

## Upcoming Events

November	Sat 18 – Sat 25	Australian Veteran Championships Campbelltown NSW
December	Sat 2 – Sun Thu 7	<b>Annual General Meeting</b> / Workshops Wellington Entries Close – Summer Nationals
<b>2001</b>		
January	Sat 13 – Wed 17	<b>Summer Nationals</b> Nelson
March	Thurs 15	Entries Close – NZ Veterans Champs
April	Fri 13 – Mon 16	<b>NZ Veterans Championships</b> Christchurch
	Sat 14 – Fri 20	Commonwealth Championships New Delhi, India
	Wed 25	Anzac Day Open Auckland
	Sat 28 – Sun 29	Wanganui Open Wanganui
	23 Apr – 6 May	World Championships Osaka, Japan
May	Sat 5 – Sun 6	Marlborough Open Blenheim
	Sat 19	Northland Open Whangarei
	Sat 19	Southland Open Invercargill
June	Sat 2 – Mon 4	<b>South Island Championships</b> Dunedin
	Sat 16 – Sun 17	Nelson Open Nelson
	Sun 1	Auckland Junior Open Auckland
July	Sat 7	Wairarapa Open Carterton
	Tue 10 – Wed 11	Hawkes Bay Open Napier
	Thu 12 – Sun 15	North Isl. Teams Championships Palmerston North
	Sat 21	<b>North Island Championships</b> Palmerston North
August	Sat 4 – Sun 5	Otago Open Dunedin
	Sat 11 – Sun 12	Manawatu Open Palmerston North
	Sat 18 – Sun 19	Auckland Open Auckland
September	Sat 29 – Sat 6 Oct	Waikato Open Hamilton
		<b>New Zealand Open</b> Auckland

**Reminder** The new 40mm Ball is to be used at all Open tournaments in NZ from 1 May 2001. However The Summer Nationals in January and the NZ Open Veterans Championships in April **will be using the new 40mm ball**.



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## TABLE TENNIS INFO

Issue: 16

*November 2000*

**Aaron Li** (Nelson) winner of the New Zealand Open Men's Singles for the fourth year in succession.

*Reports and results start page 18*



**Bumper Issue!**

**Four extra pages.**

### Our Team at the Olympics



L/R:

**Li Chunli,**  
**Karen Li,**  
**Murray Finch**  
(Manager)  
**Peter Jackson**



## NO MEDALS, NO DISGRACE

- Li Chunli, Japanese-based, Chinese-born, and citizen of NZ for the past ten years, reached the final 32 of the women's singles (the best NZ Olympic performance ever) - and then met the World Champion....
- Karen Li, also Chinese-born, student in Palmerston North and Chunli's younger sister, finished second in her group of three.....
- Peter Jackson, NZ born and now living in France, finished third in his group but matched a player seeded above him point for point ....
- The women's doubles pairing of Chunli and Karen finished second in their group....

All players fully justified their Olympic selection and all played to their seedings.

Results:

### Women's Doubles

**Li Chunli/K Li** beat T Brahn/J Reed (USA) 21-16, 21-8

E Schall/N Struse (Germany) beat **Li Chunli/K Li** 21-16 15-21 21-14

### Women's Singles

**Karen Li** beat S Tepes Cancino (Chile) 21-12 21-12 21-16

J Jun Hong (Singapore) beat **Karen Li** 21-9 21-13 21-12

**Li Chunli** beat R Garkauskaite (Lithuania) 18-21 21-17 21-9 21-8

**Li Chunli** beat B Rodriguez Olate (Chile) 21-7 21-4 21-13

Wang Nan (China) beat **Li Chunli** 21-7, 21-15, 21-9

### Men's Singles

C Baboor (India) beat **Peter Jackson** 25-23 21-18 23-21

P Korbel (Czech Rep) beat **Peter Jackson** 21-11 21-13 21-15



Team manager **Murray Finch's** diary extracts start on opposite page and include a fuller description of our players' performances, lots of other table tennis action, and a great inside view of the whole Olympic experience.

**Karen Li** (left) during a concentrated practice session.



## Olympic Diary

The Olympic table tennis Section Manager **Murray Finch** kept a diary from 10 September to 2 October. Here are some extracts. There's heaps more on our web site.

**Day 1** We breeze through Sydney Airport and are met by Peter Mitzkimmin and Belinda Cordwell of the Athletes Services. What traffic congestion!! We dump our bags in our house as soon as we arrive and head off to the venue as we only have 2 sessions in the competition hall and one is right now.

On the way back from training we stop at the dining hall for dinner - it seats 4,900 and is open 24 hours a day. We try not to be too obvious looking for famous people.

Back to our section of the Village - we have a Whakaheke (Maori carving) over the entrance and Kiwiana everywhere - including a selection of AA road signs.

**Day 2** Today is Reebok outfitting day. Breakfast at 8.00am (everything that you eat or drink is free, including McDonalds), and then off to the Reebok warehouse. The amount of gear we get from Reebok is amazing - 34kg including bags, casual, sports and playing gear. Back for more training at 7.00pm and dinner at 9.30pm. Chunli has a minor problem with stomach and leg cramps and has some blood tests to ensure it is nothing more than travel fatigue.

**Day 3** An excellent training session with everyone looking sharp, especially Karen. Chunli has no recurrence of yesterday's cramps and is moving well. At dinner we start introducing ourselves to some of the new arrivals - yachting, equestrian, women's basketball and swimming. Everyone is geared up and ready to go.

**Day 4** Dress rehearsal for the Opening Ceremony tonight with a crowd of 100,000 and an unbelievable fire works display at about 11.00pm. We all sat on the grass in front of the Village and watched. Karen and Chunli have decided not to march in the Opening Ceremony as they have a doubles match at 11.30am on the next day. Peter is marching because his first match won't be until the day after.

**Day 5** Team photo was an exercise in logistics. For some reason I ended up in row D (of A-N, A the shortest). Some people must have lied about their height - I can't be that short!!

The draws were made today. Ours were a mixed bag. Chunli has a good group and the doubles draw is good. Peter has a very tough match against the number two in the group (Baboor of India), but Korbel (Czech Republic) is one of the better choices for No 1. Karen has a very tough No 1 in Jing Jun Hong. The draw process was interesting with the draws for the groups done by computer and projected onto a big screen. The seeds for the main draws were drawn manually using a cardboard box and numbered table tennis balls.

**Day 6** There is a lot of discussion about who is marching in the Opening Ceremony and who isn't. The Li's aren't marching neither is the hockey team, nor the track cyclists nor the swimmers. The women's basketball team attract some attention by deciding to march despite having a game at 9.00am the next morning that is a "target" game. The march in was a life-time highlight - there was a huge reception from the crowd when we entered the stadium. The rest of the Ceremony was amazing. The only downer was waiting in queues for over an hour to get back into the Village.

**Day 7** The first match for the Li's is the doubles against Tawny Brahn and Jasna Reed of the USA at 11.00am. We get off to a terrible start, down 0-5 after Karen served, looking out of sorts until the second half of the game when they clicked to win 21-16, 21-8.

**Day 8** The start of singles play. Chunli and Karen play their toughest matches in group play, Chunli plays Ruta Garkauskaite of Lithuania who has looked good in training and Karen plays the impressive Jing Jun Hong of Singapore. Unfortunately for Karen she strikes Jing in top form and has no answer for the quality and variety of her play although she tries everything. Chunli starts slowly against Garkauskaite losing the first game 18-21 and winning the second 21-17 before proving her class in the next 2 games 21-9, 21-8. Peter starts tomorrow.

**Day 9** Peter plays an excellent match against Baboor, a player he has never beaten. Baboor shows signs of nervousness as Peter puts him under pressure but Pete can't quite close out a game, losing 23-25, 18-21, 21-23. Karen shows good form against Sofijer Teres-Cancino of Chile winning 21-12, 21-12, 21-16. The doubles match is a disappointment. Both pairs start poorly but the Germans show greater teamwork and composure at the end of the first game to win 21-16. Chunli and Karen dominate the second game. Struse and Schall get away to a good start in the 3rd and change ends at 10-5 up. In the confusion at change of ends and service the playing order wasn't changed and this worked against us. It wasn't picked up until 14-6. Chunli and Karen staged a comeback but were too far behind.

Good support from the Australians in the crowd - provided we aren't playing Australians. Makes you feel a bit guilty about the shirt that sells at the airport which says *"I support 2 countries, New Zealand and anyone playing Australia!"*

Spotted a shabby looking character in the VIP seats watching Karen's match today. The tatty baseball cap couldn't disguise Bill Gates of Microsoft fame.

**Day 10** Peter plays his second match against Petr Korbel and comes up against a class act in good form. Peter played as well as he was allowed in losing 11-21, 13-21, 15-21. Chunli demolishes Berta Rodriguez-Olate from Chile 21-7, 21-4, 21-13, qualifying for the knockout stage - the last 32.

Karen and Peter are both finished now, or as you become known in the team, "tourists". The stars of the game have all turned up and are training with a great deal of intensity. Back at the village things are a bit gloomy as the Equestrian team have been denied a medal with 2 of the horses not fit for the showjumping.

I return to the stadium for the draw for the knockout stage of the women's singles. Chunli was the second to last position drawn. There were two balls that I could draw, one to take Chunli into position no. 2 playing top seed and World Champion Wang Nan and the other against Michaela Steff in the middle of the bottom half. I drew position number 2. If we were hoping for a bronze or a silver medal this is a bad draw. However if you want to beat the top player the best time is in her first match.

