

Upcoming Events -2002

December 01	Thurs 6	Entries Close: Summer Nationals	
January	Sat 12 – Wed 16	Summer Nationals	Palmerston North
February	Thu 28	Entries Close: NZ Veterans Championships	
March	Sun 31 – Apr Mon 1	Wgton/HV Easter Open	Petone
April	Fri 29 Mar – Mon 1	NZ Veterans Championships	Auckland
	Thu 25	Anzac Day Open	Auckland
	Sat 27 – Sun 28	Wanganui Open	Wanganui
May	Sat 4 – Sun 5	Marlborough Open	Blenheim
	Sat 18	Southland Open	Invercargill
	Sat 25 – Sun 26	Wgton/HV Autumn Open	Wellington
June	Sat 8 – Sun 9	Wgton/HV Age Gr and Junior Dev	Petone
	Thurs 13	Entries Close: North Island Open	
	Sun 16	Auckland Junior Open	Auckland
	Sat 22	Hawkes Bay Open	Napier
	Sat 22	Northern Districts Junior Round Robin	Whangarei
	Sun 23	Northland Open	Whangarei
	Sun 30	Wairarapa Open	Carterton
July	Mon 1 – Sun 7	Oceania Championships	Fiji
	Thu 11 – Sun 14	North Island Open	Taupo
	Thu 25	Entries Close: South Island Championships	
	26 July – 3 Aug	Commonwealth Games	Manchester
August	Sat 10 – Sun 11	Auckland Open	Auckland
	Sat 17 – Sun 18	Wgton/HV Open	Wellington
	Fri 23 – Sun 25	South Island Championships	Nelson
	Thur 29	Entries Close: NZ Open	
	Sat 31 – Sun Sep 1	Waikato Open	Hamilton
Sept	Sun 1	Wgton/HV Junior Dev Open	Petone
	Sat 14 – Sun 15	Wgton/HV Spring Open	Petone
	Sun 29 – Sat Oct 5	New Zealand Open	Invercargill



TABLE TENNIS INFO

Issue: 19

November 2001



The final four in the Women's Singles at the NZ Open.

L to R:

Li Tong (runner up), Karen Li (winner), Jiang Yang and Kadia Keller-Rice (semi-finalists).

New Zealand Academy of Table Tennis – Nelson

Summer Camps Programme Dec 2001 – Jan 2002

Dec 12 – 14	3 days	\$125	Dec 28 – 31	4 days	\$155
Dec 15 – 17	3 days	\$125	Jan 2 – 4	3 days	\$125
Dec 19 – 21	3 days	\$125	Jan 6 – 9	4 Days	\$155

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Published by **TABLE TENNIS New Zealand Inc.**

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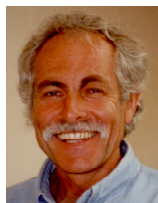
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- ◆ **New Zealand Championships Report and Photos**
- ◆ **Games to 11 only now**
- ◆ **Rankings and Ratings**
- ◆ **New Service Rule (due Sept 2002) explained**
- ◆ **New Administration Officer in National Office**
- ◆ **People of the Year**
- ◆ **Lots more!**



Confidence and Growth is Evident



My Serve

from James Morris

I feel there is a mood of confidence and growth within table tennis at the moment and the present Board appointments confirm this. I remember well when I was appointed to the Board three years ago all positions could not be filled because of a lack of applicants. This time round however sees a number of applicants and augers well for TTNZ's future. Now, with only an administration officer and much of the workload areas being driven by volunteers (Board members, etc), I think there is still much work to be done in identifying volunteers to fill the key positions in TTNZ's present structure.

My role as Coaching Director is taxing to say the least and could justify more volunteer input on the Coach Education and High Performance side. (Dave Cook has volunteered to collate junior development.) So if you think you can help, put your hand up.

Congratulations to Auckland for a great National tournament. I always have enjoyed these events when juniors and seniors are together. It was interesting to see some "old dudes", (Rau, Barry, Darroch and Morris) being competitive in the Men's A teams and this should be a wake-up call for the young 'uns!

Presently I am tying up some loose ends with the Sports Foundation re "carding" some TTNZ top players. This initiative has come from the Sports Foundation after our success at the Commonwealth Championships in India and, I think, is the first step towards being a full carded sport which will mean a thread to the funding gravy train. This is positive and the Sports Foundation is taking us seriously as a sport that is achieving.

Finally, I would like to give John Kiley my best wishes in moving on and sincerely thank John for his untiring energy for the game of table tennis. You have done more than your share, John, and TTNZ has definitely benefited from your efforts.

James

Table Tennis appreciates the support given by:



NEW ADMINISTRATION OFFICER

On 29 October **Kevin Thomas** (pictured) took over as TTNZ Administration Officer. He replaces **John Kiley** who has held the position since early 1993 (see story page 6). The job remains unchanged and Kevin will be responsible for the management and running of the TTNZ National Office in Wellington.



Kevin's background encompasses a variety of administrative and management positions, predominantly in the energy sector; major writing and communication responsibilities; voluntary community service; and administration work on a range of sports committees, notably table tennis and cricket. He played interclub table tennis for 15 years.

The position was keenly contested and several strong applications from outside Wellington resulted in serious consideration being given to moving the office away from the capital. But in the final analysis, Kevin's credentials included the widest range of the necessary experience and skills.

Table Tennis Info wishes Kevin a long and happy association with Table Tennis New Zealand.

Games Only Go To Eleven Now, Remember

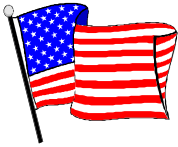
The time has now come. The rule requiring games to end when one player scores 11 points came into effect on 7 October and must now be applied in all open tournaments and all events where the TTNZ rules are used.

In essence, the changes are:

- Games end at 11 instead of 21
- A two point winning advantage is still required (you can't win 11-10)
- A match consists of the best of *any* odd number of games (see note below)
- The service changes every *two points* until 10-10 when it changes every point
- In the final game, players change ends when the first player or doubles pair reaches 5
- The expedite rule applies after ten minutes
- An interval of 1 minute is allowed between games
- A brief towelling break is allowed after each 6 points and at the change of ends in the final game

The rules in full appear on the TTNZ website.

Note: Although the rules allow a match to consist of any odd number of games, the recommendation is for matches that were best of *three* games to 21 to change to best of *five* games to 11, and those that were best of *five* to 21 should be best of *seven* to 11.



Two months have gone by since the terrible act of terror was inflicted on New York and Washington.

The tragic loss of so much human life in such a short period in such a populated space completely overshadowed everything else that was lost at that time.

All New Zealanders were shocked and disgusted by the attacks and we can only hope that time will, albeit it very slowly, heal some wounds. But certainly it will never be forgotten.

Let us all hope that nothing ever again befalls any community like that which occurred in America last September.

John Kiley

Robin Radford

2001 TABLE TENNIS PEOPLE OF THE YEAR

Player of the Year: Li Chunli for her silver medal performance in singles at the Commonwealth Championships.

Alan and Edna McCallum Junior Umpiring Awards:

Each year gold medals are presented to the male and female junior umpires judged by the Referee and assistants to be the best at the New Zealand Junior Championships. This year's Awards were won by:

Junior Girl: **Sarah Barrie** (North Harbour)

Junior Boy: **Blair Paterson** (Manawatu)

Junior Player of the year - Russell Dickey Memorial Trophy.

This award is made to the junior player who brought the most credit to New Zealand table tennis taking into account:

1. Performance
2. Behaviour
3. Neatness of Presentation
4. Co-operation
5. Team spirit (where applicable)

Winner is: **Jack Wells** (Nelson) (photo right)



Junior of the year – H N Ballinger trophy

The criteria for this award covers sportsmanship, potential, dress, personality, enthusiasm, interest in club or association affairs and playing results.

There were no nominations for this award this year.

Titles well spread at Schools Championships

Schools from Nelson, North Harbour, Hutt Valley and Auckland carried away the silverware at the New Zealand School Team Championships.

A record 43 teams entered the tournament, played in North Harbour stadium on 26/27 September. The open secondary event attracted the strongest line up of school teams ever assembled in NZ. Testimony to the depth was that defending champions (St. Kentigern College, Auckland) were only able to manage 4th place with the same team as last year.



The busy North Harbour Stadium during the Championships

The winning teams were:

Open Secondary Schools

- A Grade: **Nelson College** (Chris Erskine, Johnny Liang, Michael Rees, Jack Wells)
 B Grade: **Penrose High School** (Matthew Cowie, Goran Petrovic, Zhe-Min Shao)
 C Grade: **Glenfield College C** (Lei Li, Katie Stretton, Wei Wang)

Girls Secondary Schools

Northcote College (Danielle Burgess, Jennifer Lo, Clare Milford)

Open Primary/Intermediate

- A Grade: **Hutt Intermediate** (Virrosh Ravindraraj, Andrew Rieper, Hanna Squire, Hayden Tapp)
 B Grade: **Remuera Intermediate B** (Rowan Bavister, Mandy Li, Jason Ly)

Girls Primary/Intermediate

Remuera Intermediate (Sally Ho, Magdalene So, Sandy Wang)



100 year old Christmas postcard

ADOPTED BALL

The **Butterfly** 3 star ball (white or orange) was selected from several tenders as the official TTNZ adopted ball for the two years commencing 1.1.02.

