reductions in some areas such as rent (for a smaller office) and overseas travel (the junior trip to Australia is unlikely to take place as it coincides with the NZ Championships).

The Chairman and Executive Director visited the Hillary Commission on 21 February and had been told that an application for a one-off grant to meet transition costs is likely to be received favourably.

## SPONSORSHIP

A strategy for a three-year sponsorship package was tabled by Michael Brown, which encompassed such essentials as :

Increase participation; conduct "Roadshow" throughout NZ; launch new image; Employ National Coach; assist young players to study at Academy; offer scholarships for overseas training; launch programmes via Sports Trusts to encourage older people into table tennis; employ Development Officer; introduce a annual Australia/New Zealand Test Match series; target overseas events for success; continue to develop coaching; continue to increase registered players; continue to improve administration standards; invite top overseas team.

## INTER-ISLAND MATCH DISCONTINUED

On the recommendation of the National Selection Panel, the Board agreed that the annual North Island v South Island contest held in conjunction with the New Zealand Championships should not continue. Player and spectator interest in the event has been steadily waning.

## TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

The Technical Committee is to be appointed by the end of March.

## OLYMPIC SOLIDARITY COURSE

This be held in Nelson attended by a mix of promising young players, top players, and active coaches.

In the **WORLD RANKINGS** as at January 97 our **Peter Jackson** was ranked at 116 in the men and **Li Chun Li** at 53 in the Women.

The rankings are computerised with various weightings incorporated, depending on the Championship and round.

## ANNUAL CONFERENCE

A new innovation at the AGM in December last, the conference embraced two workshops - **Affiliation Fees** and **Coaching**.

**Affiliation Fees:** It seemed to have been generally accepted that the National Body had to have guaranteed income and the workshop discussed several options for levying associations, following the presentation of a discussion paper. Opinion was varied. Consensus seemed to be that a mixture of population basis and members would be acceptable although some preferred to use winter (or highest) team numbers. Player registration was discussed and favoured by some.

The Board would make the final decision for the 1997 fees.

**Coaching:** With assistance from Roger Wood (Exec. Dir. NZ Badminton Assn) as facilitator, the workshop split into discussion groups and came up with summaries of *Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats*, under the headings of: **High Performance Coaching, Coach Education** and **Grass Roots Coaching**.

Among the General Comments were:

A National Coach is a "MUST".  
National Coach role is to coach and select.  
Executive Director has major role in linking coaching needs with Board policy.  
Must be unified under a leader for the whole function  
Goals need to be set.

Some senior players and coaches were invited to attend the workshop as well as delegates. There were reports later that the session was not structured as well as it could have been. A good exchange of views was provided.

# SALE

The National Office has the following for sale:  
(Contact John Kiley)

<b>Tracksuit tops</b> - Black/Grey/Red	\$15
<b>Tracksuit trousers</b> - Black/Grey/Red	\$15
<b>Shoes</b>	\$25
<b>NZTTA shirts</b> - Black / grey shoulders	\$7.50
<b>Other shirts</b> - Black/Red/Green	\$5
<b>Tie Pins</b> - Gold - boxed - Butterfly	\$3
<b>Books</b> - "50 yrs Across the Table"	\$3.50
<b>Rubber cleaner</b> - Butterfly	\$2
<b>Shoulder bags</b> - Black	\$5
all plus \$2.50 postage and packaging	



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - DECEMBER 1996

This was a very short affair, lasting an all time record short period of just 55 mins. The Annual Report and Financial Statement of Accounts were adopted, and the Auditor Mr G M Quirke re-elected. Some general questions were raised but the Chairman declared them to be the business of the new Board.

The Association award was made to Nelson (see cover) and the new selection panel was announced (see page 15.)

Mr Ron Menchi paid a warm tribute to the retiring Executive Director - Merv Allardyce.

The restructure to a Board of 7 has placed more authority and accountability on the Board and the Executive Director and the need for detailed discussions and remits to the AGM is no longer necessary or appropriate. Time will tell!

Christchurch

Sir,

Membership Returns.

The reason the clubs and associations may or may not be furnishing inaccurate returns is because of the amount of the levies being charged on associations who cannot afford them. The temptation to understate is real when it is difficult to make ends meet.

