Did you know?

Paralympic Games.

Table Tennis was one of the 1996 Atlanta Paralympic Games. 206 participants from around the world contested 7 events in the teams competitions and seventeen events in the singles.

Table Tennis includes all the disability groups (except visually impaired) and has a complex classification system. There are 10 classes all told - 5 compete in wheelchairs and 5 in a standing position. The classes provide for the various disabilities, co-ordination, balance problems and functional power, taking into account various amputee states and in some the use of prosthetics is allowed. Provision is made for those with cerebral palsy.

### Dates of Note

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<tr>
<td>Sat Dec 7</td>
<td>Annual Conference</td>
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<td>Feb 22</td>
<td>Next Board meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 22</td>
<td>Time to get input to the mag away!</td>
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<td>March</td>
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<td>March 28/31</td>
<td>NZ Veterans Championships (Invercargill)</td>
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<td>May 31 - Jun 2</td>
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### 1996 Olympic Videos

TTNZ is ordering the official IOC - sanctioned ITTF production of the 1996 Centennial Olympics Table Tennis Competition. The collection is 6 hours and viewing will be well worthwhile. More INFO later.

For those on the Internet the Web site is: [http://www.ReflexSports.com](http://www.ReflexSports.com) for a complete list of matches on Olympic Videos and other TT Videos.
I have found the period since being elected as chairman of Table Tennis New Zealand quite enlightening and have received numerous letters and calls, not to mention many conversations with players and officials.

Clearly there are many aspects of the sport to be looked into and resolved to the satisfaction of as many members as possible.

The full Board has now met twice and are working through the many issues that have arisen and they will continue to do so over the following months. They are questioning all aspects, functions and considering alternatives where appropriate. You will all see this as circulars following the Board Meetings are disseminated.

At the recent meeting we resolved to hold two workshops prior to the AGM. One will discuss the Affiliation fee method/associated problems, and the other will address the most important issue of coaching. The latter workshop will be conducted by an independent facilitator. The workshops have been designed so that all attendees can contribute their own ideas and suggestions, and those of their associations.

Two other major matters arose from the meeting. The Board has decided to form a Technical committee which will incorporate the previous functions of tournament play, rankings, seeding, umpires and generally make recommendations on any matter of a table tennis nature such as the rules, many of the regulations and other functions when required by the Board or Executive Director. The membership will comprise of those with the appropriate skills to handle the requirements and will be formed shortly.

The Board confirmed the retirement of our Executive Director - Merv Allardyce on 20th December next and we do of course wish him all the best in the future.

I wish everyone compliments of the season and hope you all have an enjoyable Xmas and New Year.

Alan R Hounsell

The programme was finalised and the morning session will be firstly, a briefing and discussion on TTNZ structure and direction in 1997; secondly, a discussion on affiliation fees. The afternoon will be devoted to coaching matters in general as a first step for the Board to review the whole coaching structure. A major effort should be made to ensure attendance by all those interested in coaching.

The Annual General Meeting will commence at 5pm and under the new structure will basically cover the legal requirements.

The Board decided that travel equalisation for the AGM will be discontinued as from and including the 1996 AGM

SELECTORS

The process for the appointment of selectors will be for the Executive Director to make recommendations for Board approval.

The meeting considered that the time frame for applications was rather tight and so the date for applications has been extended to Friday 29 November. It is not necessary for those who have already submitted an application to submit a new one.

A new circular has been sent to associations who are asked to bring it to the attention of any persons they consider suitable to fulfil the role of a New Zealand selector.

ASSOCIATION AWARDS

For 1996 associations are invited to apply for an Award. The guidelines are:
** Awards are made to associations for significant achievement
** Awards do not have to be made annually
** Awards should be made at the annual meeting

Applications, accompanied by supporting documentation, close on Wednesday 20 November. This is the latest date they can be received for the awards to be ready for the annual meeting.

The Board decided that future awards (from 1997) should be linked to the TTNZ strategic plan. For example, if increased membership is a priority, awards would be made to the associations which achieved significant gains.
TTNZ STRATEGIC PLAN

The strategic plan is to be further revised when the new Executive Director is appointed. A progress report is to be given at the AGM.

