

June	5-6	Waikato Veterans Championships	Hamilton
	11-13	Canterbury Residentials	Christchurch
	13	Wellington Junior Age Group	Petone
	13	Auckland Junior Open	Auckland
	17	Entries Close: North Island Championships	
	19	Hawkes Bay Open	Napier
	19-20	Northland Open	Whangarei
	21-27	Commonwealth Championships	Malaysia
	26-27	Nelson Open	Nelson
	27	Wairarapa Open	Carterton
July	3	South Canterbury Open	Timaru
	4	Counties Manukau Open	Manurewa
	10-11	Waitemata Open	Waitemata
	13-14	North Island Teams Events	Palmerston North
	15-18	North Island Championships	Palmerston North
	17-18	Canterbury Junior Open	Christchurch
	22	Entries Close: South Island Championships	
	31	Northern Junior Round Robin	Hamilton
	31	Manawatu Hard Bat Tournament	Palmerston North
	7-8	Auckland Open	Auckland
August	7-8	Wellington Open	Wellington
	13-29	Olympic Games	Athens
	20-22	South Island Championships	Invercargill
	21-22	Wellington Spring Open	Wellington
	26	Entries Close: NZ Championships	
	28-29	Waikato Open	Hamilton
	29	Wellington Developing Juniors	Petone
	4	Golden Bay Open	Takaka
	4-5	Manawatu Open	Palmerston North
	10-12	Canterbury Open	Christchurch
September	12	Northern Districts Grand Prix Finals	North Harbour
	22-23	NZ Schools Championships	North Harbour
	24-2 Oct	NZ Championships	Auckland
	30-31	NZ Maori Championships	Manurewa
	16-23	Australian Veterans Championships	Canberra
	6-7	Waikato Summer Open	Hamilton
	28-5 Dec	World Junior Championships	Japan
October			
November			



TABLE TENNIS INFO

Issue: 24

May 2004

Oceania Championships



Practice time
Northland Stadium

Olympic Qualifying
Training in Sweden
World Teams Champs
Change of TTNZ Chair

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the support given by:



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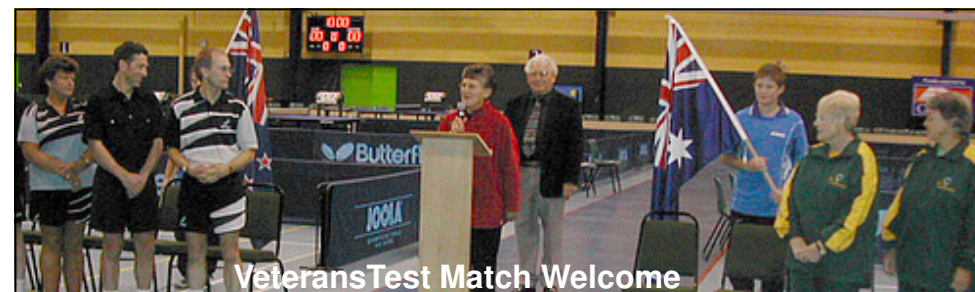
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New Zealand Open Veterans Championships



Veterans Test Match Welcome



My Serve

from James Morris

The Oceania Championships in Whangarei have been and gone. For me and the team, running this international event has been a busy time. It highlights the need to run a financially secure tournament so that the host association is not left with a burden of debt. Much planning and engaging sponsorship support was necessary for this outcome.

A highlight of the Oceania's for me was having fifteen umpires from around the Pacific rim which gave a professional touch and kept the scheduling on track. TV crews were expected from TV1 and TV3, but the breaking of a major rugby league story took priority. But I hope you were privileged to see Li Chunli and Karen Li on the news and the sports "Oscars" show. Great for the sport of table tennis.

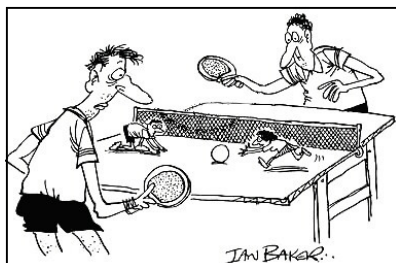
These days the opportunity is presenting itself to hold international tournaments in NZ including WJC events. ITTF initiative has been to develop three strategic junior championships: a world cadet challenge, world junior circuit and world junior championship. This is certainly an exciting prospect for the future.

Congratulations to the new board chairman, Graeme Muller. We'll have you playing in no time! I would like to thank the departing chairman Alan Hounsell for his leadership over the past few years. When I was on the board and working in the coaching area his budgeting skills were evident. Alan ran effective meetings in that he kept people on task and could timeframe those tasks. This certainly helped me in meeting my deadlines! I wish you well Alan in your new endeavours.

The pinnacle of sporting achievement is surely the Olympic Games. It's great that we have two players representing NZ in Athens. My best wishes in their quest for gold to Li Chunli in the singles, to Karen Li and Chunli in the doubles, and to coach Simeon Cairns.

Cheers

James



I endeavoured to learn how to loop.
I became the best one in my group.
When from out of the crop,
Came a guy who could chop,
And into the net my shots droop.

Kirk Stimpert (Wisconsin, USA)

Editorial

Difficult to grasp isn't it! Four of our top men players did not waste their time or money entering the Oceania Olympic qualifying tournament, because even if they came out on top the NZOC would still not have selected them and therefore the cost was not warranted.

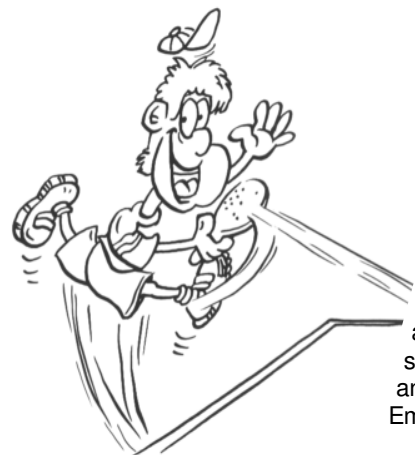
So Australia is virtually automatically represented at the Olympics by default. Would not dare suggest that NZ would have come tops but over recent years our men have definitely held their own and had as good a chance as any. There is a lot of unfairness about this situation.

Read more in detail – page 13.

Manawatu have to be congratulated on the running of the NZ Veterans Championships. More in later pages but what a delight it was to be invited to a "corporate box". There were a number of them, all sponsored, close to the action with soft drinks and nibbles supplied. Full marks for that one.

And let's not forget the Oceanias in Whangarei – Ron Garrett's accolades are on page 8. It's good to hear of the expertise NZ has in conducting tournaments.

Robin



If this is the first time you have received this magazine, we welcome you as a registered member.

By being registered, you qualify to participate, if you wish, in any Open Championships in New Zealand. But whatever level you play at, simply by being registered you have joined a very large group of table tennis enthusiasts throughout New Zealand who enjoy each other's company and who share ideas and opinions with each other through this magazine.

The magazine is sent to all currently registered members and we hope you enjoy it. Feel free to contact us and submit questions, letters or interesting table tennis news at any time. Our mailing address is PO Box 867, Wellington. Email address ttnz@tabletennis.org.nz.

We also invite you to explore our website at <http://www.tabletennis.org.nz> which has lots of information on table tennis to help you.

Your registration number and association are printed on the address label on the envelope in which this magazine reached you. If you've mislaid the envelope, your number is also available from your Association or our website. The number must be quoted on your entry form for all national tournaments and most other major events.

Don't forget to advise us and your association of any change of address.

Enjoy your table tennis and once again, welcome !!!

Averil Roberts Administration Officer.

CHANGE AT THE TOP

After chairing the Board of Table Tennis New Zealand since the present management structure was set up in July, 1996, **Alan Hounsell** has decided to step down.

Throughout his term Alan was noted for his fairness, objectivity, and dispute resolution skills.

The new Chairman is Graeme Muller. A recent addition to Table Tennis New Zealand's management team, Graeme was profiled in our last issue. He brings extensive experience in marketing, information technology and strategic planning and is expected to provide energetic leadership.

Farewell from Outgoing Chairman

Alan Hounsell offers the following message to all table tennis players and officials...

At the recent Board meeting of Table Tennis New Zealand in Whangarei I decided, after careful consideration, that it was an appropriate time to step down as Chairman of TTNZ.

I am pleased that **Graeme Muller** has been elected as my replacement. I am sure Graeme will bring a fresh approach and new ideas which will benefit table tennis in the future.

It has been a pleasure and very satisfying to be involved with table tennis at Board level. The sport has made tremendous strides forward, but still faces many challenges that the lower profile sports encounter.

At our recent meeting we identified our strengths and weaknesses and this analysis will form the base of the sport's long term strategy. It will enable table tennis in New Zealand to continue to move forward.

As I will be standing down from the Board in November, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank all the volunteers (far too many to name here) without whom the sport could not function successfully.

I would also like to thank all past and present Board members and National Office staff for their support and contributions throughout my eight years with table tennis.

I wish everyone in the sport all the very best in the years to come.

Alan R Hounsell

Deputy Pays Tribute

To allow a new Chairman time to take over while he is still around **Alan Hounsell** made the decision prior to a recent meeting to stand down as Chairman and the Board elected another non table tennis person (Graeme Muller - see page 6) to take over the helm.

A restructure of Table Tennis New Zealand in 1996 entrusted governance of the sport to a Board and management to the National Office. On 11 July 1996 the first Board was appointed and Alan elected Chairman. A person with a sound business and sporting background, he wasted no time in ensuring the Board kept to its role of governance.

A strong chairman, able to see the wider picture and with no particular interest in any one area of New Zealand, he was truly independent.

Throughout his eight years on the Board Alan always had the interests of table tennis players at heart, which was not always understood by some people (Who is this guy? He doesn't even play the sport). Most of these comments came from players who didn't lift a hand to volunteer for a job anyway.