This means that throughout that period no other brand may be used in any open championships or any other tournaments for which rating points are awarded.

Farewell to JK – John Kiley Seeks a Change.

Sadly all good things seem to come to an end and for TTNZ the loss of **John Kiley's** services (on 21 November) was unexpected and a real loss to the National office. John in his efficient and caring way gave notice 3 months ago. John wants to do and achieve other things before he finally retires to the good life and this is understandable.

He commenced duties part time in 1993 when Merv Allardyce was the Executive Director and continued his administration help during Mike Brown's tenure as ED, finally becoming full time Administration Officer in September 1999 in sole charge of the office on Mike's departure.

The job embodies many, many essential administrative functions – communication with Associations, Members, the Board, funding bodies and a host of outside and overseas organisations, something that John was amply experienced to do. Many players will be appreciative of the efficient and expeditious bookings and arrangements for overseas tours and reconciliation of monies. Associations and members would be grateful for the consistent and fairness of his handling of entries for the 5 National Championships and the associated queries. Everyone ringing the National Office would have received a welcome greeting and patient handling of the call regardless of the problem or inquiry.

John quickly mastered the accounting system when the financial function was incorporated into the office, efficiently moved the office to the current location, and throughout his sole charge tenure has reliably organised Board and Annual Meetings and produced the Annual Report - to name but a few of the functions. It is not an easy position to move into as many tasks only arise a few times a year, some every second or so years.

John played table tennis in Rotorua 1961/2 and in the Hutt Valley from 1964 to the mid 1980's. He is a Life Member of the Empire Table Tennis Club in Petone and was their Secretary (1972-75), Selector (1970-71) and Chairman (1980-82). He was Chairman of the HV Association 1984-87 and later served a two-year term as President. With this experience he always displayed empathy for the grass-roots level of the sport.

It has to be said that John has played a major part in the success of TT INFO. He organised the dispatch of each issue in the simplest and most effective way and for many issues has been the devil's advocate of the content, has "eagle-eye-edited" the text, and created wonderful articles which recipients would have undoubtedly enjoyed. A lot of this was contributed in his own time.

His employment background stood him in perfect stead for the Administration job – working in a bank for 11 years, and his experience variously as a film/video editor/producer/director over 17 years was a perfect lead into his editing role for the magazine. How lucky can an organisation be to have been able to tap into such a fountain of experience!

"John will be greatly missed. He is a quiet achiever, always working in the background to ensure the best for table tennis is achieved", said Alan Hounsell (Chairman of the Board). "We all wish him the very best for the future, whatever that may hold."

We can only hope that during his future endeavours, he will continue to be involved in table tennis in some way.

Thank you JK.

Robin Radford



The Keys are handed over!

Taiyuan International Junior Table Tennis Open Championships
Taiyuan, China, 25-30 August, 2001

Cheerleaders Keep Up Morale For Junior Boys In China

We might not have been the top team at the Taiyuan International Junior Championships in China, but could match anyone when it came to noisy vocal support. The whole stadium knew NZ was playing when **Nathan Lowe** ran his stylish Egyptian opponent all the way to the wire in an Under 14 singles group match. The New Zealand bench got louder and louder and only subsided when Nathan finally lost 22-20, 15-21, 19-21.

With the NZ score sheets littered with three-game matches and 17's, 18's, and 19's, our teams could consider themselves unlucky not to have finished higher. The Under 17 team settled for 10th (out of 12) and the Under 14 team 13th equal (out of 14). Nonetheless our players arrived in China knowing they were heading for an encounter with some of the best junior players in the world and gained a wealth of international experience against teams such as China, Hong Kong, Korea and India.

There were five New Zealand wins in the individual events, and **Andy Huang** reached the U17 singles quarter-finals. He then lost 6-21, 12-21 to Bence Csaba, who had played in the Canadian Men's team at the Commonwealth Championships earlier in the year.

Getting to Taiyuan was a marathon undertaking for the team. The city is a 6½ hour drive from Beijing; Beijing is 15 hours flying time from Auckland, and several team members had to travel to Auckland by air from other parts of New Zealand prior to the international flight. Added to this was an overnight stop in Hong Kong and a 90 minute wait in Beijing for another team to arrive before the bus journey to Taiyuan could even start.

Once in Taiyuan the team found the playing conditions good, the audiences and support people noisy (it wasn't just us); the accommodation adequate, but they would have preferred more variety with the food. In fact just *some* variety would have been nice!

Continued over page



The team: L/R: Helen Codlin (manager) Binbin Zhu, Jack Wells, Chris Erskine, Andy Huang, Nathan Lowe, Aaron Li (manager/coach), Simon Wallace.

China trip from previous page.

The menu hardly changed over the whole seven days - okay as long as you liked tomatoes, cucumber and watermelon. The horn-honking and U-turning traffic and barter-style shopping were new to some of the NZ-born team members but for others it was simply coming home! Having Chinese-speaking people in the team was a welcome bonus on the communication front. And **Binbin Zhu's** grandfather (who still lives in China) became an adopted Kiwi throughout the tournament and gave great support.

The team flew Cathay Pacific and, thanks to Auckland TTA and the sponsorship arrangement they have with the airline, were offered ultra-cheap fares.

Thanks to **Helen Codlin** for providing material on which this article was based.

Umpires

Eleven regionally qualified umpires were either nominated or volunteered as candidates in a postal ballot for a new Umpires Committee to replace the interim one formed in 1999.

Sixty-six umpires were entitled to register a vote for up to four candidates.

The following persons were elected, (in order of votes won):

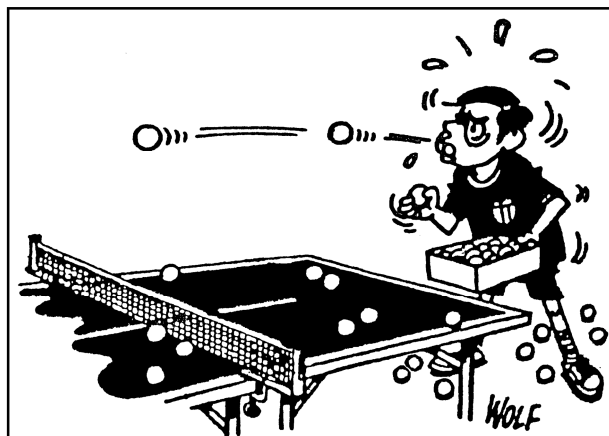
Robert Dunn
Averil Roberts
Michael McAvinue
Bruce Penberthy



The elected people have appointed **Bruce Penberthy** (photo right) as Chairman and **Averil Roberts** as Secretary.

The Committee (to be known as the **Umpires and Referees Committee**) will hold office from now until 31 December, 2002, by which time another election will have been held and a new Committee elected.

The Committee's responsibilities include assisting district Associations to recruit new umpires, increasing the number of active umpires, maintaining an umpires database, raising the standard of umpiring, conducting umpires seminars, testing and assessing new umpires, advising the Board on matters relating to umpiring, and liaising with overseas umpires committees.



Isn't this stretching things a bit ??

They've made our ball bigger and our games ten points smaller; they've covered our bats with every sponge/rubber combination known to science and now they're going to change the service rule. The

one thing that has hitherto escaped the hand of the tinkerers is the table. Apart from the smaller, purpose-built Kiwi version for children, the table has always been an oasis of stability: the same length, the same height, the same width and straddled by the same net. **But wait!!** Table Tennis Illustrated (ITTF's quarterly magazine) has just published a report on experiments testing a *longer table*, in the "Longer Reach Table Tennis Project", led by ITTF Vice-President George Segun.

The experiment used tables half a metre longer with a quarter of a metre each side of the net made of different coloured material that is *not part of the playing surface*. The game immediately became more powerful and physically demanding. It was thought that longer tables could be used to improve players' physical condition and technical skills.

There's no mention of how seriously players and coaches are taking this idea.

If it's likely to be for real, perhaps it's a step in the right direction. After that, let's double the table's width, remove the net, and outlaw funny rubber. Then some of us more modest players might be able to string a rally together.

Or – maybe resurrect this

If our table is going to be knocked out of shape why not go all the way and resurrect the "Round Table"! This aberration was the invention of one Gunther Arnt and a sample was provided for New Zealand to try out. It attracted enough attention at the time to make it onto television, but has long since disappeared into oblivion.