**Day 11** Chunli puts up an excellent display in front of the NZOC hierarchy as well as the return of B Gates. However Wang Nan showed why she is world number 1 with an exhibition of controlled table tennis that restricted Chunli's opportunities to attack.

**Day 12** I had planned to get around some of the other venues today but I started at the table tennis and never got away. The matches were amazing. Li Jia Wei of Singapore held 5 match points in the 4th game - leading 20-16 and then 21-20 against top seed Wang Nan before Wang clawed back and won in 5 games. In the men's singles Waldner won in 4 against Iseki (Japan), and Roskopf and Legout had good 5 game wins.

**Day 13** More great table tennis. Kong Linghui survives a huge scare to beat Blaszczyk in 5 games. Liu Guoliang comes back from 0-2 to beat Damien Eloi (France) in 5 games. Jing Jun Hong's amazing run continues with a win against the remaining European in the draw Michaela Steff in 4 close games.

I share a car with Belinda Cordwell and Joseph Romanos as we head to the main stadium for the evening athletics session. Apparently you don't participate in the Mexican wave or take photos while in the press box....oops.

**Day 14** Women's semi finals and men's quarterfinals. Jing Jun loses to the second seed Li Ju of China. Wang Nan beats Atlanta silver medallist Chen Jing in 4 excellent games. Waldner comes back from 0-2 against Samsanov to win 21-19 in the 5th in a display befitting the master. Persson beats Pro Tour Champion Liu Guozheng, Liu Guoliang easily beats Roskopf and Kong Linghui recovers from 1-2 against Schlager to easily win the last two games.

Back at home we admire the endurance of the Judo guys who come home at between 4 and 8am each morning, sleep until 10.00 to 12.00 noon, start talking about having a quiet night and head out at about 11.00pm.

**Day 15** The whole team is a-buzz with Rob Waddell's effort in the single sculls: the first (hopefully not the last) GOLD MEDAL. It proves that the nice guys can win as well.

Finals day for the women and semi-finals for the men. The women's singles is an all Chinese affair with the court craft and ball control skills of top seed Wang Nan pitted against the aggressive, power looping game of Li Ju. It made for an exciting clash of styles with Wang winning in 5 exciting games. In the men's semis Kong Linghui lived up to his seeding, defeating Persson in 4 games and Waldner, after losing to Liu Guoliang the first 6 or 7 times he played him, continued his recent run of success against him and won in straight games making a China/Sweden dream final.

When we get back to the house there's a bit of a party going on with Karen and Chunli being introduced to the basics of Judo, though how they are expected to compete with the suits on backwards has yet to be explained. There also seems to be a bit of a weight disparity. All in good fun.

**Day 16** After dinner we make our way to the Stadium for the finals. The atmosphere, noise, and table tennis all add up to a great occasion. It was a great night for the Chinese with Liu Guoliang beating Persson in 4 games for the Bronze medal and Kong Linghui beating Waldner in 5 games for the Gold. That simple analysis doesn't do justice to the gold medal match. Kong was faultless in the first two games. Waldner showed his class and his brilliance clawing back to 2-2 and then the tide turned again with Kong getting away to an unassailable lead early in the 5th. (Refer also article on page 26).



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**Day 17** The first day without table tennis seems a bit of a loss. Most people are finished now. Some are at a loose end but others are getting out and supporting those of the team still competing. The hockey team are trying to recover from the devastation of having victory snatched from them by a pretty ordinary umpires decision last night.

**Day 18** We caught the ferry into town today - it's a great ride under the Harbour Bridge and up to "The Rocks". The road cycling course is 17km and the race is 220km long. The commentator was interesting - he didn't know the riders: there is the "other German", the "rider from Kazhakstan", the "big American", the "big Russian" and the "little Mexican" to name a few.

After the cycling I head into Darling Harbour to watch the boxing, hoping to catch up with a few other Kiwis. Along the way I hear that the Hockey team has lost 1-7. They will be devastated.

**Day 19** The softball girls have arranged a "mini olympics" for the NZ team. Basketballer Megan Compain beats Hamish Carter in the scooter slalom final - it hasn't been a good tournament for him! Then we move on to a number of athletic endeavours which have an amber hydration component. It's a fun afternoon.

**Day 20** News is starting to filter back to us about the response of the media - especially the tabloid media (Holmes, Deaker, Sunday News etc...) - and some talkback callers, to the team's performance. It doesn't go down well that athletes are being accused of not giving their best. This is the Olympics - everyone is giving 100%.

**Day of Closing Ceremony** The bags are picked up by Air NZ and what a huge logistical task this is. The Hockey team alone has 150!! It takes about 4 hours. The Closing Ceremony is great, a fitting finish to a great event. It is a long night as we adjourn to the dining hall afterwards (after another long wait at the gate to get back into the Village) and then back to our place.

**Final Day** We are a long time at Sydney Airport and the flight home is very quiet. We have a brief reception when we get back to Auckland and then everyone drifts off. It's all over!!



With grateful thanks to **Murray Finch** for compiling his diary and giving us all the details.

Condensed and edited by **John Kiley**.

A fuller version is on TTNZ web Site.

Left – enjoying a meal in the huge cafeteria: L/R – **Peter Jackson**, **Karen Li** and **Li Chunli**.

*How do we get more table tennis in the paper. Some suggestions.....*

## Is No News really Good News?

By **Dennis Galvin**, TTNZ Director of Publicity

**A few years ago Table Tennis New Zealand set up a network of association publicity officers.** The two-man national office would handle national tournaments, events and news.

It is hard to assess the success of this. From a casual observation some associations have had great success, while others are apparently unsure of their duties.

The national office has been reduced to one and a lot of the publicity has been spent in Table Tennis Info by volunteer Robin Radford and staff member John Kiley, who both fit other publicity into their normal chores and TT Info.

I am trying to assist and advance the national cause using my 48 years of print media journalism in New Zealand, Australia, Japan, England and Yugoslavia. This article, I hope, will assist publicity officers to help us advance the sport from Page 72 to at least Page 5. But it is a tough task because the sport is always at the mercy of the sports editors or sub-editors who would be hard-pressed to give us 10cm of space unless you could show that one of your players served so fast the receiver finished in the carpark.

I am well aware that many of you either don't like writing anything, including a letter to your granny, and others can go on for page after page describing in great detail the inside of the stadium and the lineage of the contestants, but here are some suggestions dealing with the print media:

### INTRODUCTIONS

After your appointment as association publicity officer visit the local newspapers; the twice-weekly throwaways and/or the daily newspaper whose head office may not be in your town; and introduce yourself to the sports editor, editor, news editor, chief reporter and sports reporters. You can guarantee that at least one has "played table tennis a bit", "used to hit around with dad in the garage" or "yeah, I was pretty good once". This is a great means of continuing a conversation. Take down their names and phone numbers, faxes and email addresses. Invite them down to your stadium for a hit, and keep in touch with them even if there is nothing doing.

### VALUE

Make sure you have something of value to give them, because you are still competing for that 10cm against "major" sports. Don't bother them with trivials such as a club under 7 handicap doubles, but a lot depends on what they will accept, whether they have the space, or whether other news has dried up, so keep on informing them of what is going on.

Don't get too miffed at what they do not print; it may be Pulitzer Prize stuff to you but that week they may have something better. At the recent North Island championships at Taupo and the nationals at Christchurch piles of copy was sent out each day. NZ's largest daily, the NZ Herald printed about 4cm for the whole week of each tournament.

### KISS

Do not over-write. Keep It Simple, Sportspeople. Don't try to fool the reporter. If asked a question and you don't know the answer, say so, and tell the reporter you will get back to him/her.

If asked by a reporter a difficult question don't say "no comment"---- that really hacks off a newsman.

Continued over page.

I am itemising these because you may have handed in a “great” story. But any journalist worth his/her salt will look at it and then ask questions. They are trained to do this, so you must accept that your “great” story may not be anything like the story that appears in the paper..... except that facts must be retained, and if not then you have a reason for complaint.

For that reason, always keep a copy of what you supply.

### BE CALM

But, even after the fact, never have an argument with the reporter, never lose your temper or get in a huff.

Read the Letters To The Editor of any newspaper and you will see that there are many top contributors ..... some even better writers than the Editor, but don't tell him/her that.

Make sure all relevant information is contained in your opening sentences. Years of research have proved that readers are attracted by the headline to the introduction, then from the introduction to the story. Interest wanes after everything is gleaned from the early development of the story. So ensure you have the where, what, how, who, when and why of your story in the opening sentences.

If you have the details accompanying your story do not use valuable space to write the results all over again in story fashion. It is easy to see that the writer was not even present at a match when you see in the details: J Smith (Wellington) bt A Brown (Wanganui) 21-11, 11-21, 21-11, preceded by a story, which says “J Smith of Wellington beat A Brown of Wanganui two games to one”. That is repetitive, and so space wasting.

Submit your story so you can discuss it with the reporter. If you have to post it or have it delivered make sure your name and contact number is clear.

Write double-spaced and ALWAYS write one-side only.

Eliminate cliches..... ie “Jimmy was stubborn as a mule in losing to....”

Don't waste space.....ie “The games finished at 2am in the morning”.

Early next year we hope that we will have produced a pamphlet for all publicity officers, including how to deal with major tournaments, setting up a news centre, photography and radio.

In the meantime if you would like some questions answered please contact TTNZ or Dennis Galvin,  
PO Box 21-386, Henderson, Waitakere City.  
Phone/Fax/Answerphone: (09) 835-0995 E-mail: [dennis.galvin@xtra.co.nz](mailto:dennis.galvin@xtra.co.nz)

## A Table Tennis Fanatic

At the recent NZ Championships it was delightful to see a former player, **Miriam Montigue** (nee Dennis), now in her late 70's. She was so keen to see the finals that her daughter had brought her straight from hospital in a wheelchair.