The solution? This is the hard question, however it must be based on membership in conjunction with the financial standing of associations. Perusal of balance sheets will provide information to assess viability. There must be a provision to allow for the needs of each association in the areas of (1) Buildings - New, Maintenance and improvements and (2) Coaching - Existing and new members and schools etc.

TTNZ would need to liaise with each association to gauge their requirements and how to assist. If TTNZ looks after the associations (promotion etc) then TTNZ will be better off for doing so.

May I suggest each year associations submit a budget and objectives for the coming year, outlining where they intend to spend their income, reflecting the needs of the association. It is not much use taking funds from an association which cannot afford it. Every area is different with varying standards of buildings. TTNZ may need to revise their budget in the light of the increase in fees as with less membership some associations will find it difficult to fund the increase.

Yours faithfully

**Eddie Moore.**



*The TTNZ budget is set, to enable the national body to carry out the wishes of the associations. The fees and allocation method were discussed at some length at a workshop at the AGM and the Board has since set the 1997 fees.*

*No doubt there are many views around associations as to what should be done, many of which were expressed at the workshop.*

Editor.

## **Manurewa Club - *The hard work with their building!***

Marie Rau

from

Next year the Manurewa Club will celebrate its' 50th anniversary and it hopes that the year will be a very memorable one, as the Manukau City Council has at last advised the club that it has completed the purchase of the land on which the club is situated, enabling the proposed extensions to proceed.

The project will require an enormous effort by the committee and club members but it is something that will have to be undertaken as it will help the regrowth of the Club and Counties Manukau Association. Tournaments could be conducted in this venue rather than the Papakura hall.

Since the extensions were first proposed (1984) no end of problems has arisen, the Council not being able to guarantee the club a renewal of the lease expiring in 1998. Another site plus a grant was offered, but the selected building was unacceptable to council.

It was then discovered by council the lease for the current site was one in perpetuity, so the decision was made to stay put and extend the current building. After some delays it is now "all go". The grant made 12 years ago has devalued and membership has dropped so a mammoth task lays ahead.

The original club was built in 1967 with mostly volunteer labour. The table tennis fraternity should wish the club the best of luck with the venture.

## **REMEMBERING - Barry Lester (President - Waikato Assn)**

Barry passed away just before Xmas and the table tennis fraternity in Waikato will be among those who will miss him. He was first involved with TT in Hamilton when he was a committee member 1974 -1975, 1978 - 1980. 1973 saw him Advertising Chairman for the associations stadium fundraising. From committee member in 1992, he went to the Presidency 1993 until August 1996.

## ***... the faster we run, the slower we seem to go . .***

We trained hard ... but it seemed that every time we were beginning to form up into teams we would be reorganised ... I was to learn later in life that we tend to meet any new situation by reorganising; and a wonderful method it can be for creating the illusion of progress while producing confusion, inefficiency and demoralisation.

- Petronius; 210 B.C

***Table Tennis will prove this fellow wrong won't we?***

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## **WORLD/ COMMONWEALTH CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The NZ team, to assemble in Scotland on 10 April, is Peter Jackson, Andrew Hubbard, Shane Laugesen, Aaron Winborn, Sarah Finch, Tracey Epps, Debbie Garrett and Tracey Phillips. The non-playing captains are Peter Hirst and Murray Finch.



***Richard Lee writes:***

New Zealand table tennis teams will once again be facing the challenge of maintaining or improving their current World and Commonwealth standings in the respective championships. The Commonwealth is first, being in Glasgow followed by the World Championships in Manchester.

The womens team's chances in both events have suffered a large blow with the withdrawal of world class Li Chun Li (for contractual and financial reasons) along with her sister Karen Li 's withdrawal from the individual events may have robbed NZ the very real chance of picking up medals in the Commonwealth championships. The team will be aiming to improve their current commonwealth ranking of 9th and world ranking of 65th.

An improvement in either event would give encouragement to this largely inexperienced quartet.

The Men's team should be satisfied if they can maintain their 38th ranking achieved in Tianjin (China) in 1995 where an excellent victory over Bulgaria helped secure this ranking. To do this again, a lot will fall on the shoulders of Peter Jackson whose 11 win 2 loss record in 1995 was one of the top NZ international performances of all time. Hopefully the Men's team will also be able to improve upon their Commonwealth ranking of 8, with 2 or 3 teams who finished above them in 1995, notably Australia and Scotland, well within their sights.

