

## Upcoming Events

Nov	Sat 14 - Sun 15	Annual General Meeting - TTNZ	Wellington
Dec	5	Entries Close - Summer Nationals	
Jan 2003	11-15	Summer Nationals	Christchurch
Mar	20	Entries Close - NZ Veterans	
April	18-21	NZ Veterans Championships	Christchurch

### WORLD RANKINGS

#### NZ Players

(as at 1 October 2002)

#### Women

Li Chunli	44
Karen Li	119
Tracey McLauchlan	483

#### Men

Peter Jackson	213
Aaron Li	213
Shane Laugesen	357
Andrew Hubbard	381
Johnny Liang	443
Aaron Winborn	475
Malcolm Darroch	583
Paul Innes	636
Andy Huang	636
Simon Wallace	645
Yi-Sien Lin	656

World Rankings are available by country at: <http://www.ittf.com>

### FORMULA DONIC in the passing lane in China

The Chinese Table Tennis Federation estimates that approximately one hundred million people are regularly playing table tennis in China. About ten million of these are technically skilled and play fairly well up to top level. With their brilliant table tennis knowledge the Chinese have recognized very soon that the rubber sheets of the **FORMULA DONIC** series are something outstanding. "They produce more spin and more speed than normal rubber sheets" claim the Chinese specialists. They promptly became favorites of the Chinese table tennis players in the DONIC range. In the end the brand **DONIC** is with their **FORMULA DONIC** rubber sheets on the passing lane in China.

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## TABLE TENNIS INFO

October 2002



The **21<sup>ST</sup>** Issue!

**COMMONWEALTH  
GAMES**  
★  
**OCEANIA**  
★  
**SOME HIGH TECH  
STUFF**



**LI CHUNLI WINS GOLD**

Photo courtesy **Dominion Post**.

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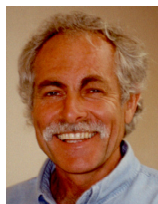
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## Getting On With It!



## My Serve

from James Morris

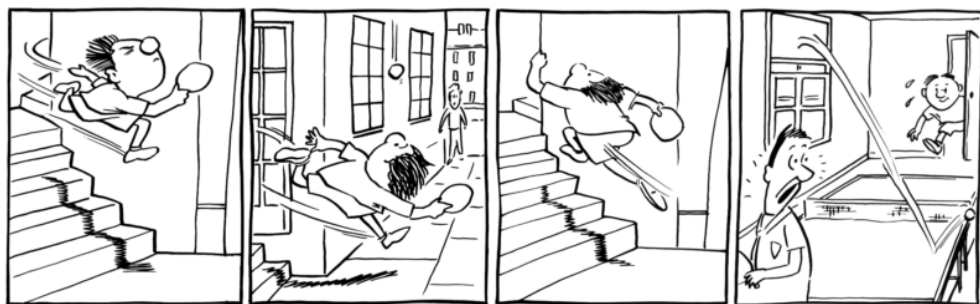
The last few months have seen me in different table tennis environments around the world and although the standard of play varied, I noticed one strong point in relation to player performance that needs mention.

The players who consistently perform, (ie, "Get on with it"), usually are the totally focused ones who play with a confidence gained by a solid background of effective practice, fitness, diet, match play and of course strong mental skills. This last point I believe is the most important to master if one desires to reach full potential on the table. Table Tennis is indeed a mental game and even more so now the games are only to 11.

Too often I see players seemingly going well hit a patch in the game when things change: domination, strategy, or the score. It all turns to custard following a drop in confidence which usually manifests as negative body language, verbal self abuse and sometimes even abuse of opponent and/or umpire. Sound familiar? Well one thing for sure is that the negative body language or abuse is self destructive and an absolute god-send to the opponent. This does not rest with the weaker player. It happens at all levels and was seen at the Commonwealth Games and Oceania.

At the World Cadet Championships in Hungary it was a great lesson for our juniors to watch the top players just getting on with the points regardless of the outcome. Matches will not always go your way but you will have your turn. One past world singles champion had great advice and said that the score in a match was irrelevant with each point played as a single unit. Once that unit is played it is history and cannot be changed. So why let that point, which is history, affect a future point. This season I have already seen bad language, tables kicked, bats thrown and a bat broken in half after a loss (and that was at the Commonwealths!). So let's just get on with it, forget the dramatics and be positive.

Cheers James



## Editorial

If you are wondering what happened to the mid year issue, it was decided not to have one and combine it with the end of year issue. The reasons:

- (1) **Content:** There was barely sufficient copy and photos of a good balance of information to meet our criteria of "interesting, informative and helpful info".
- (2) **Member Registrations** were well down from the end of last year and although this is usual it was felt that we would like the 21<sup>st</sup> issue to reach all our members, indeed as we do for all issues. Three associations had not responded to our registration request (including one of the largest) and clearly some others had a way to go. The mid year issue has always been of concern as regards the lateness of registrations.
- (3) **Commonwealth Games** articles and info from the team coaches and management would not have reached us in time.

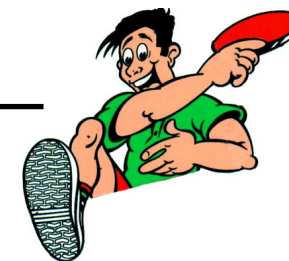
We can only operate with the help and interest of members. Often we hear sketchy details of club or association initiatives that we could have included had they been communicated to us. In one instance an association celebrated an important anniversary but nothing came forth to us to spread their achievements. That is not to say we have lacked support – indeed many members have been great and an appreciation appears on page 4. A special thanks here you to all.

After 21 issues in 6 years I advised the Board Chairman last April that this issue would be my last as I felt that the structure surrounding the magazine needed change. Just under 2 months for the process per magazine has become too binding. In any case maybe it is time for a change, to bring in new ideas and ways of doing things.

**According to the latest Board minutes the signs are not good of there being any further issues dispatched direct to members. If there is a next issue at all, perhaps it could bring forth some change where I would consider a reduced involvement – time will tell!**

Sincerely

Robin Radford



## Welcome

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

Whatever level you play at, simply by being registered you have joined a very large group of table tennis enthusiasts throughout New Zealand who enjoy each other's company and who share ideas and opinions with each other through this magazine.

The magazine is sent to all currently registered members and we hope you enjoy it.

We invite you to explore our website at [www.tabletennis.org.nz](http://www.tabletennis.org.nz) which has lots of information on table tennis to help you.

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

Kevin Thomas  
Administration Officer.

# TABLE TENNIS INFO

## 21<sup>ST</sup> Issue.

## A 21st Hall of Gratitude and Thanks

It was not forecast in October 1996 how long **TT INFO** would be around, but with financial and general support from the Board and Associations, it has made it to the 21<sup>st</sup> issue.

**Merv Allardyce** (Executive Director at the time) willingly agreed to the magazine concept and our production team (Merv, John Kiley and myself) then faced the first big challenge when we thought we could zip out enough copies on the Sports Services photocopy machine. Issue number one, although only 3 double sided A4 pages, had to be folded and stapled to half size but it beat us and we were soon off to a professional photocopy service.

Over the 21 issues a lot of people have contributed to the magazine's success by supplying copy and assisting with the dispatch. The effort required for the magazine to arrive in the hands of TTNZ members is considerable, thus lots of gratitude is owed to everyone concerned.

Contributions have come from all parts of New Zealand, with some regular writers rarely left in peace as another issue approaches. To those who have regularly submitted items on overseas trips and Championships, a big thank you.

To **John Kiley**, mighty thanks for his journalistic experience which he puts to great use editing and producing fine articles.

Over 80 people have contributed over the years, and this does not include the many "little bits of info" that were incorporated into articles or used on their own. To all suppliers of articles and "info", thanks everyone. The following have featured more than 3 times: **Merv Allardyce, Michael Brown, Simeon Cairns, Helen Codlin, Murray Finch, Ron Fleming, Trevor Flint, Dennis Galvin, Wayne Gear, Alan Hounsell, Bryan Keane, John Kiley, Richard Lee, Ron Garrett, Ron Menchi, James Morris, Averil Roberts.**

A special thank you has to go to **James Morris** – he somehow finds time between earning a living and doing so much for table tennis in the elite area, to compose "My Serve" - our only regular feature.