Miriam was a prominent player in the mid 40's and was involved in the formation of Canterbury Table Tennis in 1937. Until her illness earlier this year she played in the mid week club.

**Trevor Flint**

## MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE FOR UMPIRE

**International Umpire Michael McAvinue selected to umpire at the Sydney Olympics, reports on his second Olympic experience, having also attended Barcelona in 1992 .....**

The stadium setting was magnificent – one of the best I've seen but by no means the largest. At the start of each round the umpires marched into the arena and each umpire was announced. I was privileged to lead the umpires out at the start of the tournament. I umpired 22 matches. The women's and men's singles finals were the best table tennis since the Worlds' in China in 1995.

We received a very nice uniform and accessories which I will wear with pride around NZ table tennis venues. The transport to the centre from McQuarrie University where the umpires were staying was not too bad but going home normally involved a two hours or more wait. Not very satisfactory. If you went to town instead of coming back on the bus it took two and a half hours to walk from the nearest railway station. We would arrive home at about midnight.

We were given a meal allowance of \$25 per day but most umpires arranged their own meals due to the high cost of food at the venue (sausage - \$8; small piece of fish - \$6.60; 500ml water - \$6; sandwich \$6.60; coffee - \$4.50).

The umpires were invited to a society wedding during the Olympics – the deputy referee married the ITTF racket control chief. We formed a guard of honour and when the couple entered for the ceremony we all held up our yellow cards.

There were many enjoyable moments at the games. It was a great tournament. The fantastic atmosphere, a great band of umpires, very friendly volunteers and officials, all made for me one of my most memorable appointments. Roll on Athens?

## Paralympic Games, Sydney

### NZ INTERNATIONAL UMPIRES IN DEMAND

As Michael McAvinue arrived back from the Olympics, another New Zealand international umpire was packing to leave for Sydney. **Averil Roberts** was one of 54 international umpires



selected to officiate at the *Paralympic Games* in late October. Averil (pictured) was approached during the Oceania Championships and offered the position. To qualify, she was required to sit and pass an examination on the specific rules for table tennis players

with disabilities.

These rules give special consideration only to players confined in wheelchairs. Normal international regulations apply to all other disabled players. In wheelchair play alternate hitting is not required in doubles - either player can hit the ball. Normally each player covers one half of the table. Further, a let is called whenever:

- The serve bounces once and passes over the side of the table rather than the end (singles only).
- The ball bounces on the table and drifts back towards the net as a result of backspin.

Two hundred and seventy-two players competed in these games. The table tennis was conducted in the same venue as the main Olympics. Twelve competition tables operated and each match had four officials: an umpire, an assistant umpire, and two ball persons to pick up the ball after each rally.

Great that we had an umpire there, but what about players? Did any New Zealand disabled player qualify? No – but one (Barry Wynks, featured in our March 99 issue) is good enough and should have gone. See next page to find out why he didn't.



## Paralympics in Sydney

### HUGE BARRIER FOR PLAYER WITH DISABILITY

By John Kiley

While “barrier-free” attitudes towards people with disabilities are claimed to be more prevalent today than ever before, this was little consolation to New Zealand table tennis player **Barry Wynks** (pictured) when he discovered the barrier he had to surmount to qualify for the Paralympic Games at the Sydney Olympic Stadium last month.



Barry has been a strong table tennis player for well over three decades and holds his own against all able-bodied players his own age in New Zealand. Since birth he has lived (and played table tennis) with an artificial leg and an extremely short right arm which swings from his shoulder. Despite the obvious effect of this on his balance and mobility, he hits the ball with great accuracy and ferocious spin, and covers the table well. This year alone he won the North Island Over 35 and Over 45 Men's Doubles, was runner-up in three other events, including the Over 45 Men's Singles and two Over 35 doubles events, and won the Manawatu Closed Championships.

During 1999 he was given the opportunity, with assistance from community funding sources in Palmerston North where he lives, to compete in a special international tournament in Taiwan for table tennis players with disabilities. He was hoping, and had been led to believe, that at this tournament he could demonstrate where he stood in comparison with others at his level of disability and, hopefully, prove he was good enough to compete in the Paralympics.

He was devastated by what he learned in Taiwan.

He began by finding out that he was easily good enough to qualify. He beat a player who was already a certainty for qualification 21-12, 21-12. He then learned the full story of the qualifying process.

In brief:

- All table tennis players registered with the ITTC (International Table Tennis Committee for Disabled Persons) are divided into eleven categories. Category 1 is for wheelchair-bound players who are unable to hold the bat and have it taped to their hands; Category 11 is for players with minimal disability; all others are graded on a continuum between these extremes. Barry is in Category 8.
- Players collect points by winning matches against others in their category. It's not a rating system, but a points system – the difference being that a rating system is on-going with the rating points retained from one year to the next, and new players entering the system allocated “start points” based on their first few results so that they are quickly placed close to their true position. With a points system, everyone starts from zero each year.

- Points can only be scored at qualifying tournaments. Twelve are held each year, plus a two-yearly World Championships which carries bonus points.
- The top 20 on the points table in each category as at 31.12.99 qualify for the 2000 Paralympics.

This left Barry with the task of building up his points in what remained of 1999. It was calculated that to ensure qualification he would have to play in eight of the twelve tournaments. At first, costings were worked out for the two other southern hemisphere tournaments – one in Australia and one in South Africa. Combined with the Taiwan event, the total cost would have been \$23,000. This includes not only air fares, but entry fees as well which vary from US\$800 to US\$1000 and also cover accommodation and food for as many as eight days. Those three tournaments alone are unlikely to gain him qualification because, with low points to start with, he would almost certainly get a bad draw and have to play someone very hard to beat from near the top in his category.

To play in more tournaments would, in most cases, mean a trip to Europe each time. That would cost, per trip, about \$10,000. Add loss of earnings to that and the all-up cost of qualifying for the Paralympics would be in the vicinity of \$80,000.

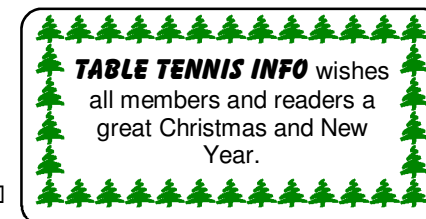
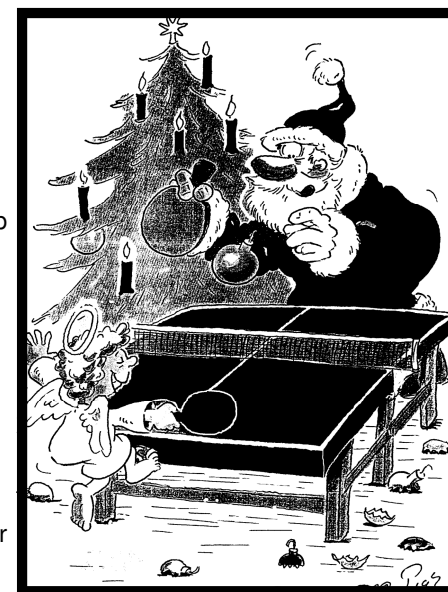
“There are disabled players in France receiving US\$1000 per month in assistance from government sources to allow them to compete on the international circuit”, said Barry after mingling with the players at the Taiwan tournament.

Dreaming of similar assistance from our government would be just that, a dream. But surely there are fairer systems. The existing process heavily penalises players in this part of the world. A rating system, allowing players to reach their correct position quickly and to build up points over a longer period is much fairer, and better still would be a continental qualification system (like the main Olympics) where a set number of qualification positions are allocated to each continental zone. Our players would then not need to travel beyond Oceania.

Barry estimated that his true position in the Category 8 rankings would be, at the very worst, No 14 – possibly as high as 8.

We tried to contact the ITTC for a defence of their perplexing system but, with no email or fax and not being able to even make the phone ring let alone get it answered, we flagged it for now and will write a letter in due course.

In the meantime, Category 8 players competed against each other in Sydney while Barry Wynks stayed at home, watching the “barrier-free” Paralympics on television.



## Where to now?

By Dennis Galvin

The ninth wonder of the world, the 2000 Olympics, have finished, the summations have concluded, the athletes have returned, the disappointed can search for answers and to the victors still go the spoils.

What and where, now, for table tennis?

We sent three players, equaling the largest contingent since the sport was embraced by the Olympic movement in 1988, and we rated six out of 10 by a prominent national daily, a rating far above other sports represented.

In the national post mortems it is obvious that Athens 2004 is not too many tomorrows away and most sports will have a tough time persuading financial sources that Sydney was a hiccup and that they can promise much more in Greece.

Many sports will argue that finance was the only problem they had in not doing as well as their national bodies promised. Their athletes had tough international competition ruled out by lack of finance for setting up coaching and training schedules.

Table tennis will be faced with many problems in the next four years, not the least being that the two outstanding players in the past decade, Peter Jackson and Li Chunli, will be over 40 when Athens beckons so it is doubtful if they will be representing then.

Jackson and Chunli have made it to the top of New Zealand table tennis by spending thousands of dollars on themselves and by spending up to 11 months of the year overseas.

TTNZ can send them only a token in financial appreciation of what they have done for NZ, and themselves. TTNZ has compared its income from the players, tournaments and the Hillary Commission to its commitments to all bases of the sport added to what it could spare for our international players. Compared with other countries it is an embarrassingly low output to our top players, but TTNZ feels just as bad about that as the players.