NATIONAL TYPE CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Board affirmed a decision of the previous Management Committee that the work currently done by the national office be extended to recruiting a specialist team to prepare the timetable and run all national type championships. The team would not be paid for their services but costs such as transport, accommodation and food would be met. In addition there will be a need to keep the computers and associated equipment in top order. This will be covered by increasing entry fees by $1 per event, commencing in 1997. The system will be implemented from 1997 if those associations which have already been allocated championships agree, otherwise the implementation date will be 1998.

This will be an opportunity for associations with the facilities but not the personnel or expertise to host a North Island, South Island or New Zealand championships.

TOURS

Planning is under way for the Commonwealth and World Championships in Glasgow and Manchester and a developing players tour to South Australia in January.

The officials to accompany the teams to the Commonwealth and World championships have not been finalised.

NZ REPRESENTATIVE TEAMS

A Board member expressed concern that the preliminary arrangements for the South Australia tour had been made without reference to the national office. The Board agreed that only teams for events sanctioned by and selected by TTNZ would be recognised as NZ representative teams.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Applications for the position closed on 1 November and a short list is being prepared by Personnel Consultant Grahame Bilby for the TTNZ Appointments Committee to finalise an appointment.

Retirement ~ Merv Allardyce

After almost 11 years in the job, retirement time has arrived for Merv and he rides off into the sunset on December 20th.

Merv has spent a lifetime since leaving school in sports administration starting in Wanganui in cricket and continuing in Palmerston North when prior to moving to Wellington he was chairman of the Manawatu Cricket Association.

His table tennis days started in Wanganui after he left school. As secretary of Wanganui TTA 1957-1959 he attended his fist TTNZ AGM when the meetings started on the Friday afternoon. Not being able to leave it all alone he was secretary of the Manawatu Table Tennis Assoc 1964 -1966. Records will indicate he also represented Manawatu at the NZ Champs in Christchurch during this period.

On moving to Wellington in 1968 he joined the Empire club. Surprise surprise, he is still there working hard as ever, including junior coaching on Friday nights and seniors on Mondays. He has been on the committee and served as Chairman for the past 16 years, in the club which boasts about 300 members.

Nationally, table tennis received an experienced administrator in 1975 when he joined the national executive committee with a special interest in coaching and was closely involved in the import of Peter Hirst, in the milestone move to appoint a full time paid Director of Coaching.

On the retirement of Ken Wilkinson (after 30 years as the chief executive) Merv was appointed Executive Director on 1 February 1985.

In the role of liaison officer for the national body, Merv has taken the role further and assisted at national championships in the draw and other related duties in the interests of smooth running tournaments, a role we hope, he will still be interested in.

Merv has been a Director of Sports Services Ltd (the administration company for sports house) and managed the move of about 10 sports to the Library building from the Dominion building. His reputation as a handy man is high for his work at Empire club and the fix it man for chairs, photocopiers etc in sports house.

He was deeply involved in the 1986/7 restructure to regions and the national council and was an enthusiastic participant in the restructure to the recent Board. He constantly brought forth aspects for consideration before, during and after the restructure.

His cheerful voice, bringing forth the fountain of all table tennis knowledge and his trademark “devils advocating” role when ideas are thrown around (unfortunately seen by some as negative comments - so wrong!!) could be missed, but we hope his contributions to our sport will continue.

Robin Radford
RATINGS/RANKINGS

What's the difference? Why two systems?

from Ron Menchi.

Good questions. The answer to the first is that ratings are quantity driven. The more events one plays in, the greater the opportunities to accumulate points and improve one's position. Rankings on the other hand are quality driven. Once a player has qualified for ranking by playing in the required number of events, the performances are assessed by a panel and a ranking position is allocated.

There are guidelines for rankings in our Handbook. The salient points of interest to players being:

(A) The rankings shall be based on performances both in New Zealand and overseas in a season of tournament play and representative contests.

(B) To qualify for a New Zealand ranking, players must participate in a minimum of four rating events in any particular category, excluding B & C Grade events. Allowance is made for players unable to compete in rating tournaments whilst they are representing New Zealand. The Management Committee had the discretion to rank players who, because of overseas playing commitments, would not otherwise qualify for a ranking.

Ratings / Rankings Cont'd

(C) Where records of individuals are equal, the player with a better performance in matches of best of 5 games shall be entitled to the higher ranking.

