

Upcoming Events

June	4	Northern Districts Veteran Round Robin	Hamilton
	4-5	South Island Teams Champs	Christchurch
	5	Waikato Veterans Open	Hamilton
	11-12	Nelson Open	Nelson
	12	Wellington Junior Age group	Petone
	12	Auckland Junior Open	Auckland
	16	Entries close - North Island Champs	
	25	Hawkes Bay Open	Napier
July	1-3	Canterbury Open	Christchurch
	2-3	Waitemata Open	Waitemata
	3	Wairarapa Open	Masteron
	10	Wgton U16 progressive Singles	Upper Hutt
	15-17	North Island Open	Auckland
	21	Entries close - South Island Champs	
	31	Wgton U16 progressive Singles	Upper Hutt
August	6-7	Manawatu Open	Palmerston North
	13-14	Wellington Open	Wellington
	13-14	Northland Open	Whangarei
	19-21	South Island Open	Timaru
	27-28	Waikato Open	Hamilton
	28	Wellington Developing Age Groups	Petone
Sept	1	Entries Close - NZ Open	
	2-4	Canterbury Residential Champs	Christchurch
	3	Golden Bay Open	Takaka
	3-4	Auckland Open	Auckland
	10-11	Lower NI Regional Circuit Finals	Palmerston North
	17-18	Wellington Spring Open	Petone
	24-25	Nthn Districts Schools Teams Champs	North Harbour
	28-29	NZ Schools Championships	Christchurch
	30-8	NZ Open Championships	Christchurch
Nov	5	Waikato Spring Open	Hamilton



TABLE TENNIS INFO

Issue: 26

May 2005

TTNZ now has Chief Executive Officer

Good things planned

"New Things" happening with IT systems

Online membership system

Upgraded web site

2008 World Junior Champs to NZ

New Zealand Open Veterans Championships

Important, but slightly goofy, coaching tips inside

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published herein do not necessarily
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After some hard days' play..... The Vets can relax!



TABLE TENNIS NEW ZEALAND

Check out the upgraded web site: <http://www.tabletennis.org.nz>



My Serve

The Future?

from **James Morris**

Well, I must say that I have been enjoying my rest from ping pong, but I did enjoy being involved with the NZ Vets Champs in April in Whangarei. By all accounts it was a successful tourney. A great team of Ozzies were over and they enjoyed good ole Northland hospitality. They took home many titles to boot.

I have attended my share of TTNZ AGMs and I regularly used to hear that the national tournament and perhaps the national office should be relocated to where the strongest associations are (based on levies paid I think). I feel it would be a mistake for TTNZ to move from Wellington because associations traditionally wane and thrive. History shows that a strong association today may not be strong in five years.

My main point is that I think TTNZ should be looking at asset building and perhaps combining with other racquet sports, like squash and badminton, and maybe tennis, to collectively push to build a multi-sport complex. With prudent planning and strategic targeting of the funding dollar it is possible for three or four sports working together to build a sports complex that could provide a large stadium to cater for national and international events. Separate wings could be set aside for training academies plus a combined hostel for accommodation and a shared administration area. The national body holding equity in a major asset would provide many opportunities that presently do not exist. Some district associations have a strong asset base and so enjoy these opportunities.

There has been some talk in the past of combining admin offices with other racquet sports, but I would like to see it go much further. A large racquet sport centre in Wellington would be geographically central to everyone. Resources could be shared. The plus side of such a complex would be that the national championships would always be held there. No more time wasted at AGMs about relocating head office to the real big smokes or lobbying on where to hold the main tournaments.

No harm in dreaming.

Cheers, **James**

A Table Tennis player named Skinner,
Was known as a ferocious spinner,
When he hit it just right,
His ball would circle in flight,
And come down some time after dinner.

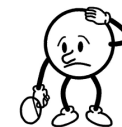
John Dichiaro (Ohio USA)

James receiving
his Life Member's
badge from
TTNZ chairman
Graeme Muller
at the 2004 AGM



Editorial

This may well be the last **Table Tennis Info**. Time, ideas and technology move on and the CEO and Board are looking at its future.



Just in case this "*is it*", I want to take the opportunity to very sincerely thank all those people who have actively supported the magazine by their contributions and comments of support over the nearly 9 years and 26 issues of production. The numbers are too considerable to mention all, but if you are one of them, be aware that your valuable offerings helped create and maintain the magazine's success in the eyes of the many who have expressed favourable opinions.

To the tireless fingers that attached the labels and the cheerful mob (up to 14 people sometimes) that stuffed and organised the bulk postings - **a special thanks**.

No appreciation would be complete without a special mention of: **James Morris** who wrote and wrote and wrote his "My Serve" column and many reports; **Ron Garrett** who always came to the party when requested; **Merv Allardyce** for his recruitment, label and stuffing organisational skills and logistical help with the bulk posting; the **Empire club** for the use of its premises; **David Jackson** for the supply of nicely formatted results and ratings; and probably above all, **John Kiley** for his endless editing, article creation and devil's-advocating for the production. Without "JK" we would not have got this far.

Readers will note in the new CEO's message (page 6) the intention to regularly produce a newsletter which will be dispatched via email to those who opt-in. So don't forget to do so and keep up to date on TT matters. (details on page 7).

The introduction of the new online member registration system marks the end of my involvement with registrations after 5 years. Again I wish to express my appreciation to those Associations and administrators who so keenly embraced the concept – thank you for your help and cooperation. It is not an easy job for Associations to manage registrations, but most have been able to do it very well. I hope with the new online system you will "get into it" and make more use of the info you collate.

Sincerely

Robin Radford

2006 Commonwealth Games Squad

The following players have been selected to the Commonwealth Games squad from those who were invited and indicated their availability:

Men: John Cordue, Peter Craven, Andy Huang, Andrew Hubbard, Peter Jackson, Shane Laugesen, Nathan Lowe, Adrian Soh, Simon Wallace, Binbin Zhu.

Women: Sarah Ho, Jenny Hung, Karen Li, Michelle McCarthy, Sophie Shu, Hanna Squire, Sabine Westenra, Jiang (Annie) Yang, Raewyn Young.

The team will be selected by TTNZ in October or November from this squad after they have met certain criteria. The names will then be submitted to the NZ Olympic Committee which has the final say on the selections

Table Tennis New Zealand has a Chief Executive Officer

Mike Loftus joined Table Tennis New Zealand as CEO in February 2005 after a successful business and sports management career. He will be based in Auckland.

Prior to joining TTNZ Mike was a partner in sponsorship consulting agency BrandAdvantage, working in Australia with clients such as Qantas, National Australia Bank and Australia Post to maximise the returns on their sponsorship investments.

Before BrandAdvantage, Mike was the Knowledge Manager at SPARC (Sport and Recreation New Zealand), where he oversaw the delivery of information systems including the New Zealand Academy of Sport database and the SPARC knowledge base. Additionally, Mike worked within the SPARC senior management team to formulate and communicate the initial strategies for the agency.

Mike's extensive airline strategy and customer marketing background includes senior management and consulting roles with Qantas in Sydney and Air New Zealand in Auckland, including Sponsorship, Customer Relationship Management, Emergency Planning and Loyalty Programmes responsibilities. Mike has an MBA (with distinction) from Waikato University, and has undertaken significant additional customer marketing and sponsorship specific training.

The role of CEO with Table Tennis New Zealand, according to Mike, is to "act as the facilitation point for raising the profile, proficiencies, performance and participation of table tennis nationally."



From the Chief Executive Officer

Newly appointed CEO Mike Loftus has submitted the following "CEO's Update", summarising his thoughts about Table Tennis and his plans for the sport's future.....

Well, it's been a hectic first few months in the role of CEO of Table Tennis New Zealand. My expectations coming into the position were that it would be busy, but the enthusiasm of members to drive and see change has certainly meant that we have been running at a fair pace.