Others made comment that Alan was rarely seen at national events. Being an independent appointed member this was not his role. Other Board members were usually in attendance. If TTNZ had plenty of funds then it may be OK to get the Chairman to events around the country, but TTNZ does not have the funds. Better to put monies into players.

Having been on the Board for all of Alan's time at the helm I can honestly say I have found him a pleasure to work with, a great chairman with an interest in the sport.

I wish him well in the future with the role he has taken on in another voluntary organisation.

Ron Garrett (Deputy Chairman, Table Tennis New Zealand)

STANDING ROOM ONLY

Boxers do it, basketball players do it, tennis players do it – why not table tennis players?

Do what?

Sit down while receiving advice during breaks in play.

Michael Scott, MD, has considered this and writes for the ITTF magazine, Table Tennis Illustrated:



I have been a ring-side boxing physician for many years. Some bouts used to go twenty rounds before being limited to fifteen or less. During the interval between rounds boxers routinely stood in their corners while their seconds feverishly attempted to neutralise the damage done in the preceding rounds. Finally, a thoughtful second purchased a small stool enabling his boxer to sit down between rounds. Initially, most boxers disdained this innovation as a sign of weakness and, as a defiant gesture to their opponent, continued standing between rounds. Nowadays it is accepted as standard procedure.

A similar situation evolved in basketball. Not too many years ago basketball coaches never had their players sit during 'time outs'. Instead they all stood in a tight circle obtaining instructions until the whistle blew to resume play. Finally, a few medically knowledgeable coaches, such as Coach Ramsey of Oregon, acquired foldable chairs. He utilized them during every break in play.

Astute coaches, trainers and athletes themselves realise that the pulse rate, blood pressure, muscular tension, mental and physiological stress, etc, can decrease dramatically with a brief change in posture from standing to sitting. Just a few moments sitting down can help revitalise the mind and body. In addition to boxing and basketball, it has been adopted as a standard procedure in many other sports. One may say that some are more strenuous than table tennis but to exemplify how mental and physical table tennis can be we need only recall the 2003 World Championships. Werner Schlager was exhausted after winning the final point in the men's singles final. To those of us nearby he said "I doubt if I could have continued." He was entitled to feel that way after his numerous grueling matches over several days.

I have been an official in a range of sports from archery to yachting and table tennis is one of the few that fail to routinely take advantage of this phenomenon. Table tennis coaches and players, especially in prolonged tournaments, should adopt this simple tactic.

Comments from New Chairman

Graeme Muller has submitted the following comments on taking over the Chairmanship of the TTNZ Board.....

There are enormous opportunities for Table Tennis in New Zealand and I would like to touch on five areas that I believe will make a difference for the future of the sport:

- **Focus on Juniors**

We have to find a way for the next table tennis champions, from the local schools and clubs, to be presented with opportunities to get more involved. The future for table tennis in New Zealand will come from our kids, from their experiences at school and from the fun they have playing table tennis with their friends and family. Therefore the TTNZ board must look for ways to get table tennis into the schools and to get the kids more involved.

- **Welcome Players from Abroad**

Another growth opportunity is the community of people from countries where table tennis is a high profile sport. Who knows, we may even find New Zealand's next Olympic champ. We have to grab the chance and find ways to grow table tennis communities around the country with these enthusiastic players.

- **Be Financially Self-Sufficient**

One of the best things the board can do for table tennis is develop means to be more self-sufficient in terms of funding. It is my ambition to find a way for TTNZ to be financially self-sufficient. Then we can invest association fees and other funding into new opportunities such as sending our top players to international events and building a name for NZ internationally as having some of the world's best table tennis players.

- **Utilise Technology**

I also believe that we can make things a lot easier and provide more long-term security for the sport by engaging technology to help us. From simple projects such as creating a multi-user website and upgrading the ratings system to a real-time, instantly online system, through to using technology to help our elite players improve their backhands. Funding agencies are very interested in helping sports that are embracing technology to make themselves more efficient. The TTNZ board will look for opportunities to constantly improve.

- **Promote Ourselves**

Let's tell the world. Table tennis is New Zealand's best kept secret. With a marketing background I am going to encourage the board to develop a marketing and public relations strategy to systematically improve the country's knowledge of table tennis, the fact that we have world class people playing for New Zealand, and the fact that so many Kiwis head down to their local hall for a game every week.

I might not have a table tennis background but I am passionate about leveraging my experience in marketing, technology and strategy to grow table tennis in New Zealand and ensure its future prosperity.

Graeme Muller (Chairman, Table Tennis New Zealand)



“Best Oceania Championships Ever” - Oceania President, Neil Harwood

GREAT WORK, NORTHLAND

Table Tennis Northland Chairman Brent Davies reports on the hosting of the Oceania Championships.....

Held in the Advocate Stadium and ASB Leisure Centre in Whangarei from 18-24 April, the Oceania Table Tennis Championships were a great success.

Neil Harwood, President of the Oceania Table Tennis Federation said in his closing address that they were the best Oceania Championships ever.

In addition to Neil Harwood, Oceania officials in attendance included Executive Director **Phil Males** and ITTF Council and Technical Committee member **Graeme Ireland**.

This was the first international event to be held in the redeveloped Advocate Stadium. Extensive local media coverage ensured great promotion and a great atmosphere throughout the tournament.

Ten countries participated with some Island nations having to overcome major obstacles to get here, including serious flooding in Fiji and visa delays for the Tongan team. However all teams arrived and were given a rousing welcome at the Opening Ceremony which included a Maori welcome, speeches and waiata, and the Whangarei Pipe Band playing the NZ National Anthem as part of a dramatic flag raising ceremony.

Highlight of the tournament was the New Zealand men's team win over Australia 3 - 2, with **Aaron Li** in great form beating **Russell Lavale** and **William Henzell**, and with **Andrew Hubbard** winning a crucial match over **Brett Clarke**.

The highlight of the Individuals was the win in the women's doubles final by **Li Chunli** and **Karen Li** over **Miao Miao** and **Jian Fang Lay**.

A notable feature of the tournament was that all team and individual matches were umpired by qualified umpires from Australia, Fiji, Japan and New Zealand.

The huge success of this event was due to generous sponsorship from **Southern Trust and Advance Whangarei**, along with the organisational skills of Tournament Director **James Morris**, **Colleen Atchison** from Sport Northland and Tournament Referee **David Jackson**. It was also great to call on the services of **Shona Cudby** as Tournament Controller.

The tournament ran smoothly because of the large team of volunteers who acted as team liaison officers, drivers, canteen staff, table stewards, and who also did countless other tasks. Marvellous meals were provided by **Christine Morris** and her team both during the tournament and the training camp which preceded it.

It was pleasing to receive the following comments in an email from Phil Males: "This was the best championship ever and that is indicative of the tremendous amount of effort you all put in to make the event a marvellous success. This cannot be achieved without commitment by everyone and without doubt this is what your association has in abundance.

The hospitality shown to all the visitors during the championships was also without precedence."

Prior to the tournament a 3 day training camp was held, attended by the Island nations and Northland junior players under the direction of **Steve Dainton**, Oceania Development Officer, with support from coaches **Jan Berner**, **Raoul Rainouard** and **Daryl Lew**.

One of the many memories from the tournament - on the Kiribati team's final shopping spree at the Warehouse on the Saturday night only hours before they were due to fly out one member won a 29 inch TV on a Scratchy and proudly carried it out to the awaiting van. As it was not practical to take the TV home to Kiribati, the liaison officer bought it for \$200 and there were smiles all round.

Table Tennis Northland now looks forward to hosting the New Zealand Veterans Championships at Easter 2005.

Brent Davies
Chairman, Table Tennis Northland

Jack of All Trades' View of Oceania Championships

By Ron Garrett

Northland Table Tennis administrators took on the huge task of running the 12th Oceania Championships at Whangarei and performed very well indeed.

Mind you we all knew (well, I did) that Northland would run a very good tournament. Planning for the event started over two years ago and a special thank you must go to that dynamo from the north, **James Morris** (top administrator, top coach, top player) and the team surrounding him.

Running an event like this involves a lot of hard work (headaches also), and the support of sponsors and the community. Well done Northland.

While it would be fair to say Australia and New Zealand rule the table at this stage, the Island nations of the Pacific are making giant strides. This is due to the ITTF/OTTF development programmes with firstly **Glenn Tepper** and now **Steve Dainton** visiting the Oceania countries (including NZ) in their successive roles as Development Officer.

It was the first time I had met Steve face to face and I am impressed with how he goes about his role and the rapport he has with everyone.

Oceania championships are important to all members in the region as they affect qualification for world events and results are important when seeking funding etc.

I was originally going to the Oceania's as a TTNZ delegate to the Biennial General Meeting (BGM), and nominee for the Oceania Management committee. Then in a weak moment I agreed to put my name down to umpire (assuming incorrectly that umpires would get a bit of free time; watch some other matches; visit Whangarei city; have a beer; etc). Not the case, almost full time at the table Monday and Tuesday (8.30am till 9.30pm), Wednesday morning, free in the afternoon, quick dinner for all who were attending BGM (envious of others who could stay at restaurant to eat at leisure and enjoy a wine or beer).

Thursday and Friday similar to Monday and Tuesday with a couple of meetings thrown in; Saturday morning a TTNZ SWOT meeting followed by a Board meeting, then a bit of umpiring to finish off.

Five days later I am still catching up on sleep.

Seriously, I actually enjoyed the Championships and it was great for Northland (and players I think) to have all matches umpired by qualified umpires.

Well done to Northland and all players, coaches and officials who took part.

Ron Garrett
Deputy Chairman TTNZ Board
Oceania Management Committee (New member)
Jack of all trades in TT and player when time permits



Wayne Gear, Ringside.....

*a blow by blow account of the exciting Men's Teams
Final at the Oceania Championships*

DOWN TO THE WIRE

The stage was set for another close encounter between Australia and NZ. In the team huddle back at the motel the boys decided it was their turn to "lift the trophy". Australia was unaware of NZ's "X" factor (the secret, last minute arrival of Andrew Hubbard after a 35 hour flight from France). Everything was going to plan - our predictions of the Aussie team format; Hubbard's 11th hour arrival, and our winning streak with tosses.