## **CARTOONS, JOKES and CLIP-ART**

**I am seeking Cartoons, Jokes and Clip-Art relating to Table Tennis for reproduction in Table Tennis Info and and at a much later date perhaps issue a publication with all we can find.**

**There must be a lot around and many players must have collected them over the years among newspaper clippings and sundry programmes and books.**

**Like to hear from you.**

***Robin Radford***

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There would hardly be a table tennis player or administrator in New Zealand who has never been asked the question, "How can I improve my game ?". A coach knows the answer, the rest of us don't.

The field of coaching seems so vast and complex to anyone who has never done it that people perfectly capable of becoming a good coach are often scared away. The truth is that basic coaching is not difficult to learn. How complex it becomes depends, like anything else, on how far the individual chooses to go. Whether you want to specialise in coaching beginners (in a school, club, or work-place); or whether you aspire to coaching the New Zealand team in their build-up to the World Championships - either way, you have to start by learning the **basics** of coaching.

In essence, this involves teaching the following:

1. CORRECT GRIP
2. THE 9 BASIC POINTS RELATING TO THE PLAYING OF A STROKE:  
  
\*\* Length of swing    \*\* When to strike the ball (ie, top of the bounce)  
\*\* Position of feet    \*\* Body stance    \*\* Position of body in relation to the table  
\*\* Free hand position    \*\* Movement of bat arm    \*\* Recovery    \*\* Anticipation
3. THE 4 BASIC STROKES:  
  
\*\* Backhand push    \*\* Forehand push    \*\* Forehand drive    \*\* Backhand drive
4. SERVICE

A working knowledge of the above items is all you need to be a real help to any beginner and some advanced players as well. You can obtain that knowledge from any practising coach; by attending a "Coaching of Coaches" course; or from the Kiwi Table Tennis manual, available from TTNZ (PO Box 867) for \$10.

Applying the knowledge effectively depends on just two things:

1. **CARING** ABOUT THE PERSON YOU'RE COACHING.
2. BEING OBSERVANT - WATCHING CAREFULLY FOR BASIC THINGS THEY ARE DOING WRONG.

A little bit of practice, and in a very short time you'll be able to provide the answer to that familiar question, "How can I improve my game ?"

**Hello** - from the Editor.

Just a few words!

**Annual General Meeting:** It was fantastically pleasing to receive the agenda for the AGM and to observe the complete absence of remits. Many will hope that this is maybe the start of a new culture for table tennis - faith in the Board and the Executive Director - let them get on with it, combined with a positive attitude to change. At the same time however the associations have to do their thing and not expect a magic wand to dance above them.

**Contributions to Table Tennis Info.** Don't want to nag about this, but come on you association publicity officers- let's hear it all! Be good to see some info about how associations operate, especially those with stadiums. We need input also in the very social players area. Managed to increase size this time to ensure all contributions were included. The budget make dictate a smaller one next time!

Looking back through a Magazine called the **Table Tennis Review** produced in 1959 by the late Mr Arnold Percy, which sold for Ninepence, he quoted - "Financially, this magazine was not successful, [in 1959], mainly because of lack of promotion in Auckland and Canterbury. Next year may be different. Next year it may not even be necessary." The magazine did not survive but I do not know whether this was due to lack of support or Arnold passing on. The last one was "**Table Talk**" in 1988/9 by subscription - there wasn't enough!

Contributions and a sponsor will secure this one's future!

**Distribution.** Make sure your clubs and players receive copies that can be passed around.

Feedback so far has been great - thank you.

*Robin Radford*

## STRATEGIC PLAN

Michael Brown presented a draft strategic plan based on four goals:

1. To increase participation at all levels of table tennis.
2. To increase the profile of table tennis in New Zealand
3. To achieve international success
4. To provide professional and innovative administration to table tennis

Separate plans, with specific outcomes, will be prepared under the headings of Players, Coaches, Volunteers and Administration. The need to streamline communication with players was recognised and a Players Committee was proposed.





# INTRODUCING

The new Executive Director  
of Table Tennis New Zealand

**Michael Brown**

## A new breed of leadership...

An early task for our new Board was to decide what sort of person was needed to take over the Executive Director's position following Merv Allardyce's retirement. They quickly signalled their intentions - they would recruit a young, energetic person with university-level sports management qualifications, proven practical skills in sports administration, and hands-on experience in change management.