As a non-table tennis player, my perceptions of the sport were probably aligned to those of most New Zealanders. Table tennis is primarily seen as a social pastime, enjoyed mainly by teenage kids in the nation's rumpus rooms and garages. While this might be where many kiwis are initially exposed to the sport, the professionalism and skill level of competitive players of all ages has truly astounded me.

Further, the dedication and persistence of a handful of volunteers at national level has been, and will continue to be for a while yet, the backbone of the sustainability of table tennis in New Zealand. I would personally like to thank these people for all their hard work, and also to acknowledge the countless hours put in by many more volunteers at district and club level.

Communicating the competitive and community benefit elements of the sport is key to our progress – and survival. Having met many of the New Zealand Veterans team at the trans-Tasman test in Whangarei in March, and spoken to juniors at various training events at North Harbour, the ability to bridge the age gap through our sport is apparent. This gender-neutral and age-neutral advantage of our sport, together with the family atmosphere and the ability to engage members, is a core communication message we will be developing.

The first several months have seen me working to complete a Business Plan aligned to the vision and goals set by the Board in the Strategic Plan. Both these documents can be viewed on the www.tabletennis.org.nz website. With the planning for this year complete, building relationships within and outside our sport is the next objective.

Doors have been opened with SPARC, NZOC, other sport CEOs, Gaming Trusts and the commercial sector. Money and assistance from these partners will provide the catalyst for the development of programs to assist in lifting our coaches' and players' skill levels, our professionalism, and as a result, our profile.

SPARC has been of great assistance with the funding of TTNZ through their Sport Development grant, together with their significant contribution to our men's and women's first-class preparation for the Commonwealth Games in March 2006.

With the first steps of a long journey now having been taken, I hope you will join the Board and management team in seeing table tennis raised to the levels we all believe it is capable of.

New TTNZ Website

Many regular visitors to the Table Tennis New Zealand website will have noted the change in page design. This is just the beginning, with significant new content, links to Associations and access to the player management and rating system all planned for the future.

To launch the site, we are holding a competition for the best suggestion for a name for each of the New Zealand men's and women's teams. Winners will receive an authentic New Zealand Table Tennis team shirt from our apparel supplier Nittaku. (*see page 13 for details*).

Remember, the site is your site!! Please provide us with all your latest news, comments and updates, as well as any suggestions to improve the site going forward.

Looking Ahead

The Table Tennis New Zealand Business Plan sets up some exciting initiatives, and challenges, for the rest of 2005. The primary projects we are undertaking include:

- Completion of the TTNZ website
- TTNZ player management system implementation
- TTNZ tournament management system implementation
- Appointment of a National Development Officer, pending funding availability
- Appointment of paid National Coaches, funding permitted
- Formalisation of a national development program
- Revisit KiwiSport table tennis to ensure the program is relevant for schools
- Establishment of a national high performance squad
- Funding and sponsorship to allow delivery of programs

Continued over:

- Enhance national coach development plan
- Increase the number of qualified officials
- Review the Board structure and skills requirements
- Brand the national men's and women's teams

Our success in delivering the above initiatives will provide the foundation for the development of table tennis across New Zealand.

New Technologies

Beyond the new www.tabletennis.org.nz website, development is well under way for the delivery of the new player management and ratings system, together with a web-based tournament management system.

The new player management and ratings system allows authorised Association officials to directly enter and update player registration and contact details, and to record match results against players' names. Individual members will also be able to log on to their own information, to update contact details and to view their ratings position.

The tournament management system will be entirely web-based, allowing clubs and Associations to set up and maintain tournament information as the tournament is held. The information captured will in turn automatically update player ratings in real time.

The new systems should significantly reduce the amount of double handling of information, and allow members to access and update relevant information in their own time.

It is expected that Associations will be visited re the new systems from late June, depending on the availability of the tournament management system.

Moving with the Times

Although not completely confirmed, it is likely that this will be the last issue of Table Tennis Info. As Table Tennis New Zealand moves toward web-enabled systems, it is intended to produce a regular newsletter in electronic format. Our aim is to publish your information, news and comments via email. (see opposite page for opt-in details)

Mike Loftus,
CEO, Table Tennis New Zealand

Mental Specialist Joins Coaching Team

Former New Zealand cricketer **Richard Petrie** will assist with the build-up of the men's and women's table tennis teams for the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games.

"Richard comes with an excellent reputation for being able to assist people in setting and achieving goals, through his mental target training programme," said TTNZ Chief Executive Mike Loftus.

Wellington based Petrie, 37, has provided similar mental target coaching to the International Rugby Academy of New Zealand in Palmerston North, to a number of individual athletes and to corporate organisations in New Zealand and the United Kingdom.

ANOTHER WORLD EVENT FOR NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand has made a successful bid for the
2008 World Junior Championships.

This event is one step up from the World Junior Circuit tournaments, one of which was held amid great acclamation in Wellington in 2003. The World Junior Championships is the glamour junior event of the year, featuring the top performers from the six regional junior circuit tournaments and guaranteed to attract the world's best.

North Shore City Council fully financed the bid, allocating \$50,000.

They produced 200 glossy pamphlets, a power point presentation and a DVD. The DVD featured **Li Chunli** playing table tennis on a cliff top, on a beach, in a bush setting and in the North Shore Events Centre which will be the main playing venue.

The bid was presented at the World Championships in Beijing on 3 May and was warmly received by the full ITTF Council of 65 members.



The NZ delegation in Shanghai:

(L/R) **Ron Garrett** (TTNZ Board), **George Wood** (Mayor of North Shore City), **John Brockies** (Chief Executive, North Shore City), **Karen Li** (TTNZ Delegate), **Paul Dunphy** (Events, City Promotions & Tourism Manager of North Shore City)

New Electronic Newsletter

A new Newsletter is to be produced for delivery directly into your email inbox, but only if you "opt-in" by registering onto the mailing list – and it's free!!

The new publication will be introduced in about July. As before, Associations and members are welcome to contribute with their local news and TT topics of interest. Send your contributions to the national office.

Your support is not only welcome, it is needed.

To opt-in, go to our flash new website **www.tabletennis.org.nz**, click on "membership" at the top of the screen, select "Newsletter-Magazine", and then "Newsletter Opt-in". A very clear and easy to follow form will come up – just fill it in and submit.

Anybody can subscribe to the newsletter – they don't have to be registered members of TTNZ.

NZ VETERANS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2005 Whangarei



A view from the far south By Ron Garrett

The winterless north at Easter turned on great weather for this year's Veterans Championships, even though the weather forecast indicated rain on all days.

The Championships began on Thursday evening with the **NCI (National Corporate Installations) Australia v New Zealand Veterans Test Match**. Prior to this the stadium was full from midday with players practising. Of note was the fact that Australian players far outnumbered New Zealanders and they practised for longer. Perhaps this is one reason why a lot of

medals went across the ditch.

Northland's Mr Table Tennis, **James Morris**, was MC for the Official Opening and introduction of the test teams. The NZ team looked very smart in their new uniform. Credit here must go to the new veterans committee for organising this uniform and to the sponsors (**NCI**) for supplying it.

Some very good matches were played throughout the evening with Australia coming out on top, again. NZ's **Sabine Westenra** performed well in the over 40's with good wins over **Kay Crowell** and **Alice Abbas**.

It was great to see all matches umpired by official umpires and one sitting the exam. Congratulations to the umpires committee for raising the profile of umpires.

Friday morning saw the teams events start in earnest with a tight time frame of 1 hour 45 minutes per session. While some matches were delayed, the cooperation of the players helped move matches along. Those who played in two age groups did find it a bit of a struggle.

Many fine matches were played with upsets adding to the interest. Excluding players who only played a few games, players with 100% wins in A grade were **Wei Deng** in the over 40's, **Paul Pinkewich**, **Lorraine Baker** and **Alice Abbas** in 50's, **Margaret Mulcahy** in 60's, **Case deBondt** and **Merle Sneddon** (the only New Zealander) in 65's, and **Geoff Nesbitt** in 70's. Four of these went on to win the individual title.