After a tentative start by **Aaron Li** against William Henzell things weren't looking good with Aaron down 2 games to 1 and 8-10 in the fourth. Then miraculously Aaron pulled out two big serves, took the game 12-10 and steamrolled William in the 5th and final game 11-3, winning the last 8 points. NZ 1, Australia 0.

Next up was **Shane Laugesen** against his nemesis Russell Lavale. Shane, our dreadlocked version of David Beckham, fought hard but appeared to be lacking tough match play and he went down 3-0.



**L/R: Peter Craven, Aaron Li, Wayne Gear,
Shane Laugesen, Andrew Hubbard**
enjoying their medals

Andrew "Mutha" Hubbard then faced Brett Clarke. This game had it all. Mutha was at his animated best as he brought the 400+ crowd to their feet in a real frenzy. By the final stages of the 5th game the atmosphere was electric - screams and chants of "K I W I" resounded across the stadium. Mutha's commitment was 110%. He was so determined to make returns that one of the corner umpires was "taken out" and had to be replaced.

When he staved off 4 match points and took the match 16-14 in the 5th game, the NZ bench, including local hero and newspaper star, **Peter Craven**, were ecstatic.

4th match - Shane Laugesen v William Henzell. This started off even enough but midway through the second game Henzell's 9 years of playing in Sweden started to show and much to the disappointment of the girls in the crowd, the match was soon over 3-0.

The stage was now set for the dream final match between NZ's formidable No 1, Aaron Li, and the current Oceania champion, Russell Lavale. Aaron was brimming with confidence and with a passionate crowd behind him, never looked like losing, taking the match 3-0.

The medal ceremony was very moving for the team members and equally rewarding for the loyal and vocal home crowd at Whangarei. They created an atmosphere which enabled the players to rise to the occasion and produce exciting, high quality table tennis.

The trophy is ours and deservedly so, according to the team coach.

Wayne Gear

MIXED RESULTS FOR NEW ZEALAND AT OCEANIA CHAMPS

Apart from the dramatic win by New Zealand in the men's team event, exuberantly covered by team coach Wayne Gear in previous article, the two-yearly showdown with Australia and other Oceania countries proved to be a mixture of triumphs and near-misses for the 38 New Zealanders who competed.

The open singles events in particular were a disappointment, with only **Aaron Li** reaching the men's semi-finals and both **Li Chunli** and **Karen Li** also losing their respective women's semi-finals. But then Karen and Chunli boosted national pride in great style by beating the top Australian pair in the women's doubles final. **Aaron Li** and **Peter Craven** reached the men's doubles final.

The women's team was beaten 3-1 by Australia.

Better news in the age-categories

Gold was struck by several New Zealanders in the restricted age-group events. **Jenny Hung** and **Sophie Shu** (both under 15) scored an excellent win in the under 18 girls doubles final, beating the strong Australian pairing of **Michelle Beaumont** and **Claire Campbell-Innes**. Not surprisingly, they also won the under 15 girls doubles and Sophie Shu triumphed in the under 15 girls singles. **Matthew Lowe** won a gold medal in the under 15 boys doubles with his Australian partner **Kyle Davis**. Kiwis clean swept the Under 21 men's events, with **Andy Huang** winning the singles, and **John Cordue** and **Simon Wallace** the doubles.

Individual Events Medal Winners;

Open Men's singles:	Aaron Li – Bronze
Open Women's Singles:	Li Chunli – Bronze
	Karen Li – Bronze
Open Men's Doubles:	Aaron Li & Peter Craven – Silver
	Andrew Hubbard and Shane Laugesen – Bronze
Open Women's Doubles:	Li Chunli and Karen Li – GOLD
	Sarah Ho and Raewyn Young – Bronze

Open Mixed Doubles:	Shane Laugesen & Karen Li – Bronze
Under 21 Men's Singles:	Andy Huang – GOLD
	Simon Wallace – Silver
	Josh Alexandre – Bronze
Under 21 Women's Singles:	Sophie Shu – Bronze
	Hanna Squire – Bronze
Under 21 Men's Doubles:	John Cordue & Simon Wallace – GOLD
	Nathan Lowe & Binbin Zhu – Silver
	Albert Cheng & Chris Erskine – Bronze
Under 21 Women's Doubles:	Jenny Hung & Sophie Shu – Silver
	Michelle McCarthy & Hanna Squire – Bronze
Under 18 Girls Singles:	Sophie Shu – Silver
	Michelle McCarthy – Bronze
Under 18 Boys Doubles:	Nathan Lowe & Binbin Zhu – Bronze
	Albert Cheng & Chris Erskine – Bronze
Under 18 Girls Doubles:	Jenny Hung & Sophie Shu – GOLD
	Michelle McCarthy & Hanna Squire – Bronze
Under 15 Boys Singles:	Matthew Lowe – Silver
	James Harter – Bronze
Under 15 Girls Singles:	Sophie Shu – GOLD
	Jenny Hung – Silver
	Sally Ho – Bronze
Under 15 Boys Doubles:	Matthew Lowe (with K Davis, Australia) – GOLD
	James Harter & Andrew Rieper – Silver
Under 15 Girls Doubles:	Jenny Hung & Sophie Shu – GOLD
	Sally Ho & Laura Rusk – Bronze

Team Events:

Men	(Aaron Li, Andrew Hubbard, Shane Laugesen, Peter Craven):	GOLD
Women	(Li Chunli, Karen Li, Raewyn Young):	Silver
Under 18 Boys	(Albert Cheng, Nathan Lowe, Chris Erskine, Binbin Zhu):	Silver
Under 18 Girls	(Hanna Squire, Michelle McCarthy, Jenny Hung, Sophie Shu):	Silver

**The master of ping and of pong
Played anti and pips that were long.
His opponents with dread
And faces of red
Hit all shots too short or
too long.**

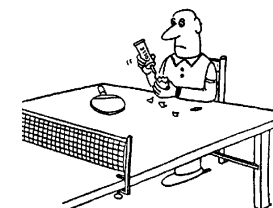
A nice wee limerick (originally published in the UASTT magazine) from



Kent Davault (Washington USA)

Who, when we sought permission responded with:

**I received to my surprise
A letter of Kiwi size
For permission to use
My limerick muse
I think I'm in paradise**



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<http://www.donictabletennis.co.nz>

Li Sisters Qualify for Olympics

Li Chunli has qualified for a singles place at the Olympic Games in Athens in August and her sister Karen Li will join her in the doubles. Karen missed out on singles qualification and no NZ men have qualified.

The places of Chunli and Karen in the NZ Olympic team remain dependent on final decisions by the TTNZ National Selection Panel and the NZ Olympic Committee but their respective world rankings of 43 and 111 make final selection almost a formality.

If Chunli heads for Athens it will be yet another milestone in a remarkable career. It will be her fourth Olympics (only canoeist Ian Fergusson has exceeded that in NZ), and follows her sensational Gold Medal win at the Manchester Commonwealth Games in 2002.

Complex Qualifying Process

The Oceania Olympic Qualifying Tournament was held in Melbourne on 12-15 April. Three singles places are available for Oceania players at the Olympics and in the qualifying tournament all Oceania players nominated by their country play a round robin followed by two knock-out tournaments. Once a player has won a place they do not participate in the process to allocate the other places. This is a recent refinement to prevent anyone (so inclined) from deliberately losing a match to another player from the same country to help them qualify, possibly at the expense of a player from another country.

The winner of the round robin is the first qualifier and the remaining players compete for the second place in a knock-out tournament, seeded according to their finishing positions in the round robin. The third place goes to the winner of a second knock-out tournament, with the winner of the first knock-out removed from the draw. Doubles qualification is automatic if both players in a pair are singles qualifiers. Otherwise knockout doubles tournaments are also held. The full rules are displayed on the Oceania TT Federation website – ottf.org.au (click on Rules, OTTF General Regulations, Olympic Qualifying).

Chunli was the top woman qualifier, winning the round robin and dropping no more than one game in any of her four best of seven matches. She and Karen won the doubles knock-out tournament.

Other NZ Singles Players Come Close

Karen Li won a singles place in 2000 and was extraordinarily unlucky not to win one this year. She finished second to her sister in the round robin and reached the final of both knock-out tournaments. She then lost both finals to players she had beaten in the round robin.

In the men's event, **Simon Wallace** was narrowly beaten in seven games by Australian **Trevor Brown** in the final of the second knock-out tournament, and in the semi-final of the same knock-out **Peter Craven** had only just lost to Wallace 12-10 in the seventh game. **John Cordue** also participated in the tournament.

Peter Jackson, veteran of three Olympics, including Seoul 1988 - the first at which Table Tennis was played, and **Shane Laugesen**, who narrowly missed qualification in 2000, were both unavailable, as were **Andrew Hubbard** and **Aaron Li**. Their unavailability and the NZ Olympic selection criteria in general are discussed in "The Road to the Olympics" on page 13.

The full list of Oceania qualifiers is: singles/doubles - **Li Chunli** (NZ), Jian Fang Lay (Australia), Miao Miao (Australia), William Henzell (Australia), Russell Lavale (Australia), Trevor Brown (Australia); doubles only - **Karen Li** (NZ), David Zalberg (Australia).

The only Oceania country to enter the Qualifying Tournament other than New Zealand and Australia was Kiribati, represented by Kevin Reo who was never a serious threat.



THE ROAD TO THE OLYMPICS:

Well Maintained, or in Need of Repair??

By John Kiley

Get out your copy of the very first issue of *Table Tennis Info*, dated October, 1996. Open it at page 9 (it only has 12 pages) and read the bottom two paragraphs. If your copy is faded beyond legibility, temporarily mislaid, or if you're too young (or too old) to remember 1996, the paragraphs are reproduced here in full:

When the top Australian player is selected for the Olympics and you beat him three times in one tournament, you can be forgiven for feeling hard done by when omitted from the New Zealand Olympic team. When you've also beaten the world number 70, the world number 50 and the world number 25 over the past twelve months, the decision seems even more harsh.