To **David Jackson**, a big thanks for the Top 10 ratings and results of National Championships, all nicely formatted for easy insertion without having to wade through lots of result papers.

The early issues were sent in bulk to Association Secretaries whose assistance was relied on, and much appreciated, to get the magazine distributed. Since we began mailing directly to all registered members, for each issue five people practise their dexterity applying address labels to the near 4000 envelopes.

They then joined with others to make a group of ten or twelve, and spend another morning



enveloping the magazines in a very controlled manner to take advantage of bulk postage rates.

The dispatch factory has had assistance from the following: **Merv Allardyce, Michael Brown, Oea Burnett, Isabel Cleland, Val Jarvis, John Kiley, Sue Lill, Ron Menchi, Pauline Nunn, Jean Radford, Chris Robb, Averil Roberts, Ian Strawbridge, Kevin Thomas, Bryan Thomson, Catherine Thomson, Jackie Upchurch, Caron Watson, Malcolm Wong.**

If anyone has been omitted, our sincerest apologies. Please let us know.

There are several basic reasons for little advertising but to **Hagen Bower** (Butterfly & HB Sports) and **Joachim Kusche** (Donic), thank you for your support.

On the debit side has been the general lack of info from Associations. There must be many who have held special events or whose ideas would benefit others. It would be nice to see these communicated via TT INFO and it is hoped to see more in future.

Our printers, Rieger's Copy Centre, have given excellent (and patient) service, assistance and advice.

Many thanks again to all, your contributions have really been appreciated.

**Robin Radford**

## New Zealand on the World Junior Circuit

**Congratulations Wellington and New Zealand. We have been selected as one of the host venues for the 2003 World Junior Circuit.**

The best players in the world aged under 18 are expected to converge on Wellington from late September for an event to be run alongside the NZ Championships. At the two most recent events held on the 2002 circuit there were teams entered from 28 and 26 countries respectively and from 5 different continents. This is potentially the largest international table tennis event New Zealand will have ever hosted.

The events planned include:

- An Oceania coaches course for Level 2 elite coaches
- A 3 day training camp with leading coaches Mikael Anderson, Glenn Tepper, Steve Dainton and others.
- An international teams event in which the NZ selectors will be entering a number of NZ teams made up of players who meet their criteria.
- Individual events with prize money in excess of \$NZ6000 guaranteed.



This is going to be a huge yet exciting task for us all. As event coordinator I will be working closely with Tournament Manager Dick Lynn and assisting his capable team to ensure preparations are first class. We will also likely be needing assistance from volunteers outside of Wellington as there are many areas we will need help in - setting up the hall, table stewards, umpires, hospitality people to cater to our overseas guests, transport, interpreters, etc. There may also be some specialist roles that need filling. If you are likely to be in the capital in September/October next year and would like to be part of the team, give me a call on 09-4183344 or email nhhta@ihug.co.nz. If you are from Wellington let one of the TTV committee know of your interest.

**John Stapleton** Event Coordinator.

## Welcome Publicity for Table Tennis from Radio Commentator

***On 8 August Newstalk ZB commentator Robin Gwynn had this to say:***

One of the good things about the Commonwealth Games is the exposure it gives to unheralded sports.

Three, in particular, stood out for me at Manchester: the indoor sports of badminton, squash and table tennis. New Zealand clearly has real talent in all of them - between them they gave us a haul of ten medals, as against just two in the many swimming pool events and none at all on the track except for the 50 kilometre walk.

More than that, they were all fascinating to watch. They were played with determination but with excellent sportsmanship. I've never played badminton, but its rapid fire smashes and deft recoveries made great TV viewing. Squash was more familiar, but I don't remember seeing doubles televised before, and there were amazing extended rallies in the final when Carol Owens and Leilani Rorani won gold for New Zealand.

And in table tennis, the spin and speed of some of the rallies was breathtaking, while Li Chunli produced what was for me the outstanding individual Kiwi performance of the games. For a 40-year-old, with a world ranking of 50, to go through the week undefeated in singles, beating the world ranked number 9 and number 16 twice each in the process, winning gold and helping teammates to 3 other team and doubles medals – this was a remarkable effort in a sport where razor-sharp reactions are so essential.

But why didn't we see more TV coverage of these sports during the Games? And why don't we see more of them on our screens regularly? I hope the success of our athletes in these disciplines will encourage our sports TV producers to cover a wider range than they do at the moment, and especially to cover these indoor sports at which we did so well.

I'm Robin Gwynn, and that's my thought for the week.

***TT Info fully endorses these comments – and extends grateful thanks to Robin for making the broadcast and for sending us the transcript.***

**The Board of TTNZ has recently appointed *Murray Finch* as National Junior Coach and *Helen Codlin* as Assistant National Junior Coach.**

### National Junior Coaching Appointments

These appointments are an honour as the development of emerging talent in both our men's and women's game is critical as we enter a transitional phase for both senior teams over the next few years.

As we reflect on the success of our team at the Commonwealth Games it is critical to note that we are only four years away from the next Commonwealth Games in Melbourne. The Board of TTNZ has identified the Melbourne Games as a key high performance priority. If we are to be competitive at that tournament (and beyond) we must start preparations now to lift the level of our emerging players to replace those of our current senior players who will be either retired or simply not good enough in four years time.

In a country as geographically spread as New Zealand and in a sport that is short of resources the question instantly arises, are the positions of 'National Coaches' any more than figureheads? In truth I am only beginning to get a 'feel' as to what our roles may be. It is certainly true that the role traditionally associated with a coach, that of managing the day-to-day, week-to-week development of individual players, is not possible for the National Coaches with the vast majority of elite junior players. This is, and will remain in the foreseeable future, the job of personal and association coaches. Our role must of necessity be broader than this. We will act as a tangible link between the selectors and the players and their coaches. We will give both players and coaches feedback and direction on what we and the selectors are looking for from our emerging talent. We will work to source international training and competitions that provide 'stepping stone' objectives for players to aim at and, for selectors, coaches and players, opportunities to assess progress. We will endeavour to organise training camps that will assemble our best emerging talent for quality intensive training, sharing of ideas and assessment of progress.

Four years is not a long time in the career of an international table tennis player but seems like forever to a junior player. Keeping emerging players motivated and in the stadiums and gyms training must be the role of the National Coaches, with the support of TTNZ and local coaches. They must provide interim objectives and opportunities that are challenging and exciting for players, together with support and feedback on players' progress and standing.

We are in the fortunate position in both the junior boys and girls games to have sizeable groups of players who are talented, dedicated and have good support networks. Helen and I look forward to working with these players and their coaches as we work towards common goals.

**Murray Finch**  
**National Junior Coach**



### New Zealand Secondary and Primary/Intermediate School Championships

#### NAIL-BITING FINAL AFTER THREE-TEAM COUNTBACK

School teams from Southland, Hutt Valley and Auckland finished with equal points after the round-robin stage of the NZ Secondary School Championships in Invercargill on 28 September. St Kentigern (Auckland) was then eliminated in a countback leaving Hutt Valley High School and Invercargill's James Hargest High School to contest the final which turned into a nail-biter all the way to the wire. The seven match contest was locked at 3-3 when **Anthony Wilson** (Hargest) faced **Vance Kelly** (Hutt) in the deciding singles. Wilson led 2-0 in the five game match, Kelly recovered to 2-2, and Wilson then scraped home 12-10 in the final game. Thus James Hargest High School became the 2002 NZ Champion Secondary School and the team of **Leanne Ridder**, **Scott Ridder** and **Anthony Wilson** earned the handsome Commercial Union Trophy for their school.

Earlier the NZ Primary/Intermediate Championships were held with Hutt Intermediate (**Grant Little**, **Jared Cunningham** and **Martin Leon**) proving too strong for Invercargill's Rosedale Intermediate in the final.

# OCEANIA CHAMPIONSHIPS

New Zealand players picked up 4 gold, 5 silver and 11 bronze medals at the Oceania Table Tennis championships in Suva, Fiji, in early July.

Gold medals came in the under 14 events where **Jiani Hu** won the singles final over fellow New Zealander and doubles partner **Sophie Shu**. Both girls combined to win the doubles.