Right: Six chivalrous knights test the round table in Auckland in 1984

TTNZ Board

The Board Appointments Committee has announced the new Board, effective from the end of the AGM in November. They are:

Ron Garrett, Andrew Gordon, Alan Hounsell, Bob Inns, David Jackson, James Morris, John Stapleton.

We welcome new members **Bob Inns** and **John Stapleton**.

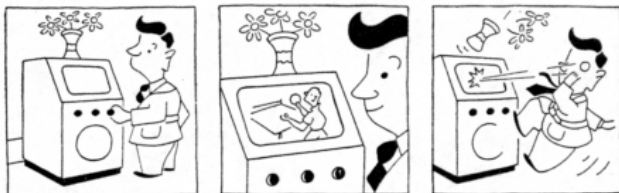
It is likely that remits will be considered at the AGM to change the constitution to that of election of Board members by the AGM in future.

Other appointments committees have been at work and the following have been announced:

Selection Panel is: **Averil Roberts** (chairperson), **Murray Finch** and **James Morris**.

National Team Coach is: **James Morris**.

Assistant National Team Coach is: **Simeon Cairns**.



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<http://www.donic.de>

SPECIALS (for direct orders only)

Rubbers

Coppa Z1	1.8, 2.1, 2.3	slightly faster than Sriver	was \$45.00 – now \$38.50
Coppa	1.5, 2.1, 2.3	similar to Sriver	was \$42.90 – now \$37.50
Desto Classic	1.5, 2.0, 2.3	little harder sponge	was \$42.90 – now \$37.50
Piranja	0.0, 1.0, 1.8	long pips	was \$44.90 – now \$35.00

Blades

Power Carbon	straight handle, fast, large sweet spot.	was \$125.00 – now \$89.00
Waldner DICON	concave, straight. Blade of the world's best player.	was \$69.00 – now \$59.00
Appelgren V2	concave, straight and an atomic handle, top control. Best seller for years.	was \$63.00 – now \$55.00

What's Going to Change when the New Service Rule Comes In??



Where we started from

Let's look at the present rule:

- 2.6.1 At the start of service the ball shall be stationary, resting freely on the flat, open palm of the server's free hand, behind the end line and above the level of the playing surface.
- 2.6.2 The server shall then project the ball near vertically upwards, without imparting spin, so that it rises at least 16cm after leaving the palm of the free hand and then falls without touching anything before being struck.
- 2.6.3 As the ball is falling the server shall strike it so that it touches first his court and then, after passing over or around the net assembly, touches directly the receiver's court; in doubles, the ball shall touch successively the right half-courts of server and receiver.
- 2.6.4 The ball and the racket shall be above the level of the playing surface from the last moment at which the ball is stationary before being projected until it is struck.
- 2.6.5 When the ball is struck, it shall be behind the server's end line, but not farther back than the part of the server's body, other than his arm, head or leg, which is farthest from his end line.
- 2.6.6 It is the responsibility of the player to serve so that the umpire or assistant umpire can see that he complies with the requirements for a good service.

It goes on to explain the rules relating to warnings and penalty points in the case of doubtful or illegal services.

What's changed?

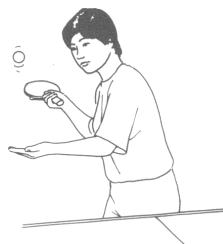
2.6.1, 2.6.4, and 2.6.5 will change. The other clauses remain unchanged. The revised versions of the changed clauses are:

- 2.6.1 Service shall start with the ball resting freely on the open palm of the server's free hand.
- 2.6.4 From the time at which the ball leaves the server's hand until it is struck it shall be above the level of the playing surface and behind the server's end line.
- 2.6.5 When the ball is struck, no part of the body or clothing of the server or of his doubles partner shall be in a line (area, space) between the ball and any part of the net.

New Service rule continued...

The proposal added the following explanation: "The purpose of the change is to prevent the service being hidden from the receiver by requiring (1) the ball to be above the playing surface from the time at which it is projected until it is struck, and (2) no part of the server's body or clothing to be within the triangular area formed by the net and imaginary lines drawn between the ball and ends of the net, when the ball is struck."

The proposal was accepted at the 2001 AGM of the International TT Federation, with the proviso that it is re-worded to make its exact meaning clearer.



Keep It Simple

Why don't they just say: "In service the ball must always be visible to the receiver"?

Young Guinea Pigs

Whether it's kept simple or wrapped in obscure language, the bottom line is that we're facing a major change. In July permission was given to test the new rule at the European Youth Championships in the Under 17 and Under 14 singles consolation events. The ITTF Rules Committee Chairman Colin Clemett reported on the experiment in Issue 33 of *Table Tennis Illustrated*. "Before the consolation events started there were briefing meetings for coaches and umpires. We distributed a document comparing the new law and the present law as well as a diagram illustrating the "triangle" which had to be kept clear. Umpires were asked to work in pairs. During the next three days we observed matches in progress and initially there was a greater proportion of backhand services, presumably because players did not want to risk being penalised. As the competition proceeded most were serving with a mixture of forehand and backhand. Various techniques were used to move the free arm out of the way of the ball and most players did not seem to find this hampered their service action. Several people commented that the rallies seemed to be longer and certainly there were fewer points won direct from service or third ball attack."

What the Umpires and Coaches Thought

Then came the interesting bit - the umpires and coaches filled out their questionnaires. The main question asked was whether the new rule was easier to apply than the present one, the same, or harder? 29 said easier, 15 said the same, and 33 said harder. Three didn't know!

They were also asked if the new rule was an improvement (most thought it was), and whether the umpire's position by the table needed to be changed (most thought not).

What about the players? What did they think? Weren't they asked?

More Work To Do

"The experiment was moderately successful, but we must not overlook its limitations," said Colin Clemett. "Young players are more adaptable than older players, consolation events are not regarded as "serious" competitions, and there was no test with a single umpire or in doubles. Further experiments are needed, ideally throughout a whole tournament, perhaps at a time when players have completed their main commitments for a season."

The new rule comes in internationally on 1 September, 2002. The implementation date in New Zealand has not yet been decided but is likely to be either the day following the 2002 NZ Championships, or 1 January, 2003.

Let's get used to the 11 point game first !!

PUBLICITY OFFICERS

Page 28 has two more profiles of Association Publicity Officers, and others as below, have been appointed. (profiles in later issues).

Craig Dye	email: printconnection@email.com	COUNTIES-MANUKAU
Ron Fleming	email: ron.fleming@free.net.nz	CANTERBURY
Ron Le Huray	74 Scotland St Picton	MARLBOROUGH
Lindsay Beer	email: tabletennis@sportsouth.co.nz	SOUTHLAND
Hamish Rennie	email: hgrennie@waikato.ac.nz	WAIKATO
Bob Hurr	email: benhurr@es.co.nz (Bob replaces Samara Collins)	OTAGO

2001 Rankings

Men

1. Aaron Li (N)
2. Peter Jackson (O/Seas)
3. Shane Laugesen (A)
4. Andrew Hubbard (O/Seas)
5. Andy Huang (A)
6. Malcolm Darroch (C)
7. Peter Craven (NL)
8. Simon Wallace (C)
9. Wayne Gear (A)
10. Yi-Sien Lin (C)

Women

1. Li Chunli (O/Seas)
2. Karen Li (MN)
3. Tracey McLauchlan (HV)
4. Hilary Low (CM)
5. Sabine Westenra (HV)
6. Shelley Neal (NH)
7. Laura-Lee Smith (C)
8. Val Beaver (NH)
9. Lesley Gardner (C)
10. Averil Roberts (HV)

Under 19 Boys

1. Andy Huang (A)
2. Simon Wallace (C)
3. Yi-Sien Lin (C)
4. John Cordue (C)
5. Tim Hanna (HV)
6. Greg Burton (NH)
7. Josh Alexandre (A)
8. Binbin Zhu (HV)
9. Nathan Lowe (A)
10. Karl Samson (C)

Under 19 Girls

1. Lisa Boaden (HV)
2. Sarah Ho (WK)
3. Eileen Schwab (NH)
4. Sacha Welsh (NL)
5. Claire Dimmock (NH)
6. Florence Li (A)
7. Jacqui Wood (C)
8. Leanne Ridder (S)
9. Kelly Samson (C)
10. Katie Stretton (NH)

Under 15 Boys

1. Binbin Zhu (HV)
2. Nathan Lowe (A)
3. Jack Wells (N)
4. Chris Erskine (N)
5. Geoffrey Smart (NH)
6. Vance Kelly (HV)
7. Rhys Van Stipriaan (NH)
8. Brock Barrie (NH)
9. Wojtek Adamski (A)
10. Billy Lam (A)

Under 15 Girls

1. Jiani Hu (N)
2. Florence Li (A)
3. Sophie Shu (MN)
4. Michelle McCarthy (HV)
5. Hanna Squire (HV)
6. Kelly Samson (C)
7. Katie Stretton (NH)
8. Jessica D'Audney (NH)
9. Leanne Ridder (S)
10. Jenny Hung (C)

To qualify for a New Zealand ranking, players must have competed in a minimum of four rating events in any particular category, excluding B and C grades. Allowance is made for players who were unable to compete in rating tournaments due to overseas commitments.