That is precisely what happened to Peter Jackson. A veteran of two previous Olympics; playing better than ever and with the highest world ranking ever attained by a New Zealand male, Jackson's hopes were high after a sensational Oceania qualifying tournament in Melbourne where he won all fifteen matches. But it wasn't enough. The Olympic selectors were working within the confines of a strict criteria, considering only players with a realistic chance of finishing in the top half of the field - regardless of how they performed in any qualifying tournament within the sport.

So the selection criteria applied by the New Zealand Olympic Committee in 1996 meant that Oceania's best male player, New Zealand's **Peter Jackson**, was omitted from the New Zealand team and, as it finally turned out, *three* Australian players, all weaker than Peter, represented Oceania at the Atlanta Olympics.

This happened in 1996 and could just as easily happen again today.

The International Olympic Committee, the International Table Tennis Federation and the Oceania Table Tennis Federation have put in place an arrangement that gives all Oceania players an equal chance of making it to the Olympics. Oceania is guaranteed three singles places in the field of 64 in each of the men's and women's competitions, and up to two more places for extra doubles players in each field of 32 doubles pairs. The Oceania TT Federation conducts an Olympic Qualifying Tournament to determine who fills these places.

Finding Oceania's Best

Nominations are invited from all 18 Oceania member countries and the nominated players compete in a series of round robin and knockout events (details are on page 12) to determine the Olympic place winners and to rank all the players from top to bottom.

The full ranking is necessary to provide for injury, withdrawals and, crucially, also for the non-selection of any player by their national Olympic selectors. If any of the winners of Olympic places are not selected in their own country's Olympic team, the place goes to the next ranked player. If no players meet their country's selection criteria, the Oceania table tennis places are forfeited and are then up for grabs world-wide with no shortage of takers.

NZ's High Olympic Standards

The Olympic selection criteria for table tennis in New Zealand was updated prior to Sydney 2000 in negotiations involving the NZ Olympic Committee and Table Tennis New Zealand in 1999. The Olympic Committee proposed that, for automatic selection, a player must have a world ranking of 100 or better. Executive Director **Michael Brown** was able to negotiate this down to 130 and TTNZ maintained it at that level for Athens 2004.

The criteria also provides that a player with a ranking lower than 130 may be considered for selection if they can be shown to have a realistic chance of finishing in the top half of the field. TTNZ had little room to move on this requirement – it is a firmly established NZOC criterion and consistent with the selection requirements put on all other Olympic sports in New Zealand. All NZ athletes selected for the Olympics are expected to be either medal prospects or at least likely top half finishers. The NZ Olympic Committee makes no apology for this demanding standard and officials regularly express pride in the fact that New Zealand aims higher than many other countries.

Australia's selection policy is more liberal, and herein lies the problem. If the two countries were able to liaise with each other and set a similar standard there would be no problem. Then either the Oceania Qualifying Tournament winners would go to the Olympics, or nobody from Oceania would go. As it stands now, a New Zealand player might blitz the field (as in 1996), but fail to meet the NZ criteria and be replaced at the Olympics by a lesser player from Australia who meets the Australian criteria. This seems unfair and against the spirit of continental representation at the Games.

Players Stay Away

Four of our top male players, **Peter Jackson, Aaron Li, Andrew Hubbard** and **Shane Laugesen**, all declared themselves unavailable for the 2004 Olympic Qualifying Tournament in Melbourne in April. One reason was the lack of available funding to assist them – TTNZ faced an unprecedented number of international events in 2004 and was unable to provide financial assistance for the selected players to travel to Melbourne. Those based in Europe in particular were therefore confronted with a major financial hurdle. But the main reason given was that, even if they won places at the tournament, they were unlikely to be selected as their world rankings were well below 130.

Peter Jackson was unavailable for the qualifying tournament in any event as it coincided with a national level coach education course in France that he was committed to. Asked his opinion on the NZ Olympic Committee criteria, he felt the ranking threshold of 130 is unrealistically high for Table Tennis. 862 male players are currently ranked in the world and he considers a level of 230 would be fairer. Many high ranked players are ineligible for the Games due to continental limitations.

The new Chairman of TTNZ's National Selection Panel, **Bryan Keane** (appointed after the Athens agreement was struck) favours a criteria which leaves players in no doubt over what they have to do. "Set a realistic world ranking benchmark and advise players that if they pass that benchmark and win a place at the Qualifying Tournament, they will go to the Olympics," he advocates. He feels TTNZ should also ensure adequate funding is always budgeted for full NZ participation in the qualifying tournament.

Memories of '96

With Jackson, Li, Hubbard and Laugesen all absent, Australia's William Henzell was the top qualifier in Melbourne. Aaron Li beat him in the Oceania Men's Team final a few days later. And second qualifier Russell Lavale's world ranking is almost identical to Peter Jackson's at around 265. But with the qualifying tournament now history, we can do little more than follow the fortunes of Henzell, Russell Lavale and Trevor Brown (winners of the men's singles places) to see if any or all of them are selected in the Australian Olympic team. If so (and according to a Melbourne newspaper it's a mere formality), memories of 1996 will come flooding back.



Is it a Game of Two Halves, or Just One?

In conclusion we need to pose a question central to the whole issue: is a top half finish a fair target for any Oceania country in a sport like Table Tennis, played in almost every country in the world? The 1996 *Table Tennis Info* article, displaying remarkable maturity and insight for an infant publication, concluded with the words: "*Maintain Olympic standards by all means - but Olympic standards cover the whole field, not just half of it.*" ☒

Top 5 Ratings as at May 14 2004

Full lists at
[http://
www.tabletennis.org.nz](http://www.tabletennis.org.nz)

Open Men

1. Aaron Li
2. Peter Jackson
3. Johnny Liang
4. Brad Chen
5. Shane Laugesen

Open Women

1. Li Chunli
2. Karen Li
3. Yuan Yuan
4. Mi Ryung Chun
5. Sun Yang

Over 70 Men

1. Bill Otene
2. Dennis Galvin
3. Merv Allardyce
4. Paul Bargh
5. Eddie Moore

Over 70 Women

1. Annice Robottom
2. Nellie Milich
3. Barbara Tabb
4. Irene Kent
5. Betty Thompson

Over 60 Men

1. Ron Garrett
2. Chip Eade
3. Warren Evans
4. Alan Alabaster
5. Jim Jarmin

Over 60 Women

1. Pauline Bennyworth
2. Merle Sneddon
3. Ngaire Garrett
4. Annice Robottom
5. Christine Cunningham

Over 50 Men

1. Geoff Rau
2. William Weinstock
3. Kevin Fogarty
4. Kheng Yee Lai
5. Ron Garrett

Over 50 Women

1. Val Beaver
2. Averil Roberts
3. Lynley Barker
4. Pauline Bennyworth
5. Merle Sneddon

Over 40 Men

1. Peter Jackson
2. Malcolm Darroch
3. Alan Pedley
4. Kevin Barry
5. Lyndon White

Over 40 Women

1. Li Chunli
2. Val Beaver
3. Hilary Low
4. Lynda Simpson
5. Averil Roberts

Under 21 Men

1. Brad Chen
2. Andy Huang
3. Simon Wallace
4. John Cordue
5. Adrian Soh

Under 21 Women

1. Sun Yang
2. Wu Chen
3. Li Tong
4. Sophie Shu
5. Mornica Li

Under 19 Boys

1. Brad Chen
2. Andy Huang
3. Simon Wallace
4. Josh Alexandre
5. Binbin Zhu

Under 19 Girls

1. Wu Chen
2. Sophie Shu
3. Mornica Li
4. Yu Han Zhang
5. Jenny Hung

Under 17 Boys

1. Binbin Zhu
2. Nathan Lowe
3. Jonathan Yam
4. Steven Zeng
5. Jack Wells

Under 17 Girls

1. Wu Chen
2. Sophie Shu
3. Jenny Hung
4. Jiani Hu
5. Hanna Squire

Under 15 Boys

1. Steven Zeng
2. Matthew Lowe
3. Terry Zeng
4. Michael Wu
5. Rohan Jayakar

Under 15 Girls

1. Sophie Shu
2. Jenny Hung
3. Jiani Hu
4. Chen Ying Qing
5. Sally Ho

Under 13 Boys

1. Terry Zeng
2. Ethan Luo
3. Phillip Xiao
4. Hanson Ling
5. Alex Lam

Under 13 Girls

1. Jenny Hung
2. Chen Ying Qing
3. Helen Chen
4. Megan Stratford
5. Villa Yan



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NZ Veterans Championships

Darroch and Pedley in a League of their Own

New Zealand's complete dominance of the men's Over 40 section was the highlight of the New Zealand Veterans Championships in Palmerston North at Easter.

Malcolm Darroch (Canterbury) and **Alan Pedley** (Manawatu) were so far ahead of the best of the Australians and other New Zealanders that points scored against them in all matches could be counted on one hand. They won the test 5-0, cleaned up big in the individual events and the only players to come near them were themselves.

The Australians strength was in the O50's, but in the test there was one Kiwi who stepped up a notch - **Kevin Fogarty**. He was the surprise omission from the test team last year so had a point to prove and raised his game to suit the occasion.

Australia produced a secret weapon, **Ivana Trnko**, in the women's tests. This quality player headed two sections, as the Krafty Kangaroos said they had no other player. This, in effect, gave the Australians two divisions. Ivana went on to grab a truckful of medals in the individuals.

Overall the test was lost 15-25, a slight improvement on previous years, but included six wins by Ivana.