After advertising nationwide and spending a morning interviewing the most favoured applicants, they appointed Michael Brown to the position.

Mike comes to the job with a considerable range of skills, qualifications and experience:

- A Masters Degree in Recreation and Leisure Studies
- Experience in sports administration at club, association and national level
- Change management and strategic planning skills
- A vast range of contacts in other sports and support agencies
- Previous success in obtaining sponsorship
- Experience in publicity and marketing

Mike's previous job was Development Officer with the NZ Universities Sports Union, which involved dealing with all major sports and multi-sport event management. He has quickly grasped the current situation within table tennis and, working with the new Board, will bring a fresh perspective and provide an ideal environment for the sport to enter a new era.

Table Tennis New Zealand wishes him well in his new position and pledges maximum support.

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## Mike writes:

I'm excited about working for Table Tennis over the next years. I take the view that the current situation represents an opportunity for improvement rather than a problem to be overcome, and look forward to working with the Table Tennis community in doing this. Already, in my first month in the job, I've come across a wealth of dedication, ideas, and positive thinking amongst the people I've met and spoken to.

As shown by the restructuring and appointment of the new Board, Table Tennis is not a sport afraid of change. This is a positive thing. There are significant changes happening in the sport, recreation and leisure environment, and unless sports can anticipate and adapt to these changes, they will get left behind. Further change lies ahead for Table Tennis, and our challenge will be managing that change on our terms.

Later in March, and in April, I'll be travelling around the country visiting nearly all of our Associations. It will be an opportunity for me to get a much better feel for the state of Table Tennis, and to hear as many suggestions, ideas and criticisms as possible.

I must confess that I haven't really played Table Tennis for 20 years. My high point was winning the junior mixed doubles at the Johnsonville club in Wellington, and reaching the giddy heights of C grade interclub. The mark of a great athlete is recognising the right moment to bow out before that inevitable downward slide begins! My main sport has been Basketball, and in between spraining my ankles and struggling with my fitness, I'm still playing.

There are still some supplies of **"FIFTY YEARS ACROSS THE TABLE"** a history of NZ TT written by Ken Wilkinson, BEM, for the 50th celebrations in 1984.

Apply National office -  
Cost \$3.50 incl postage.

## The Olympics - 1996 - Table Tennis video tapes are now available:

- A: Men's Singles to final 16  
Womens singles & Men's Doubles to Semi's
- B: Men's Singles to Quarters  
Men's Doubles to medal matches
- C: Men's & Women's singles to medal matches.

**Contact National Office.**

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I believe that the formation of the Oceania Table Tennis Region in 1978 and the resulting opportunities for players in this area to compete at such events as world cups, world team cups and more recently the Olympics are more than outweighed by the negative effects that its setting up has had.

Just about every elite player I have had dealings with from NZ and Australia has said they would much rather win their own National Singles title than the Oceania - this is an illustration of what importance and value is placed on it by the players. If it wasn't for the opportunity to compete in the world cup events etc. the players probably wouldn't even bother playing in it at all. By comparison the European and Asian titles are held in high regard by participants and regarded as much more important than any National titles in these regions.

The only way that justifies Oceania continuing is to bring in some of the south east Asian countries such as Indonesia, Philippines, Malaysia and Singapore to improve the standard of play and make it a more truly international event. I firmly believe that at present NZ and Australian players would do far better for themselves by competing as part of Asia. Both NZ and Australia are allowed to compete in the Asian championships under some sort of associate membership. I guess we are getting the best of both worlds.

Any one who was witness to the last Oceania Championships run in Auckland would have had difficulty in having any idea that the supposedly most important tournament in the region was being held. Concessions were made such as playing team events completely out when the rules of International table tennis state a team match shall end when one team has a majority. If the tournament cannot be run under ITTF rules as others are, does it deserve to be held at all?

Competing within Asia and trying hard to improve our ranking within that region would be far better for our players than the ease which they can obtain entry and qualification to elite events now - most of which nobody in NZ actually cares about.