The rankings are compiled by the Technical Committee. Results from Under 18, 17 and 16 events were considered as well as Under 19 for the Under 19 list; and results from Under 15 and all younger age-categories were considered for the Under 15 list. All other age-category results were considered for the Open lists.

New Zealand Open

Auckland Sept – Oct 2001

<u>Open</u>	<u>Winner</u>	<u>Singles Runner Up</u>
2001 Men's Singles	Aaron Li (C)	Johnny Liang (N)
Women's Singles	Karen Li (MN)	Li Tong (C)
Men's Doubles	A Li & Simon Wallace (C)	
Women's Doubles	C Cui & Sun Yang (A/BP)	
Mixed Doubles	A Li & Li Tong (C)	
<u>B Grade</u>		
Men's Singles	Vincent Ho (NH)	Ian Loubachevskii (HV)
Women's Singles	Monique Neal (NH)	Sarah Ho (WK)
Men's Doubles	C Dye & A Morris (CM)	
Women's Doubles	L Gardner & J Hu (C/N)	
<u>C Grade</u>		
Men's Singles	Paul Solt (HB)	Alistair Miller (NH)
Women's Singles	Monique Neal (NH)	Leanne Ridder (S)
Men's Doubles	S Ridder & A Wilson (S)	
Women's Doubles	M Neal & J Wood (NH/C)	
<u>Over 55 years</u>		
Men's Singles	William Weinstock (A)	John Te Pania (NH)
Women's Singles	Christine Cunningham (NH)	Margaret McGregor (WT)
Men's Doubles	M Lee & N Lee (A)	
Women's Doubles	C Cunningham & P McArthur (NH)	
Mixed Doubles	W Weinstock & P Bennyworth (AWK)	
<u>Over 45 years</u>		
Men's Singles	Lindsay Ward (W)	Pat Low (A)
Women's Singles	Val Beaver (NH)	Lesley Gardner (C)
Men's Doubles	P Low & G Rau (A/CM)	
Women's Doubles	C Cunningham & L Gardner (NH/C)	
Mixed Doubles	G Rau & V Beaver (CM/NH)	
<u>Over 35 years</u>		
Men's Singles	Malcolm Darroch (C)	Geoff Rau (CM)
Women's Singles	Kadia Keller-Rice (BP)	Hilary Low (CM)
Men's Doubles	M Darroch & P Low (C/A)	
Women's Doubles	A Roberts & S Westetra (HV)	
Mixed Doubles	K Barry & H Low (CM)	
<u>Under 21 years</u>		
Men's Singles	Johnny Liang (N)	Simon Wallace (C)
Women's Singles	Sun Yang (BP)	Peri Campbell-Innes (AU)
Men's Doubles	J Cordue & Y Lin (C)	
Women's Doubles	Jiang Yang & Li Tong (C)	
Mixed Doubles	J Liang & J Hu (N)	
<u>Under 19 years</u>		
Boys' Singles	Johnny Liang (N)	Andy Huang (A)
Girls' Singles	Sun Yang (BP)	Jiang Yang (C)
Boys' Doubles	J Liang & A Soh (N)	
Girls' Doubles	Jiang Yang & Li Tong (C)	
Mixed Doubles	J Liang & Sun Yang (N/BP)	
Mixed Doubles	B Zhu & J Hu (HV/N)	

Under 17 years

Boys' Singles	Andy Huang (A)	Simon Wallace (C)
Girls' Singles	Claire Campbell-Innes (AUS)	Wendy Zheng (A)
Boys' Doubles	G Arnaud & J Lao (NCL)	
Girls' Doubles	C Campbell-Innes & E Schwab (AUS/NH)	
Mixed Doubles	R Van Stipriaan & C Campbell-Innes (NH/AUS)	

Under 15 years

Boys' Singles	Binbin Zhu (HV)	Jack Wells (N)
Girls' Singles	Claire Campbell-Innes (AUS)	Jiani Hu (N)
Boys' Doubles	C Erskine & J Wells (N)	
Girls' Doubles	J Hu & K Samson (N/C)	
Mixed Doubles	G Arnaud & J Wanegui (NCL)	

Under 13 years

Boys' Singles	Binbin Zhu (HV)	Chris Erskine (N)
Girls' Singles	Jiani Hu (N)	Hanna Squire (HV)
Boys' Doubles	C Erskine & B Zhu (N/HV)	
Girls' Doubles	J Hu & J Hung (N/C)	

GREAT ORGANISATION, GREAT TABLE TENNIS

Bryan Keane reports:

The 2001 Nationals was one that many players and spectators alike will not forget for a long time. Auckland did a great job - probably the best run event in the last two decades with everything running to time, if not early, and every participant praising the tournament staff for their efficient performance. Congratulations must go to **Anne Noble** - she worked extremely hard in all aspects and managed to maintain control and diplomacy for the duration of the tournament. The Auckland stadium is a great venue and recent improvements made it a superb facility for the event. Well done to the Auckland committee and to **Shona Cudby** and **Andrew Gordon** for the part they played.

Canterbury Dominates Teams

Now as for the play. We were all privileged to see some of the best table tennis in years. Canterbury simply dominated the teams events. Canterbury table tennis has improved out of sight since they acquired their quality stadium which has attracted both old and new players into the sport. The red and blacks look a force to be reckoned with as long as their recruitment of players keeps going.

Auckland showed their usual class and presentation in the teams events with their array of stars performing well at times. One of the big features of this Nationals was the number of older players coming back to the sport. **James Morris, Geoff Rau, Adele Van Driel**, just to name a few, came up with some upset victories at crucial times for their Associations which proves all is well in table tennis across the country.



Action at the NZ Championships in the Men's teams final between **Hagen Bower (Auckland) (L)** and **Sujay Ghorpade (Canterbury)**. The latter won 21-19, 21-10, helping Canterbury to victory.

NZ Open continued..

Nelson's **Johnny Liang** proved to be one of the highlights in the Men's and Under 19 teams as he crushed nearly all before him, except **Aaron Li**. It was great to see a player so young with such amazing skills.

Individuals

On the junior side **Johnny Liang** dominated the under 19's, winning the treble in fine style and helping Nelson to the top junior Association award for the second year in a row. Well done Nelson - it just goes to show your hard work and training programmes are really paying off. **Andy Huang** (Auckland) had a good win over **Simon Wallace** (Canterbury) in the under 17 final where Huang played some of his best table tennis of the tournament. Hutt Valley's **Binbin Zhu** was impressive, winning the under 15 and 13 singles titles, the 13 doubles with **Chris Erskine** (Nelson) and mixed doubles with **Jiani Hu** (Nelson) - a good effort from this dedicated young player. It was great to have Australia's **Campbell-Innes** girls back again. Both played well and were rewarded with a host of victories. The New Caledonia team also added spark to make 2001 a true international event as they played with dignity and pride, winning a few junior doubles titles. Canterbury's Chinese girls along with **Sun Yang** (Bay of Plenty), **Celia Cui** (Auckland) and **Peri Campbell-Innes** made the girls competition exciting with victories well shared. In the younger ages **Claire Campbell-Innes** won the Under 17 treble, clawing back from some very sticky situations, and later took out the under 15 singles beating Jiani Hu. Hu had earlier won the under 13 treble in fine fashion.



Shane Laugesen serving it up!

Aaron Li (Canterbury) continued his dominance of NZ table tennis winning the treble in the open events for the fourth year in succession. But all the action was in **Shane Laugesen's** first post-section match where he was up against 19 year old **Johnny Liang**. All four quarter finals were on together and what a group of games to watch but most were glued to the

match on table 3. Laugesen (Auckland) took the first game easily but Liang was only working him out. In the next three games he simply chopped his way to victory with Laugesen showing signs of distress after looping so hard for so long to try a secure a point. It was probably the best match of the tournament, a great looper up against a determined chopper who can also loop as well as the best when required to.

Karen Li (Manawatu) took out the Women's title over **Li Tong** (Canterbury) with a very clinical display while the top

NZ Championships Awards

Arthur Meachen Cup (Most senior individual titles)
won by: **CANTERBURY**

Bill Hurrey Cup (Most junior individual titles)
won by: **NELSON**

Barna Cup (dress, behaviour, etiquette, punctuality, etc.)
Won by:

Men – Auckland No 1
Women - Canterbury No 2



**From all in
Table Tennis
New Zealand**

seeded doubles pair (**Sun Yang** and **Celia Cui**) just got home in an exciting clash with the **Campbell-Innes's** 20 and 18.