The men's team played magnificently to win the Gold medal over Australia. **Aaron Li** fought hard to win two singles (a source told us that the Aussie guys all feared Aaron). He first narrowly defeated **William Henzell**. **Peter Jackson** then scored his first win ever over **Trevor Brown**, using well thought out tactics, and whooped with delight on victory. **Andrew Hubbard** (Mr. Photogenic for newspapers in Fiji and UK) pushed **Russell Lavale** all the way before losing in 5 games. Aaron then finished off the victory by defeating Brown.

NZ found one Australian a problem in the men's singles: **Russell Lavale**, who was on top form. Runner-up in the last two championships, he was not going to let this one get away. He defeated New Zealanders **Shane Laugesen** in the quarter finals, **Peter Jackson** (top seed) in the semi finals and followed this by beating **Aaron Li** in the final 11-13, 11-4, 11-8, 13-11, 11-7.

In the women's singles **Karen Li** lost to top seed Australian **Miao Miao** in the semi-finals. Miao in turn lost the final to **Jian Fang Lay**.

**Jackson and Li**, top seeds in the men's doubles, went down to fifth seeds **William Henzell and Alex Swanson** in the quarter finals and **Andrew Hubbard** and **Shane Laugesen** picked up a bronze when they lost in the semi-finals to **Russell Lavale** and **Trevor Brown** in five games. Lavale and Brown went on to win.

**Andy Huang** won the silver medal in the under 20 singles and under 17 singles, losing in both finals to top Australian **John Tawadrous**.

As a result of winning Gold, the NZ Under 17 Boys team now has the right to represent Oceania at the first World Junior Championships in Chile in December 2003.

Summary of Results:

## Teams events:

### Men

beat Fiji 5-0, beat Tonga 5-0, beat Tahiti 4-1, beat New Caledonia 5-0, beat Australia 3-1. **GOLD**

### Women

beat Kiribati 5-0, beat Fiji 5-0, beat New Caledonia 5-0, beat Tahiti 5-0, lost to Australia 0-3. **SILVER**

### Under 20 Men Group B

beat New Caledonia 5-0, beat Tahiti B 5-0, beat Kiribati 5-0, **Play off** beat Tahiti 5-0, lost to Australia 2-3. **SILVER**

### Under 20 Women

beat Fiji 5-0, beat Kiribati 5-0, lost to New Caledonia 2-3, lost to Tahiti 1-4, lost to Australia 0-5. **Position 4th**



**Sophie Shu (L) & Jiani Hu** proudly display their medals.

### Under 17 Boys Group B

beat New Caledonia 5-0, beat Fiji 5-0, beat Tonga 5-0, beat Tahiti B 5-0,

**Play off** beat Australia 3-2. **GOLD**

### Under 17 Girls

beat Tahiti 5-0, beat New Caledonia 5-0, beat Fiji 5-0, beat Kiribati 5-0,

lost to Australia 1-4. **SILVER**

In the **individual events** NZ medal winners were:-

Gold	<b>Jiani Hu</b>	Under 14 Girls' Singles
Gold	<b>Jiani Hu &amp; Sophie Shu</b>	Under 14 Girls' Doubles
Silver	<b>Aaron Li</b>	Men's Singles
Silver	<b>Andy Huang</b>	Under 20 Men's Singles
Silver	<b>Andy Huang</b>	Under 17 Boys' Singles
Silver	<b>Jiani Hu &amp; Sarah Ho</b>	Under 17 Girls' Doubles
Silver	<b>Sophie Shu</b>	Under 14 Girls' Singles
Bronze	<b>Peter Jackson</b>	Men's Singles
Bronze	<b>Andrew Hubbard &amp; Shane Laugesen</b>	Men's Doubles
Bronze	<b>Aaron Li &amp; Karen Li</b>	Mixed Doubles
Bronze	<b>Karen Li &amp; Tracey McLauchlan</b>	Women's Doubles
Bronze	<b>Simon Wallace</b>	Under 20 Men's Singles
Bronze	<b>Chris Erskine &amp; Andy Huang</b>	Under 17 Boys' Doubles
Bronze	<b>Karen Li</b>	Women's Singles
Bronze	<b>John Cordue &amp; Yi-Sien Lin</b>	Under 20 Men's Doubles
Bronze	<b>Andy Huang &amp; Simon Wallace</b>	Under 20 Men's Doubles
Bronze	<b>Jiani Hu</b>	Under 17 Girls' Singles
Bronze	<b>Sarah Ho</b>	Under 17 Girls' Singles

## The Long Road from Nadi Airport to the Stadium

Our senior players and management must have felt they had earned a medal before the Oceania Championships even started.

They landed in Nadi from New Zealand at 9.20 pm, took an hour to get through customs and then set out for what should have been a three and a half hour bus trip to Suva. After about 10 kms the bus window wipers would not work. They waited and another bus came along. Both drivers seemed to take a long time deciding what to do. Eventually they took both buses back to Nadi, parked under a garage canopy and transferred the luggage to a bigger bus which was heading for Suva anyway. After stopping for half an hour for an accident they moved on at slow speed (hitting a cow on the way) and reached the motel at about 2.30am.

The officials had been asked to leave a timetable at the motel but they didn't and with a motel office which didn't open till 8 am and a phone without instructions (which wouldn't have been any help anyway because you needed to buy a phone card from the office), the manager went down to the stadium at 8.30am to find the official opening was at 9 am. After a quick rush back to wake up the team (who had only been in bed a short while) they made it - with the help of island time.

## Oceania's – great experience, great hospitality

**Murray Finch accompanied the New Zealand team to the Oceania Championships as a coach and also worked as one of several coaches running a training camp prior to the championships. He writes about the experience....**

*What do you think about a trip to a tropical paradise in the middle of a wet New Zealand winter? Sounds like a great idea? Only catch is you have to play a table tennis tournament!!*

The Oceania's were held in Fiji this year and the prospect of getting away from our mid-winter blues to the warmth of the tropics must have appealed to most of those selected for the trip. The reality of playing table tennis in the heat and humidity of Suva soon hit home. First to experience this were **Sarah Ho, Michelle McCarthy, Leanne Ridder, Hanna Squire** and myself - who participated in the pre-tournament training camp. This was run over two and a half days and during the hottest conditions experienced while we were there. The camp was well received with five 2 hour sessions per day involving anything from 20 to 40 players on 8 tables each session. We were honoured by the presence of ITTF President, **Adam Sharara**, during the camp and the early part of the tournament. He spoke glowingly of the training camp and the tournament. It was his first visit to the region.

The juniors were housed at the University of South Pacific, about 300 metres from the Stadium. The closeness was a huge advantage as was having meals provided on campus. The food was generally good although some of the "meat and 3 veg" members of the team had to make some dietary adjustments. The rooms were spartan, the beds were "firm", the showers and toilets communal, the frogs loud at night, the lizards on the wall of your room a bit spooky and the mosquitoes were **vicious**. But we were comfortable, safe, well looked after, and able to use the campus pool.

The senior teams and management stayed in more luxurious hotel accommodation a bit further away from the stadium. This apparent hardship didn't seem to affect their performance - taxis were very cheap so they were able to avoid the arduous 1.5 to 2 km walk to the stadium.

### Enormous potential

In general, the tournament was a very successful one for New Zealand players, made even more enjoyable by the seemingly limitless hospitality and friendliness of our hosts and the local people we met. Perhaps the lasting impression I have as a

selector and a coach was of the enormous potential of the juniors on this trip. This was a large and relatively inexperienced team of young players and the talent, capacity and willingness to learn, attitude and application to training, and determination to win, all shown collectively was very encouraging for the future.

**Murray Finch**, National Selector, National Junior Coach



**NZ Girls' team** meet with **Adam Sharara** (President of the International Table Tennis Federation) at the Oceania Championships.