Other New Zealand sports that failed in Sydney gave no favours to table tennis.

To think that world champions Blythe Tait, Beatrice Faumuina, Hamish Carter, Barbara Kendall and Aaron McIntosh could only produce two bronze medals, and all the swimmers, wrestlers, shooters, track and field team, cyclists ..... in fact, almost everyone else, except Mark Todd and Rob Waddell, under-performed.

Compare those efforts with Li Chunli's and we must feel that fate, in the form of a final 32 draw, was terribly cruel to Chunli in meeting the world champion.

But that was yesterday.

Karen Li will only be in her mid-20s in Athens and we have to start now in developing a team around her for 2004 and 2008.

Our selection, coaching, high-performance and marketing committees must now be prepared to sell their souls for Athens. We have some fine players in the 12-18 age group, so we make them our hopes as 16-22 year olds.

*Continued next page.*

We have an academy at Nelson that is not being over-used by TTNZ, rather it seems that the academy is jealously scorned by some associations. God knows why. We should be taking every advantage we can of that facility.

We must start tomorrow putting together a team for Athens and try to find the funding to school these youngsters. The Chunlis of today, Binbin Zhu, Jiani Hu, Sandy Wang, Andy Huang, Nathan Lowe, Josh Alexandre, Adrian Soh, Florence Li, etc etc, must be grouped, specialised and nurtured with Athens in mind. Six months before Athens is too late to find what we have.

We must also put into place a coaching team and a management team, and these must be separate in personnel. It is one thing to manage and another to coach.

The Commonwealth Games are only two years away but that is too soon to train a team. Shane Laugesen is still young enough, and is keen enough to fight for higher honours by playing overseas. There are a few NZ-domiciled players who also fit into that category for the Commonwealths, but let's get the kids into the Olympic frame of mind.

Let's develop China, Sweden and Japan for our overseas training. Let the associations get on with developing the core of the sport. Let the Games (Athens) begin now. We have a case now for more finance to let all this happen, so let's force the issue.

I predict that finance will not be such a problem for Athens, if the Hillary Commission and the government have learnt anything from Sydney.

To help TTNZ find out what the junior juniors are thinking Table Tennis Info invites all table tennis players under 16 to write to us and tell us what you want, now and in the future.



### Letter to the Editor

## CURRENT RATING SYSTEM

I understand that the Rating System exists for the purpose of determining eligibility for the B & C grades at the North Island, South Island and National Championships. It is also used for seedings at some local tournaments. Because the rating system is used nationally, it is essential for it to be both fair and accurate. Unfortunately I feel that the current rating system has some shortcomings resulting from:

1. players being included in the rating list who are not currently playing NZ tournaments
2. the present weighting of players

1. The effect of including "non active" and/or non-resident players in the list - ie. those who have not competed in tournaments in NZ in the year 2000 (eg. Paul Bowman, Sean Chen, Chen Lei, Peter Jackson - who has not played in an open tournament in NZ since 1997), is that lesser players get pushed down the ranking list. Those who are pushed below the top 25 then qualify for B grade when in effect these players may well be in the top 25 players **actively competing in NZ tournaments.**

2. Under the current system, Junior and Veteran players receive Open rating points when competing in restricted events (ie. Junior or Veteran events). Therefore it is possible for such players to achieve a high Open rating without necessarily even playing an open event. Furthermore players in these restricted groups have two chances to increase their open

rating, effectively "double dipping". It is also possible that under the present system two Juniors could have an Open rating which conflicts with their respective rankings in the Junior Division.

To overcome these problems, I believe that **Open** ratings should relate to **Open events only** and that only players **regularly playing in NZ tournaments in the current calendar year** should be included in the Rating list.

If we cannot achieve a fair and accurate rating system, then maybe we should consider abandoning the current system altogether and run the North Island, South Island & National Championships as they do in Manawatu ie. play offs in groups with the top 2 from each group qualifying for the main draw and the 3rd & 4th players qualifying for B grade and the last two in each group qualifying for C grade.

Under this scenario, a player could not be in both the Open section and the B grade section. The current rating system would then be superfluous and local associations could determine their seedings based on the rankings (some Associations already do this).

Finally I advise that I am not against having a rating system in principle. However I do believe that the current system is flawed and its shortcomings need to be addressed. Hopefully my comments and those of Ron Garrett in his article "Points to Ponder" in the last TT Info magazine, will encourage others to give thought to finding solutions to the problems outlined above. I would certainly welcome any comments on the rating system generally.

Wayne Gear Auckland

The **Rating system for 2001** has been finalised and circulated to associations. The only changes from 2000 is that players will not be displayed on the list if they do not play in any rating matches for 12 months or longer, and the weighting applied to the Summer Nationals has increased from 1.5 to 2.0.

## STUDENT ANALYSES TABLE TENNIS

A seven page university paper on the "Organisational Analysis of Table Tennis New Zealand" was written earlier this year by an Otago university student.

It traces the history of table tennis as an organised sport in New Zealand and thoroughly analyses its structure and administrative organisation. It also makes comments on the impact of increased working hours and changing social and economic conditions on organised sport. But light reading it ain't!! If you've got a good dictionary and want to know more about "... groups set up to focus on specific tasks and formal hierarchies established (differentiation and institutionalisation) completing the grass roots stage of development....", then we can arrange to send you a copy (for a token copying fee).



"And you thought a concrete floor was tough!"

## My Serve

by James  
Morris



## Olympic Achievements Debate

The hot topic at the moment seems to be NZ sports peoples' achievement at the Olympic Games in Sydney.

There's been plenty of debate. One of the issues is how effective the newly announced high performance centres in Auckland, Wellington and Dunedin will be. These centres are to provide facilities and services for elite sports people. The Sports Foundation sees this as the answer to NZ's successful sporting future. I beg to differ.

### What do these centres offer?

Basically they will offer sports medicine, and sports science services. Also courses for professional development, eg athletes wanting help in career paths after their sporting careers are over. The centres will work on a carding system where the Sports Foundation has carded 23 sports (national sports organisations). Their athletes will have access to the high performance centres. The degree of free services available will depend on the level of ability of the athlete. Eg Rower Rob Waddell will hold a gold card and have access to all amenities. These centres are basically athlete focused and not coach orientated although I understand coaches can attend with their athletes.

### Where does all this leave table tennis?

Sadly we are presently not one of the 23 carded sports!! The Sports Foundation has criteria. I feel strongly that table tennis meets these criteria and we must do all we can to become a carded sport. We need to become carded to increase our funding chances. Being viewed as a serious sport is important.

### How can we become carded?

There are two important areas table tennis needs to look at:

- We need more participants (look at the latest IMR figures!)
- Elite players need to perform well at international level.

As these centres are still new and some not operational yet, there seems to be some doubt as to eligibility as I have had conflicting reports from the Sports Foundation. I have been told that an uncarded athlete still has access to the high performance centres but on a user pay basis. Also if the sport is not carded then no individuals can attend.

I still need to be convinced that our individual table tennis players will benefit from the services available at these centres. I guess time will tell and with a ministerial sports task force under way at present, anything could happen!

Good Serving

James



# Aaron Li; Peri Campbell-Innes win NZ Singles Titles

By Ron Garrett

Chinese-born **Aaron Li** and Australian **Peri Campbell-Innes** starred at the New Zealand Open Championships in Christchurch in October.

Canterbury's new Stadium was the venue for this year's event and proved an excellent venue for play throughout the eight days of competition. While the stadium may require some finishing touches it is a far cry from the old Selwyn Street headquarters. This is a credit to Table Tennis Canterbury and we will no doubt see many more National Championships in the garden city.

The senior team finals saw Auckland and Canterbury take away the men's and women's A grade titles respectively. Auckland were always favourite to take the men's title. With Hutt Valley's Andrew Hubbard assured of three matches it would have needed two upsets by Andrew's team-mates to deprive the northerners of victory. The final result: 5-3.

The women's result was not so easy to predict although recent arrival **Linda Chen** gave Canterbury the edge. Otago also fielded a newcomer in **Joanna Ma**. Ma performed well throughout the teams events and helped Otago's cause in the final by defeating **Lisa Astle**, but it was the experienced **Lesley Gardner** that made the difference for Canterbury by beating both Ma and **Samara Collins**. The final result was 5-3 to the local team.

It is disappointing to see less teams entered in the senior teams events, particularly in the women where only six associations entered teams. In contrast, the total number of individual entries was the largest since 1993.

The men's singles saw a number of upsets with the main surprise being the defeat of third seed **Aaron Winborn** by Otago's sixteen year-old Chinese student **Ying Yang** in a thrilling four game victory at the quarter final stage. Winborn allowed the youngster to upset his usual rhythm with Ying Yang rapidly changing pace and causing Winborn to overhit or net the ball.

The unseeded Hutt Valley player **Jared Smith** was involved in two upsets. In the second round he defeated fourth seed **John Tawadrous** of Australia then went on to beat fifth seed **Chris Herlihy** after being two games down in the quarter-finals.



Canterbury – Winners of the Under 19 Girls' Teams Event.  
L/R: **Deborah Morrison**, **Meena Chang**, and **Andrea Gosney**.

Both Smith and Ying Yang were outclassed in the semi-finals by top seed **Aaron Li** and second seed **Andrew Hubbard** respectively, neither of whom were giving anything away.

The final was played at a fast pace with Li keen to hold onto the title and Hubbard even keener to defeat the top seed. The crowd of just over 250 was treated to some great rallies with Li always having the upper hand to win in straight games.