Malcolm Darroch (Canterbury), and **Kadia Keller-Rice** won the Over 35 singles and all other veteran and older age-group events were keenly contested.

There were just so many exciting games over the 10 day period and most players will think they played at least one of them. Believe me, this was the best Nationals for years – one everybody will look back one with great memories.



Inter Association Teams Championships Winners

Men's A grade	Canterbury
Men's B Grade	Manawatu
Men's C Grade	Southland
Women's A Grade	Canterbury
Women's B Grade	North Harbour
Under 19 Boys' A Grade	Canterbury
Under 19 Boys' B Grade	Southland
Under 19 Boys' C Grade	Bay of Plenty
Under 19 Girls'	Canterbury
Under 15 Boys' A Grade	Auckland
Under 15 Boys' B Grade	Auckland
Under 15 Boys' C Grade	Hutt Valley
Under 15 Girls' A Grade	Auckland
Under 15 Girls' B Grade	Waikato
Men's Over 45	North Harbour
Women's Over 45	North Harbour
Men's Over 55	Waitemata
Women's Over 55	North Harbour



Action at the Champs:

Waikato's **Sarah Ho** (far end) and **Tamsyn Burgess** (North Harbour) battle it out in the Women's B Grade team final.

Men's Singles presentation.

L to R:
Johnny Liang
(runner up),
Aaron Li
(winner),
Aaron Winborn
(semi finalist).



Where Did Our Table Tennis Language Come From?

We have our own language in table tennis. We all know what words like “rally”, “umpire”, “coach”, etc, mean and we use them without ever giving a thought to their origin.

In 1991 the ITTF Table Tennis Digest published an article researching the history of many of these familiar terms and Table Tennis Info has dusted it off and had a browse. Each issue we will reproduce two or three extracts, starting right here:

Table Tennis

Because table tennis developed as a miniaturised, indoor version of lawn tennis, it naturally borrowed a large existing terminology from that sport. The word TENNIS itself is believed to derive either from the Arabic word *tanaz*, meaning “to leap” or from the French word *tenez*, which was shouted just before the ball was served and meant something like “Look out!” or “Get ready!”.

Net

This comes from the Old English word *nett*, which in turn comes from the Latin *nodus*, meaning “knot”. The word is probably finally traceable back to the Sanskrit word *nahyati*, meaning “he binds”.

More in later issues.



Player Liaison Officer Introduces Herself

The Table Tennis New Zealand Board recently appointed **Tracey McLauchlan** as TTNZ Player Liaison Officer - to provide a listening ear for any player with concerns, particularly top players, and to act as an advocate for players at Board level. She has already had a meeting with the Board Chairman and has been granted access to Board members as and when required.

TT Info invited Tracey to tell us about herself.....

I often wonder why I am just about the only one left playing out of all the players from my junior age groups. I guess the reason can be likened to doing a table tennis exercise. As I come to the end of the 7 or 10 minutes, I often say 'just one more'. Because I am sure that I can push myself for one more rally and there is always the chance that I will be able to pull off that amazing shot. Each year I think to myself: 'just one more'. Perhaps next year I will be able to perfect that forehand technique. I always get the feeling that there is still some improvement left in me. What has happened is that each year has rolled into the next and now I find myself having played table tennis for 13 odd years.

I have spent the whole of my table tennis career in Hutt Valley and have developed through the club structure, coaching programmes and local and national tournaments. The other day I saw a picture of my first ever New Zealand training camp and I can vividly remember how scared and shy I was. In the years that followed I was selected in a number of junior teams to go to Australia and won a few national titles. It hasn't always been smooth running though. I have had a little bit of success at national level but I think a big motivation to keep playing stems from the disappointments I have faced along the way. Losing the big match for the team or "choking" in that semi, when I know deep down that I can play better, have made me strive to improve my game.

The real eye opener in my time playing has been my trip to the Worlds and Commonwealths in Singapore and Kuala Lumpur in 2000. It was my first international tournament apart from the Oceanias and my first overseas trip outside Australia.

What I found was that the other players still did the same things (for some reason I thought they might have all played differently) but everyone just did it so much better.

To see some of the top players in the world play live was awesome. I think since I was selected in that team I have trained harder than before, but of course there is always the added pressure.

The best player I have ever played was Li Jia Wei from Singapore, at this year's Commonwealth Championships. She is around 20 in the World. I have to say she gave me a pretty good whipping but it was a good experience.

I have now come to the end of my first year of full time work as an Information Analyst for Telecom. Combining a job, table tennis and keeping up with friends and family has been pretty difficult but I have enjoyed the challenge. I think I have maintained a balanced lifestyle and, although I would like to be able to find more time for training, I am happy.

One of the reasons I agreed to take on the position of Players Liaison with TTNZ was my belief that there needs to be improvements in the way players are treated in New Zealand. Hopefully I can go some way to changing this. I think table tennis has such potential to grow in New Zealand. Yes, it is a small sport but I always find that many people I meet always have an interest or connection to it some how. There is much goodwill towards the game in this country but perhaps we need to rethink how we market and present its image.

Tracey McLauchlan

Table Tennis on the Menu at *Sports Café*

Two table tennis jokers yakking to **Marc Ellis**, **Frank Bunce** and others - live on prime time TV on NZ's most popular sports programme, and then giving a TT demonstration! That's got to be worth more than a thousand columns of local stories and tournament results tucked away in the minor sports pages of the paper.

It all happened at 8.30 pm on 13 September on Sky Sport. Merging comfortably into *Sports Café's* laid-back atmosphere, flashy décor and slick presentation style were **Shane Laugesen** and **Wayne Gear** - two of our best. They handled the barrage of quick-fire (and often quick-witted) questions with ease, covering topics from getting started in the sport to professional career opportunities overseas. The equipment aroused great interest - Marc Ellis spent most of the ten minute segment nursing a bat and studying it from all angles in the hope that it might lift his game when he squared up against Shane on the table (not a hope). Our two experts opened their demo with sizzling forehand to forehands, and then slowed it down when the show's residents stepped up to the plate (oops, table).

Shane recalls the experience: "Wayne and I had a great night, definitely one to remember. It was all very impromptu and we didn't really know how long we would be playing for or what we were going to be asked. They treated us really well and we enjoyed a few beers at the end of the show. They made us feel very welcome and did a great job keeping us at ease in such a relaxed atmosphere. Frank Bunce was really down to earth and generally interested in table tennis."

Our boys did the sport proud and all table tennis enthusiasts can thank Auckland TTA for setting up this great publicity opportunity.

The ball has increased in size from 38 mm in diameter to 40 mm.

WHAT DIFFERENCE HAS IT MADE?



Experts predicted the larger ball would travel 4% - 8% slower, there would be a 13% reduction in spin, and the ball would be easier to see, especially on television. Rallies would be longer.

Has all this happened? *John Kiley* investigates:

At a very early stage, while top European players were still experimenting with the larger ball prior to its official introduction, former NZ Director of Coaching Peter Hirst commented from England that it was making absolutely no difference as far as play at that level was concerned.

Our present Coaching Director, James Morris, has recently attended the Commonwealth and World Championships. "I talked with several coaches re the big ball and there were varied opinions ranging from little difference to definitely slowing. I have no scientific data but generally feel from observation and coaches consensus that there is little difference with service and receive but as the rally develops the ball is slightly slower therefore giving the player a fraction more time and giving the defender some advantage. I saw this with world class players and with good lobbing (topspin defence) the attacking player had some difficulty which I think directly relates to the bigger diameter."

Top NZ player Peter Jackson feels he needs to be more physically fit as rallies are slightly longer and more power is needed to win points, but he has observed no real change to the way the game is played by top players although he's sure that the physical fitness aspect is more important than before for them as well. Tracey McLauchlan feels that everyone has adapted to the new ball and she hasn't noticed much difference.

What about Coaching?

More important than the way the game is being played at top level internationally is whether we in New Zealand should be changing our approach to coaching. "I have definitely changed my method of coaching", said Hagen Bower, an Auckland coach. "With the change in the size of the ball and more importantly the change in the service rule in 2003 I see that players are going to have to work much harder for points. I believe that younger players need a more solid foundation and the ability to play points of perhaps 8 or 9 shots per rally. I currently have 6 Auckland juniors on a coaching programme. They are all given a target - forehand counter-hit 50, forehand loop 25, backhand counter-hit 30 and so on. We don't move on to the next exercise until they have achieved the goal and I also keep a record of their best score for that particular day. Hopefully the end result is that children are able to play longer points and concentrate for longer periods."

Simeon Cairns (profiled on page 24) is also preparing players for longer rallies. "I've encouraged players to work on playing more angles and to do more endurance (fitness) training based on the possibility of longer rallies, but it is still really an open issue whether the bigger ball has made the game longer. I would still suggest that players think about these points but otherwise there is no real evidence that it is necessary to change the coaching style or way they have been playing."