In the individual events **Val Beaver** and **Averil Roberts** collected their mandatory medal, a gold in the 50's doubles, not contended by Trnko; and the formidable Australians **Mick Wright**, **Ken Cole**, **Tommy Samuelsson**, **Tony Webb**, **Tony Herbert**, **Case deBondt**, **Geoff Nesbitt**, **Werner Borkhardt** and **Ken Sands** all contributed to the New Zealanders' downfall.

One of the big minuses was the holding of the Jets national basketball match and its accompanying razzamatazz, whistles, blaring music and announcements as well as the roaring crowds, which made table tennis in the same hall rather hazardous, as tempers rose.

But Manawatu are to be congratulated on a great tournament. They had 22 new Butterfly tables and plenty of room. There were nice little touches on the first night with corporate boxes and bowls of fruit for every player in the test. The official opening was not obtrusive and the closing ceremony (the social) helped mix officials and players from both countries.

Dennis Galvin

Over 60 Women's Team Winners
Manawatu
L/R- **Heather Paul**, **Merle Sneddon**
and
Marlene Wisneth



Veterans Championships Palmerston North 2004

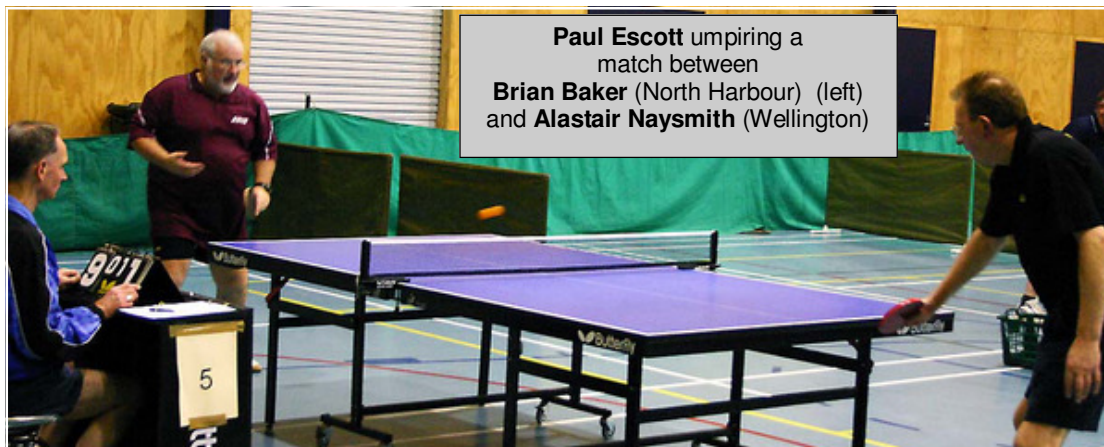
<u>Over 40 years</u> Men's Singles Women's Singles Men's Doubles Women's Doubles Mixed Doubles <u>Over 50 years</u> Men's Singles Women's Singles Men's Doubles Women's Doubles Mixed Doubles <u>Over 60 years</u> Men's Singles Women's Singles Men's Doubles Women's Doubles Mixed Doubles <u>Over 65 years</u> Men's Singles Women's Singles Men's Doubles Women's Doubles Mixed Doubles <u>Over 70 years</u> Men's Singles Women's Singles Men's Doubles Women's Doubles Mixed Doubles <u>Over 75 years</u> Men's Singles Men's Doubles	<u>Winner - GOLD</u> Malcolm Darroch (C) Ivana Trnka (AUS) M Darroch & A Pedley (C/MN) I Trnka & D Wilson (AUS) T Webb & I Trnka (AUS) Thomas Samuelsson (AUS) Ivana Trnka (AUS) T Samuelsson & T Webb (AUS) V Beaver & A Roberts (NH/W) T Webb & I Trnka (AUS) Mick Wright (AUS) Pauline Bennyworth (WK) W Borkhardt & A Drury (AUS) N Garrett & M Sneddon (S/MN) K Cole & E Edwards (AUS) Case deBondt (AUS) Merle Sneddon (MN) C deBondt & G Nesbitt (AUS) A Robottom & M Sneddon (MN) K Sands & B Davies (AUS) Tony Herbert (AUS) Annice Robottom (MN) T Herbert & G Nesbitt (AUS) A Robottom & A Waye (MN/AUS) T Herbert & A Robottom (AUS/MN) Karl Preuss (AUS) K Preuss & D Sherman (AUS)	<u>Singles Runner Up</u> Alan Pedley (MN) Val Beaver (NH) Mick Wright (AUS) Val Beaver (NH) Ken Cole (AUS) Merle Sneddon (MN) Tony Herbert (AUS) Margaret McGregor (WT) Geoff Nesbitt (AUS) Nellie Milich (NL) Ron Lynch (AUS)
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The Veterans Teams Events GOLD medal winners

O40	Men A Men B Women	Canterbury 1: Malcolm Darroch, Lyndon White Wellington 4: Martin Young, Malcolm Wong Victoria: Ivana Trnka, Debbie Wilson
O50	Men A Men B Women	Queensland 1: Thomas Samuelsson, Tony Webb Waitemata 2: Chip Eade, Blair Melvin, Ron Leong North Harbour: Val Beaver, Jill Murray
O60	Men A Men B Women	Queensland: Tony Herbert, Allen Drury, Werner Borkhardt Manawatu 3: Ray Zinsli, Werner Kraft, August Bigalske Manawatu: Merle Sneddon, Heather Paul, Marlene Wisneth
O65	Men Women	Victoria: Case deBondt, Geoff Nesbitt
O70	Men Women	Manawatu 1: Merle Sneddon, Annice Robottom Waitemata: Bill Otene, Dennis Galvin, Ron Trautvetter Northland: Joyce Woodward, Nellie Milich

THE VETS

May 2004 Issue 24



Paul Escott umpiring a match between Brian Baker (North Harbour) (left) and Alastair Naysmith (Wellington)



Nellie Milich & Annice Robottom
In their NZ colours ready for the test match



Above: L/R— Dave Scott (North Harbour), Ron Garrett umpiring in background and the foreground umpire is Martin Solomans from Australia



The Venue in Palmerston North during a lull in play. The North Island Open is due to be held here in July.



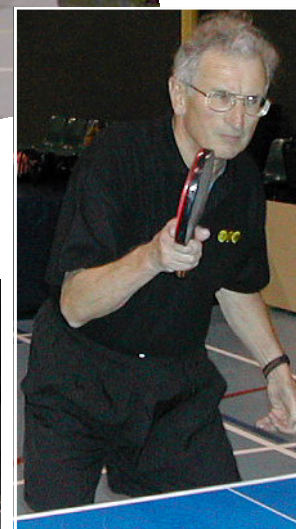
Tony Webb (Australia)

Competing against



Kevin Fogarty (North Harbour)

Life Member Ron Menchi (Wellington) a keen Vets supporter and active player



Left: Eddie Moore (Wellington) in action

Below: Arthur Lopez (NSW, Australia)



Medal Laden Merle Acknowledges Mentor

Manawatu's **Merle Sneddon** went home from the NZ Veterans Championships staggering under the weight of five gold and two silver medals.

She attributed her success to a simple philosophy: "Don't worry about the score and use your total concentration to win the next point. Several times I came from behind to win. The best was when I was two games down and losing 3-9 in the third. It's never over until the last point has been played."

It was a memorable performance and among those sharing her triumph was her long-time friend and mentor, **Betty Thompson** - aged 82 and the oldest competitor at the championships.

Merle and Betty first met in 1952 when, as South Island Champion, Betty moved from Timaru to Levin and identified Merle (then Merle Rolston, aged 12) as a young player with potential at the local club. There was an 18 year age difference but a friendship developed and the two began practising together. Extensive travel to tournaments followed and Merle went on to win six national junior titles. She was competing at senior level by age 14.

As a young adult she moved north and played in Waikato before taking a break from the game to raise a family.

Betty also gave up table tennis for a period but returned enthusiastically as a veteran. At the championships she competed in the Over 65 and Over 70 events and won several games, showing that she still has the stamina to outlast younger players.



Betty (L) and Merle



NZ Veterans Representatives who played Australia.

L/R: Back row—**Lynley Barker, Averil Roberts, Malcolm Darroch, Bill Otene, Alan Pedley**. Middle row—**Ngaire Garrett, Val Beaver, Annice Robottom, Nellie Milich, Bruce Penberthy** (manager). Front row—**Alan Alabaster, Chip Eade, Dave Samson, Kevin Fogarty, Pauline Bennyworth, Merle Sneddon**. Other team member (not in photo) was: **Eddie Moore**,

Australia was too good overall winning 25 matches to 15.

NEW ZEALAND OFF THE PACE AT WORLD JUNIOR EVENT

Although they performed to the best of their ability, our players at the World Junior Championships in Chile last December were severely tested in this elite international company.

The New Zealand team was beaten 3-0 by the Czech Republic, Sweden and Japan and 3-1 by Brazil.

Nonetheless team manager and coach **Wayne Gear** felt the team performed creditably and benefited from the international exposure. Other benefits included making contact with several overseas coaches who could assist NZ junior players with international training opportunities in the future.

Hospitality at the championships was excellent with interpreters provided and a liaison person allocated to each team to help with transport arrangements. The teams enjoyed a wide range of facilities, including massage rooms, computers with internet access, chat rooms, chill out rooms for relaxing, viewing boxes, players' boxes, information centres and video rooms.



NZ Team to World Junior Championships in Chile

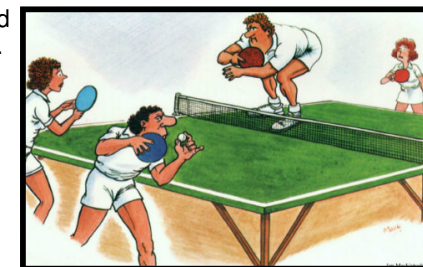
L/R: **Nathan Lowe, Binbin Zhu, Josh Alexandre, Wayne Gear** (coach) and **Andy Huang**.

China won both the girls and boys team competitions, with South Korea and Chinese Taipei the respective runners-up. "The skills, talent and tactical ability shown by the players was outstanding, particularly given that these were junior championships," said Wayne. "The atmosphere in the stadium was electric."