**The Olympic Games.** The farcical procedure whereby NZ players qualified but did not go to Atlanta this year is a direct result of qualifying through too easy a passage. If they had to qualify through Asia, players like Peter Jackson would still have a royal chance of qualifying, remembering only 3 players from one country can go and Central and South East Asia have spots allocated to them. Players to qualify from Asia included Baboor (India) and Suseno (Indonesia) both of whom are around the same world ranking as Peter Jackson. I am certain if Peter had qualified via Asia he would have had far more chance of having his selection approved.

The quest for Olympic selection is also having a negative effect on the functioning and realisations of table tennis at top level. Everyone seems to be concerned with Sydney 2000, going to the next Olympics and even worse winning medals there.

*continued - bottom page 13—>*

***NATIONAL MUTUAL N Z MASTERS GAMES*** - Feb 1997 -Wanganui

Dave Walsh of the Wanganui TT Association ably conducted the table tennis section of these games. 120 entrants from NZ, including a few from OZ participated.

**GOLD** medal winners were:

35+Mixed teams

Terry Curtis  
Barry Wynks  
John Osborne  
Bob Lassen  
Bruce Penberthy  
Royden Galloway  
John Williams

45+Mixed teams

55+Mixed teams

Individual Events:

**Over 35**

Mens Singles  
Women's Singles  
Men's Doubles

Women's Doubles

Mixed Doubles

Bob Lassen  
Annice Robottom  
Barry Winks  
Terry Curtis  
Sue Shirriffs  
Linda Wynks  
Barry Wynks  
Sue Shirriffs

**Over 45**

Mens Singles  
Womens Singles  
Mens Doubles

Womens Doubles

Mixed Doubles

**Over 55**

Mens Singles  
Womens Singles  
Mens Doubles

Womens Doubles

Mixed Doubles

**Over 65**

Mens Singles  
Womens Singles  
Mens Doubles

Womens Doubles

Mixed Doubles

Bob Lassen  
Linda Wynks  
Bruce Penberthy  
Bob Lassen  
Sue Shirriffs  
Linda Wynks  
Bruce Penberthy  
Joyce Coleman

John Lelliott  
Kate Webber  
Lee Mummery  
John Lelliott  
Annice  
Robottom  
Elsie Spooner  
Bruce Penberthy  
Joyce Coleman

John Lelliott  
Elsie Spooner  
Doug Wong  
Dennis Galvin  
Isabel Cleland  
Elsie Spooner  
Nick Gousgounis  
Elsie Spooner

*from John Lelliott*

.....  
: AUCKLAND Association are selling top quality "Stiga" Expert Table Tennis Tables. The  
: .....  
: .....

**Oceania and Olympics Cont'd ~**

Forget the Olympics, concentrate on working our way up the International ladder by our players concentrating on beating the Malaysias, Scotlands, Norways etc of the table tennis world. Funding should be directed towards these goals. The funding received for Olympic usage is quite simply a waste. We should be working at building a NZ team with 3 players of Peter Jackson's standard that could get us a men's team ranking somewhere like 16 to 20. This would be an unbelievable achievement for NZ in a global sport like table tennis and something every player in NZ can see as being achievable and even more importantly is achievable and can be aspired to instead of pie in the sky Olympic medals.

A New Zealand under 20 Development tour to South Australia took place in mid-January, with seven players and two managers comprising the travelling party. **Mark Stewart, Frank Sin, Graeme Windley, Amber Johnson, Tina Lee Tayna Daly and Stewart Meadows** were accompanied by **Ron Garrett and Stacy Hooper**. The primary object of the trip was to give us exposure to overseas players, techniques, styles and training, thereby revealing areas that needed attention in order to further our games.

We were split into two training groups and Mark and I were extremely lucky to be involved in the Australian Youth Training Camp which took place over 5 days. Controlled by the new Australian (and ex-Polish) coach, Jerzy Grycan, it consisted of both table and physical/endurance training. Over the week we were put through a large number of drills, which by the end of the camp, we could see developing stage by stage into the game situation. There was heavy emphasis placed on consistency, although the Australian players did at times hit the ball extremely hard from the outset! (two weeks later the bruises remain!)

A disappointing feature of the camp was the almost complete lack of attention given to Mark and myself, by the new coach. This did at times get extremely frustrating, given we were over there to learn and improve. We did however receive good advice from the assistant coaches. Glenn Tepper and Alex Jackaubezheck. Perhaps our greatest learning though came from the players themselves, who were only too willing to stop and offer advice. The experience of watching and training with them was of unlimited value and one for which we are most grateful.