Grass Roots Level

But what about the vast majority of us, playing at our weekly club night or daytime club? Ron Menchi has a unique perspective in that he regularly plays and coaches at club level with the larger ball, and pays a weekly visit to a day club which still uses the 38 mm ball. "I have no trouble switching from one to the other. For me the larger ball is marginally slower, but there has never been an occasion since the change when people have said, 'What a huge difference this has made!!'. There were times before the larger ball was officially adopted when one suddenly appeared on a table and those playing with it hardly even noticed. It has made no difference to the way I coach or play the game."

No doubt ITTF experts will conduct extensive surveys and arrive at a conclusion regarding the value of the change. It's good to see some coaches using the larger ball as a motivation to train players to endure longer rallies. But has this very radical change had the desired effect?

"The ITTF's objective was to make the game more of a spectacle", said James Morris. "This is debatable and requires a rally analysis which I don't think was done at the last worlds. The main point is that serve and receive or 1st phase is still crucial in match play and coaches I spoke to felt there was negligible difference with that."

It would seem that within one or two years people will be saying, "Smaller ball? What smaller ball?"



Best Loop in the World.

World Champion Wang Liqin possesses one of the most powerful forehand topspins of all time. He turns at the waist moving his weight on to his back foot, the angle of his right knee is almost 90 degrees, giving him a position from which he can generate tremendous power and recover into a balanced position. The arm extends on the backswing and as he turns forward the elbow bends quickly before the point of impact to generate speed through the ball.



Above: Wang Liqin at the commencement of his powerful forehand.

From the ITTF September 2001 Journal

Kiwis at Australian Veterans

Averil Roberts, Val Beaver, Lynley Barker and Janice Stead (non-playing captain/manager) attended the Australian Veteran Championships in Perth recently.

In the Women's Over 50 team events they finished a credible third out of seven teams from around Australia and in the Over 50 individual events Val Beaver and Lynley Barker won their group play, but losing in the 2nd and 1st rounds respectively in the knockout play.

Averil and Val won a Bronze medal in the Over 50 Women's Doubles and all three playing members were placed in the top 10 merit list.

World Rankings

The latest list of world ranked New Zealand players is on page 31. As promised in our last issue, here's more info on the operation of the ITTF ranking system.

Anyone recording two wins and two losses against players already on the list is automatically added to the list and enters with "start points" based on those results.

There is no need to play overseas to get a world ranking, as our National Championships (Open singles and A Grade team results) are included. More New Zealand players can get on the list by recording the required results against other New Zealanders, remembering that once a new player is in the system, anyone playing that player is on their way to getting a ranking as well, even if the first person does not yet appear on the published list.

Once on the list, a player's start points are kept under review and may be amended until they are either declared as final or the player has recorded five wins and five losses against existing ranked players, whichever happens first. After that, they cannot change.

The ongoing points change as each result is recorded. There are three scales which operate to determine how many points are awarded or lost:

- 1 A points scale, which shows the number of points won or lost for each band of points differences (eg, if a player loses to someone ranked, say 500 points higher, they lose only 1 point, but if they beat that player they win 36, and vice versa if they play someone ranked 500 points lower).
- 2 A weighting scale, which doubles the winners points for glamour events such as the main draw at the World Championships, halves them for national open championships such as the NZ Open, and adjusts them within that range for other events (Continental Championships, Pro-Tour events, qualifying rounds at World Champs, etc). The weighting scale is higher for winners than for losers.
- 3 A bonus scale, which adds bonus points for players who reach finals, semi-finals, last eight, all the way down to last 64. There are separate bonus scales for each weighting. For the NZ Open, the singles winners get 12 bonus points, runners-up 10, losing semi-finalists 9, and on down the scale to the last 64 losers who get 1. So with the NZ Open everyone who makes the main draw would get bonus points.

Players can move up the list even if they haven't recorded any results if other players higher than them have been deleted from the list through inactivity. But players inactive for twelve months will themselves be removed, except World Championships competitors who remain on the list until the next Worlds. We are yet to see how the splitting up of World Teams and Individual events will affect this policy.

New Zealand has been lobbying to have the North and South Island Championships accepted as international open events, and the ITTF now has plans to introduce World Under 20 and Under 17 lists. We have already begun submitting results in these age-categories.



Aaron Li – NZ No 1 and 209 on the latest World ranking list.

Ever Heard of *HYPERZINE* ???

It's an online magazine for kids produced by the Hillary Commission. It started in March 1997 and they're up to Issue 19, the fourth issue this year. What's special about Issue 19? *Table Tennis* is featured!!

TERRIFIC TABLE TENNIS

First read the irresistible heading of "Terrific Table Tennis", then scroll down through three subheadings: "What's So Good About Table Tennis?", "How To Play", and "Table Tennis Star". "What's So Good..." features names, quotes and photographs of players at the recent NZ School Teams Championships at North Harbour just before the nationals; "How to Play" gives flashy illustrations and basic rules; and "Table Tennis Star" profiles 22 year old NZ representative Tracey McLauchlan. Tracey is interviewed about her achievements, her goals, and how she got started. There's a good action photo of her playing.

LINKS TO OTHER SITES

There's also reference to the history of Table Tennis and a link to the history page on the TTNZ site. Another link takes kids to contact points throughout NZ if they want to get into table tennis themselves, and there are links to many other NZ and overseas Table Tennis sites. The NZ Championships web page can also be accessed directly from Hyperzine.

SEE FOR YOURSELF

Go to www.hillarysport.org.nz/kids/hyper/index.shtml and on the Hyperzine title page click on "Use it or Lose it". After you've checked out the table tennis, have a look right through the magazine. The rest is pretty awesome too.

Table Tennis Info thanks Hyperzine editor Kylie Freeman for giving table tennis this great publicity.

TEACHERS NOT FORGOTTEN EITHER

As well as the *Hyperzine* feature, our sport received a boost by the inclusion of a Table Tennis Skills session on another Hillary Commission website, "Sportshed" (a resource for teachers). Go to www.hillarysport.org.nz/kids/sportshed/index.shtml and click on "Skills and Drills".

Whoops!

In our August issue we showed a photo of a young girl (right) learning ball control in respect to KiwiSport.

We said it was Chloe Stewart but it was actually **Aimee Cross**.

Sorry about that!



Confusion arose in interpreting the results of the **Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships** for the last issue. We said **Shane Laugesen** and **Tracey McLauchlan** lost in the first round.

In reality they won their first round beating Ganguly and Paul of India in 3 games and lost in the 2nd round to Duan Yong Jun and Li Jia Wei in 2 games.



In our last issue Simeon Cairns contributed a major article on the 2001 Commonwealth Championships Women's Singles final, in which New Zealander Li Chunli made a strong bid for the gold medal. Simeon bench-coached Chunli during this crucial match. To those who are now asking: "Who is Simeon Cairns, and how did this man come to be coaching NZ's top international medal prospect?", - here's an in-depth profile....

SIMEON CAIRNS – TABLE TENNIS SCIENTIST

Early Days

Bryan Foster (NZ Champion in 1966 and 1968) was Simeon Cairns' first table tennis mentor. With his wife Ruth, Foster coached the youthful Cairns in Dunedin in the 1970's where he showed considerable promise. In 1979 Simeon moved to Christchurch for his final year of high school. Here Ling Nan Ming and Trevor Flint were coaching influences and Cairns teamed with Mark Clasper, John Richards and Michael Prisk to win the National Junior Teams Championship for Canterbury, beating an Auckland team (containing an up and coming Barry Griffiths) in the final.

Simeon's table tennis ambitions were lofty and in 1981 he left university to devote all his time to the sport. "I practised four hours a day, with another hour per day spent on physical training. But I didn't really get the results I wanted so decided to focus on university work where I studied exercise science (physiology and physical education)".

Distinguished Career

This was the beginning of what has turned into a distinguished academic career. He moved to Canberra in 1986 to study for a PhD in Exercise Physiology and Sports Science, gaining it in 1991. Since then he has engaged in specialist pioneering research on the measurement of electrical activity in muscles and has lectured on his work in universities throughout the world. He now works as a senior lecturer at Auckland University of Technology's School of Community Health and Sport Studies.

Finding his niche in the professional world didn't dampen his enthusiasm for table tennis. His scientific knowledge led naturally to an interest in coaching and he was active in this area at club level prior to his departure for Australia. In 1986-7 he was State Coach for Australian Capital Territory and his trainees included Under 15 Australian Champions Rebecca Bellamy and Jeff Plumb. Plumb remains a top Australian senior player to this day.