New Zealand was represented by just one Under 19 boys team. No girls team competed.

In the individual events **Andy Huang** and **Josh Alexandre** both beat players with higher world rankings but neither they nor any other NZ player progressed beyond group play. "There were no bunnies at this tournament. Everybody meant business," said coach Wayne Gear.

140 players participated. It was the first ever full World Junior Championships for team and individual events. The World Junior Circuit for individuals only, a separate series of events, was also inaugurated last year with New Zealand hosting one of the six tournaments. It concluded with the WJC finals in Malaysia.



JUNIOR TRAINING IN SWEDEN

Oceania Development Officer, Steve Dainton, reports on the Oceania Junior Talent Team's training trip to Sweden in February.

After 30 hours travel, for some even longer, the Oceania team finally arrived in Köping, Sweden, to practise in arguably one of Sweden's, and even Europe's, best training centre for junior players. The team was made up of players from Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, New Caledonia, Palau, Tahiti and Kiribati. Only the two Australians had been there before, so for the others just stepping outside at Arlanda airport near Stockholm was a big shock. Snow and below zero temperatures had our Pacific Island players considering taking the first flight home.

Köping is not a big city by Swedish standards but one thing it does have is a table tennis centre that is dedicated to excellence. Because of its reputation it now has an annual ITTF sanctioned junior training camp, which is what our Oceania team attended.

What an eye opener it was for our players. You can't imagine their reaction when they walked into the centre for the first time and saw 20 tables with excellent players seriously practising on every table. There are now so many players in Köping that they have to break the training into different groups, one dedicated to the Swedish players and one to international players who come in search of excellent training and coaching. With coaching from top Swedish coaches Sören Åhlen (head coach), Johan Kratz and Benone Grigore (originally from Romania and the head coach for the international players) it is no surprise that they are attracted to Köping.

The Oceania team trained every day for 6 hours with quality players and gained valuable ideas from top coaches. But it is only a small step and there is much work to be done for these players to achieve success outside the Oceania region. More experiences like this for junior players from our region are needed in the future and hopefully in the long term a centre similar to Köping will be created somewhere in Oceania.

Following the camp the team travelled to Orebrö for the ITTF Swedish World Junior Circuit event and Safir international competition.

OTTF thanks the Oceania National Olympic Committee, ITTF and Butterfly for their support of this project.

Steve Dainton
Development Officer, Oceania Table Tennis Federation

New Zealand Coach's Perspective.....

Helen Codlin, New Zealand's Assistant National Junior Coach, accompanied the Oceania Junior Team to Sweden as joint manager/coach along with Steve Dainton.

She reports.....

A joint ITTF/OTTF initiative that came out of the successful World Junior Circuit event in Wellington last year was the Oceania Junior Talent Team's trip to Sweden in February 2004. The purpose of the trip was to expose Oceania's top juniors to the Swedish way of training and to participate in the first World Junior Circuit event for 2004.

Strategies adopted by the Köping training centre acknowledge that:

- Quick, short, snappy backhand counter-spin is still the latest innovation.
- There are so many top players now with the same technical skills that the difference will be 'physical', requiring more focus on physical development.
- Physical strength and stamina is thought to be the key difference between Asia and Europe.
- There is a need to focus on leg strength.
- Mental toughness and good touch are the most important elements of a good table tennis player.
- There is a need for practise exercises where the first block is the focus – in recognition of the speed that Asians have in first attack.

Amazing Experience for NZ players

Sophie Shu and **Binbin Zhu** were the New Zealand players selected for this amazing experience. They observed a much higher level of concentration and a much higher level of fitness around the table which enabled the European players to maintain 100% effort throughout the session. They also observed a much higher level of power and strength which allowed the Europeans to do a lot more with the ball in terms of spin and speed.

They experienced the Swedish philosophy of *player responsibility*: being responsible for getting themselves to training sessions on time, being responsible for setting their own exercises to suit their game, and being responsible for deciding what fitness work they undertake.

Continued over



The Oceania Development Team:

L/R: **Steve Dainton** (Oceania Development Officer), **Helen Codlin** (NZ manager/coach), **Johan Kratz** (Swedish Coach), **Choy Freddy** (Kiribati), **Richel Sen** (Fiji), **Soren Ahlen** (Head Coach Sweden), **Kyle Davis** (Australia), **Cyrine Sam** (Tahiti), **Benone Grigore** (International club coach), **Claire Campbell-Innes** (Australia), **Jasmine Korang Watanabe** (New Caledonia), **Sophie Shu** (NZ), **Jeremy Lau** (New Caledonia), **Shriti Jeet** (Fiji), **Binbin Zhu** (NZ).

Binbin and Sophie rose to the challenge and showed improvement in their game over the time. Their ongoing challenge is to maintain that level of training at home physically, tactically and mentally and to take responsibility for their performance.

And it's a challenge that applies to all players in the High Performer and Developing High Performer Squads who want to achieve their table tennis potential.

It will mean:

- Committing to being an 'athlete', by taking responsibility and being proactive in organising their coaching/training programme beyond what is provided by associations and TTNZ;
- Approaching other players to schedule times to train with them;
- Committing to a fitness programme that will build strength, speed and endurance;
- Identifying their strengths and weaknesses and developing a training programme accordingly;
- Managing their time effectively so that an appropriate balance between education, leisure, family and sport is maintained, while accepting that there will be sacrifices to leisure activities;
- Acknowledging family financial sacrifices by performing to the best of their ability at all times;
- Asking for help in all of the above;
- Believing in themselves.

So if you truly want to achieve your table tennis potential, you can. You just need to want it enough to **make it happen**.

Helen Codlin



A Trainee's Viewpoint...

My trip to Sweden was a very memorable one. I really enjoyed myself and had lots of fun. The table tennis over there was amazing - everyone was just so good!! They were all very dedicated and trained very hard.

Each day we would train with the Swedish team or the international team. We would train 3 hours in the morning and 3 hours in the afternoon/evening. The training was tough but was good.

We stayed in an Academy which was a 15 minute walk from the stadium. Each morning we would get up and get ready. Everyone would put on their big jackets and would be off, as it was snowing over there and very cold (0 degrees). The morning walk to the stadium would wake everyone up and got everyone excited about another day of hard training.

Overall I really enjoyed myself. I can happily say that I have learnt a lot from this experience and would do it again any day.

Sophie Shu

World Teams Championships

Qatar March 1 - 8 2004

We went, but was it worth it?

New Zealand held its own at this event, with the men dropping just two places to 46th (out of 80), and the women finishing 24th, out of 61.

But team manager **James Morris** has questioned the value of attending the World Teams Championships. "The scheduling and organisation was poor, considering the financial cost for NZ to attend. Both teams played one match per day with only one crossover match at the end of group play," he reported. "If this is the pattern of future World Teams Championships I feel TTNZ should re-prioritise the international events we attend to gain maximum value for the dollar and player exposure to international competition."

James has always favoured assembling the players for about five days before departure to train together and build team spirit, but this was not possible due to funding limitations and with the players widely scattered prior to the championships. "**Aaron Li** spent time in China, **Andrew Hubbard** was playing professionally in France and **Peter Craven** spent 2 weeks in France training with Andrew's club on Andrew's invitation," said James in his official report. "**Karen Li** trained in Auckland, **Sophie Shu** was involved in the Oceania training camp in Sweden, and **Hanna Squire** was a late inclusion on the withdrawal of **Jacqui Wood**."

The women played in the lower half of the 1st division for places 13 - 24. World individual rankings were used to seed the teams and the ranking of **Li Chunli** (unavailable for this tournament) influenced NZ's grading and placed the team at a higher level than their actual ability. The men played in the third division and beat Chile in their crossover match for 46th place.

James thanked all team members for their co-operation and **Averil Roberts** in the National Office for her patience and work to successfully set up the trip.



The team: L/R: Aaron Li, Hanna Squire, Andrew Hubbard, Karen Li, Peter Craven, Sophie Shu and James Morris (manager/coach)

Umpiring in a Man's World

By Averil Roberts, NZ International Umpire

I was very reluctant to apply to umpire at the World Teams Table Tennis Championships when I found they were to be held in Qatar, knowing it to be a 'mans' world. But since ITTF are trying to promote women in sport, I thought I should.

On arrival in Doha we were met and piled into buses to take us to accreditation, and watched our bags being thrown onto the back of a truck! Everyone was most impressed when the luggage actually arrived at accreditation not far behind us! The traffic and drivers in Doha are crazy – no road rules!

The Umpires briefing was held the night we arrived. I was most surprised to find only 6 female umpires out of 112. So much for promoting women! We were told we had to go collect our uniforms which were to be the new 'blue badge' International Umpire outfits we had sent measurements for. Navy jacket, beige trousers/skirt, blue shirt and red tie – for \$US100. Off a group of us duly went to find someone had goofed big time and the colours and sizes were way off – tan colour *men's* suit, lemon shirt, yellow tie!! To cut a long saga short, we all complained, refused the clothing and to pay. In the end we were pressured to take them at a reduced cost. Wonderful – the smallest size was 3 sizes too big for me. At least it was a topic of conversation and sent everyone into hysterics!

Down to Work

Our umpiring duties commenced next morning. My partner was Nimmo Ramchard from Australia which was good. At least we could communicate. We were told we had to be very strict on the service rule. This proved to be a real problem and all the umpires became very unpopular.

There were three separate playing areas in the stadium: area 1 with just two tables (the TV tables), and the others with 12 and 10 tables respectively.