The remainder of the party trained under top South Australian coach, John Matovinovic, with a host of local players. Both table and physical training were again employed, with mental preparation and eating routines included. John was extremely effective in that upon offering advice, he would demonstrate why he thought what he did, but still leave it up to the individual to decide whether he was correct. In essence, he subtly made the players generate solutions to their problems, or answers to their questions.

At the conclusion of the week's training we all participated in the Adelaide Championships. Again there was exposure to a wide range of player levels and styles. Mark performed particularly well, reaching the Semi-finals of the Under 20 Men's Singles, accounting for the forth seed along the way.

After a day of sightseeing it was back to the sweat for 2 and 1/2 days under Sth Australian President Fred Whelan. We were videoed and subsequently offered technical advice, something that should be done in NZ.

There were plenty of matches against local players and we found facilities and equipment to be of a very high standard. Of particular note was the emphasis placed on multiballs. Time efficiency for each routine was promoted though having a continual supply of balls. Admittedly the excessive heat (40 degrees) was difficult to deal with at times which was compounded by the lack of air conditioning.

Read on - bottom page 15 —>

## AUSTRALIAN VETERANS CHAMPIONSHIPS - from John Lelliott (Adelaide - Nov 96)

Four teams of Kiwis attended these championships with the following results:

**Over 40 Men** - Bob Lassen, Kevin Fogarty, John Fogarty. (Finished 7th out of 10)

**Over 40 Women** - Val Beaver, Averil Roberts, Jill Murray, Lynley Barker  
(finished 3rd out of 7 teams)

**Over 50 men** - John Lelliott, Chip Eade, Eddie Millard.  
(finished 6th out of 9 teams)

**Over 50 Women** - Janice Stead, Val Scarr, Ngaire Garrett.  
(finished 5th out of 9 teams)

Val Beaver won a Gold medal in the over 40 mixed doubles with Paul Pinkerwich and a Bronze Medal in the over 40 women's singles. John Lelliott won a Silver medal in the over 60 men's doubles.

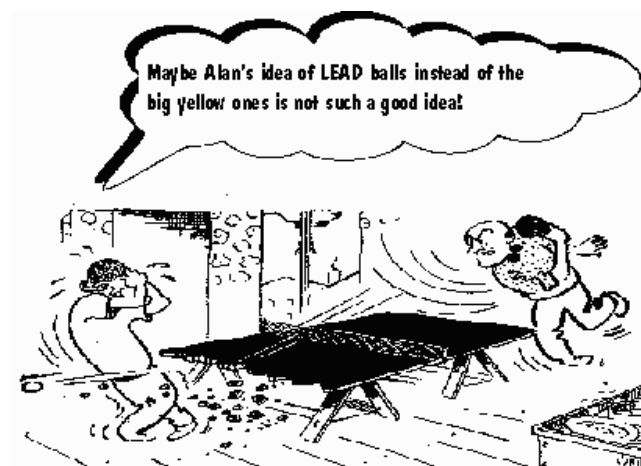
**Merit Lists.** Val Beaver winning 15 out of 18 matches in the teams finished 3rd in the age group and Bob Lassen winning 19 out of 24 matches was listed as 10th.



## NEW ZEALAND SELECTORS:

The Board announced the appointment of the national Selectors at the AGM:

David Jackson  
(Convenor),  
Bryan Keane  
Richard Lee



from page 14~

Sweat balls were rampant, and in my case became so common, the Aussies refused to let me serve.

Overall the trip was highly successful, we all got along well, learnt a lot and had lots of fun, thanks to the generosity and effort by the Sth Australian officials. A big thank you to Ron and Stacey who did a great job. Their support was tremendous.

We all return to our shores with a favourable outlook on Adelaide.



From being on-the-table rivals in NZ since the age of 13 to club mates in a Belgian table tennis club, Shane Laugeson and Jared Smith are enjoying playing their sport professionally in a country where it is almost a national obsession.