Scientific Training Applied

Simeon's star was still rising as a player when he returned home. He was ranked in the top ten in New Zealand in 1994 and 1996 and in 1994 was selected in the men's team for the Oceania Championships. "As a team member for these championships, I used my scientific training to take the Otago based NZ players through some environmental chamber work (at the Physical Education School, Uni of Otago – where I worked at the time) to acclimatise them for the heat in Tahiti, where the championships were to be held".

Coaching Favoured

Now, with a background of experience as a top senior player, PhD honours in Sports Science, and 29 years of exposure to coaching procedures, Simeon brings all this together as a skilled domestic, national and international coach.

He has coached North Harbour teams since 1995, New Zealand junior teams since 1999, and first worked at international level with Li Chunli at the Oceania Championships in 2000. Coaching her again in the Commonwealth Championships gold medal match last April has so far been the highlight of Simeon's coaching career.

Future Aims

"It's my aim for the early 2000's to contribute to a team which focuses on improving NZ Table Tennis ratings in the (a) Oceania and Commonwealth regions, and (b) World arena - at both senior and junior level.". Simeon has identified four key areas:

- focussing on individual coaching of selected players (after appropriate talent identification) on a week by week basis.
- squad training at appropriate times.
- bringing sports science into training/coaching/preparation.
- offering quality bench coaching.

Simeon's combination of skill, experience, and academic knowledge make him a unique asset to table tennis in this country.

John Kiley

A Point Being made!

The temperature was the point in this protest against a long standing rule which prohibits players from wearing tracksuits or slacks when playing in a match.

The 1986 New Zealand Championships, in Lower Hutt, saw **Kerry Palmer** (L) and **Wayne Adamson** display impeccable dress but regrettably it was the "wrong stuff" for their Men's Doubles semi-final, and they were forced to forfeit the match.

"It gets so cold playing in some stadiums" said Wayne. "Some players thought it was great but others thought we were idiots".

Whatever, a huge 30 x 16 cm photo (reproduced here in miniature) plus an article appeared in the NZ Herald at the time.



Ahead of their time?

Six years after Wayne and Kerry's headline-grabbing act, a similarly dressed foursome played a mixed doubles at the 1992 English Open to commemorate a century of table tennis. If they could get away with it, why not Wayne and Kerry?



Wayne Adamson was a well-known table tennis player in the 1970's and 1980's - representing Canterbury from 1973 to 1980 and Counties from 1981 till the early 90's.

A sad lapse in his life resulted in being made a guest of the Prison Service. He is an avid reader of *Table Tennis Info* and after some hesitation decided to write the following delightful letter of "in there"! It's great to hear from him, and to learn that he has taken advantage of opportunities that have arisen to enhance his skills and be positive until his return to normal life. What's more, *he's the reigning TT Champion!*

Letter from Wayne

A big "HI" to fellow Table Tennis peoples out there. Great to see the game progressing. I've been fortunate, thanks to Robin, to keep up with the TT happenings/results via the "Table Tennis Info". I have only praise for the way Robin, and all concerned, have given their time and effort for this enjoyable, informative mag.

Life for me has undoubtedly had its share of highs and lows but this present void I live in remains the lowest by far. As time moves on I've made the most of the limited opportunities and gained skills in the IT field. Four years ago, thanks to brother Grant and his upgrades, I was given his old Pentium 1 computer while on remand at Mt Eden and my journey into the IT field began. The next break came at "Maxi" when I was recruited into the Computer Industries, working my way via hardware/software into the amazing and more skilled field of Video Editing on an Avid Express. In the last 18 months I've produced over 100 programmes for TV1's Shell MotorSport and Suzuki SportZone plus corporate videos, commercials and promo tapes. I love it and feel very privileged to have been given the opportunity. Nowadays I'm a peer tutor recruiting and introducing others to the industry. The real opportunity though is when I'm released I've been offered work with a guy who produces Shortland St and Mercy Peak, so here's hoping.

PARE CHAMPION!

Under pressure from certain quarters I recently played in the local Paremoremo Table Tennis Championships. I rarely play TT these days and no one knew my history in the sport. This rather bizarre experience added another Table Tennis chapter to my life. Adjusting to prison rules is a mission in itself - weird rules like having to serve diagonally in singles, no lets, 3 nets lose a point and so on kept me on edge. Believe me, if you were returning to the table or weren't looking you can expect a quick nasty serve behind your back. After scraping in against the unit junkie (wasted as), in the 1/4's I played one of the intimidating muscular Islanders - a lifer who thought he was the man. I pulled out my old trusty hard bat (swapped for an expensive Stiga) and warily played, praying I didn't make a fool of him. (As you can appreciate the consequences of such an act can be life-threatening!) It was two straight but made close and the immediate danger ceased.

In the Semis I came up against a 'Black Power' member and experienced for the first time ever "**finger Spin**". What made it worse, I had reverted back to a sponge bat just to make sure! I received the first 5 serves and missed the table completely until I adjusted and coasted to a 2 game victory. He had none of the intimidating factors of my previous opponent except a full-face moko - something one becomes accustomed to in here.

In the final I was up against the Sergeant at Arms of the 'Hell's Angels' (fortunately a friend of mine). Until now he's been my only loss in prison but I hasten to add this was after hip surgery 4 years ago at the Mount. Now this guy can play. I rate him and Simon Poelman the best I've played in prison.

It was fun counter hitting with posy lob defence, flashes of days gone by? Eventually I won in 4 thrilling sets and revenge was mine. I say this cause he'd been avoiding playing me for nearly 2 years.

EXHIBITION

Admittedly the final wasn't anywhere near the spectacle that **Aaron Winborn, Hagen Bower, Wayne Gear** and **Chris Herlihy** displayed in one of their exhibitions in the Medium (Prison). These were great matches and gave opportunity for the crims to watch and then play against NZ Reps, a big buzz for these guys - they talked about it for months. Some now want to join clubs on their release. (Lock your cupboards!)

I've kept in touch with these guys and quite a few other TT players - some have been out to visit which I'm very grateful for. I'm looking forward to playing again in the 2003 season.

It's really great to see team-mates and players from the early 70's still playing or back at it - guys like **Colin Tipper, Alan Alabaster, John Armstrong, Mike Warren, the Fogarty's** - the list goes on and of course my special friend **Lesley Gardner** who's been playing so well. Table Tennis has certainly created many friendships and cherished moments that I'll never forget. I can't wait to be back playing.

Prison is a hard lonely depressing experience and I am grateful to my family and the many Table Tennis players who have visited and/or made contact - unquestionably a place where you find out who your true friends are. Thank you.

Take Care Out There

Wayne Adamson

PS, See you in 2003!

Highlights of Wayne's table tennis career include:

- No 1 in South Island 1973 – 1980
- Led Canterbury team to NZ title in early 1970's, beating all NZ's top ten players in the process
- Canterbury champion at least six times
- South Island Champion and North Island Runner-up in the same year
- Top ten ranking for ten years
- Played on television several times, including a match where Wayne and opponent Richard Lee were flown to Mount Maunganui for a special one-off exhibition
- Played some of the best players in the world at Oceania Games in Auckland in 1981.

CHECK YOUR MEDAL !!

If you won a medal at the **NZ Championships** in Auckland last month, have a look to make sure it has "New Zealand Championships" on the front. We've been advised that some were mistakenly engraved with "New Zealand Veterans Championships".

If yours is one of these, please wrap it in tissue paper, slip it in an envelope and mail it promptly to Table Tennis New Zealand, PO Box 867, Wellington. It will be replaced with a correctly engraved medal.



NORTHLAND

Brent Davies,

Ph/Fax (09) 433-4838
E-mail: biandi@xtra.co.nz



Brent tested his first teeth on a table tennis ball as his father Arnold has been involved in the sport for more than 60 years. From early beginnings at the old North Shore association then East Waikato he became a player then an administrator. He became involved with Table Tennis Northland in 1985, was elected chairman the next year and has held the position for 15 years. A primary school principal Brent runs the primary and intermediate after-school sessions and the inter-schools competitions as well as the businesshouse competitions in Whangarei. Brent and his schoolteacher wife Doris are two of the most northern table tennis residents, living in the opulence of the resort town of Paihia and working at a small country school between Paihia and Whangarei.

BAY of PLENTY

John Lea

E-mail: johnl@newmansint.co.nz



If you ever want to retire to an area with the most beautiful beaches in New Zealand go to Tauranga. Table tennis go-getters like John Lea, Kadia Rice-Keller and husband Dan have not only settled there from other climes but are also improving the TT image there. The Bay once had 17 clubs and national events have been held there. Now there are only four clubs, but John and his team have already shown enterprise in getting Sun Yang there, and numbers are bound to increase with greater promotion. John had previously played in Waikato, North Harbour and Auckland. The Bay has used his accountancy expertise as the association treasurer and he has a diploma in journalism which enforces his publicity role.