Queenslander **Peri Campbell-Innes**, top seed for the women's singles, started badly in the final against second seed **Sarah Finch** being down 4-11 before coming back to 15 all, then moving ahead to win 21-19. The second game was all Australia with Campbell-Innes winning 21-6. The third game went almost point for point until 8-7, then Campbell-Innes went ahead to 18-12. Sarah Finch clawed back to 20 all, held game point at 22-21 but finally dropped the game and match at 24-22.

Second seeds **Sarah Finch** and **Tracey McLauchlan** upset top seeds **Peri** and **Claire Campbell-Innes** in a very close match in the women's doubles, going almost point for point throughout. Finch and McLauchlan won 21-19, 21-16.

The Men's doubles was a thriller with serves and attack by all players having a big bearing on the match. In the first game **Andrew Hubbard** and **Aaron Winborn**, a very experienced combination, led narrowly all the way over **Aaron Li** and **Hagen Bower**, except when they went behind at 17-18, but rallied to win 21-19. The second game was something Hubbard and Winborn will want to forget, however they came back in the final game in which neither side led by more than three points at any stage. Hubbard/Winborn led 21-20, Li / Bower at 22-21 and 23-22 before Li/ Bower took the title at 24-22.

By also winning the mixed doubles with Sarah Finch, Aaron Li again collected three titles and proved he is a class above anyone else in New Zealand at present.

The inclusion of Australian and New Caledonian juniors increased interest in the championships, particularly the Campbell-Innes sisters and John Tawadrous who were a class above our juniors.



A number of juniors show they will have bright futures in the game with the likes of **Jiani Hu**, **Sandy Wang**, **Sophie Shu**, **Binbin Zhu** and **Nathan Lowe** in the under 13 age group, and older players like **Andy Huang**, **Simon Wallace**, **Wendy Zheng**, **Ying Yang** and **Adrian Soh**.

Nelson, helped by the performance of Aaron Li, won the Arthur Meachen Memorial Trophy for the Association with the most successes in the senior finals.

Southland teams cleaned up both men's and women's Victor Barna Dunlop cups for the teams with the best appearance, sportsmanship, punctuality and table etiquette.

Not to be outdone, Southland juniors **Leanne Ridder** and **Paul Lemon** (photo left) won the Alan and Edna McCallum trophies for junior umpiring.

**Results – Pages 18-19**

# New Zealand Open Championships – Christchurch Sept/Oct

## Open

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

## Winner

Aaron Li (N)  
Peri Campbell-Innes (AU)  
H Bower & A Li (A/N)  
S Finch & T McLauchlan (A/HV)  
A Li & S Finch (N/A)

## Singles Runner Up

Andrew Hubbard (HV)  
Sarah Finch (A)

## B Grade

Men's Singles  
Women's Singles

Mike Liu (A)  
Akiko Kimura (S)

Ben Collins (A)  
Lesley Gardner (C)

## C Grade

Men's Singles  
Women's Singles

Jeffery Vinicombe (HV)  
Meena Chang (C)

Glen Foulkes (C)  
Sophie Shu (MN)

## Over 55 years

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

Alan Alabaster (C)  
Christine Cunningham (NH)  
B Penberthy & W Willis (A/A)  
P Bennyworth & C Cunningham (WK/NH)  
R Dunn & C Cunningham (NH/NH)

Chip Eade (WT)  
Pauline Bennyworth (WK)

## Over 45 years

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

Maurice Burrowes (O)  
Val Beaver (NH)  
K Fogarty & D Pattinson (A/A)  
S Chang & J Murray (C/NH)  
K Fogarty & Y Fogarty (A/O)

Doug Pattinson (A)  
Lesley Gardner (C)

## Over 35 years

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

Malcolm Darroch (C)  
Kadia Keller-Rice (BP)  
M Darroch & L White (C/C)  
L Barker & J Murray (C/NH)  
D Scott & K Keller-Rice (NH/BP)

Lyndon White (C)  
Yvonne Fogarty (O)

## Under 21 years

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

John Tawadrous (AU)  
Peri Campbell-Innes (AU)  
A Soh & Yang Y (N/O)  
C Campbell-Innes & P Campbell-Innes (AU/AU)  
A Soh & P Campbell-Innes (N/AU)

Andy Huang (A)  
Tracey McLauchlan (HV)

## Under 19 years

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

Yang Ying (O)  
Peri Campbell-Innes (AU)  
A Soh & Yang Y (N/O)  
A Gosney & D Morrison (C/C)  
A Soh & P Campbell-Innes (N/AU)

Adrian Soh (N)  
Wendy Zheng (A)

## Under 17 years

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

John Tawadrous (AU)  
Claire Campbell-Innes (AU)  
R Abbas & J Tawadrous (AU/AU)  
R Dias & W Zheng (A/A)  
A Soh & C Campbell-Innes (N/AU)

Andy Huang (A)  
Wendy Zheng (A)

## Under 15 years

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

John Tawadrous (AU)  
Claire Campbell-Innes (AU)  
A Huang & J Tawadrous (A/AU)  
C Campbell-Innes & E Schwab (AU/NH)  
R Abbas & C Campbell-Innes (AU/AU)

Andy Huang (A)  
Jiani Hu (N)

## Under 13 years

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

Binbin Zhu (HV)  
Jiani Hu (N)  
C Erskine & J Wells (N/N)  
J Hu & K Samson (N/C)  
B Zhu & J Hu (HV/N)

Nathan Lowe (A)  
Sandy Wang (A)

## NZ SCHOOL TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIPS

These championships were held in Christchurch immediately prior to the NZ Open Championships. Round robin play preceded the final in each category. Finals results:

### **SECONDARY**

**St Kentigern College, Auckland** (Johnny Cheung, Peter Lee, Nathan Lowe) beat Hutt Valley High School (Simon Buchanan, Vance Kelly, Ian Loubachevskii) 6 – 1

### **PRIMARY / INTERMEDIATE**

**Wairau Intermediate, North Harbour** (Brock Barrie, Geoffrey Smart, Rhys Van Stipriaan) beat Hutt Intermediate (Kim Xia Au, Mark Leslie, Binbin Zhu) 5 – 2



## Inter Association Teams Championships Winners New Zealand Championships

Men's A grade	Auckland
Men's B Grade	North Harbour
Women's	Canterbury
Under 19 Boys' A Grade	Wellington
Under 19 Boys' B Grade	Auckland
Under 19 Boys' C Grade	Counties Manukau
Under 19 Girls'	Canterbury
Under 15 Boys' A Grade	Auckland
Under 15 Boys' B Grade	Hutt Valley
Under 15 Boys' C Grade	Northland
Under 15 Girls' A Grade	North Harbour
Under 15 Girls' B Grade	Canterbury
Men's Over 45	Otago
Women's Over 45	North Harbour
Men's Over 55	Canterbury
Women's Over 55	Canterbury



**Tracey McLauchlan (L)**  
and  
**Sarah Finch**

NZ Women's Doubles  
Champions.

# Novelty Table Tennis

Various contributors have put together some novelty and alternative ways of playing the game, which can be enjoyed at clubs, business houses and special tournaments. These ideas are also being added to the help/resource pages in TTNZ web site: <http://www.tabletennis.org.nz>. We have more for future issues. Further contributions are welcome.

## MINI-BATS

Can be any size but 12 ½ cm from top of bat to end of handle is suggested. The covered part of the blade should be 5 ½ cm long and the handle 7 cm.

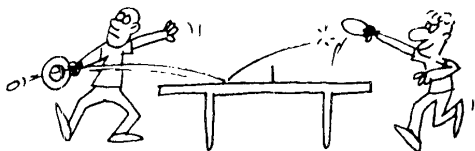
Collect old bats, remove the rubber and cut down to the above size. Collect old sponge rubbers that players discard and recover your creation.

Easier to play with than you'd think.

## HOLES IN BATS

Cut a hole of approx 5 ½ cm in diameter in the centre of a cheap pimple-covered bat.

Great for a laugh. Variant: score a bonus point if you can make the ball pass cleanly through the hole in your bat.



## RELAY RACES:

- Teams start on one side of the hall .
- Select a stroke, eg backhand push.
- At the signal "go" one member of each team runs to the table; drops the ball on the table and with the selected stroke plays the ball over the net and catches it after it has bounced; runs to the far wall; touches it; repeats the same stroke on the way back to the team.
- The second player then does the same until one team uses up all its players.
- If a player misses the shot or fails to catch the ball he/she plays the shot again.

Organising this with large numbers of juniors, you will need ear protection.

## TARGETS

A flat target is placed at each end of the table. If the ball hits the target the striker earns a bonus point. Anything from a five cent piece to a dinner plate can be used depending on the skill of the players.

## TENNIS DOUBLES

As ordinary doubles but instead of alternating the striking of the ball, players may only play the ball that lands on their side of the centre line. Balls landing right on the line can be hit by either player but prior agreement on who should take them will minimise collisions, heated argument and opposition mirth.

## HERE'S A CHALLENGE

This picture was spotted in a table tennis magazine, accompanied by a two-column article, in Italian! Wondering what the object's function could possibly be, the picture-spotter had the article translated. What a let-down. The picture was nothing more than a highly creative and imaginative work of art, and the article was a comment on its artistic quality.

Being Kiwis and incurably practical, we're not interested in anything high-browed or abstract. Where there's a table tennis table there has to be table tennis. Our challenge to all readers is to suggest a game that could be played on this monstrosity.