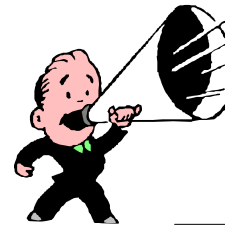
We were kept busy and usually only had one session per day off. The umpire pairings were kept for 5 days. For the last 2 days I was paired with Rebecca Bergfeldt from Sweden. We did really well together and while umpiring the women's 5th/6th position match between Germany and Romania, both of us managed a 'meets expectations' evaluation. Earlier in the week I thought my days as an IU were numbered as I was so annoyed with some of the evaluators. They were being very petty and inconsistent with reasons why we were not receiving good evaluations. Anyway I ended the championships with two good evaluations towards becoming a 'blue badge' IU. I now have three so need just one more.

Window Shopping

The weather was very warm – around 30 degrees most days. The locals were amazed that their 'winter' temperatures were hotter than our summers! I was surprised at the clothing on sale everywhere since I was advised not to show shoulders or knees. Normal, modern fashions were on display although you only saw the local women in their black covers from head to toe. I did not manage to visit the gold 'suk' (market). Probably just as well, but had a quick walk through the main 'suk'. Our guide went too fast for us to buy anything though.

I quite enjoyed the week in Doha. It is always interesting to visit different countries and cultures. I am very lucky to be offered the opportunities to attend these world events.

My thanks to NZ Community Trust for supplying some funding for the team.



Reporting briefly.....

The Board of TTNZ has sent a preliminary expression of interest to the International Table Tennis federation to host the **2008 World Junior Championships**. A feasibility study is being undertaken.

The Board has also expressed an interest to host the **2008 World Veterans Championships** in conjunction with the Christchurch City Council.

The following **Liaison Officers** have been appointed:

NZ Open (Auckland) & South Island Championships (Southland) – **Bryan Keane**
North Island Championships (Manawatu) – **John Stapleton**

In a radical change, the **TTNZ 2004 Annual General Meeting**, will be held in Christchurch (in November).

The team to travel to the **Commonwealth Championships** in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 20/28 June is:

Peter Jackson, Andy Huang, Simon Wallace, John Cordue

James Morris is the Manager / Coach

The **North Island Training Camp** scheduled for Queen's Birthday weekend, has been postponed till later in the year. The organisers apologise for any inconvenience caused.

Obituary

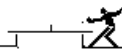
John Bower

John, 60, died on February 1 of a heart attack. During the late 80's and early 90's he was the Auckland association's chairman and put his many talents into making Auckland a strong association. Experienced in marketing and sales, he saw the need to raise the image of New Zealand Open Championships and the sport as a whole. He was tournament manager of the NZ Open in 1988, 1991 and 1993 when they were held in Auckland and did a lot to improve the presentation of the championships.



He was a National Councillor representing the northern region 1987 to 1989, President of the New Zealand Association 1990-1991 and a Vice President 1992-1996.

Around the Country



AUCKLAND

New Administrator Settles In

Teresa Breslin is now into her eighth month as secretary and administration manager for the Auckland Table Tennis Association, and is looking forward to the tough part - the tournament season.

Despite any apprehension she may have she has an ideal temperament to cope with the work in the next few months. She is a "smiley" to greet anyone entering the stadium to match a wealth of experience in managing office procedures.

Her knowledge of table tennis was virtually zilch, but since her appointment she has taken an interest in the sport. Her earlier recreational pursuits have been in step dancing and she has had success in competitions.

Teresa has a 17-year-old daughter, Geraldine, who is in her last year at college with plans to pursue journalism.



If you are ever in Gillies Ave, Newmarket, call into the ATTA stadium and introduce yourself. You may even score a cup of coffee.

Dennis Galvin

Auckland Table Tennis Association
~ <http://www.tabletennis.net.nz>



Family Get-together - Dennis Galvin

The Auckland Open Anzac Day tournament had an interesting section in the open women's singles round robin.

There were only four starters and **Sachiko Hara** must have felt left out. The other three were **Velma Mayclair** and her two daughters, **Shelley** and **Monique**. The score sheet for Velma's match against Monique showed the family rivalry - in the winner's name slot was "V Mayclair - almost". It was scratched out and replaced with Monique's name and the score of 13-11 in the fourth. Shelley beat Monique in five and her mum in three. It got even better in the open mixed doubles which was won by Monique and Wayne Gear against Shelley and her father Eric. Velma and **Kevin Wike** had earlier been beaten by Monique and Wayne.

Peter Birkenhead died of cancer at Easter. A large funeral testified to the many people Peter's life touched. He was one of the characters of table tennis and a consistent performer in his grade. Lexicon, the firm Peter worked for, announced a special trophy in his memory.

Change of Chairperson

Hagen Bower is the new Chairperson of the Auckland Association. Previous Chair, **Bruce Penberthy**, is now Deputy Chair. He was recently elected a Life Member of the Association.

As hosts for the **NZ Open Championships** this year Auckland tell us that they now have 20 new Butterfly tables to grace their stadium.

As a consequence they have for sale 20 two year old Stiga tables for \$650 each. There are also approx 50 plastic and cloth barriers going at \$30 each. Contact the Auckland secretary - ph. 09 5202291.

They require **umpires** for the Nationals so if you are interested contact them - we understand you will be well looked after as regards meals (if you umpire your share we assume!).

HAWKES BAY

The first Masters games in Hawkes Bay were held in November 2003, in and around the new stadium at Taradale. Table Tennis was one of the many sports played. With about a week to go only 6 players had entered so we were apprehensive about having an event with only that small number, especially as we had to bring in tables from the Centennial Hall. But in the last few days we received a further 14 entries so it was all go. We set up three tables in three squash courts and played for three hours. Gold, silver and bronze medals were handed out to the winners of each group.

This year the Hawkes Bay Masters will be held on 16/17 October. Enquiries to Richard Bayley, 2/102 Princes St, Hastings; or email baythom@extra.co.nz.

WAIRARAPA

Thanks to **Paul Escott** (Wellington) the **Carterton Club** and the **Red Star Club** enjoyed a great day of coaching last month. There is some great junior talent in the Wairarapa.

WELLINGTON

OBITUARY

MERLE HARDING

New Zealand lost one of its most dedicated club players in early February when **Merle Harding** (Hutt Valley) passed away at the age of 89.

Better known nationally as the wife of former TTNZ Chairman Alf Harding, Merle was highly esteemed locally for the sheer longevity of her playing career. She took up the game at the relatively advanced age of 47 and was still attending the Empire club on a weekly basis 39 years later.

A strong age-group player at national level, she won the NZ Over 55 women's singles in 1978. The Over 80 consolation women's singles title at the 1994 World Veterans Championships in Melbourne crowned her career.

While table tennis was a passion for nearly four decades, it was only part of Merle's overall sporting career. She was even more heavily involved with croquet. In that sport she won A



grade club titles, organised major tournaments including NZ Championships, was elected Life Member of the Wellington Croquet Association and Croquet NZ, and served as Wellington Association President well beyond the age of 80. Her croquet career covered 64 years.



Veterans Club

The Association has opened a Veterans Club at the Wellington stadium on Sunday afternoons. At \$3 per club day this is good value and augers well for the Veteran scene.

Terry Down 06 3795158 can be contacted for more info.

CANTERBURY

There has been a changing of the guard in Canterbury. **Neil Gyde** is the acting chairperson and **Christine Linnley** the new Administration Officer. The new committee also includes **Greg Davey, Dave Samson, Aaron Li, Simon Wallace, Chris Ford** and **Bruce Gloistein** who is the publicity officer.

Christine fills the roles of Secretary and Treasurer and is employed approx 30 hours per month.

The new committee has expressed its appreciation of retiring chairman **Ron Fleming** for his contribution to Table Tennis Canterbury. Besides being an excellent front person and ambassador, his other talents of raising money and carrying out necessary jobs around the stadium will be missed.

Canterbury's Interclub has commenced with 68 teams in 8 divisions.

OTAGO

The extensions to the Edgar Sports Centre in Dunedin are progressing and look as though they may be finished by March next year. We will then have super facilities.

The centre will consist of a stadium the size of three basketball courts with a wooden floor and an abundance of facilities including control rooms and TV areas. At the moment we are playing in an area the size of two basketball courts and have to fight for space for extra tournaments and events.

Although the management of the Edgar Centre is doing its best until the new facilities are available, we are all eagerly awaiting the day as it has taken 5 years from the promise that the extension would be built. But it will have been worth waiting for. It is expected the lighting will be up to standard for international matches.

The association has purchased 12 centrefold Butterfly tables, and 12 umpire desks and flip charts.

Bob Hurr

Obituary

JIM STEEDMAN, QSM (for services to Table Tennis) *Died February, 2004*

For several decades **Jim Steedman** was the face of Otago table tennis. First elected to the management committee in 1955, he served terms in every executive position and was heavily involved with the purchase, improvements and management of the Otago TT Stadium in Kaikorai Valley Road which was opened in 1965 and extended in 1975.

He paid for and donated all ten tables in the original stadium and a further four for the extension.

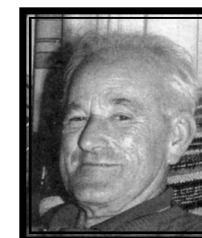
He managed countless tournaments for Otago, including the 1956 NZ Championships where he introduced a timetabling system later adopted by the NZ Association.

Always aware of the needs of others, he purchased a van specifically to ferry players to and from tournaments, covering thousand of miles. Juniors especially never had to worry about getting to a Canterbury or South Island Championship, or even a Nationals. Jim would be going, and there was always room.

The highlight of Jim's playing career was the South Island veteran men's singles title in 1965.

He was honoured with Otago TTA Life Membership in 1971, and by the Queen in 1984 with a Queen's Service Medal for services to Table Tennis.

Jim Steedman was aged 85 when he passed away.



SOUTHLAND

ASSOCIATION MAKES USE OF TTNZ'S MEMBERSHIP DATABASE

On more than one occasion the Southland Association has requested TTNZ National Office to supply mailing labels addressed to all their registered players. Development Officer **Lindsay Beer** recently used the labels to send out a comprehensive circular informing Southland members when clubs opened, when competitions started, and items of interest on coaching, championships and general activities. Attached to the circular was a full calendar of local events plus major ones elsewhere in NZ.