It may be time to look at the naming of teams into which players have been drafted from other Associations. With only 2 players per team it's a toss of a coin which way the name goes. Perhaps we should look at the Aussie system and have "Presidents" teams. These teams could have a set colour and players asking to be drafted into a team will know what shirt they need at the time of entry. I also think that in a tournament such as this the rule that opposing teams and doubles pairs shall have different coloured shirts, should be relaxed.

The teams medal ceremony was held after the last match on Saturday afternoon and individual events started on Saturday evening. Again, there were a few upsets. Play continued throughout the next two days with Australia taking 8 singles titles to 3 by New Zealanders. The win by Mr Nice Guy (**Malcolm Darroch**) in the over 40 singles received great applause. He probably is thanking his opponent in the final (**Wayne Heginbotham**) for putting out his bogey man **Paul Pinkewich** in the semis.

Other locals to pick up singles titles were **Elsie Spooner** in the over 75's and **Margaret McGregor** in the over 70's.

The tournament was very well run by **Shona Cudby** (imported from Manawatu to run the control table), and referee **Graeme Ireland** (imported from Australia).

Tournament managers **Brent Davies** and **James Morris** had everything under control and were always helpful. They also found time to play. They were backed up by their respective wives, **Doris** (did almost everything asked) and **Christine** (Kitchen Boss), and local members.

The championships were wound up with a social, presentation of medals, thank you's and announcement of a merit list, all of which went off very well.

It was great to see the interest shown already for next year's championships at the other end of the country in Invercargill.

It was also great to see more players planning to travel to the Australian Vets in Darwin this year. If we expect our neighbours to come here we should support them also. A women's team has played in the Aussie vets every year for the last decade or so, but in recent years only the odd (figuratively speaking) male.

Overall, the NZ Veterans Championships were a very good event run by Northland. 140 players participated including 47 Australians - a new record. ☒

Veterans Test versus Australia

Played in Whangarei in conjunction with the NZ Veterans Championships.

The NZ Players

L/R: **Jim Jarmin, Ron Garrett, Malcolm Darroch, Dave Scott, Hilary Low, Margaret McGregor, Pauline Bennyworth, Alan Alabaster, Val Beaver, Merle Sneddon, Averil Roberts, Sabine Westenra (back), Annice Robottom, Bill Otene, Kevin Fogarty, Pat Low, Dennis Galvin**



The results:

O40 Men	Malcolm Darroch, Lyndon White (C)	Aus 5-0
	Reserve: David Scott (NH)	
O40 Women	Hilary Low (CM), Sabine Westenra (W)	Aus 3-2
O50 Men	Pat Low (A), Kevin Fogarty (NH)	Aus 5-0
	Reserve: Ian Talbot (W)	
O50 Women	Val Beaver (NH), Averil Roberts (W)	Aus 4-1
	Reserve: Lynley Barker (C)	
O60 Men	Alan Alabaster (C), Jim Jarmin (MN)	Aus 3-2
	Reserve: Ron Garrett (S)	
O60 Women	Pauline Bennyworth (WK), Merle Sneddon (MN)	NZ 3-2
O70 Men	Bill Otene, Dennis Galvin (WT)	Aus 5-0
O70 Women	Annice Robottom (MN), Margaret McGregor (WT)	NZ 4-1
	Reserve: Nellie Milich (NL)	

Veterans Championships Whangarei

Over 40 years

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

Winner - GOLD

Malcolm Darroch (C)
Kay Crowell (AUS)
S Gao & T Samuelsson (AUS)
L Baker & K Crowell (AUS)
W Heginbotham & A Abbas (AUS)

Singles Runner Up

Wayne Heginbotham (AUS)
Wei Deng (AUS)

Over 50 years

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

Paul Pinkewich (AUS)
Lorraine Baker (AUS)
B Berry & T Samuelsson (AUS)
L Baker & A Abbas (AUS)
M Wright & V Beaver (AUS/NH)

Brian Berry (AUS)
Alice Abbas (AUS)

Over 60 years

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

Mick Wright (AUS)
Margaret Mulcahy (AUS)
M Wright & M Ede (AUS)
M Mulcahy & D Te Pania (AUS/NH)
C deBondt & M Mulcahy (AUS)

Werner Borkhardt (AUS)
Merle Sneddon (MN)

Over 65 years

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

Case deBondt (AUS)
Margaret Mulcahy (AUS)
B Reid & C Sykes (AUS)
M Mulcahy & B Tabb (AUS/C)
C deBondt & M Mulcahy (AUS)

Buddy Reid (AUS)
Merle Sneddon (MN)

Over 70 years

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

Tony Herbert (AUS)
Margaret McGregor (WT)
T Herbert & G Nesbitt (AUS)
N Milich & B Tabb (NL/C)
G Nesbitt & J Woodward (AUS)

Bill Otene (WT)
Armida Croccolo (AUS)

Over 75 years

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

Ron Lynch (AUS)
Elsie Spooner (MN)
K Preuss & D Sherman (AUS)
K Preuss & E Spooner (AUS/MN)

Karl Preuss (AUS)

2nd Division Singles Winners

Over 40
Over 50
Over 60
Over 65
Over 70
Over 75

Men

Jun Tang (A)
Kennan Pun (AUS)
John Te Pania (NH)
Terry Cockfield (NH)
Arthur Lopez (AUS)
Ron Anderson (C)

Women

Sheng Chen (C)
Val Scarr (MN)
Patricia Swale (S)
Barbara Tabb (C)
Barbara Tabb (C)

Q: What happens when you play table tennis with a rotten egg?

A: First it goes ping, then it goes pong!

The Veterans Teams Events GOLD medal winners

O40	Men A	New South Wales: Paul Pinkewich, Wayne Heginbotham, Hein Tran
	Men B	Canterbury: Henry Redmond, Gregg Davey
	Women	South Australia: Kay Crowell, Lorraine Baker, Alice Abbas
O50	Men A	New South Wales: Paul Pinkewich, Ken Cole, Ken Sands
	Men B	Northland: Brent Davies, Grant Jones
	Women	South Australia: Lorraine Baker, Alice Abbas
O60	Men A	Queensland: Tony Herbert, Allen Drury, Werner Borkhardt
	Men B	Hawkes Bay: Russell Clement, Ron Garrett
	Women	North Harbour: Diane Te Pania, Margaret Mulcahy
O65	Men A	Queensland: Tony Herbert, Chip Eade
	Men B	New South Wales: Arthur Lopez, Russell Clement
	Women	Manawatu 1: Merle Sneddon, Annice Robottom
O70	Men	Waitemata: Bill Otene, Dennis Galvin, Ron Trautvetter
	Women	Manawatu: Elsie Spooner, Annice Robottom



Ever popular and staunch supporter of the NZ Vets champs **Ken Cole** (L) of Australia receiving the test team trophy from **Mike Loftus** (TTNZ CEO).

Whether thirty-eight,
forty or more,
I'm a ball, without which
there's no score,
There's no racket I envy,
Nor a net that offends me,
So my bounce you will
surely adore.

Hothead

Michael Ede of Australia is the proud owner of six headbands which, due to the tropical Northland climate, urgently needed drying out during the NZ Veterans Championships. Being an inventive fellow, he put them in the microwave oven of his motel unit. He was distracted for some time until smoke and flames alerted him to the fate of his sweatbands. On opening the microwave he discovered the charred remains.

He was presented with the prestigious "Nitwit of the Tournament" award by **James Morris** during the Social.