In case the picture isn't quite clear, the apparatus consists of four oval-shaped table halves arranged around a square water tank containing water lilies with table tennis balls lying on the leaves and floating in the water. The whole piece is entitled the "Ping Pond Table" ("Pond" is not a typo).

So sharpen your pencil and tell us what four players can do with it; or, for that matter, what general use the object could be put to.

## World Veterans Championships

Eighteen players, mainly from Manawatu, plus a small number from Canterbury and Hutt Valley, travelled to Vancouver, Canada, to compete in the World Veterans Championships last May. Most managed at least one win in their groups (stage one of both singles and doubles were round-robin), and some progressed well through the consolation events for players winning less than two group matches.

Jim Jarmin wrote an account of the trip in the NZ Veterans Newsletter, reporting on the play (1860 competitors), and painting a vivid picture of Vancouver's lush and colourful landscape; the spectacular view from their 16<sup>th</sup> storey accommodation; the inner-city transport (free during the championships); the gondola trip up a mountain – all combining into a memorable social event for the participants.

Seven veteran players head for Australia in November to compete in the Australian Veterans Championships.





## Bay of Plenty and Innovative Ideas for Interclub

Bay of Plenty got off to a great start in 2000 by electing a new go-ahead line up of officials spearheaded by President **Judy Smith**, Treasurer **John Lea** and Secretary **Russell Grubner**. We have had more tournament entries than previous years and have just installed 7 new Fredman tables, delighting our interclub players.

Two terms of innovative interclub organized by **Stephen Ogle** were played this year. The April/July interclub was eight person teams with four singles per player. Each team consisted of four A grade and four B grade players and points for both grades were added together. After all the teams played each other there was a doubles only night where double points were awarded for each win.

The later interclub was really innovative as each team consisted of five players. The top two and bottom two played three singles and two doubles each and the middle player played five singles. The top two played the top three and the bottom three played the bottom two. This ensured that the top players got quality matches. There was a total of 21 matches, played over three tables.

Both the Otumoetai and Papamoa Clubs report plenty of new players, with Otumoetai struggling to cope with so many juniors on 6 tables. **Ron Sheridan** and **Ricky Smith** have been running the Friday evening intermediate schools tournament with great success.

Next year promises to be even better as we will have the services of a Chinese coach from Tauranga's sister city Yantai. We have received some Hillary Commission funding and an itinerary is being arranged for next year. The coach's name is Sun Yang and she has excellent credentials as both a player and a coach so we are very much looking forward to utilising her experience.

*Ron Sheridan*

## Junior Development in Wairarapa

Last year, after a very interesting coaching course by **John Stapleton** on Kiwi Table Tennis, a small group of dedicated players, working through Sport Wairarapa, began travelling throughout the Wairarapa Valley taking Kiwi Table Tennis to the schools.

By June this year we had visited 30 schools, travelled over 500 kms and been involved with 2,000 children from 5 to 13 years. About 60% had never held a table tennis bat and this also applied to the teachers. Quite a challenge! However, armed with John's excellent Kiwi Coaching manual and fired up by his boundless enthusiasm we sallied forth, determined to do our best.

What a joy it is to watch a child achieve a skill they thought impossible. Be it a 5 year old bouncing a balloon on a bat or an older child rallying a ball 20 times over the net. Such was the enthusiasm in some schools that we returned several times to them. The benefit of this is starting to show in increased numbers joining clubs. Our schools tournament this year had 12 intermediate teams entered, double last year, and interclub has 32 teams (64 players) - the most ever.

The current success of our top juniors, **James Silverwood** and **Adam Ryland**, winning gold at Taupo; and the increasing competitiveness of **Craig Lawrence** and **Camus Wyatt**, are showing the rest of our juniors what can be achieved by hard work. With the right guidance, table tennis in the Wairarapa could be set for a bright, or dare I say it, "Golden" future.

*Des Orange Junior Selector, Wairarapa*

## Otago

## WHO SAID TABLE TENNIS IS WANING

### Schools

By introducing Kiwi Table Tennis, Otago now have over 700 children enjoying the fun version of the game. The schools competition has taken 3 years to build to 15 intermediate and secondary teams with 60 children playing. The competition was originally for only 6 weeks but by popular request they wanted to run it for 10 weeks with semi finals and finals.

### Senior Citizens

A new class of senior vets (most over 70) at the Edgar Centre totals ten members. St Peters church have a similar set up and all senior citizens are enjoying it. The two clubs have asked for a match which will shortly take place but it is hard to get all players there on the same day. Senior citizens are very busy people. Southland have clubs in the same age group and it is on the agenda to hold a Southland v Otago senior citizens match.

### Hospital Patients

The exclusive Phoenix Club (open heart surgery patients) have a club running by courtesy of the surgeons who recommend table tennis as a good remedial exercise. They have 4 tables and at least 30 players and the tables are never empty. The speed at which they perform has to be seen to be believed.

### International

The inaugural "China v New Zealand" match took place recently. Dunedin has a host of Chinese players who because of restaurant businesses etc can only play on a Sunday afternoon. The Chinese enjoyed the event and would like to hold it every month.

### Finance

All of the above is good for table tennis but not for the coffers of the Association. It is a start to rebuild and most of the above are entrants to the Masters Games and local Otago table tennis tournaments. So table tennis is not dead here but I think our budget may have to be looked at to entice these players into the association interclub.

### Great South Island Teams Tournament Clash with Canterbury.

Otago players have expressed their appreciation of the sportsmanship shown by Canterbury in their recent match. Canterbury could have beaten our team easily but they chose to make a game of it, which made it enjoyable for players and spectators alike.

### Obituaries

**Morrie Hormann** passed away aged 91. Morrie was a great supporter of Otago junior table tennis and for the past 25 years donated the individual trophies at the secondary school champs. Morrie was a Life Member of the Association. He will be sadly missed.

**Wally Dickson** aged 69. He was one of the unsung heroes doing various jobs "around the place" that players take for granted. Wally could be relied upon to support Otago table tennis whenever he was needed to make up a team and travel to other areas. Wally was a second string player not winning many medals but giving 110% in every game. He took part in every Masters games held in Dunedin, winning several bronze medals along the way. He will be missed from Nelson to the Bluff.

*Contributed by Ben Hurr*

*(Otago Operations Manager and Schools Development Officer)*

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## 2001 Summer Nationals



**Table Tennis NZ has approved the use of the 40mm ball for the 2001 Summer Nationals so this will be NZ's first Tournament to use them.**

This exciting event looks set to gain its largest ever entry with many overseas players expressing an interest in entering. The tournament will run from Saturday the 13th of January till Wednesday the 17th and will include teams and individual events. Entry forms can be obtained from your local Association, Table Tennis Nelson at PO Box 2230 Stoke or off the TTNZ web site.

This is a chance to try out the new ball while catching up with old friends during Nelson summer holiday season. Nelson's a great place to be in the summer so come along, enjoy the beaches and play a little table tennis all in one very exciting week.

For further inquiries contact Bryan Keane on 03-5477530, he will be able to help with any problems you may have. Accommodation will again be available at the Academy for \$22.00 per night, bed and breakfast.

## SUMMER TRAINING AND COACHING CAMPS

**Nelson** will be the focal point for players wanting to improve over the summer as it puts together its best training programme ever. Three top coaches will be on hand to help players of ALL LEVELS improve their games and along with the training, a fun time is assured. Australian players and a Chinese team of juniors will take part in a special camp of 24 players for four days before the Summer Nationals.

The camps range in price from \$145.00 for three days to \$185.00 for five days and the international training programme will cost \$195.00 per person. Players who wish to come to the Academy for a longer time should contact the Academy very soon to arrange a special rate and confirm a booking. The normal camps consist of a maximum of 10 players so if you would like to get a few friends together do it NOW.

The first camp starts on 10th of December and they run almost continuously with a few days break over Christmas. All camps will be well supervised and players will stay at the Academy. Many applications have already been processed and some camps are filling extremely fast so contact the Academy today and secure your booking. Full details of dates are available from the **Academy** Phone (03) 547 7530. Fax (03) 547 4828. email: ttacademy@xtra.co.nz

**Bryan Keane**

## EXPERIENCED MAN JOINS TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

**Andrew Palmer** (North Harbour) is now a member of the TTNZ Technical Committee. This committee advises the Board on issues such as tournament regulations and formats, ball adoption, representative eligibility, and a wide range of technical rather than administrative matters.

Andrew comes to the job with a wealth of experience and involvement in similar matters within the North Harbour Association. He served on its management committee for eight years and has managed junior representative teams since 1991. He designed and maintains North Harbour's web site, the first table tennis site in New Zealand.

The Technical Committee is chaired by David Jackson (Auckland) and a third member is Bob Hurr (Otago). One further member is being sought.

## The Effect of the New 40mm Ball Top Coach's View

The 40mm ball replaces the 38mm ball as the official ITTF ball on October 1. In NZ the required starting date for using the new ball in open tournaments is 1 May 2001 although it will be used at the 2001 Summer Nationals and NZ Veterans Championships. The existing ball may continue to be used in local competitions up until 31 December 2001.

USATT Magazine reported on a talk given at the U.S. Open Coaches Seminar by Swedish Men's Coach Ulf Carlsson on the effect of the larger ball. How will it change the sport, and how do players adjust to it? That was the subject of Carlsson's talk, his exposure coming from Swedish players who have already starting using the 40mm ball.

His main points were:

**Blocking:** Blockers can't use the speed of the ball to re-direct the ball at high speeds. Players must be "more active" when blocking – i.e. blockers must supply their own power, since the 40mm ball won't rebound as fast.