L/R: **Hanna Squire, Michelle McCarthy, Sarah Ho, Mr Sharara, Sophie Shu, Leanne Ridder.**

## The Oceanias – a Tournament to Remember

by **Michelle McCarthy** (Lower Hutt)

It was like walking into a furnace  
We thought the air would burn us  
We'd arrived in Fiji  
Four others and me  
And headed to the USP Campus

Along the dusty road we sped  
In a shuttle to Suva we head

The Fijian landscape we could see  
Sugar cane fields, more than one palm tree

Their simple lifestyle we adapted to  
It would have been different if there was a coup

At the national gymnasium the Oceanias  
were held  
It was huge, echoed if we yelled

Through the tournament we followed a diet of rice

If we left any Murray was there in a trice

"Rice every day gives you energy to play!"  
A typical thing for an adult to say

We attended a training camp for days one,  
two and three  
There was Sarah, Leanne, Hanna and me

The players turned up a trifle late  
Island time is a terrible fate

We showered about five times a day  
As these were the hottest days of our stay

Sunday evening the rest of the team arrived  
With their support, the harder we strived

The team competition began the next day  
Although that night we had to play

Athletes from eleven countries competed in all  
Some young, some old, some short, some tall

The junior teams stayed at USP  
The seniors at a motel (to escape us  
you see)

Our uniform we wore with pride  
The best by far, we did decide

In teams events the competition was tough  
By the end of the day we were all pretty  
stuffed

Silver medals were won by NZ teams X three  
Under 17 girls, 20 boys and women you see

Under 17 boys had a spectacular win to get  
gold  
World junior champs entrants and an  
Oceania title to hold

Chile is where they'll go next year  
My advice to the rest of the teams  
"BEWARE!!"

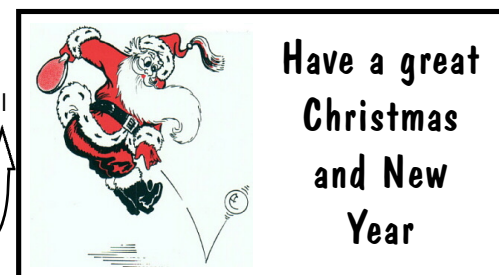
The NZ men's team also won gold  
"An awesome performance" they were told

The individual events were also a success  
There were many selectors for all to impress  
(Can't expect us Caucasians to play like the  
Asians!)

Congratulations to all who took part  
You have skill, perseverance and a strong  
heart

On behalf of all I'd like to thank  
The coaches and managers in the NZ rank  
We really appreciate the effort you showed  
Beginning from the minute the rooster  
crowed

Throughout the Oceanias we had a ball  
"An awesome experience" would be quoted by  
all.



## Playing in the Oceania Championships

### *A Junior Player Describes the Experience*

My first international tournament representing New Zealand was a great experience. I was selected in the under 17 girls team for the Oceania Champs in Fiji in July this year. I also attended the Oceania Development Training Camp that was held just before the Champs. It was good to get coaching from different coaches from Australia, New Caledonia and Fiji. The weather was really hot (28 to 31 C) and it was a mistake not to bring a towel to my first training session!

In the teams events we finished second to Australia which was very disappointing at the time, but I think that the experience will make us all more determined to do better next time. It was good to play against players from other countries. I got to play one of the best players in Oceania, Miao Miao (Australian no.1) in the second round of women's singles. You can always learn and gain experience from playing good players. Getting to know other New Zealand players was one of the best things to come from the trip for me. Encouragement from coaches and players during matches was great and it certainly strengthened the team.

The ITTF President, Adam Sharara, was at the tournament and some of us got to meet him. I thought that it was great that such an important person would take time to talk to us.

It was interesting to find that Fijians have a much more relaxed attitude to time than we do; they were never in a hurry to do things. We stayed at the university hostel (University of South Pacific), which was 10 minutes walk from the stadium and we had one room each. It was a real hassle because we had to hold on to a key and lock the door every time we left the room, even just to go to the TV lounge upstairs. The boys weren't allowed in the girls' units but we could go into the boys' rooms. The girls had better facilities than the boys. The boys had to go outside to the toilets and showers and to a common room to watch TV but we had a TV, fridge, showers and toilets in our building. We shared 4 showers and 3 toilets. It'd be normal to find lizards on the wall while I brushed my teeth! There were frogs everywhere as well, especially at night! I had lots of mosquito bites - first they were just itchy, but then they turned into huge red lumps that wouldn't go away until the tournament finished!

We had one day when we went shopping and I learnt how to barter! Hanna and Sophie were the best at it - they got these necklaces which started out at \$12 and they bartered down to two for \$4!! The taxis were really cheap as well - it cost only \$2.50 for a carload of four to drive 10 minutes into town.



It was really good playing for New Zealand and the trip was a very memorable one.

**Sarah Ho**



**Sarah**

## CANTERBURY TRIUMPHS

Displaying a level of domination rarely seen at NZ Championships, Canterbury won seven of the nine A grade or open grade team events contested. Only the Over 45 women and Under 15 boys championships eluded them. This remarkable achievement was then crowned by Canterbury players winning the men's and women's open singles titles in the individual events.

In the team events Canterbury defeated Nelson in the Men's final and Wellington in the Women's. Nelson's **Johnny Liang** and Wellington's **Catherine Zhou** put up strong resistance but Canterbury's strength at the top and superior depth ultimately prevailed. The Canterbury men were represented by **Aaron Li**, **Simon Wallace** and **Malcolm Darroch**, supported in the preliminary rounds by **Yi-Sien Lin** and **Malcolm Moore**. The women's team was **Jiang Yang**, **Mi Ryung Chun** and **Li Tong**, supported earlier by **Linda Chen** and **Chen Wu**.

A spectacular men's singles final between Aaron Li and Johnny Liang always appeared to be heading in Li's direction and although Liang made a determined bid early in the second game, the Canterbury star always had the answer and won the match 5, 5, 7, 8. The women's final saw two defensive-style players facing each other and the expedite rule was eventually invoked. This rule, requiring the point to be won by the server within 13 strokes or awarded to the receiver, livened up the game and completely changed its complexion. Canterbury's Mi Ryung Chun gradually wore down Bay of Plenty's **Sun Yang** to win 6, 10, 3, -5, 2.

In addition to the open events, ten other graded or age categories were contested ranging from Over 55 to Under 13.

The venue for the championships was Stadium Southland in Invercargill and the main sponsor was the Invercargill Licensing Trust. The entry was one of the best seen in the South Island recently in terms of numbers and overall quality which is an indication that players are willing to travel from all over New Zealand to a southern venue, reciprocating the regular support Southland players give when the championships are held in northern centres.

Prompt and very full media releases were supplied daily by Southland's Development Officer, **Lindsay Beer**, and these were posted to the TTNZ website within hours of the completion of key matches.

## RESULTS

<u>Open</u>	<u>Winner</u>	<u>Singles Runner Up</u>
Men's Singles	Aaron Li (C)	Johnny Liang (N)
Women's Singles	Mi Ryung Chun (C)	Sun Yang (BP)
Men's Doubles	A Li & Simon Wallace (C)	
Women's Doubles	L Chen & Sun Yang (C/BP)	
Mixed Doubles	J Liang & Sun Yang (N/BP)	
<u>B Grade</u>		
Men's Singles	Alan Pedley (MN)	Jie Zhang (W)
Women's Singles	Sophie Shu (A)	Sarah Ho (WK)
Men's Doubles	J Cordue & A Yee (C)	
Women's Doubles	S Ho & S Shu (WK/A)	
<u>C Grade</u>		
Men's Singles	Blair Paterson (MN)	Jack Wells (N)
Women's Singles	Sachiko Hara (WK)	Hanna Squire (W)
Men's Doubles	S Buchanan & V Kelly (W)	
Women's Doubles	L Bellamy & S Hara (WK)	