L/R: **Chip Eade, Jim Jarmin, Bill Otene, Somebody's mate, Dennis Galvin**



Val Scarr & Heather Paul



Sabine Westenra



Annice Robottom

Action at the Vets

At right:
L/R: (facing
camera) -
Dave Baker &
Bozidar Zutic



Below (L/R):
Paul
Johnston,
Brian Baker,
Grant Jones &
Brent Davies
(Tournament
Manager)



Above: (L/R)
Nam Hang Lee & Pat Low

All photos of the Vets by kind co-operation of Terry Cockfield

Northland Hospitality

Following the **Veterans Championships** a number of the Australian players had a few days stay in Paihia in the Bay of Islands, home of Northland Chairman and tournament manager **Brent Davies**.

Most took in a Fullers boat trip on the bay and thoroughly enjoyed the marine experience. Brent and his wife Doris joined them for evening meals at the Paihia Ex-Servicemen's Club and afterwards shared many stories back in their motel unit. Brent acted as tour guide as they drove north taking in Okahu Estate Vineyard at Ahipara, fish and chips (feesh and cheeps) at the famed Mangonui Fish Shop (a must-do on their wish list), and climbing to the Rainbow Warrior memorial atop a hill at Matauri Bay. Here some muscles not used during the tournament were tested.

They loved the NZ native bush. One commented "I would love to live here. Look at those mountains over there." Another remarked "Those aren't mountains, they're just heells!"

"Name the New Zealand Team" COMPETITION

New Zealand Table Tennis teams travel the world, every year. In the first half of this year alone NZ teams are representing our country at three international events (World Champs, Veterans Test match v Australia and Junior World Circuit).

But they haven't got a name!!!

We read every day about the All Blacks, Tall Blacks, Black Sox, Silver Ferns, Black Ferns, Black Sticks, Black Caps and all the rest. But our team is just the New Zealand Table Tennis Team – how boring!!

This has got to change.

TTNZ is launching a competition to name the men's team and the women's team.

Be as creative and original as you like.

Enter your suggestions on the form accessible from the home page on the TTNZ web site: www.tabletennis.org.nz.

The winners each receive an authentic NZ table tennis team shirt from apparel supplier **Nittaku**.

Competition closes 30 June.



World Individual Championships - Shanghai, China 30 April – 6 May, 2005

Aaron Li, Jiang (Annie) Yang, Simon Wallace and John Cordue competed at these championships. They were unable to reach the main draw in either the singles or the doubles. Aaron Li won his singles group but failed in the first round of the qualification singles. Simon Wallace and John Cordue both finished second in their respective singles groups, but both lost their deciding match by a two point margin in the final game.

Averil Roberts was one of the International Umpires officiating, and **David Jackson** was a Deputy Referee.

Unfortunately time was short and *TT INFO* was unable to obtain enough detail before going to press to include full coverage of the performances and experiences.

Li Chunli Announces Retirement



New Zealand's most successful table tennis athlete in recent years, **Li Chunli**, has announced her retirement from all international competition due to a recurring shoulder injury.

Now aged 43, her career highlight was achieved at the age of 40 when she won the singles Gold Medal at the Manchester 2002 Commonwealth Games. At the same Games she also won Silver in the Women's Doubles, Bronze in the Mixed Doubles, and Bronze in the Women's Team event.

"The loss of Chunli as a player is a real blow for New Zealand table tennis," said Chief Executive **Mike Loftus**. "However, the opportunity for Chunli to take on other roles within table tennis should assist in raising the profile and professionalism of the sport nationally."

TTNZ has already appointed Chunli to the role of National Women's Coach, which includes responsibility for the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games Women's table tennis team.



Additionally, the national body is seeking sponsorship support to appoint her to a National Coach and Player Development role, focussing on youth and grass roots coaching development.

Dave Currie, New Zealand Olympic and Commonwealth Games teams Chef de Mission, described Chunli as "An outstanding competitor and contributor to both the Manchester Commonwealth and Athens Olympic Teams. She has a real presence and is well respected by all members of the wider New Zealand Team. I believe she has the ability to be a very inspirational motivator and role model in her sport and has the work ethic to be effective in any role she sets her mind to. I have the utmost respect for Chunli and believe she would make a valuable contribution to the coaching network in this country."

Chunli is a four time New Zealand Olympian, competing in both the Singles and Doubles at the Athens Olympics. Ranked as high as 19th in the world, she has been a strong performer on the international table tennis stage for over a decade. Her other achievements include a third-place finish in the Women's World Cup, three Oceania titles and nine New Zealand championships.



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327 Coldstream Road Rangiora

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

Dr Neubauer rubbers also available— Ask for free pamphlet

Obituary

Russell Algie

The table tennis fraternity mourns the loss of **Russell Algie**, who passed away in March at the age of 84.

Russell was New Zealand Men's Singles Champion six times between 1939 and 1951. He also won two NZ Men's Doubles titles partnered by his brother **Afton**, and two Mixed Doubles titles, one of them (1952) with **Barbara Williams** who later became his wife. This string of national titles was an incredible feat considering the intervention of World War 2.

In 1945 Russell won all three open titles at the South Island championships.

He last won the NZ Men's Singles in 1951 after taking a year off and then downing the defending champion, **Bob Jackson**.

In 1969 he appeared again to win the NZ Over 45 Men's Singles.

Fast and Elegant

A lefthander, he was noted for his fast and elegant footwork, impeccable manners and solid defence with a finishing backhand flick.

He was a member of the first NZ representative team (to Australia in 1939), and was the first and sole NZ representative to compete at the World Championships (London, 1948), losing in the 3rd round to a former United States champion. In 1949 he played for NZ against world greats **Victor Barna** and **Richard Bergman** when they toured NZ.

He started out in Dunedin, winning many Otago titles, and moved to Auckland in the early 1950's.

A real man of sport, Russell excelled in cricket, rugby and boxing. He played golf with the remarkable handicap of 2 and was a Life Member of North Shore's Pupuke Golf Club. For 25 years he owned and operated a sports shop in Takapuna.

In the Otago Association's 50th Anniversary booklet Russell relates the story of how he went AWOL during the war to play in the first rounds of the Otago Champs and was confined to barracks as a result. However he went over the fence and won the final. Headlines in the next morning's paper read "ALGIE RETAINS TITLE". It wasn't long before he was in front of the Colonel who said it was lucky for Russell that he hadn't got his glasses with him that day otherwise he would have stood a good chance of a court-martial!

While serving with the army in the Pacific he was an easy winner of the Pacific Islands championships.

The Table Tennis Hall of Fame was inaugurated in 1999 and Russell was one of the six original inductees. Fellow-inductee **Alan Tomlinson** speaks fondly of him: "Russell will be remembered as a perfect gentleman, a fine sportsman in every sense of the word."

We extend condolences to Russell's wife Barbara, his family and many friends.

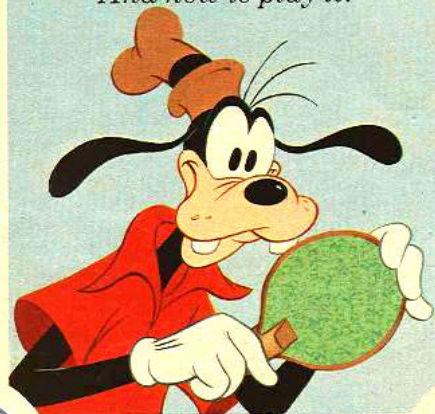
Robin Radford



Russell in 1949

GOOFY PING PONG

And how to play it.



In the 1880's ping pong equipment was known as "Goss-ma."