(D) Cognizance shall also be taken of the number of winning performances in tournaments and also of winning results in semi-finals.

(E) Overseas players shall not be considered for ranking unless they have been resident in New Zealand for a period of not less than three months.

The accuracy of the list is often questioned but it needs to be remembered that rankings reflect the opinion of a panel. This principle of basing decisions on a panel's opinion is little different from the policy adopted by a selection panel for team selection.

The answer to the second question, why two systems, revolves around the fact that ratings are still not accepted as an alternative to world ranking raised from 52 to 48

At the last AGM delegates were informed of changes to be introduced in 1996 which included having the weightings for age-group events, and bringing under 17 events into the system which has the effect of lowering the points of the top 15 players to a more realistic level.

I believe we must all be patient and let the system continue to develop. Who knows, we may yet reach the ideal situation where acceptable rankings and seedings are produced at the press of a button.

MEMBERSHIP RETURNS

Both the Chairman and Deputy Chairman has each been advised by the Hillary Commission that the Commission was concerned at the performance of table tennis. A major indicator which they used was the continuing downward trend in membership. Doubts were expressed on the accuracy of some associations returns and the importance of accurate information being furnished by clubs to associations and associations to TTNZ was stressed. Failure to do so will adversely affect the level of funding from the Commission. The consequence of this will be additional levies on associations.

Li Chun Li's performances in 1996 to earn her Player of the Year include:

beating the current China Open champion
beating world number 3 (Chen Jing)
clean sweep Oceania champs
clean sweep Oceania Olympic qualifying tour.
world ranking raised from 52 to 48
Philippa Baker cont’d ~

I am a strong believer that nothing substitutes hard work. However I also believe that for every champion there were at least another equally as talented that were somehow lost. Some of the reasons these people are lost include a lack of motivation, determination, positive role models and structures in place from sports to recruit, retain and foster these individuals. I believe it is imperative that TTNZ strives to improve communication with its’ players, coaches, administrators and supporters and I look forward to being a part of...

INFO – 1996 World Veterans Championships, Lillehammer, NORWAY

The Norwegian Association with less than 800 licensed players who hosted this event were celebrating their 50th anniversary. Events played were over 40, 50, 60, 70 and 80 yrs, men’s and women’s singles and doubles.

Some statistics:

72 tables used plus 18 practice tables.  1969 players entered
20000 bed nights organised  8396 matches played
63500 photocopies produced 240 volunteers assisted
7000 pints beer consumed in the Troll pub  2800 people involved
Oldest player - Germany born 1908  880 players from Germany
Oldest lady player - Japan born 1909  300 players from Japan

A Video of the Championships is available from the Norwegian Assn.

Peter Jackson is back playing in France, Andrew Hubbard in Germany, Li Chun Li is in Japan, Aaron Winborn and Paul Bowman are in Germany. Jared Smith and Shane Laugesen are in Belgium.

Shane reports he is playing in the Belgium national league in a team in second division hoping to move to super division next year with his team being 1st equel. He had won all his matches, last we heard. More regarding Belgium next issue.

Table Tennis has produced a 30 second radio commercial for broadcast on Wellington Access Radio during a new hour long sports programme “Sports Link” - 5 - 6 pm on Wednesdays. The commercial was produced free of charge as a result of a deal negotiated by the NZ Sports Assembly, who are co-ordinating the production of the hour long programme. Access broadcasts on 783 AM and can be heard as far north as...
This group commenced 3 years ago, meeting on Thursday mornings 9.30am to noon. A ladies group was already up and running meeting on Thursday afternoons. Because of the number attending it was decided to open on Tuesdays also when about 30 - 40 players attend with 40 - 55 on Thursdays mostly in the older age group. 14 tables are provided.

There are 5 draws in a $1 meat raffle and part of the $2 playing fee puts each player into a draw for 5 prizes in a lucky dip. These prizes are kindly provided by the Canterbury association. The meat prizes are provided by a player at a nominal charge. All these activities provide much needed finance for the association.

Morning tea time allows for the players to be brought up to date on table tennis matters by the Canterbury President.

The keener players stay on after the main attendees have gone. Bats are provided for newcomers before they commit themselves to the cost of a new one.