## New Zealand Open results continued:

<u>Over 55 years</u>	<u>Winner</u>	<u>Singles Runner Up</u>
Men's Singles	Chip Eade (WT)	Alan Alabaster (C)
Women's Singles	Pauline Bennyworth (WK)	Ngairé Garrett (S)
Men's Doubles	A Alabaster & C Tipper (C/O)	
Women's Doubles	N Garrett & P Swale (S)	
Mixed Doubles	K Armstrong & P Bennyworth (C/WK)	
<u>Over 45 years</u>		
Men's Singles	John Fogarty (O)	Alan Alabaster (C)
Women's Singles	Sun Yi Wen (N)	Pauline Bennyworth (WK)
Men's Doubles	J Fogarty & B McConnochie (O/W)	
Women's Doubles	P Bennyworth & R McKechnie (WK/C)	
Mixed Doubles	S Craw & P Bennyworth (C/WK)	
<u>Over 35 years</u>		
Men's Singles	Malcolm Darroch (C)	Alan Pedley (MN)
Women's Singles	Kadia Keller-Rice (BP)	Sabine Westenra (W)
Men's Doubles	M Darroch & A Pedley (C/MN)	
Women's Doubles	S Westenra & R Young (W)	
Mixed Doubles	D Scott & R Young (NH/W)	
<u>Under 21 years</u>		
Men's Singles	Johnny Liang (N)	Peter Craven (A)
Women's Singles	Sun Yang (BP)	Jiang Yang (C)
Men's Doubles	C Erskine & J Liang (N)	
Women's Doubles	Jiang Yang & Li Tong (C)	
Mixed Doubles	J Liang & Sun Yang (N/BP)	
<u>Under 19 years</u>		
Boys' Singles	Andy Huang (A)	Simon Wallace (C)
Girls' Singles	Sun Yang (BP)	Li Tong (C)
Boys' Doubles	J Alexandre & A Soh (A)	
Girls' Doubles	F Li & Sun Yang (A/BP)	
Mixed Doubles	A Soh & Sun Yang (A/BP)	
<u>Under 17 years</u>		
Boys' Singles	Andy Huang (A)	Josh Alexandre (A)
Girls' Singles	Wu Chen (C)	Mornica Li (C)
Boys' Doubles	J Alexandre & S Wallace (A/C)	
Girls' Doubles	M Li & Wu Chen (C)	
Mixed Doubles	S Wallace & Wu Chen (C)	
<u>Under 15 years</u>		
Boys' Singles	Binbin Zhu (A)	Chris Erskine (N)
Girls' Singles	Wu Chen (C)	Jiani Hu (N)
Boys' Doubles	N Lowe & B Zhu (A)	
Girls' Doubles	J Hu & S Shu (N/A)	
Mixed Doubles	B Zhu & S Shu (A)	
<u>Under 13 years</u>		
Boys' Singles	Steven Zeng (A)	Matthew Lowe (A)
Girls' Singles	Jiani Hu (N)	Sophie Shu (A)
Boys' Doubles	N Ambrosini & N Charles (NCL)	
Girls' Doubles	J Hu & S Shu (N/A)	
Mixed Doubles	S Zeng & S Shu (A)	

## New Policy for Appointing Referees

From next year, Referees for the five national tournaments (NZ Championships, NZ Veterans, North and South Island Championships, Summer Nationals) are to be appointed by the host Association from a list approved by the Umpires Committee. The current list of approved Referees is:-

**Bill Burns    Robert Dunn    David Jackson    Michael McAvinue**  
**Ivan Moffat    John Stapleton    Janice Stead    Bruce Penberthy**

In appointing the Referee, the host Association has to be aware that the Referee cannot also be a competitor and that they as host have to pay for reasonable travel, accommodation and meal expenses for the Referee for the duration of the Tournament.

Players, umpires and administrators also need to be aware that only a Referee may default a player.

It has also been decided that playing shirts must have a collar. TTNZ will advise other countries of this policy – ie, that players must play in collared shirts or their official Association shirt.

## Wellington & Hutt Valley Now Amalgamated

**TT Info** caught up with **Paul Escott** recently and enquired how the new Association was progressing. He told us that the major benefits of amalgamation so far evident are in the coaching and squad training areas where larger groups and different playing styles give variety to practices; and in the management of tournaments where a larger pool of workers with varying skills spreads the workload considerably.

With a greater depth of players at top level, competition to make representative teams for the nationals has been quite fierce as players in contention with each other strive for better results. This will inevitably raise the overall standard.

It's early days yet, but the general feeling of players and administrators is that amalgamation is a step in the right direction.

Paul Escott heads the new Association as President and there is a good mix of people from both former associations on the executive and in other key roles.

## NZ Open - Teams Results

<b>Open Men</b>		<b>Open Women</b>	
A grade	Canterbury	A grade	Canterbury 1
B grade	Wellington 2		
C grade	Otago 2		
<b>Junior</b>		<b>Veteran</b>	
Boys under 19 A grade	Canterbury		
Boys under 19 B grade	Waikato	Over 45 men	Canterbury 1
Girls under 19 A grade	Canterbury 1	Over 45/55 women	Southland
Boys under 15 A grade	Auckland 1	Over 55 men	Canterbury
Boys under 15 B grade	Wellington 2		
Girls under 15 A grade	Canterbury		



The **North Harbour Social Veterans teams day** is celebrated annually and brings together players over a wide range of ages from the Bay of Islands down through to Hamilton. 82 players took part this year. North Harbour Association aim to show that table tennis is the sport for all ages and is great for warning off the effects of arthritis, keeping bones and body tissues strong and supple, and keeping fit with a low impact safe sport that is also fun.



The camaraderie on the day is special.

Pictured here is June Foote, Harry Sangl and Pauline Gapper with Errol Cheal (seated). Errol was the first ever NZ men's champion way back in 1934 – and won the World over 80 doubles title in 1991.

## North Island Trainees Impress Coaches

A training camp for North Island players, run by Murray Finch and Hagen Bower, was held at North Harbour stadium over Queen's Birthday weekend. The camp was used in part as build-up for the Oceania Championships.

The coaches were impressed by:

- The exemplary attitude and effort of the players
- The way the players related to each other as a group
- The positive sign that the girls/women's game is being substantially strengthened through the efforts of a group of talented and dedicated young female players.

Although the camp was restricted to North Islanders, the National Selectors were fully involved in the choice of the players – a change from the previous policy where regional coaches and coordinators made the choice. The selectors will take an active role in future regional camps and use them as part of an overall player assessment system.



**Murray Finch** and **Hagen Bower** (L/H side photo) with participants.

## THE ROAD TO THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES

Our quest for medals at the 2002 Commonwealth Games began from the moment we learned that table tennis was to be included. From that point on the event featured prominently in our High Performance plan.

Late last year Ron Garrett was appointed as Table Tennis Section Manager for the Games, James Morris as Coach, and Simeon Cairns as Assistant Coach. These appointments marked the beginning of our serious build-up. Training in January 2002 by a selected Games squad under Swedish coach Jan Berner was reported on in our previous issue. The actual team for the Games was selected in March.

The following excerpt from *Ron Garrett's* official report gives glimpses behind the scenes and summarises the whole story through to its memorable climax – Li Chunli's gold medal.



### The Beginning

The inclusion of table tennis in the Commonwealth Games was exciting for New Zealand table tennis.

The NZ Olympic Committee (NZOC), which organises the New Zealand Team to the Games, invited table tennis to take part and set criteria for selection which mainly related to individual performances at world ranking events. Team events gave us the opportunity to select players who would not have reached the standard set to compete on an individual basis. TTNZ also set its own criteria.

### Selection

TTNZ National Selectors (Convenor Averil Roberts, James Morris and Murray Finch) selected **Andrew Hubbard, Peter Jackson, Shane Laugesen, Aaron Li, Li Chunli, Karen Li, Tracey McLauchlan** and **Laura-Lee Smith**. The team was approved by NZOC before announcement.

The same team was to also represent New Zealand at the Oceania Championships in Fiji prior to the Games.

### Pre-Games Planning and Training

Within the funding restrictions forced on us by a limited budget, planning went on to provide the best opportunity for the players to win a medal at the Games. Training for the women's team was arranged in China with the help of Chunli. Unfortunately increased airfares knocked a large hole in our budget which prevented us from going ahead with training for the men in England or France.

Arrangements were finalised to go direct from the Oceania Championships to Manchester for training outside the Games venue for seven days before moving into the village a week before the Games began. This involved a lot of headaches and changes. We appreciated having David Fairholm (who coached in New Zealand in 1982) and Gail McCulloch (who toured NZ in 1980 and did some coaching as well) helping us with training venues and accommodation.