**Off-table play:** Since the ball slows down faster due to air resistance, players who play off the table will need more power. They will also have to adjust their instinct for how far they play from the table, since their natural instincts will now have them too far from the table.

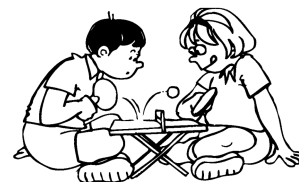
**Service:** There will be less spin on the serve. Therefore, placement will become more important. With the 38mm ball, players often serve crosscourt; with the 40mm ball, players will have to learn to add more variety to their placement.

**Choppers:** They will have to adjust the distance they play from the table – and since they have to react precisely to balls hit at such high speeds, it may take them some time to comfortably adjust their instincts. With the 38mm ball, world-class choppers have to be world-class attackers as well; with the 40mm ball, attacking won't be as important for choppers. However, choppers will have more time to attack (since the ball travels slower), and so attacking will be easier for them. They will not be able to generate as much backspin, so they will have to concentrate more on placement and change of spin.

**Rallies:** Since power won't win rallies as quickly, placement becomes more important. Players will have to learn to use the whole table more, with shots going to all three of an opponent's "weak" spots – the two wide angles, and at his middle (the crossover point between the forehand and backhand, roughly at a player's playing elbow). With the 38mm ball, many players successfully rely on sheer power, but that won't work as well with the larger ball.

**Physical Training:** Since the rallies will be longer, physical endurance will become more important.

**Drills:** Since the 40mm ball will emphasise more rallying (as opposed to the 38mm ball, which emphasised serve and attack), drills will emphasise rallying more, serve & receive less. Also, drills will be longer, to match the expected longer rallies. Currently, most drills done by the Swedish team are 7.5 minutes long. They may do more 10-minute drills to build up greater stamina for longer rallies.



*Continued bottom right next page*

## INSIDE THE MIND OF AN OLYMPIC CHAMPION

Chinese star **Kong Linghui** was World Champion in 1995 and top seed and favourite to win the men's gold medal at the Sydney Olympics. In the final he faced 35 year old Swedish veteran Jan-Ove Waldner, the fifth seed who had defeated third seed Liu Guoliang (winner in Atlanta) in the semi-final. Waldner had won in Barcelona in 1992 and was still the western player most respected by the Chinese.

"When I played Waldner in the past, I always had to follow his tempo", said Kong. "When he changed it I had to change also, so I always felt passive. Then I analysed this with my coaches and came to the conclusion that when you play someone like Waldner who is so good with variations, the best thing is to not change when he keeps changing: he plays his tempo and I play mine. When rallying, try to move the ball to his forehand until he has to stand in the middle so that he cannot initiate anything. Then I will win. Of course, this tactic is based on the fact that I am better in extended rallies than him, and may not apply in general (to everyone)."

It worked - for the first two games. In the third Waldner attacked more ferociously, especially early in the rallies, and in other rallies slowed the pace leaving Kong no power to "re-use". Waldner won the next two games.

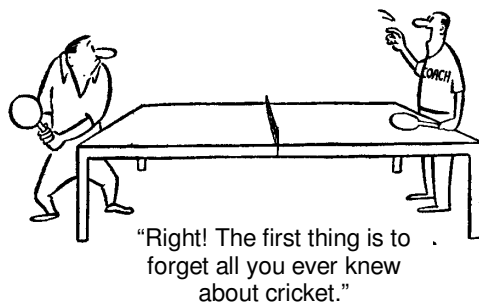
Remembering how second seed Vladimir Samsonov (Belarus) had tightened his game too much and choked in the fifth game against Waldner in the quarter-final, Kong determined not to go the same way. "I had to open up in the 5th game. So starting the 5th game, I increased my attacks, and did not dare to let up. Waldner might have been playing a little too safe after he tied me in games. So I jumped to a 10-1 lead, and basically that was the game. After I won, I was especially emotional, because winning was not easy. If I had won 3-0, I don't think I would have been as emotional. I remember I was very excited after I won in 1995. I could not calm down for a long time.

This time after I won the Olympic gold, I felt calm very quickly afterwards.

I know I won because I was able to stay cool during the match, and that does not mean that I do not have any more mental weaknesses. For example, when I am ahead, I sometimes play safe and wait for the other side to make mistakes. Also, my forehand against short balls needs to be strengthened. Next month we start playing the big ball. There are so many technical issues to work on".

Chinese players collected all four gold medals at the Sydney Olympics, bring their tally since table tennis became an Olympic sport in 1988, to 14 gold, 9 silver and 3 bronze.

*Thanks to **Ron Sheridan**, the Sports Weekly and the New York Times, for supplying material on which this article was based.*

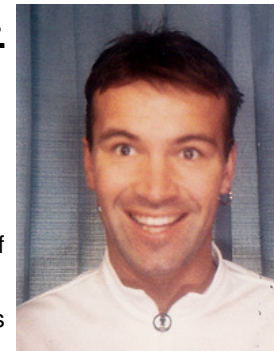


### Effects of the 40mm Big Ball – (Continued from page 25)

**Equipment:** Attackers will probably need faster rackets, and faster and thicker sponge. Players will need to change their equipment both to adjust to the ball, and to adjust to their new playing style, which presumably will change with the new ball.

**In General:** The 40mm ball will favour players who hit and smash. Big, strong loopers may also do well. It's too early to tell how choppers will do, since they may take longer to adjust.

## Profile – Wayne Gear.



At age 28, Wayne has been playing Table Tennis since he was ten years old. He has represented North Harbour (1986-1995), Auckland (1996), Waikato (1997) and Auckland again in 1998/99.

On the national scene, he was in the NZ Men's team to compete at the Australian Pro Tour Open in 1996, the NZ Junior Team to Australia in 1991 and participated in the 1989 development tour of Australia.

He has had one season playing professionally in Belgium and has competed in the English Open Championships with Shane Laugesen.

This experience has helped to steer him into the coaching arena and he is currently the North Harbour Junior Squad Coach. In past years he has coached the North Harbour and Auckland Association's junior teams. Wayne was Aaron Winborn's coach at the 1999 Olympic Qualifying tournament and recently the NZ under 20 Men's team coach at the 2000 Oceania Championships.

Clearly Wayne has many more years of coaching ahead of him, and he is a welcome addition to coaching on the National scene. ☒☒

## Oceania Championships

### – a Junior Player's View.

13 year old **Brock Barrie** wrote of his experience at these championships in New Caledonia: (See July issue for previous reports)

The Opening Ceremony was a tiring 4 hour stand, but was really interesting. We watched people do traditional dances and listened to people talk in French and then had it translated into English. The people who gave speeches were the Mayor of Koumac, the Deputy Mayor of Koumac, the President and Vice President of the New Caledonia Table Tennis Federation.

The U20 and senior team events were first. I supported the teams because I wasn't in one. Then the individuals started. It was group play, which means there are 4 people in a group that play each other. In the U20's there were only 3 in each group and I had the player that won the Open Men and the top New Caledonian seed. I played hard and went to the second division and reached the ¼ finals. In the U17 group I had the top seed and I went into the second division again. In the U14's I made it through to the tournament and played to the ¼ finals losing to the eventual runner up. In the doubles Nathan Lowe and I came third in the U20 men's. We lost to the NZ team that won it so that was cool. In the U17 we lost to the top seeds, and in the U14 we made it to the semi's and lost to the team that won. This gave us third and we got 2 Bronze medals.

I liked the way that the whole team supported each other no matter what our age was. The best part was when Karen Li trusted me enough to be her coach in one of her games. She asked my opinion about her play during the game and she won. That was really cool. All the Coaches and Managers were really friendly and gave us lots of help. We stayed in a hostel with all the U20 team members, which was a lot of fun except for the cold showers!

I am really proud to have been given the chance to play in a team for NZ and wear the Silver Fern. I had a lot of fun and learnt heaps. Thank you to Table Tennis NZ for providing me with this opportunity. I also have to thank all my friends in Karting who sponsored all my costs to get to New Caledonia. ☒☒



## 37001 Reasons for Individual Member Registration (IMR)

In 1998 a system of registering each player with Table Tennis New Zealand was instituted. With full Board support, the system, now in its third year, albeit slowly, is starting to settle down with more and more administrators coming to the party.

The large number of reasons? \$37000 is the amount TTNZ will receive in the next financial year from the Hillary Commission. This is a small increase (\$2000) over the current year. Not as much as is needed but at least the amount has not decreased as it had the year before.

Performance in many aspects of the sport as set out in the annual strategic plan is important, to gain Hillary Commission funding and the numbers game is most important, almost critical. Growth of numbers playing indicates progress, which in turn assists greatly in the funding allocation.

The other reason – dear to the writer's heart – is that each registered player receives a copy of TT INFO, the TTNZ magazine. Prior to registration it was clear many were not and direct dispatch to players became essential. Ironically the more members the more difficult financially it will be to produce the magazine. It is however an important link in the communication chain.

There are of course other reasons – statistics for the strategic plan; verifiable membership numbers, with every member's name and address on one database; and increased direct contact between players and TTNZ, drawing the whole table tennis family into a more tightly-knit group.

Over the 3 years, the most serious problem with registration, is in fact getting everyone registered who are affiliated and playing in clubs and associations. We still do not have the base numbers registered to truly gauge progress. We will show a healthy increase this year, due to a change in attitudes, but without doubt there are many who should be but regrettably not yet in the system. We are aware of many affiliated club members, interclub players, even association secretaries and administrators, many of long standing who have yet to be registered/renewed by their Association.