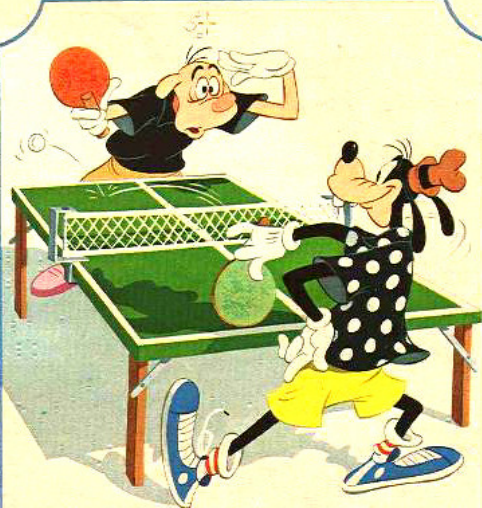
1. This is not an official ping pong table, but it was the only "green" table available at the time this photo was made. Actually this is an early Italian Renaissance banquet table. Meat balls were kept in the side pockets. Later, Goofy will show you an official "green" ping pong table.



2. A ping pong ball travels very fast so when you're playing, keep your mouth shut!



3. If you're playing ping pong and the ball goes "pong" instead of "ping," that means you are using the wrong paddle and you are playing *pong ping*. Solution: Change paddles with your opponent.



4. In official games players wear black shirts. These form a background against which the fast-traveling white ball may be seen. So if you don't want to take a chance on losing, wear a polka dot shirt.



5. After you win a game it shows good sportsmanship to leap over the net and shake hands with your opponent.



6. You are probably wondering where ping pong balls come from. Goofy's research tells us they come from the Perennial Ping Pong plant which only grows on the island of Pingo Pongo.

Tips on Playing Ping Pong

1. Ping pong is played on a table. That is why it is sometimes known as table tennis.
2. If you're playing ping pong outside on a windy day, it simplifies the game to use more than one ball.
3. Always use a ping pong ball.
4. If you can't find a ping pong ball, use a gearshift knob.
5. If you use a gearshift knob, wear a crash helmet.
6. Forget the whole thing and go bowling.

Oh, no! stick with Table Tennis!

Ed.

Around the Country

AUCKLAND/NORTH HARBOUR

Battle of the Bridge

It is no secret that neighbouring Associations Auckland and North Harbour have not always been the best of friends. Whether it be player defections, competition boycotts or administration "feuds", it is fair to say that the relationship between the two Associations has at times been somewhat strained.

With the acquisition of their own purpose-built stadium in Northcote several years ago, North Harbour were able to "break away" from Auckland – no longer reliant on Auckland for the use of its stadium for the North Harbour interclub competition and tournaments.

With both Associations growing independently they became less reliant on each other to provide competition for their up and coming players. Some of the hierarchy no longer saw it necessary for the Associations to maintain a close relationship/friendship. However this has now all changed in a relatively short space of time.

John Stapleton has initiated a competition series between the two Associations on a home and away basis, the emphasis being on friendly competition. The series is called the "Battle of the Bridge". The competition comprises 16 players (4 teams of 4 players from each interclub grade) and has been a great success. With no rating points on offer and no money at stake, the "battle" was a fairly light-hearted affair, although still treated as fiercely competitive by the players.

The inaugural event was won by North Harbour at home. **Bruce Penberthy** then kindly donated a "Battle of the Bridge" trophy for the return match at Auckland. Auckland lost at home and while obviously mortified by the loss, they will get their chance for revenge at the next challenge.

The relationship between the two Associations has now been restored, thanks to the efforts of John and a few others. This is surely a good thing for table tennis.

May the friendly rivalry continue!

Wayne Gear

CANTERBURY

The **Avonside Table Tennis Club** of Christchurch celebrated its 50th Anniversary on 21st November last year with a function attended by 83 past and present members.

During the celebrations the club paid tribute to one of its founding members, **Bruce Roskilly**. He was presented with an engraved plaque as an "Exceptional Service Award" for his 50 years of service. Bruce is still the Club Captain after so many years.

The **Canterbury Association web** is being upgraded and it is expected to be available early June. The address will be <http://www.ttcantebury.org.nz>.

Canterbury Junior Tournament

Sunday 5th December 2004 Sponsored by the Korean Table Tennis Association

There was a good response to this event with some entrants coming from as far away as Nelson. For a large number of the 56 youngsters it was the first time they had taken part in an organised competition. Hopefully they enjoyed the experience and will be seen at interclub and other tournaments. It was pleasing to see a great many parents taking an interest.

Results:	Winner	Runner up
Under 19		
Boys Singles	W Pringle	T Wang
Boys Doubles	W Pringle/L Tough	P Wang/T Wang
Girls Singles	J Hu	A Montgomery
Girls Doubles	J Hu/J Cameron	A Montgomery/A Bourke
Under 17		
Boys Singles	T Wang	W Pringle
Boys Doubles	J Chaney/W Sew Hoy	S Van Zanten/M Couling
Girls Singles	J Hu	A Montgomery
Girls Doubles	J Hu/R Joshi	A Montgomery/J Shih
Under 15		
Boys Singles	T Wang	W Sew Hoy
Girls Singles	J Shih	R Joshi
Girls Doubles	R Joshi/F Virtue	K Ngan/J. Shih
Boys Doubles	J Chaney/W Sew Hoy	S Van Zanten/M Couling
Under 13		
Boys Singles	R Hornby	D Ho Hyan
Boys Doubles	R Yang/T Okamoto	D Ho Hyan/T Shaw
Girls Singles	S Lee	F Lee
Girls Doubles	S Lee/F Virtue	S McLeod/N McLeod

Junior Umpire Competition

Joint winners P Wang and T Wang

from **Bruce Gloistein**

MANAWATU

Under a new initiative, Table Tennis Manawatu has introduced an Individual Association Membership fee of \$35 per player. The fee entitles players to a reduced fee for Manawatu organised events such as leagues, squads and closed championships.

Those who pay the fee are "financial" and eligible to play under the banner of TT Manawatu outside the association area. Those who do not are not financial beyond the association.

This does not make any difference to fees that may be payable to clubs.

OTAGO

SERVICE WITH A BIG SMILE

I have for the past 6 months offered my services for voluntary work with the IHC. I have met up with a guy, **Ed Freeman**, who loves table tennis. He is my volunteer "Buddy". We naturally get along fine and as the days go past, even better.

I call Ed my "ball machine". Ed only does backhand but gets everything back.

When I am coaching the school juniors and new intakes I demonstrate the shot and they then practice on Ed. He is better than a ball machine. The kids love him and vice versa. It's the most pleasing thing in the world to see a smile on the face of a person that has performed something that they never dreamed of doing. And it gives me a sense of job satisfaction. Needless to say Ed has improved his skills and is hitting the ball even harder.

Since retiring I have found time to do all sorts of voluntary work. Apart from Secretary of the Otago TT Association which takes up 50% of my time, I have found time to volunteer for the Blind Foundation. This involves collecting and Blind Dog training support. My wife Kathleen supports me in this as well as the 24 hour Book Sale in aid of the Regent Theatre. Every 3 months I help with the organisation of a dance for the Rest Homes in Dunedin. There again, to see a smile on persons that are enjoying themselves is worth all the money in the world.

The only time I get upset is when, on very few occasions, I may have to ask a person to help me out with a thing or two and their answer is "how much or what do I get out of it?". Perhaps in this day and age it does not enter young persons' heads to help others. They are busy with their own lives and the pressure of society today. However, I believe they are missing out on making themselves happy also.

Ben Hurr



Ben Hurr (L) & Ed Freeman

WAIRARAPA

New Home and New Direction for Table Tennis in Wairarapa

Table Tennis Wairarapa has a new base.

To lift the image of table tennis and promote the game here in the Wairarapa, the new Executive Committee recently moved all their equipment from their former base at the A & P Association's Clareville Stadium near Carterton, to the **Genesis Energy** Recreation Centre in Masterton.

This Centre is at the north end of Masterton, beside the refurbished swimming complex opposite Queen Elizabeth Park. Facilities include an indoor swimming pool, gymnasium and children's play area. It's a fantastic place for the whole family to enjoy a day out.



Official Welcoming:
Jim Collins (Wairarapa President (L) with Masterton Mayor, **Bob Francis**

Table Tennis was officially welcomed at the Recreation Centre by the Mayor of Masterton, Mr **Bob Francis**, and the Centre's Facility Manager, Mr **Geoff Barton**.