### **Free Clothing**

NZOC supplied a large amount of clothing free except the playing uniform which TTNZ had to provide. The free issue included a tracksuit, shower-proof jacket, polar fleece jacket, polar fleece vest, 3 black shirts, 3 grey shirts, long sleeve shirt, dress uniform including jacket, trousers or skirt, 2 shirts, umbrella, cap, and gear bag. No member could say they were not well set up.

TTNZ supplied the playing shorts and after a few turn-downs I was able to arrange a sponsor (Badger Solutions, Christchurch) for the playing shirts. The shirts were couriered at the last minute and at Auckland airport we discovered 7 had long sleeves. They were sent back and the company forwarded replacements for Helen Codlin to bring to Manchester at a later date. We also discovered that the sizes seemed to be all larger than normal. Badger Solutions agreed to supply one extra set, a size smaller than normal, and this worked out OK for the players.

### **Oceania Championships, Pre-Games**

NZOC agreed to a stopover in Fiji on the way to the Games at little or no extra cost to the Manchester flight. No doubt the selectors would have considered long and hard whether to spend the \$7000 extra required to bring Peter Jackson and Andrew Hubbard back from France for the Oceania Championships but hindsight shows they made the correct decision. Li Chunli's professional contract in Japan excluded her from the Oceania Champs and considering the standard of play in Japan against one tough match in Fiji (v Australia) her preparation for the Games and the chance of a medal was better served by her remaining in Japan. The down-side was that she would miss out on representing Oceania in the Women's World Cup in 2003.

Separate reports on the Oceania Championships, held in Fiji from 1 – 7 July and an important part of our Games build-up, appear on pages 8-12).

### **Training in England, Pre-Games**

We left Fiji at 10.25 pm on the 11 July and arrived in Manchester at 2.50pm on the 12 July after 21 hours flight time with short stops at Los Angeles and London. We were met by Gail McCulloch and Mike Johns who were a great help in organising transport, accommodation at a reasonable rate, and a training venue also at a good rate. If we paid market rates we would be looking at an extra \$6000 approx. - money we did not have.

Peter and Andrew arrived the next day from Paris. Training was held in the Egerton Youth Centre, some 30 minutes drive from our hotel in Northwich. The facilities were good and the players responded well to the schedule set by James and Simeon to get them in top condition before moving into the village. This section of training was intensive and tested the physical abilities of the players. Transport was by a 15 seater minibus arranged by Mike at a good rate. It just held all of us and luggage on our final trip into Manchester Village.

Both Northwich and Knutsford were nice little "Olde English" villages.

### **Entry to Games Village**

We left our hotel in Northwich on 19 July for the Accreditation Centre in Manchester and were met by two members of the New Zealand Games headquarters staff who helped us through the process without any hitch, then on the bus to the Games Village where we were met by NZ Chef-de-Mission Dave Currie. After lunch (the dining hall was huge, catered for all tastes and was open all hours) we again met with Dave and some of the headquarters staff who explained details of village life.

In the evening we went to the Table Tennis Centre by bus for our first view of the playing facilities. The Centre, normally used for tennis, was arranged with two show courts surrounded by tiered seating, eight adjacent courts and eight practice courts at the rear. Each court was surrounded by barriers, jade in colour as were the tables. The floor was red rubber. The main problem with the stadium was lack of ventilation. The players practised that evening and every day until the competition began.

Every morning I attended a sport managers meeting at 6.30am.

On the evening of 22 July Li Chunli arrived from Japan to complete the team.

### **Build-up to Opening**

On 23 July there was a technical meeting to go over details of competition, officials, changes etc. The draw for the team events was also held, attended by James and myself. The men (seeded 6) were drawn in a group with India (seeded 4), Mauritius (11), and Jamaica (13), Kenya and Maldives. The women's group was NZ (3), India (5), Wales (8) and Northern Ireland (10).

The New Zealand flag-raising ceremony was held on the same day. This involved a speech by the Mayor of Manchester, an exchange of paintings, the raising of the flag, and the NZ national anthem sung by a local school choir who also did the Haka. The sevens rugby team replied with their own Haka, long to be remembered by the choir members.

There was anxiety about the table tennis timetable. The schedule for the first round was expected on 23 July. By 3 pm on the 25<sup>th</sup>, still no timetable! What a hassle. The excuse is TV for show courts.

On 24 July photographs were taken on the Old Trafford grandstand and the Team function was held at the new Imperial War Museum where Sarah Ulmer was named flagbearer and team captain. Each team was presented with a framed plaque which I asked Peter Jackson to accept on the team's behalf.

25 July: Practice in the morning and the Opening Ceremony in the evening. Because of the expected late finish (around 1am) and an early start in the morning for all players we decided the players would not attend. James and Simeon also decided not to go. This decision wasn't readily accepted by all players, which was understandable but we were there to win medals. In hindsight it was a good decision. The alternative was to sit or stand on a bus for 30 minutes, sit in the squashed headquarters for over an hour, wait 30 minutes to get into the stadium, be in the stadium for around 40 minutes, 20 minutes or so to get out and another 30 to 40 minutes on the bus to get home - most of the time standing!!

### **Competition, and the Gold Medal**

Competition began on 26 July and the results of the New Zealanders matches are summarized on pages 22-24. The men performed well but the highlights for us were almost exclusively confined to the women's competition, and due in large measure to the superb form of Li Chunli.

Team section play, minor placing play-offs, quarter finals and semi-finals occupied the first four days. The men lost their quarter final but the women won their's to secure our first ever Commonwealth Games medal, and by no means the last as it turned out. They lost to eventual winners Singapore in the semi's. The men's and women's finals took place on 30 July, followed by the medal ceremonies. Our women's team proudly took the stand to receive their bronze medals.

There was more happening over the first four days than the team contests – at the end of the second day a meeting was held to conduct the singles draw, the doubles draw was held the next evening, and after the team medal ceremony a General Meeting of the Commonwealth Table Tennis Federation took place.

Individual Competition began on 31 July with Tracey McLauchlan and Laura-Lee Smith the first on the table in group play. The rest of our players started the following day. By the fourth and second to last day Karen Li and Li Chunli were still in the women's singles and doubles and two NZ pairs (Peter Jackson and Li Chunli; Shane Laugesen and Karen Li) remained in the mixed doubles. The women's doubles was played to its conclusion that day with Chunli and Karen reaching the final. Again New Zealand featured in a medal ceremony, this time for a silver medal.

4 August was the final day of competition with Peter Jackson and Li Chunli in the mixed doubles semi-final and, most exciting of all, Li Chunli in the women's singles final. Peter and Chunli collected bronze for the doubles (Chunli's third medal), and Chunli put the icing on the cake by winning the singles gold medal ahead of several players with much higher world rankings. It was a great occasion for the New Zealand team to see Chunli receive the medal and hear the NZ anthem sung.

### Games End

The Closing Ceremony on 4 August started at 9pm but we had to leave the village at 6.30pm and didn't get home till around midnight. The biggest problem for the athletes was the weather - it rained all the time. Manchester put on a great show, but it looked better on TV.

On the final full day some athletes were leaving, others cleaning up, saying good-byes etc. We departed early on 6 August, by bus to London for those coming home directly. For me it was getting a car and heading for Edinburgh (the Military Tattoo) then to the southern part of England, and home two weeks later.

### Highlights

We went to the Games with expectations of 2 medals and a possible chance of others. We came home with 1 Gold, 1 Silver and 2 Bronze. This result in the Games where table tennis was played for the first time was great for the sport in New Zealand.

### In Attendance

It was great to see important people in the sporting world in attendance: Dave Currie (our Games Chef-de-Mission), Barry Maister and John Davies (NZOC), John Wells (Chairman of SPARC), Trevor Mallard (Minister of Sport and Recreation), plus players and officials from other sports, New Zealanders in Manchester, and relations of some of the team members who gave their support.

### Thank You

The quest for medals began a long time ago and I would like to record the amount of work put in by James Morris (with great support from Christine), leading up to the camp in January, and right through to the GOLD MEDAL.

James was dedicated to the team performing well and put all his effort into bringing a good result, not without frustrations at times. While it is difficult to put a cost on volunteers, if someone had to pay the bill for James' time and effort it would not be cheap but it would be value for money.

Simeon Cairns was equally dedicated to the quest for gold and used his qualifications to bring out the best in players (even if some did not like the physical side). Simeon developed a good understanding with the women's team and the results speak for themselves.