WHO INVENTED TABLE TENNIS

Well, we did not receive any response to our August article but here is a real classic comment from the "Table Tennis – The Early Years" book:

It is unlikely that we will ever know exactly how table tennis developed in it's early days, "a period" according to Ivor Montagu, "in which history becomes tangled and confused by reminiscence, and reminiscence itself is dimmed either by senility or the heresay of a new generation."



SPORT AND RECREATION INDUSTRY RESTRUCTURE

Since the Ministerial Taskforce on Sport, Fitness and Leisure issued its report earlier this year and the Minister wasted no time in announcing he was implementing its recommendations, many people have awaited the first signs of impending change with interest.

Peter Smith, acting Chief Executive Officer of the Hillary Commission, updates us on the present situation:

You will all be aware that the new board is in place: John Wells (Chair), Wayne Boyd, David Collins, Graham Condon, Elizabeth Coutts, Margot Foster, Jane Huria, Bill Osborne, Dr Jenny Ross - all very competent people I can assure you and very dedicated and committed to this sector.

Nick Hill has been appointed the new CEO. His biography is well documented, but he certainly comes with good raps. Nick's appointment signals a new focus for the industry which will be more apparent as time progresses. He officially took up office on the 23rd October. I know he is very excited about the job ahead and keen to get his teeth into things.

Internally, the Hillary Commission remains as an entity until the new Bill is passed in November, hereby the current interim board of the HC become the board of the new Agency. No decision yet about the name of the new organisation, although a couple of options are being tested in the market.

The Sports Foundation officially turn off the lights on the 30th November, but paying the power and the rent will be the only functions that cease. All other services will continue. In fact you shouldn't notice any changes at all unless you intend to visit.

The Minister recently approved a \$1.5m joint venture between the Ministry of Education and this organisation to pilot the introduction of specialist physical education teachers and sport and recreation coordinators into primary schools - two separate positions.

We all recognise gaps in the youth physical development process and often see the end result when they move on to more serious sport. This pilot will clarify the role of physical education teaching and ensure that through the coordinators, sport and recreation is integrated. In simple terms, physical skills will be delivered by specialists who in turn will be supported by on-site coordinators.

We should remind ourselves often, whatever our political bent, that this Sports Minister continues to step up to the plate and deliver.

I trust this will put you a little more in the picture.

Yours in Sport

Pete Smith
Acting CEO, Hillary Commission

You Might Be Addicted To Table Tennis If.....

- you have ever accidentally hit a bystander while shadow looping.
- the words "ping pong" give you the willies.
- you look for a house with a two car garage, with no intention of ever putting any cars in it.
- You balk at your significant other half buying a \$75 wardrobe item, then blithely plunk down \$150 for a new bat.
- that \$150 bat isn't even for regular play; it's a backup in case the other one breaks.
- you hear the phrase "NZ Open" and your first thoughts are not of golf or tennis.

Top 10 Ratings

Final for 2001

Men's Open

1. Aaron Li
2. Johnny Liang
3. Peter Jackson
4. Sujay Ghorpade
5. Shane Laugesen
6. Hagen Bower
7. Andy Huang
8. Tom Liu
9. Aaron Winborn
10. Simon Wallace

Women's Open

1. Li Chunli
2. Karen Li
3. Sun Yang
4. Jiang Yang
5. Linda Chen
6. Ritu Ghorpade
7. Li Tong
8. Kadia Keller-Rice
9. Joan Larsen
10. Celia Cui

Men's Under 21

1. Johnny Liang
2. Andy Huang
3. Simon Wallace
4. Peter Craven
5. Yi-Sien Lin
6. Adrian Soh
7. Paul Innes
8. Vincent Ho
9. John Cordue
10. Josh Alexandre

Women's Under 21

1. Sun Yang
2. Jiang Yang
3. Li Tong
4. Celia Cui
5. Samara Collins
6. Wendy Zheng
7. Monique Neal
8. Jiani Hu
9. Sarah Ho
10. Deborah Morrison

Men's Over 40

1. Malcolm Darroch
2. Maurice Burrowes
3. Lindsay Ward
4. Kevin Barry
5. Geoff Rau
6. Peter de Boer
7. Pat Low
8. William Weinstock
9. James Morris
10. Bob Lassen

Women's Over 40

1. Val Beaver
2. Lesley Gardner
3. Ulrike Kusche
4. Averil Roberts
5. Chris Cunningham
6. Jill Murray
7. Lynley Barker
8. Raina McKechnie
9. Helen Codlin
10. Sue Shirriffs

Men's Over 50

1. Pat Low
2. William Weinstock
3. Bob Lassen
4. Alan Alabaster
5. Chip Eade
6. Barrie Kendall
7. Nam Hang Lee
8. John Te Pania
9. Albert Roberts
10. Chris Williams

Women's Over 50

1. Val Beaver
2. Averil Roberts
3. Chris Cunningham
4. Jill Murray
5. Lynley Barker
6. Raina McKechnie
7. Sue Shirriffs
8. Pauline Bennyworth
9. Ngaire Garrett
10. Margaret McGregor

Men's Over 60

1. Alan Alabaster
2. Chip Eade
3. Barrie Kendall
4. Nam Hang Lee
5. Albert Roberts
6. Colin Tipper
7. Bob Hurr
8. Man Tin Lee
9. Bruce Penberthy
10. Mervyn Allardyce

Women's Over 60

1. Margaret McGregor
2. Pat McArthur
3. Annice Robottom
4. Gladys Halford
5. Kath Thompson
6. Elsie Spooner
7. Phyllis Hoete
8. Valda Smith
9. Pamela Keene
10. Nellie Milich

Boys' Under 19

1. Johnny Liang
2. Andy Huang
3. Simon Wallace
4. Yi-Sien Lin
5. Adrian Soh
6. John Cordue
7. Josh Alexandre
8. Ian Loubachevskii
9. Greg Burton
10. Tim Hanna

Girls' Under 19

1. Sun Yang
2. Jiang Yang
3. Li Tong
4. Celia Cui
5. Wendy Zheng
6. Jiani Hu
7. Sarah Ho
8. Deborah Morrison
9. Lisa Boaden
10. Sandy Wang

Boys' Under 17

1. Andy Huang
2. Simon Wallace
3. Josh Alexandre
4. Ian Loubachevskii
5. Binbin Zhu
6. Nathan Lowe
7. Jack Wells
8. Anthony Wilson
9. Frank Tsai
10. Tianlun Chen

Girls' Under 17

1. Wendy Zheng
2. Jiani Hu
3. Sarah Ho
4. Sandy Wang
5. Eileen Schwab
6. Sacha Welsh
7. Florence Li
8. Sophie Shu
9. Jennifer Lo
10. Michelle McCarthy

Boys' Under 15

1. Binbin Zhu
2. Nathan Lowe
3. Jack Wells
4. Chris Erskine
5. Vance Kelly
6. Steven Zeng
7. Geoffrey Smart
8. Jonathan Chen
9. Rhys Van Stipriaan
10. Brock Barrie

Girls' Under 15

1. Jiani Hu
2. Sandy Wang
3. Florence Li
4. Sophie Shu
5. Michelle McCarthy
6. Leanne Ridder
7. Hanna Squire
8. Kelly Samson
9. Katie Stretton
10. Katie Roddis

Boys' Under 13

1. Binbin Zhu
2. Chris Erskine
3. Steven Zeng
4. Billy Lam
5. Blair Paterson
6. Terry Zeng
7. Matthew Lowe
8. Levi Welsh
9. Hayden Tapp
10. Boris Trifunovich

Girls' Under 13

1. Jiani Hu
2. Sandy Wang
3. Sophie Shu
4. Hanna Squire
5. Jenny Hung
6. Armandeep Singh
7. Shelly Zeng
8. Sally Ho
9. Natasha Kok
10. Hayley Jones

The Rating Lists are based on points gained through participation in any open championship played in New Zealand, provided the results are forwarded to TTNZ. Points from last year are carried forward. Only the top 10 players in each category are listed. The full list can be viewed on the TTNZ website (www.tabletennis.org.nz)

New Zealand at Men's World Cup

As the highest world-ranked player in the region, New Zealand's **Peter Jackson** has earned the right to represent Oceania at the 2001 Men's World Cup. This is now the method of selection for the alternate years in which no Oceania Championship is played – replacing the previous method of conducting an Oceania World Cup Qualifying Tournament. Next year's representative will be the winner of the Men's Singles at the Oceania Championships in Fiji in July.

In the meantime, Peter will fly the flag this year and compete against top players from every continental federation in the world. The glamour event was held in Italy from 8-11 November.

WORLD RANKINGS NZ Players (as at 1 November 2001)

Women

Li Chunli	44
Karen Li	118
Tracey McLauchlan	435

Men

Peter Jackson	187
Aaron Li	209
Shane Laugesen	304
Andrew Hubbard	346
Johnny Liang	380
Aaron Winborn	398
Malcolm Darroch	511
Paul Innes	536
Simon Wallace	539