The Committee would like to acknowledge **Wairarapa Building Society**, their main sponsor for 2005, and thank them for their support.

May will be a busy month for Table Tennis Wairarapa, as competitions for the season commence. 3rd May will see the start of a 3 week Schools Tournament, and on 27th May 10 weeks of Interclub competition will commence. Both these events are sponsored by WBS.

A representative match against Table Tennis Wellington is planned for 15th May. The WBS Wairarapa Open Championships will be held in the Genesis Recreation Centre on Sunday 3rd July. In conjunction with this event, the Executive of Table Tennis Wairarapa are planning an exhibition match on Saturday 2nd July from 7 - 9 p.m. Please come and join the committee for an exciting weekend of table tennis.

Paddy Field

ONE ERA ENDS, ANOTHER BEGINS

When *Table Tennis Info* was advised that an entire new committee had been elected by Table Tennis Wairarapa at the end of 2004 (article in November issue refers) our curiosity was aroused as the wholesale replacement of an Association committee is an unusual event. We invited comments from the Publicity Officer of the new executive and from the outgoing Secretary who had occupied the position since 1990. Here's an edited version of their respective responses.

Publicity Officer **Paddy Field** writes:

"The reason the whole Executive Committee has been replaced is because local clubs

were unhappy with the continual interference by TT Wairarapa in club matters, and with criticism of clubs who were working together for the good of table tennis. There were also personality problems.

Three clubs asked for a special general meeting, according to the Constitution, to once and for all sort out these problems, but the Executive decided to call an early AGM, and to resign with dignity.

It was time for a change of personnel, and to do this we had major support from four of the eight clubs in Wairarapa.”

Former Secretary **Dorothy Christensen** writes:

“As Secretary I served Table Tennis Wairarapa to the best of my ability for 15 years. In that time many thousands of dollars have been raised through grants and sponsorships. We put many Kiwi tables into schools and in recent years all schools were visited by a dedicated few coaches. I personally took a big part in this programme, visiting the majority of schools and travelling many miles. This has helped to grow the schools competition to 10 schools in 2004 with almost 100 players.

Since 2000 only 3 or 4 clubs out of 8 have been represented on the committee and by 2003 only 3 clubs ran the association, with 5 committee members and no president. In 2004 **Mrs Lyn Mischewski** reluctantly took over as president and 4 new committee members were added. However, even with a larger committee participation was poor and the workload fell on the shoulders of 3 members. At the beginning of 2004 I approached Sport Wairarapa for help but before any plan could be implemented personality issues and a complete lack of help by some committee members came to a head.

When some members do not pull together and help with the necessary work, the pressure on the few carrying the committee increases and can lead to player dissatisfaction and accusations between members. The original committee members who had been carrying all the workload said that they had had enough and President Lyn Mischewski called an early AGM.

We wish the new committee all the best for the future.”

WELLINGTON

Bounce-A-Thon Huge Success

Using TTNZ's resource file, the Kapiti Junior Table Tennis Club, under the guidance of **Peter Jones** and **Paul Bargh**, conducted a Bounce-A-Thon in the Coastlands Mall, Paraparaumu in mid-March.

The competition was for primary schools in the Kapiti area and schools were to organise their own interclass competition to elect their school team. The aim was to bounce the ball on a bat as many times in 60 seconds as possible.

The top 6 scorers were:

Juliana Bennett	Paraparaumu Beach	185
Jamie Larsen	Paraparaumu Beach	168
Rachel Garden	St Pats	157
Sophie Abbott	Raumatī Beach	140
Roimata Parata	St Pats	137
Tim Knight	Raumatī South	136



Here's a challenge: can any NZ primary student beat 185 bounces in 60 seconds?

Prior to the event, competitors and supporters were entertained by a table tennis demonstration featuring **Dipak Patel**, **Ian Talbot**, **Averil Roberts** and **Remi Nishikawa**.

The **Onslow Table Tennis Club**, located in Wellington's northern suburbs, has been in existence since 1934 and has used the same premises since 1936.

Over the decades many hundreds of people have enjoyed their table tennis at Onslow, whether for social or competitive reasons or a combination of both. A number have gone on to be Wellington representative players at open or age group levels, while some have achieved success at New Zealand Championship events.

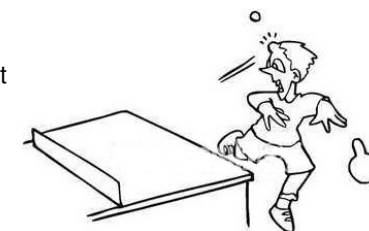
In recent times, Onslow, along with many other clubs in New Zealand, has experienced a drop off in numbers, but this has resulted in members getting increased opportunities for play on club nights. The purchase of new tables from Germany a few years ago gave us some of the best facilities in the country and members enjoy good tables and lighting for their games.

One of our points of difference with other clubs in the greater Wellington region is our club night. Whereas most clubs play on Monday, Onslow has club night on Thursday. Thus if players from other clubs want extra practice or competition, they may wish to join Onslow for this purpose.

As well as having a history of successful adult players, we have a long and proud record of developing junior talent. The Junior Club, which has operated on Friday evenings for over 30 years, has produced a long list of Wellington representatives and ranked players at first junior and later senior level. Much of this success has resulted from the coaching expertise of **Paul Escott** who has achieved so much in this area for Onslow and Wellington table tennis.

So if you are in the Wellington region or moving to the area in the future, check out the Onslow Club to see if we can offer you an enjoyable table tennis experience at a reasonable cost. Players of all levels are welcome. Contact details can be found on the Table Tennis Wellington website, www.twellington.org.nz.

Kevin Haines



Brian Pearson's involvement in Table Tennis began more than 50 years ago. For the last twenty he has occupied various senior administrative positions in the Hutt Valley Association and he maintained his high profile after Hutt Valley merged with Wellington. We share his story with *Table Tennis Info* readers partly as a tribute to Brian who is now stepping down, and also as an incentive for other dedicated administrators to relate their table tennis history, share the enjoyment they have got from the sport, and tell us what inspires them to devote so much of their spare time to administration.



My Table Tennis Life By Brian Pearson

I was brought up on a farm several miles from Pahiatua and in 1954 when I was 13 years old went to visit a friend whose family had moved to a neighbouring farm.

In one of their spare rooms was a table tennis table on which we spent countless hours playing and challenging each other. It so happened that a club had been recently formed by some keen farmers in the district, the venue being a woolshed. My enthusiasm for the game far outweighed the hazards of walking three kilometres across paddocks, sometimes on frosty and damp nights, and then walking home again in darkness. I retain fond memories of my introduction to table tennis.

The following year I commenced four years of college in Palmerston North. At the boarding house were the source of two recreational activities – a table tennis table and a snooker table. Both were highly popular attractions for most of the 60-odd boarders and I for one was always a keen competitor at both tables. After completing college and commencing work in a Palmerston North bank, I joined Takaro table tennis club and played in the Manawatu interclub in a Combined Banks team. After two years I was transferred to Inglewood and I joined the Mangorei club between Inglewood and New Plymouth. During my second year at Inglewood, I and several other keen locals established a club in the Inglewood rugby stadium and in the first year entered three teams in the North Taranaki interclub competition. As a senior rugby and cricket player in Inglewood, I was enjoying life in the rural town, but after only two years the bank decided my time there was up and despatched me to Lower Hutt in 1964. I discovered the Waterloo table tennis club and soon became aware of a good sprinkling of Murphy's and Roberts's in the player numbers. I played at the club for two years but after meeting my future wife Heather, marriage in 1965 and family responsibilities meant that participation in rugby and cricket was over and table tennis put on hold.