I would like to thank James and Simeon for their support and the players for their efforts throughout the seven weeks leading up to and during the Games.

### Ron Garrett Team Manager



### Celebrations (left)

Rear: **Tracey McLauchlan, Laura Lee-Smith, Richard de Groen**, (NZOC), **Tony Snell** (NZ Physiotherapist), **Karen Li**, Front: **Helen Codlin, James Morris, Ron Garrett, Dave Currie** (NZ Chef de Mission).



"Just Singing in the Rain"

**James Morris  
and Simeon Cairns  
Closing Ceremony**

### Drugs Testing at Commonwealth Games a Show

Some of our Commonwealth Games players were required to undergo drug testing. They were informed less than 90 minutes before important matches and a drug tester followed them around until a sample was provided. This impaired mental preparation. When I questioned the supervisor of the process, he had absolutely no understanding of what drugs may or may not assist table tennis performance.

Clearly, this testing is a show. It needs to be changed for the sake of the players.

**Simeon Cairns**



**Enthusiasm in the far south!  
Recruitment supreme!**

**Bob Hurr's 3 day old  
granddaughter starting her  
training!**

## The Teams Results

### Women

beat Northern Ireland 3-1  
 beat Wales 3-2  
 lost to India 2-3

### Quarter -Final

beat England 3-1

### Semi-Final

lost to Singapore (**Bronze Medal**) 2-3

### Men

beat Kenya 3-0  
 beat Jamaica 3-0  
 beat Mauritius 3-0  
 lost to India 1-3  
 beat Maldives 3-0

### Quarter-Final

lost to Singapore 0-3

### 5 to 8 position

lost to Wales 1-3

### 7 to 8 position

lost to Canada 2-3



## How our team fared in the Individual Events

### Women's Singles

#### Group D Qualifying

Laura-Lee Smith lost to  
 Tracey McLauchlan lost to

Ghazala Rohi (Pak)  
 Krystie Harvey (Bar)  
 Agnes Ngodoki (Tan)  
 Katy Parker (Eng)  
 Jiin Soo Chu(Mas)

#### Round of 32

Karen Li beat

Jan Fang Lay (Aust)

#### Round of 16

Karen Li beat  
 Li Chunli beat

Bethan Daunton (Wal)  
 Poulomi Ghatac (Ind)

#### Quarter Final

Karen Li lost to  
 Li Chunli beat

Jia Wei Li (Sing)  
 Zhang Xue Ling

#### Semi-Final

Li Chunli beat

Jing Jun Hong

#### Final

Li Chunli beat

Li Jia Wei **GOLD MEDAL**

### Mens Singles

#### Round of 64

Andrew Hubbard beat  
 Shane Laugesen lost to

Patrick Sahajasen (Mri)  
 John Tawadrous (Aus)

#### Round of 32

Andrew Hubbard lost to  
 Peter Jackson lost to  
 Aaron Li beat

Andrew Baggaley (Eng)  
 Dexter St Louis (Tri)  
 Sourav Chakraborty (Ind)

#### Round of 16

Aaron Li lost to

Segun Moses Tariola (Ngr)

### Womens Doubles

#### Round of 32

McLauchlan/Smith beat

Gulrajani/Picon Achong (Mri)

#### Round of 16

McLauchlan/Smith lost to  
 Li/Li beat

Jing/Li (Sing)  
 Walker/Steward (Eng)

#### Quarter Final

Li/Li beat

Gough/Cho (Aust)

#### Semi Final

Li/Li beat

Tan/Zhang (Sing)

#### Final

Li/Li lost to

Jing/Li (Sing) **SILVER MEDAL**

### Mens Doubles

#### Round of 32

Jackson/Li beat  
 Hubbard/Laugesen beat

Griffiths/Jenkins (Wales)  
 Tawadrous/Clarke (Aust)

### Li Chunli

**GOLD**



### Silver Medal to Sisters

Li Chunli and Karen Li with their Women's Doubles Silver medals.

<i>Round of 16</i>		
Jackson/Li	beat	Cirbin/Burke (Tri)
Hubbard/Laugesen	lost to	Huang/Peter Paul (Can)
<i>Quarter Final</i>		
Jackson/Li	lost to	Baggaley/Herbert (Eng)
<b>Mixed Doubles</b>		
<i>Round of 64</i>		
Li/McLauchlan	beat	Gita/Kisakye (Uga)
Hubbard/Smith	lost to	Subramanian/Ghosh (Ind)
<i>Round of 32</i>		
Laugesen/K Li	beat	Sen/Tan (Sing)
Jackson/Li Chunli	beat	Perry/Lower (Eng)
Li/McLauchlan	lost to	Peter Paul/Rossey (Can)
<i>Round of 16</i>		
Laugesen/K Li	beat	Baggaley/Walker (Eng)
Jackson/Li Chunli	beat	Merotohlin/Offiong (Ngr)
<i>Quarter Final</i>		
Laugesen/K Li	lost to	Clarke/Lay (Aust)
Jackson/Li Chunli	beat	Jenkins/Daunton (Wal)
<b>Semi Final</b>		
Jackson/Li Chunli	lost to	Duan/Li (Sing) <b>BRONZE MEDAL</b>

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## COMMONWEALTH GAMES – A MANAGER’S VIEW

The following are some brief comments on my role as Sport Manager of the NZ Table Tennis team within the NZ Commonwealth Games Team.

Elsewhere in this magazine are further details and viewpoints on the team’s success so I will not repeat them.

In July 2001 I decided to throw my hat in the ring. One of the criteria was “experience as manager of a senior team at international events”. This I did not have - my experience was at junior team level plus attendance at two world championships in a private capacity.

Considering I had experience at management level in the business world and “how does one gain previous experience if a position has not been available in recent years”, an application was lodged and I landed the position.

I received a thick folder from the Games Committee and wondered what I had let myself in for. However, it was common sense and in line with my own views on management.

In brief, the table tennis team’s goal was to win medals and my job was to take care of all the incidentals such as transport, accommodation, meal arrangements, meetings etc, and allow the players and coaches to pursue the team goals without worrying about anything else. In effect the management team for table tennis was myself, James Morris and Simeon Cairns, and I was the liaison with the Games Committee.

Where necessary the full team was involved in decisions. While not everyone was always in agreement, this was expected since all of us are different. While some decisions were not liked, they were accepted and the reason understood.

My first involvement with most team members was at the camp in Whangarei in January this year. My wife Ngairé and I took the chance of a holiday in Northland at this time and thanks are due to James for putting us up for the two or three part days we spent at the camp. This trip was at no cost to TTNZ.

My first contact with other Games officials and team managers was a three day conference in Palmerston North in April. I thought “what are we going to do for three days?” However it was a great and interesting meeting covering team organisation, leadership, sport psychology, health services, security, media training, arrivals procedure, village layout and conditions.

The pre-Games period involved a lot of correspondence, not all part of a manager’s job but someone had to do it. Some players were great replying with information, and others were, let us say, not so great.

Time was spent in liaison with James Morris, High Performance Director and Head Coach, trying to get the best training facilities within the tight budget we had. This proved a headache at times but we got a good deal in England with the help Dave Fairholm and Gail McCulloch. Some of you will remember them from visits to NZ.

I arranged a sponsorship for shirts which was appreciated but even this had a hiccup with seven turning up with long sleeves. Luckily time was on our side to replace them.

We left for the Oceania’s in Suva at the end of June. There was success for the men’s team here and then on to England.

The first week was relatively easy from my position as I only had to liaise with a few people, drive the mini bus and buy our food for lunch.

Then into the Games Village - a wonderful set up and the reason we are here. A NZ Team managers meeting at 6.30 every morning started the day off nicely, then to breakfast, to the stadium, back to the village, eat, and to bed. This was the general routine for all days, mixed in with meetings at the table tennis venue including attendance at the official draws.

One of the hardest things I had to do was exclude players from the opening ceremony, since all were playing the next morning.

We had problems obtaining playing timetables, mainly because of TV who provided a large slice of the funding. We pestered the table tennis officials in a nice way and things did improve while we remained on good terms with the organisers.