Shane has returned to the Boechoutse Club in Antwerp for his fourth season, and this year will again play in the club's top team which has gained promotion to the national 2nd Division. Jared, in his second season at Boechoutse, will play in the provincial 1st Division (national 5th), after his team won the province's 2nd Division (national 6th Division) last year.

The Boechoutse Club is relatively small but very strong, with a membership of elite professionals. The club is developing a real "United Nations" atmosphere, importing overseas players and coaches. The number of "foreigners" per team is limited to two, but with the rules being relaxed this year to accept British and European players on the same basis as Belgian Nationals, only players from outside that area (ie New Zealand, Australia, Asia etc) will be classified as "foreign". Boechoutse has imported a Chinese trainer (known to the players as "Jingo"), who trained the club team which won the European Club Competition last year. Other club members include an English player who lives and works in London and is flown over by the club each weekend for his interclub match, a player from the Netherlands who drives across the border weekly to play, and the club's newest import, an 18 year old originally from Bosnia.

Many clubs in Belgium are financed and run by wealthy businessmen with a passion for the sport, and the manager of Boechoutse is no exception. He runs a real estate business alongside the table tennis club and the players are able to promote his business around the country with named tracksuits, shirts and bags.

Obviously with this kind of business involvement, the club scene in Belgium is vastly different from that in New Zealand. Interclub is played for the top grades mostly on Saturday nights, which would be hard to imagine in New Zealand. Each interclub team has four players, and there are no doubles at all in Belgian interclub.

There is a women's only competition which is very strong, and women can play in this as well as in the ordinary mixed interclub competition. But one of the biggest differences, of course, is the financial structure. No player in Belgium, even in the lower grades, pays to play. Subscriptions and interclub fees just don't exist. Any funds raised by the club are generated by social activities, and every club has a bar. All top players are paid and most clubs, especially the larger ones, treat their stronger players as professionals.

The most important thing for any professional player in Belgium is his grading, as this dictates how much he is worth when contract time comes around. Even the weakest players who are not professional receive a grading, and in the case of imported professionals a large amount of guesswork is sometimes involved to place a player correctly. Once a ranking is set for a player, it is very hard to move unless the player meets and beats players ranked above him on a regular basis. Shane has just been promoted from B Zero to A12, a grade earned last year when he beat several players ranked above him, and which now equates him with the 12th best Belgian player. Jared's ranking is B2 at present, and is not expected to change because in the 5th and 6th national divisions most players are similarly graded, and a player needs to compete successfully at a higher level all the time to increase his ranking.

*Continued over there on page 17 —>>*

## ACADEMY SET FOR A HECTIC YEAR

The NZ Table Tennis Academy is in for an extremely busy year with it's coaches being involved in the Southern region coaching program, school holiday camps, school development programs and help to the West Coast association.

The response to the Academy programs, purposely designed for the handicapped, elderly and youth at risk has resulted in the appointment of a third coach due to arrive in April, who will be hired out to other associations who may need help.

The Academy is offering a SPECIAL annual membership to players from all over NZ who will be members of the "200" club and will receive many benefits and exclusive offers such as:

1. 10% discount on all Academy activities and camps.
2. Five free camps will be drawn in 1997.
3. Members will be able to play in Academy teams against visiting teams.
4. Members will have the opportunity to travel to China, for Chinese training programs. At least 5 visits are planned over the next 3 years, at a reasonable cost.

### *More info:*

NZ Academy of Table Tennis  
Box 2230 Stoke Nelson  
Ph 03-5477530 Fax 03-5474828

## EMPIRE MIDWEEK CLUB

An offshoot of the Empire Table Tennis Club (HV), the **Midweek Club** began life back in 1974 as a small group of young mums and now has 50 women and 46 men, only 20 under age 60 with 4 over 80.

The members meet every Tuesday and Thursday from February to mid December. An Annual Sub is charged with a small fee each morning. 12 table are fully used each morning playing mostly doubles as 60 odd attend Tuesdays and 40-50 on a Thursday. Matches are organised in various ways - drawing for partners on a lucky dip style and a graded selection of games.

During the year matches are arranged with other mid week clubs in the Greater Wellington area. An annual invitation tournament is held in August with visitors from the Wellington area as well as Masterton, Levin and Wanganui.

In house tournaments are held, plus a novelty morning for Xmas break up.

Anyone visiting the Wellington area will be made very welcome.