Back Into It

In 1979, when our eldest son Tony was about 12, he joined the Stokes Valley table tennis club with some friends and as I normally provided transport, it wasn't long before I picked up my bat again and also joined the club. That same winter I was back playing Hutt Valley interclub and soon became aware of a dominant force on the scene by the name of John Lelliott. Our younger son Brendon also began to take a shine to the game and because of his and Tony's involvement I decided to make a stronger commitment to table tennis. In 1980 I joined the Stokes Valley committee and became Club Captain, and in 1984 was elected to the Hutt Valley Association and took over the reins of Interclub Convenor. Little did I realise at the time that it would become a 20 year term. Back in the 1980's interclub grades ranged from Premier 1 down to F, plus an Under 14 Grade - nine grades in total playing in four venues.

In 1984, Hutt Valley had 16 clubs (5 with 1 team only) and a total of 111 interclub teams

including 20 in the Under 14 grade. This compares with 11 clubs (3 with 1 team) and 53 teams in 2004 in the whole Wellington Association catchment area of Wellington, Hutt Valley and Kapiti.

During the years 1984 to 2002 I served as Hutt Valley President for at least 5 years and after amalgamation with Wellington was President of the combined Association in 2004. The President's role was not a position I particularly relished but sat in to get the job done because no one else would take it on. But I enjoyed the hands-on position of Interclub Convenor which I held for 20 years while continuing to play interclub myself at a medium level throughout. To me, interclub competition is the best part of table tennis and I have enjoyed the friendship of many people on and off the table over the years. Like others who have been involved in table tennis administration, I did so because I felt the need to give something back to the game which I and my sons enjoyed so much. There are people on the Wellington Association and in its clubs who continue to serve the game for far longer than my involvement and I congratulate them. The challenge is to attract new people to table tennis administration to maintain and further develop the sport.

For me, I have discovered a new sport - one which I can share with my wife: indoor and outdoor bowls. Perhaps less active, but just as enjoyable. 

Archival Stuff Images of Table Tennis in New Zealand

Robin Radford has been collecting photos of players and miscellaneous tt images for some time now, compiling a CD based web site of images through the years from 1901.

The current intention is to produce a CD (or maybe a DVD) in 2008/9 to mark the 75th anniversary of the forming of the National body (1934).

Photos and images are being sought from associations, current members and those of yesteryear. There will be many, many photos out there, including those held by players who have long since retired.

So, have a look through your own photo collections and memorabilia and contribute to a central electronic collection. Contributors are promised that any original photos sent will be looked after, and after scanning will be returned. If you prefer TTNZ to retain them, be assured they will be carefully archived in a well protected storage complex purpose run for such preservation. In the longer term TTNZ records are lodged with the National Library.

If you can contribute it would be appreciated if the following could be noted:

- Electronic images need to be of high quality to enable, if necessary, changes to be made by way of resizing, lightness etc.
- All photos need to be clearly labelled with details including the year taken, event, and people's names (L/R)
- State whether you want them returned to you or retained by TTNZ.
- Images or originals of programmes, events, anniversaries, etc, are also welcome. (We have on hand all NZ Open programmes back to 1949).

Images or enquires to Robin – see back of magazine for contact details. Photos can also be sent to the National Office.

Keep your eye on the TTNZ web site pages seeking information on photos – some are there now and more will be added if more info is needed.

New Zealand Masters Games – Wanganui

Table Tennis events – Feb 2005

The Masters Games is a major event covering a wide variety of sporting codes. It is held annually, hosted alternately by Wanganui and Dunedin. The Table Tennis section is not run under the auspices of Table Tennis New Zealand but many of our registered players participate and this year, as always, a healthy number of them returned home with a collection of medals.

Gold medal winners are detailed below: There were also social team and individual events.

Over 55 Teams	Merle Sneddon / Jim Jarmin (Levin / Palmerston North)
Over 45 Teams	Chris Talbot / Ian Talbot (Porirua / Wellington)
Over 35 Teams	Ian Talbot / Depak Patel / Chris Talbot (Wellington)
Over 35 Men's Singles	Shane Wilson (Wanganui)
Over 35 Women's Singles	Sabine Westenra (Wellington)
Over 35 Men's Doubles	Steve Brailsford / Stefan Wagner (Stratford / Hamilton)
Over 35 Women's Doubles	Raewyn Young / Sabine Westenra (Wellington)
Over 35 Combined Doubles	Sabine Westenra / Depak Patel (Wellington)
Over 55 Men's Singles	Jim Jarmin (Palmerston North)
Over 55 Women's Singles	Tanya Sulimova (Waitakere City)
Over 55 Men's Doubles	Tony Rutledge / Douglas Wong (Lower Hutt / Onehunga)
Over 55 Women's Doubles	Oea Burnett / Averil Roberts (Lower Hutt)
Over 55 Combined Doubles	Robert Dunn / Averil Roberts (North Shore / Lwr Hutt)
Over 45 Men's Singles	Ian Talbot (Wellington)
Over 45 Women's Singles	Averil Roberts (Lower Hutt)
Over 45 Men's Doubles	Chris Talbot / Ian Talbot (Porirua / Wellington)
Over 45 Women's Doubles	Oea Burnett / Averil Roberts (Lower Hutt)
Over 45 Combined Doubles	David Scott / Tanya Sulimova (Auckland / Waitakere)
Over 65 Men's Singles	Douglas Wong (Auckland)
Over 65 Women's Singles	Merle Sneddon (Levin)
Over 65 Men's Doubles	Jim Jarmin / Eddie Moore (Palmerston North / Lwr Hutt)
Over 65 Women's Doubles	Merle Sneddon / Annice Robottom (Levin / Wanganui)
Over 65 Combined Doubles	Merle Sneddon / Jim Jarmin (Levin / Palmerston North)

Who knows how true!

In 1964 the freighter Al Kuwait which was carrying 6,000 live sheep capsized and sank in Kuwait harbour. The sunken ship with its decomposing cargo was presenting a serious threat to the country's water supply through its desalination processing plant.

To overcome the problem the ship had to be raised and moved to a safe place without falling apart and dumping its poisonous contents into the nation's water supply.

Karl Kroyer, a Danish engineer working in Kuwait came up with a novel idea. He pumped 27 million ping-pong balls into the freighter's hull which slowly raised it to the surface.

And where did he get this idea? From a Donald Duck comic book. Somebody sank Donald's boat and he and his feathered friends raised it by filling it with ping-pong balls!

(found on the Internet)



Reporting briefly.....

High Level High Performance Meeting

Association delegates from throughout NZ, Board Members and selected coaches attended a meeting last November to discuss matters as diverse as TTNZ's commitment to international events through to 2008, High Performance funding and sponsorship, communication of selection policies for international events and national training camps, and job descriptions and appointment procedures for key coaching and administrative positions. A priority was the naming of a 2006 Commonwealth Games squad of about 12 players and build-up programme for the event.

Karen Li has a one hour **weekly radio programme** on table tennis at 936Am Chinese Radio.

It is on Sundays at 12 noon, and is in Chinese.

TT INFO understands that the new **Rating System**, to operate within the new membership registration database, will change the way points are allocated. Results in any category (U17, O40, Senior Open, etc) will be recorded only in the rating list for that category. Points will no longer be carried over to other categories as they were under the previous system.

We hear that the Table Tennis Australia Board has at last **made all Australia's National Championships OPEN**.

Good news for kiwis.

The Hall of Fame is to be revisited later in the year and it is likely that 5 more people may be inducted – the exact criteria yet to be confirmed.

Alan Tomlinson, Ron Garrett and Ron Menchi are the likely panel to consider possible inductees.

World Junior Circuit Event - Fiji

The following teams have been selected to represent NZ at the World Junior Circuit event and Training Camp in Fiji, 25 June - 1 July. The event is for selected players world-wide under the age of 18.