Controlling the system in Associations is by no means simple or easy, especially by secretaries who have other priorities and duties to perform. In some cases it is difficult to get the cooperation of clubs. The difficulties are clearly understood. Perhaps the only solution could be for each association to appoint an IMR person, who throughout the year could liaise with the appropriate people, including club secretaries. We are grateful to those administrators who do take the time and patience to get to grips with the problem and support the concept.

In the interests of the sport throughout New Zealand – associations, players and administrators need to play their part in the registration concept.

**Robin Radford**

*(Originally produced for the NZ Open programme)*

As at 28 September, year 2000 registrations totalled 4170 a considerable increase on the total 1999 registrations of 3364. Interesting to note there are 950 1999, and 600 1998 registrations unrenewed, so there is quite a turnover of

## Profile – Anne Noble

Anne (photo below) is the Promotions and Development Officer of the Auckland Association and in addition is the Auckland Association Coach. She says she has been very busy over the past 7 months establishing herself in the various roles.

Formerly Anne Stonestreet, she won the New Zealand Open Women's Singles title in 1971, 1972, 1973 and 1976 and in 3 of those years won the NZ Open Women's Doubles with Kathy Fraser twice and Neti Trail once. 1972 and 1973 saw her win the Open Mixed Doubles with Geoff Jennings and in 1979 with Richard Lee. She had previously won the NZ Under 18 singles title.

With that sort of experience behind her, her objectives for the Auckland Association are to increase player numbers and to raise the sport's profile. She has been doing this by going out to schools, participating in various expo's with the robot machine and demonstrating the sport to the public. Anne is also aware that extra income has to be generated to sustain an

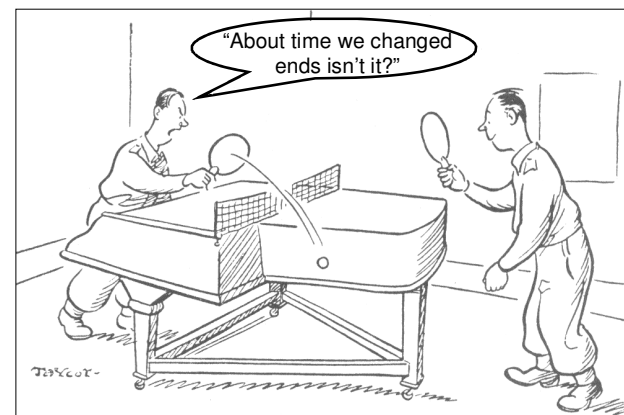


extra wage and feels they are progressing positively in that direction. She feels it is important to be seen publicly and has attended breakfast meetings and seminars through various organisations, meeting CEO's of various sports.

Right from the beginning Anne has applied tremendous energy and a no-nonsense approach to her duties.

Auckland have this year increased their main winter inter-school competition by some 30 teams and had an entry of 185 players in the Auckland Open, the biggest for 20 years - up from 89 in 1998 and 125 in 1999.

Anne is hopeful that Auckland's pendulum has swung in the right direction and that table tennis in New Zealand will benefit from the progress being made. She also welcomes contact from other associations in a mutual exchange of ideas and help.



## WORLD RANKINGS NZ Players (as at 1 October 2000)

### Women

|             |     |
|-------------|-----|
| Li Chunli   | 35  |
| Karen Li    | 95  |
| Sarah Finch | 362 |

### Men

|                |     |
|----------------|-----|
| Peter Jackson  | 159 |
| Shane Laugesen | 288 |
| Andrew Hubbard | 352 |
| Aaron Winborn  | 406 |



# Top 10 Ratings

As at: 15 October 2000

## Men's Open

1. Aaron Li
2. Peter Jackson
3. Shane Laugesen
4. Andrew Hubbard
5. Aaron Winborn
6. Hagen Bower
7. Yang Ying
8. Malcolm Darroch
9. Andy Huang

## Women's Open

1. Li Chunli
2. Karen Li
3. Linda Chen
4. Sarah Finch
5. Tracey McLauchlan
6. Kadia Keller-Rice
7. Val Beaver
8. Sabine Westenra
9. Yvonne Fogarty
10. Lily Huang

## Men's Under 21

1. Yang Ying
2. Andy Huang
3. Mike Liu
4. Peter Craven
5. Ben Collins
6. Adrian Soh
7. Simon Wallace
8. Yi-Sien Lin
9. Paul Innes
10. Paul Stewart

## Women's Under 21

1. Tracey McLauchlan
2. Lily Huang
3. Wendy Zheng
4. Jiani Hu
5. Samara Collins
6. Anna Danby
7. Deborah Morrison
8. Eileen Schwab
9. Sandy Wang
10. Lisa Boaden

## Men's Over 40

1. Malcolm Darroch
2. Maurice Burrowes
3. Doug Pattinson
4. Bob Lassen
5. Alan Alabaster
6. Peter de Boer
7. Chip Eade
8. Nam Hang Lee
9. Pat Low
10. Lindsay Ward

## Women's Over 40

1. Val Beaver
2. Yvonne Fogarty
3. Jill Murray
4. Chris Cunningham
5. Lesley Gardner
6. Lynley Barker
7. Valerie Scarr
8. Anne McLean
9. Raina McKechnie

## Men's Over 50

1. Doug Pattinson
2. Bob Lassen
3. Alan Alabaster
4. Chip Eade
5. Nam Hang Lee
6. Pat Low
7. Alan Tomlinson
8. Stephen Craw
9. Chris Williams
10. Michael Warren

## Women's Over 50

1. Val Beaver
2. Jill Murray
3. Chris Cunningham
4. Lynley Barker
5. Valerie Scarr
6. Anne McLean
7. Raina McKechnie
8. Sue Shirriffs
9. Averil Roberts
10. Pat McArthur

## Men's Over 60

1. Alan Alabaster
2. Chip Eade
3. Nam Hang Lee
4. Alan Tomlinson
5. Barrie Kendall
6. Colin Tipper
7. John Armstrong
8. Denver Glass
9. Jon Cheal
10. Terry Cockfield

## Women's Over 60

1. Pat McArthur
2. Joyce Coleman
3. Annice Robottom
4. Margaret McGregor
5. Gladys Halford
6. Elsie Spooner
7. Valda Smith
8. Kath Thompson
9. Geraldine Stapleton
10. Barbara Dye

## Boys' Under 19

1. Yang Ying
2. Andy Huang
3. Peter Craven
4. Adrian Soh
5. Simon Wallace
6. Yi-Sien Lin
7. Paul Stewart
8. Josh Alexandre
9. John Cordue
10. Jeffery Vinicombe

## Girls' Under 19

1. Lily Huang
2. Wendy Zheng
3. Jiani Hu
4. Deborah Morrison
5. Eileen Schwab
6. Sandy Wang
7. Lisa Boaden
8. Andrea Gosney
9. Rachel Griffiths
10. Meena Chang

## Boys' Under 17

1. Yang Ying
2. Andy Huang
3. Adrian Soh
4. Simon Wallace
5. Josh Alexandre
6. John Cordue
7. Evan Kramer
8. Andrew Hovey
9. Karl Samson
10. Ian Loubachevskii

## Girls' Under 17

1. Lily Huang
2. Wendy Zheng
3. Jiani Hu
4. Eileen Schwab
5. Sandy Wang
6. Andrea Gosney
7. Sophie Shu
8. Sarah Ho
9. Florence Li
10. Jacqui Wood

## Boys' Under 15

1. Andy Huang
2. Simon Wallace
3. Josh Alexandre
4. Nathan Lowe
5. Anthony Wilson
6. Hadleigh Bunce
7. Binbin Zhu
8. Scott Ridder
9. Jonathan Chen
10. Jack Wells

## Girls' Under 15

1. Lily Huang
2. Jiani Hu
3. Eileen Schwab
4. Sandy Wang
5. Sophie Shu
6. Sarah Ho
7. Florence Li
8. Kelly Samson
9. Leanne Ridder
10. Katie Stretton

## Boys' Under 13

1. Nathan Lowe
2. Binbin Zhu
3. Jack Wells
4. Rhys Van Stipriaan
5. Geoffrey Smart
6. Chris Erskine
7. Brock Barrie
8. Billy Lam
9. Brodi Smith
10. Kevin Pham

## Girls' Under 13

1. Lily Huang
2. Jiani Hu
3. Sandy Wang
4. Sophie Shu
5. Kelly Samson
6. Katie Stretton
7. Michelle McCarthy
8. Hanna Squire
9. Sarah Gregorius
10. Katrina Banks



## Australian Open Championships Results:

Men's Singles:

Russell Lavale (V)

Women's Singles:

Miao Miao (V)

Men's Doubles:

M Smythe & S Gerada (V)

Women's Doubles:

T Gough & K Crowell (SA)

Mixed Doubles:

S Gerada & Miao Miao (V)

### Under 18

Boys' Singles:

John Tawadrous (NSW)

Girls' Singles:

May Cho (SA)

Boys' Doubles:

A Swanson (SA) & A Soh (NZ)

Girls' Doubles:

M Cho & K Bungey (SA)

Mixed Doubles:

R Abbas & M Cho (SA)



Notable is the Boys' Doubles win by **Adrian Soh** and his partner A Swanson from Sth Australia. Adrian lost, in two very close games, in the Quarter final of the Boys' singles to J Tawadrous (NSW) who won the event.

Seeded third in the Boys' Singles, **Andy Huang** reached the semi final. He also reached the semi final of the Boys' Doubles with his partner A Williams (Sth Aust).