Available to All

This mailing label service is available free of charge to any Association any time. Labels can be supplied either for a specific Association's entire registered membership, or a selected segment (eg, all those over 40 or under 19). Printed lists of selected age-group segments can also be supplied on request, and an Excel database of all members is available.

The Umpire, Friend or Foe? by Alan Moore

How many of us would enjoy umpiring and scoring for ourselves in the crucial stages of a match when every bit of concentration is required to win those vital points? I think I can answer that on your behalf. Not one of us would want to be playing and umpiring at the same time.

The role of the umpire is to ensure that all a player needs to do is play. His/her duty is to make sure that each player is playing according to the laws of the game. It is the player's responsibility to know the laws of the game. If you are one of the many, many players who have learned the rules by watching, or asking questions, or making them up as you go along, or any way at all other than from the rule book then this message applies to you. READ THE RULES. This simple act will do two things: help you to play fairly; and enable you to umpire confidently.

For those players and officials who do not have a copy of the rules and don't have one posted at the Association Stadium here is what you can do to obtain a set. Find yourself access to the internet and go to the following page on the ITTF website:

[Http://www.ittf.com/ITTF_Hand_Book/Regulations_pdf.html](http://www.ittf.com/ITTF_Hand_Book/Regulations_pdf.html)

The ITTF Handbook is on this page. Click on Section 2 to bring up the Laws of Table Tennis and print a copy for yourself. Read it carefully and you will be surprised at the number of interesting things you pick up.

(An alternative way to access the rules is to visit the ITTF home page (www.ittf.com) and navigate as follows: Regulations; Laws of Table Tennis; download in PDF format.)

Active Role for Umpires

The role of umpire in each and every match should be an active one. Here are some hints to help make the job more enjoyable for you and the players in the match you are umpiring:

Call the score throughout the match. Call the next server's score first.

Indicate change of serve with your arm towards the player next to serve.

Watch closely for net serves, edges, and illegal service actions. Pay close attention to intrusions into the playing area by balls, other players and spectators - calling "let" when necessary.

It is important for all players to understand that umpires are not "out to get them". While there may be the occasional clash of personalities between players and officials it is never the intention of tournament officials to do anything other than ensure a fair result from a fair contest.

Umpire Training

The Umpires and Referees Committee has a number of tasks to perform: the promotion of good umpiring standards at all tournaments, the training of Regional and National level Umpires, the appointment of officials to TTNZ events, and advising the TTNZ Board on matters relating to Umpiring and Refereeing. It is imperative that umpires keep refreshing their skills, just as players must train regularly to maintain top form. Associations should be assuming an increased level of responsibility in encouraging their members to obtain, and maintain, umpiring qualifications. Every tournament will run more smoothly with a good representation of qualified personnel attending.

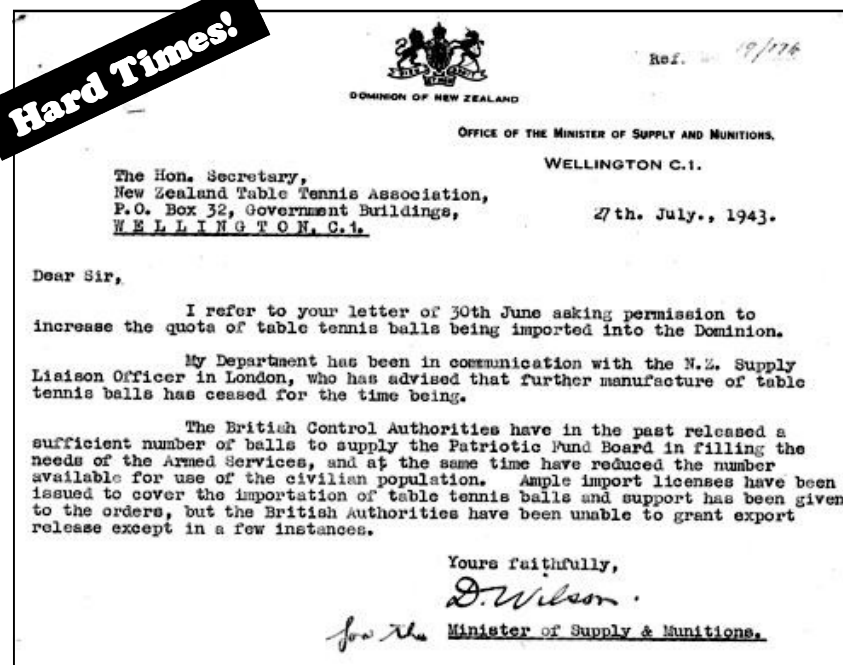
More umpires are needed throughout the country and it is not hard to become qualified. It just requires a thorough reading of the rules and a willingness to learn the fundamentals of umpiring skill.

I was appointed to the Umpires and Referees Committee last year and since then have attended the Summer Nationals as Referee and the NZ Veterans Championships as player and umpire. At both tournaments it was very clear that good umpiring leads to more enjoyable matches. Everyone benefits, players and spectators alike.

The best umpires are neither "friend" nor "foe", just an impartial and crucial part of every match.

✕

Hard Times!



Veterans Magazine

Produced 3 times per year by Dennis Galvin "Vetspeak" concentrates on news of Veteran players (said to be over 40!).



It is available at \$3 per calendar year. If you haven't paid for 2003 and/or you wish to subscribe for 2004, pay up to Dennis at P O Box 21-386 Henderson Waitakere City. (Ph 09 835-0993).

Dennis's email is dennisgalvin@clear.net.nz for contributions. It is worthy of your support.

Summer Nationals Nelson Jan 2004

<u>Open</u>	<u>Winner</u>	<u>Singles Runner Up</u>
Men's Singles	Johnny Liang (N)	Yi-Sien Lin (C)
Women's Singles	Wu Chen (C)	Jenny Hung (C)
Men's Doubles	Han Jin Guang & J Liang (N)	
Women's Doubles	M McCarthy & H Squire (W)	
Mixed Doubles	J Yam & J Hung (C)	
<u>B Grade</u>		
Men's Singles	Albert Cheng (NH)	Andrew Marriott (N)
Women's Singles	Maria Darroch (C)	Sheng Chen (C)
Men's Doubles	A Marriott & G Smith (N)	
Women's Doubles	S Chen & F Lin (C)	
Mixed Doubles	R Baynosa & S Chen (C)	
<u>Over 50 years</u>		
Men's Singles	Gavin Wells (N)	Bruce Gloistein (C)
Women's Singles	Sheng Chen (C)	Barbara Tabb (C)
Men's Doubles	G Wells & L Wells (N)	
Mixed Doubles	S Chan & S Chen (N/C)	
<u>Over 40 years</u>		
Men's Singles	Malcolm Darroch (C)	Rowel Baynosa (C)
Women's Singles	Lynnette Bellamy (WK)	Maria Darroch (C)
Men's Doubles	G Davey & M Darroch (C)	
Women's Doubles	S Chen & F Lin (C)	
Mixed Doubles	M Darroch & M Darroch (C)	
<u>Over 20 & Under 40 years</u>		
Men's Singles	Johnny Liang (N)	Han Jin Guang (N)
Men's Doubles	Han Jin Guang & J Liang (N)	
<u>Under 20 years</u>		
Men's Singles	Binbin Zhu (A)	Albert Cheng (NH)
Women's Singles	Wu Chen (C)	Jenny Hung (C)
Men's Doubles	J Wells & B Zhu (N/A)	
Women's Doubles	H Squire & M McCarthy (W)	
Mixed Doubles	J Yam & J Hung (C)	
<u>Under 17 years</u>		
Boys' Singles	Binbin Zhu (A)	Jonathan Yam (C)
Girls' Singles	Wu Chen (C)	Jenny Hung (C)
Boys' Doubles	C Erskine & J Yam (N/C)	
Girls' Doubles	M McCarthy & H Squire (W)	
Mixed Doubles	J Yam & J Hung (C)	
<u>Under 14 years</u>		
Boys' Singles	Phillip Xiao (A)	Michael Wu (A)
Girls' Singles	Jenny Hung (C)	Megan Stratford (ML)
Boys' Doubles	T Davey & J Harter (C/W)	
Mixed Doubles	T Davey & J Hung (C)	

WHO is doing WHAT Nationally 2004

Board:	Graeme Muller (Chairperson) Ron Garrett (Dep.Chair) Alan Hounsell Bob Inns John Stapleton Bruce Penberthy Michael McAvinue Averil Roberts
Staff:	Sabine Westenra (pt time)
Technical Committee:	Bryan Keane (Convenor) Shane Warbrooke Andrew Palmer Shona Cudby Bob Inns
Selection Panel:	Bryan Keane (Convenor) Murray Finch Simeon Cairns
Coaching/High Performance:	James Morris
National Team Coach:	James Morris
Assistant National Team Coach:	Simeon Cairns
National Junior Coach:	Murray Finch
Assistant National Junior Coach:	Helen Codlin
Ratings and Computer Services:	David Jackson
Umpires and Referees Committee:	Bruce Penberthy (Convenor) Val Scarr (Secretary) Michael McAvinue Alan Moore
Publicity:	Dennis Galvin
Player Liaison:	Alan Pedley
Magazine:	Robin Radford John Kiley
Web site:	Robin Radford
Individual Member Registration:	Robin Radford



WORLD RANKINGS

NZ Players
(as at 4 May 2004)

Women

Li Chunli	43
Karen Li	111
Tracey McLauchlan	551

Men

Aaron Li	256
Peter Jackson	267
Shane Laugesen	402
Andrew Hubbard	409
Johnny Liang	456
Andy Huang	652
Malcolm Darroch	681
Simon Wallace	712
Peter Craven	755
Josh Alexandre	756
Kevin Barry	762
Brad Chen	776
Jared Smith	779
Yi-Sien Lin	807
John Cordue	824
Binbin Zhu	833
Wayne Gear	835

World Rankings by country at: <http://www.itf.com>