Boys - **Nathan Lowe, Binbin Zhu, Steven Zeng, Matthew Lowe**
Girls - **Sophie Shu, Jenny Hung, Hanna Squire, Michelle McCarthy**



Also the teams will compete in the World Junior Teams Qualification tournament 28 / 29 June, and Steven Zeng, Matthew Lowe and Jenny Hung will compete in the World Cadet Challenge Qualification tournament (for Under 14 players) on 25 / 27 June.

As at press time the names of the coaches were not available.



Summer Nationals North Harbour April 2005

Open

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

B Grade

Men's Singles
Women's Singles
Open Doubles

C Grade

Men's Singles
Women's Singles
Open Doubles

Over 60 years

Men's Singles
Women's Singles
Open Doubles

Over 50 years

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

Over 40 years

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

Under 20 years

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

Under 17 years

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

Under 14 years

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

Winner

Brad Chen (NH)
Sophie Shu (A)
A Soh & B Zhu (A)
S Ho & M McCarthy (WK/W)
A Soh & S Jones (A)

Jonathan Yam (C)
Lynette Bellamy (WK)
A Rieper & H Tapp (W)

Leon Yang (NH)
Karen Stewart (CM)
J Cowley & J Singh (NH/WK)

Nam Hang Lee (A)
Pauline Bennyworth (WK)
N H Lee & C Chang (A)

Jia Zhang (A)
Tanya Sulimova (WT)
N Lee & D Scott (A/NH)
P Bennyworth & V Waters (WK/NH)

Jun Tang (NH)
Lynette Bellamy (WK)
D Scott & S Humphrey (NH/CM)
P Bennyworth & L Bellamy (WK)

Josh Alexandre (A)
Sophie Shu (A)
N Lowe & S Zeng (A)
S Ho & M McCarthy (WK/W)

Binbin Zhu (A)
Sophie Shu (A)
S Zeng & T Zeng (A)
S Shu & V Yan (A/WK)

Mitchell Barker (NH)
Jenny Hung (C)
H Ling & J Chu (NH)
H Chen & V Yan (NH/WK)

Singles Runner Up

Adrian Soh (A)
Sarah Ho (WK)

Karl Samson (C)
Sally Ho (A)

Grant Gordon (MN)
Megan Lee (NH)

Charlie Chang (A)
Christine Cunningham (NH)

Nam Hang Lee (A)
Pauline Bennyworth (WK)

Jia Zhang (A)
Tanya Sulimova (WT)

Calvin Kwong (MN)
Jenny Hung (C)

Steven Zeng (A)
Jenny Hung (C)

Jonathan Wang (WK)
Villa Yan (WK)



Summer Nationals—TEAMS RESULTS

Men's A Grade

Auckland 2: Adrian Soh, Josh Alexandre

Men's B Grade

Waikato: Marc Nichol, Kevin Ng

Women

Auckland: Shelley Jones, Sophie Shu

Over 40 Men

North Harbour 2: Bill Sorby, Paul Johnston

Over 40 Women

Waikato 1: Pauline Bennyworth, Lynette Bellamy

Under 20 Men

North Harbour 1: Leon Yang, Albert Cheng

Under 20 Women

Wellington: Megan Lee, Michelle McCarthy

Under 17 Boys

Nelson: Chris Erskine, Simon Hoey-Burns

Under 17 Girls

Waikato 3: Jennifer Jin, Villa Yan

Under 14 Grade

Waikato 1: Daniel Yarranton, Jatinder Singh



Photos from the Champs:
(Courtesy Terry Cockfield)

Top: **Marc Nicol**

Middle: **Michelle McCarthy**

Left: **Jonathan Wang (L)**
& **Adrian Soh**

Summer Nationals Liaison Officer's comments:

"Overall a great tournament run extremely well by a very enthusiastic team - well done North Harbour," said TTNZ Liaison Officer **Bryan Keane**.

Bryan's report covered media interest (Maori TV attended on most days), the need for a clearer entry form, the popularity of the decision to play all events in each age group (singles, doubles and consolation) right through to conclusion on the same day, and minor problems caused by a lack of space at the end of the three playing bays.

Entry numbers in team and individual events were good.

World Rankings

TT INFO for some time has been publishing the world rankings of NZ players in recognition of their efforts.

It has however been noticeable that the number ranked internationally has increased dramatically and this prompted a little investigation.

In comparison with other countries (as at 5 May 2005) we are highly rated:

NZ	Men	21	Women	13
Australia		7		6
England		11		7
France		26		16
China		29		33

It's understandable that NZ should have more world ranked players than Australia as the Australian Championships have been a Closed event and therefore ineligible for ranking points. In contrast, last year NZ reported *all* open singles results from the NZ Championships, including the preliminary round-robins and teams events.

As both England and France are well ahead of New Zealand in world team rankings and have many more professional players, it would appear that those countries (and possibly many others) are more selective with their reporting, perhaps submitting only the results from the final knock-out segment of the singles events. Maybe they're not doing their job properly and should be reporting full results. Or NZ is over-reporting?

Either way, it seems that as things stand the reporting playing field cannot at all be even as NZ figures are all out of proportion with other countries' playing numbers and standards.

Perhaps it is nice for our players? Or is it?

Food for thought? Is it time the discrepancy was drawn to the attention of the ITTF?

International rankings can be obtained at: <http://www.ittf.com/>. They are available by country as well.

Robin Radford



What's the Score

By Chuck Hoey, Curator, ITTF Museum

The ITTF Museum is fortunate to have acquired several fine examples of early scoring devices. There were two popular scoring methods: lawn tennis scoring and twenty-one up, both requiring a winning margin of two in a game or set.

Lawn tennis scoring, an obvious choice since the game was tennis on a table, was originally specified. Two examples of

scoring devices are the Premier Series Score Register with ivorine dials, and the Austrian scorer with movable clock-style hands (pictured). Jaques/Hamley "Ping-Pong or Gossima" sets included a score sheet that allowed for either lawn tennis scoring or twenty-one up games, but winners were determined by subtracting points lost from points won. This was unfair as an undefeated competitor could still be denied first prize if the points spread was too close.

An American Tournament Scoresheet has a movable clock hand that goes to thirty. The very rare 1902 leather Ping Pong Scorebook pad called for underhand service and lawn tennis scoring.

Various scoring methods were practised well into the 1920s, evidenced by the minutes of the formation meeting of the ITTF in Berlin, 1926: "In all countries it shall be legal to use the following forms of scoring: 21-up, 25-up, 31-up, 50-up, 100-up". One hundred point games!?

The twenty-one up method was used for the first World Championships in 1926. However, the AGM minutes reveal a continued interest in the tennis method. A proposal by Czechoslovakia secured majority support, but eventually the amendment of England to retain twenty-one up scoring and experiment with tennis scoring until a meeting of the Advisory Committee, was agreed to unanimously.

At the 1928 World Championships in Stockholm both scoring methods were debated and the vote was seven to two in favour of twenty-one up, thus table tennis scoring finally became standardised. Seventy-three years later the eleven point game was adopted in an effort to improve television viewing.

Edited from Table Tennis Illustrated Nov-Dec 2004 issue, with the kind permission of Chuck Hoey, Curator of the ITTF Museum.



WHO is doing WHAT Nationally in 2005

Board:

Graeme Muller (Chairperson)
Bob Inns (Deputy Chair)
Steve McCarthy
Helen Codlin
John Stapleton
Bruce Penberthy
Ron Garrett

Staff:

Mike Loftus (Chief Executive)
Averil Roberts (Admin Officer)

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Andrew Palmer
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Ron Garrett
Helen Codlin

National Men's Coach:

Aaron Li

National Women's Coach:

Li Chunli

National Junior Coach:

Murray Finch

Assistant National Junior Coach:

Helen Codlin

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Wayne Gear
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Simeon Cairns

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Michael McAvinue
Alan Moore

Veterans Committee:

Ron Garrett
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There are also **Finance, Marketing & Governance** committees of Board members.