Margaret Allardyce

## ***The Belgian Connection Cont'd ~***

Players' contracts vary greatly, and can be negotiated to include the club paying expenses to and from Belgium, accommodation in Antwerp and the big cost of equipment (blades, rubber and glue). Most clubs also pay a set amount per interclub win, and pay all players' expenses to occasional matches against other clubs within Belgium and even further afield. The opportunity also exists to take part in some of the more prestigious European tournaments.

While a great deal of training and hard work is involved, the players agree that playing the sport you enjoy is a great way to earn a living !

**NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS - SENIORS AND  
JUNIORS COMBINED OR SEPARATE**

From John Kiley

For a long time there was no debate about the format of the New Zealand Championships: the junior teams came first, then the junior individuals, then the senior teams, then the senior individuals. Everyone knew the format, and nobody seemed to question it. Then came the South Canterbury nationals of 1985 when the senior and junior events were played at the same time. Not everyone welcomed the change. "How can we organise supervision of junior teams when the seniors are all playing ?"; "The juniors won't be able to watch the top senior players - they'll be playing at the same time."; "Our top junior team and top senior team have the same coach - he/she can't be in two places at once...."

But things didn't turn out too badly; the whole event was completed in 8 days, and the format has been used again since.

The next major development occurred in 1992 when there was a proposal to separate the North Island, South Island and NZ Championships into senior, veterans, and junior tournaments - providing for a total of up to nine separate national fixtures. The option to combine them still existed but the idea was to make national tournaments accessible to smaller associations, and to allow room for further growth. It was felt by many that the NZ and North Island championships especially had reached saturation point in terms of competitor numbers and the number of events.

The idea was great. The only problem was that associations didn't exactly queue up to host the new range of smaller tournaments on offer and nothing really changed. Combined tournaments with junior events followed by senior events continued as before. The recent change to a four term school year forced another rethink. In 1996 the North and South Island championships continued to combine senior, veterans and juniors into the one tournament but the NZ senior championships and NZ junior championships were held separately two months apart. ("Boring; no atmosphere," complained the competitors at the senior championships; "We like to see the top senior players in action and they're not here," grizzled some of the South Island juniors).

Either we have nine smaller national tournaments shared between 21 associations; four large tournaments shared among an ever-decreasing number of associations with the resources to host them; or something in between.

TTNZ's new administration is faced with the task of reconciling the players' preferences with administrative feasibility; of reconciling past experience with the needs of the future; of reconciling the professional event manager with the age-old dependence on the dedicated and highly experienced amateur administrator. Our national tournaments are the flagship of the sport. Generating maximum participation and maximum publicity out of them is an issue of top priority.

Dear Sir

Once again the Hillary Commission is grumbling about giving away money to table tennis. It seems a shame to me that TTNZ has to rely on funding from this source.

You know, once upon a time our TT association didn't need such an organisation as the Hillary Commission, which incidentally is politically orientated these days. I would even go to say that they would find any old excuse to give money away to the primary sports and leave minority sports like table tennis completely in the lurch.

The charter under which the Commission was set up was to help minority sports, not to use them as political pawns in a larger game. I think the Commission will have to go back to it's charter and rethink it's strategy, otherwise minority sports will lose confidence in it completely if proper financing can not be obtained from them.

TTNZ should be congratulated on it's first ever edition of Table Tennis Info.

Yours Sincerely

**Robert Terry**

**West Coast**

***Michael Brown, TTNZ new Executive Director comments:***

*The support of the Hillary Commission is crucial to TTNZ. Without this support, which provides close to 1/3 of our income, we could not function at the level we do. We would either have to raise the money obtained from Associations by over 1/2, or cut back our expenditure by \$44,000. Neither is an option that would benefit Table Tennis.*

*Compared to funding received by other sports bodies, Table Tennis does not fare particularly well. As to why, I think we need to look at ourselves rather than at the Hillary Commission. Yes, part of the Hillary Commission's role is to assist sports with financing, but unless we can help ourselves at the same time, we can't expect this financing to continue at the same level.*

*As a final point, the Hillary Commission does not just give away money to sports. All national sports bodies sign a contract with the Commission, whereby we agree to deliver specified outcomes in return for funding. It is only as we deliver these outcomes, and increase our player numbers, that we can expect more funding from the Hillary Commission.*