It is surprising to see so many of the older players coming out of the woodwork, especially those who played so many years ago. A lot of advertising took place originally - community papers, Radio, and within the Sport Canterbury organisation. The response was very pleasing.

Perhaps other mid week groups would like to tell us all how they are getting on.

SCHOOL TEAMS BATTLE IT OUT

The new rules (constitution) has been approved by the Registrar of Incorporated Societies. Distribution of copies is awaiting confirmation from the Inland Revenue Dept that the rules still maintain the Tax free status. It is not envisaged this is a problem at all - just part of the process!
The Rating System - in brief

Players who attend major tournaments will know that Rating Lists are displayed and circulated regularly. They know there is a main list for men and women and separate lists for seven age-groups. They know there are a hundred names on the main lists and that the top name can have over a thousand points, the lowest might have just zero, and many more players are not on the list at all.

But how does it work? Here are some answers to commonly asked questions:

What are the Rating Lists based on?

Championship singles results at New Zealand, North and South Island Championships; District Open Championships (eg Wairarapa Open, South Canterbury Open); and Northern Districts, Central Districts, and South Island Teams Tournaments.

How are the points calculated?

There is a mathematical formula which takes into account:

1. The level of the tournament (NZ Championships individual event events carry more points than district championships and teams tournaments.

2. The event (open events carry more points than age group

3. The difference in points between the players (if you beat someone well above you on the list you get more points than if you beat someone below you - the calculation table is usually displayed with the list).

How do new players get onto the list?

By beating two or more players already on the list.

Do new players start from zero?

No, they are allocated “start points” based on their first results. The start points are under calculated separately?

No. There is only one men’s list and only one women’s list. The age-group lists contain the names and points of all the rated players in that age-group. An under 19 girl, for example, will have the same points on both the Girls Under 19 list and the Open Women’s list. This is an important distinction between ranking and rating lists. It means that when two under 19 girls achieve similar results in under 19 events, the one with a better record in under 21 and open events will be placed higher in the under 19 rating list.

The system has been operating since March last year and was trialled for a full season before that. Frequent publication of up-dated lists creates interest and serves as an incentive for players to compete. Readers of Table Tennis Info are invited to write in with questions or comments on the rating system. Address them to PO Box 867, Wellington.

Table Tennis Info will regularly publish the top names on the various lists, and comment on any dramatic movements.
NEW ZEALAND ACADEMY OF TABLE TENNIS

Located in a rural atmosphere at Highland Park, Stoke, 10 minutes from Nelson, we are the only Table Tennis Coaching Academy in New Zealand.

We can offer a top Chinese Coach - Hu Binquan who lives on the premises and offers top coaching and/or private tuition.

Special programmes are arranged for any level of player starting from two days to three years.

Accommodation is in the form of single bedrooms or dormitory style depending on age and preference. All bedding is supplied and laundered by Academy staff.

Good quality meals included

Join the Summer Camps in Nelson

“it’s fun in the sun”

Camp dates - All Sun to Fri.
No 1 - Nov 24th to Nov 29th   No 5 - Jan 5th to Jan 10th
No 2 - Dec 1st to Dec 6th    No 6 - Jan 12th to Jan 17th
No 3 - Dec 8th to Dec 13th   No 7 - Jan 19th to Jan 24th
No 4 - Dec 15th to Dec 20th

Costs: $175 per person, for accommodation, meals, training and other activities.
Camps start Sunday 3pm and finish Thursday night - travel home Friday.

All enquiries: Bryan Keane
NZ Academy of Table Tennis
P O Box 2230  Stoke, Nelson
Phone 03-547 7530
Fax 03-547 4828

Infectious Disease Transmission in Sport  - from Ron Fleming

Sports Medicine New Zealand recently made some recommendations for players and support staff and the main interest to table tennis were the following:

Dressing rooms should be kept clean and tidy with particular attention to hand-basins, toilets and showers. Adequate soap, paper hand towels, brooms and disinfectants must always be available. Household bleach is an effective antiviral agent and can be also used to clean up (rare in table tennis) blood spills. Common antiviral agents include bleach (Janola) and 70% alcohol and iodine containing compounds.

The sharing of towels, face washers and drink containers must be avoided.  (Condensed)