I took the opportunity to discuss mutual interests etc, with other countries and developed some contacts. It’s interesting the amount of money some countries put into table tennis. New Zealand with limited funds did very well on the medal count. Only Singapore would have got value for money spent.

The highlight for all of us was the efforts of Chunli in being involved in four medals: a gold, a silver and two bronze. This is a great effort for a player who is now eligible for veteran events.

The team was great to be with and it was a good showing for table tennis in our first ever Commonwealth Games.

Roll on Melbourne 2006.

**Ron Garrett Team Manager**



## Commonwealth Games – a View from the Bench

Coach **Simeon Cairns** (Left) gives a close-up view of the matches:

### **Men:**

**The men's team** finished second in their group, losing only to India 3 – 1 with Aaron Li beating S Roy (3 – 2). In the quarterfinals NZ (Aaron, Peter Jackson and Andrew Hubbard) lost to Singapore 3 – 0 despite several close games. The team finished 8<sup>th</sup>.

**In the men's singles**, the best performance was by Aaron Li who reached the last 16. He lost 4 – 1 to the eventual winner, Toriola from Nigeria. In this match, Aaron played several hard-hit forehands which were looped back by Toriola well back from the table. Aaron's strokes would have been point winners in NZ and many other places but not in this match.

**In the men's doubles**, Shane Laugesen and Andrew Hubbard had a magnificent victory over Aussies Brett Clarke and John Tawadrous 8, 4, -7, 10, with explosive topspins all around. Their win was well deserved, but they were then defeated by the top seeds from Canada.

### **Women:**

**The women's team** finished second in their group after losing 3 – 2 to India. However, our luck was soon to change. We unexpectedly, but happily, drew England in the quarterfinals for a "show court" match. We were now assisted by Helen Codlin's video analysis (Sportscode), which allowed a close technical inspection of the English players late the previous night.

**Quarterfinal versus England:** For this match I switched Karen Li into the No. 3 spot (our players agreed to this) and Tracey McLauchlan into the top bracket. The English No. 3 was a chopper and notably less experienced than the other two. The idea was that Li Chunli would win two singles and Karen would win her one more comfortably. The English could have anticipated our change and blocked it with their top player playing in the No. 3 spot, but they didn't. We consequently won 3 – 1 but not without a scare. Chunli was down 2-1 in her first singles against Lower but, like a true professional, won the crucial points in the fourth game and made it home easily in the fifth. Tracey lost to the English No. 1. Karen then smashed without error to a fine victory over the chopper, and Chunli thrashed the English No. 1 to give us a guaranteed medal.

**Semifinal versus Singapore:** This was a tough task given Singapore's high world ranking. Chunli started us off well with a smart victory over Jing Jun Hong (World No. 16 and semifinalist at the Sydney Olympics). Tracey lost easily to Li Jia Wei (World No. 9 and the tournament top seed). Karen then played well above her earlier form to test Zhang Xue Ling although she lost 3 – 0. 2-1 to Singapore. Chunli then earned a great but narrow victory over Li Jia Wei, 11 - 8 in the final game: two rubbers all. Jing then beat Tracey 3 – 0 to put Singapore into the final. In this match Tracey had a couple of notable patches where she won deserved points with her topspins to clearly demonstrate her improvement over the last year. **So the first TT medal to NZ – a bronze.**

**Individual events:** The highlight and possibly the best tournament victory by a New Zealander ever was Chunli's win in the Women's singles for a **NZ Gold medal**. To do this Chunli defeated all three of the Singaporean women. Tremendous backhand attacks and return of serve provided the victory over Zhang Xue Ling. Jing Jun Hong tried to change her tactics from the team event match but wasn't allowed to change by Chunli, hence a surprisingly comfortable victory. This meant Chunli was into the final - a great birthday present for her coach. She dominated Li Jia Wei to win 4 – 1 (4, 8, -5, 5, 8). This time, unlike in the teams event, the full range of tactics were used by Chunli and, apart from one game and the early stages of the final game, she completely dominated. There was huge crowd support and admiration for Chunli's outstanding performance. She was unbeaten in singles matches throughout the Games.

Soon after her victory came the medal ceremony. It was great to hear the NZ anthem and see Chunli parade around the stadium, proudly draped in the NZ flag.

**Karen's performance:** In the women's singles Karen Li was also outstanding. She reached the quarterfinals where she lost to Li Jia Wei 4 - 0. However, in an earlier match she defeated Jan Fang Lay (Australia) 4–2, the current Oceania champion, in what was probably Karen's best display over the past 3 years. She then beat the left handed looper, Bethan Dauton (Wales), 4–3. This was Karen's first victory over this much improved player in three encounters.

**Women's doubles:** Although seeded 2<sup>nd</sup>, based on singles world rankings, the **silver medal** result for Chunli and Karen was extremely well earned. They defeated a Singapore combination 3 – 0 in the semifinal before falling to the top seeds, Jing and Li (Singapore), 3–1.

### **Mixed Doubles**

Peter Jackson and Li Chunli won a **bronze medal**, after being defeated by Duan and Li, 3–0, in the semifinal. This match was spoilt for NZ when the Singaporean coach signaled to his players what the NZ players were serving. This was absolutely crucial in the second game, won at advantage by Singapore. Of special note in the mixed doubles was the performance of Karen Li and Shane Laugesen who had two great wins over a Singapore and English pair, before losing narrowly to the silver medallists Clarke and Lay (Australia), in the quarterfinals.



## **Awards from the New Zealand Open 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: **Megan Stratford/Kate Ball** (Marlborough/Manawatu)

Junior Boy: **Matthew Ball** (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 and 5. Team spirit (where applicable)

Winner is: **Jiani Hu** (Nelson)

**“The BBC wired me up with their microphones. I thought all they would hear was my heart thumping!”**

## **Commonwealth Games: an International Umpire’s story**

**At international level there’s more to umpiring than just tossing a coin and settling into the umpire’s chair. Averil Roberts describes the complexity of umpiring at this level, and gives an insider’s view of life in the “official” corner of the Games Village .....**

After about 32 hours of travelling and waiting in airports, I finally arrived in Manchester. I was looking forward to some warm weather since I was going from mid-winter to mid-summer. Wrong! It was 12 degrees.

Being part of the ‘Manchester 2002’ family, I was fast tracked through the airport and ushered to a bus which would take me to the TOV (Technical Officers Village). It was about a 30 minute drive.

The TOV, housing 1100 officials, was a student village obviously purpose built. It was a huge complex comprising 4 blocks. Floor 5, B Block, Room 34 was to be my home for the next two weeks. The registration process completed, a volunteer was assigned to show me to my room. I was the first B Block person to arrive. The poor guy. After numerous trips up and down in the lift and hauling luggage up and down stairs, we finally found it. I guess it was obvious that if we wanted floor 5 we should press 6!

### **30 Second Shower**

The accommodation was single rooms in apartments of 4 bedrooms, kitchen, bathroom and toilet. My original intention was to have a sleep, unpack, and then go to the Accreditation and Uniform Centre. But as a bus was going there at 10.30am and it was now 9.30am, I decided to get all that out of the way now. Quick shower. That was a mission! You could not adjust anything. You pushed a button and whatever temperature came out was what you were stuck with. That was okay but the water only lasted about 30 seconds then switched off. You had to keep pushing the button. Washing your hair was not easy! Anyway, 10am and off I go to catch the bus. After 15 minutes of being lost in B Block and the basement I found a friendly face who showed me the way out. Phew!

### **Dress Rehearsal**

Accreditation took a while as everyone had to try on every article of clothing. One puzzling aspect was that table tennis officials received only one pair of dress trousers for 10 days work, compared with two pairs for synchronised swimming officials who only worked 2 days!! Also, the women’s jackets had no pockets and my request for a men’s one was denied. Over the next couple of days the other table tennis officials arrived, a few of whom I knew from previous championships. Then the venue orientation, umpires briefing and rehearsals began. At the rehearsal I was lucky (didn’t think so at the time) to be one of four chosen to try out the show courts - from marshalling area, to marching on, to an actual match. We got an insight into problems which could (and did) occur in these areas.

### **Working in Pairs**

All the Umpires were paired up for the majority of the Games and informed that from semi-finals onwards the Umpires would be selected. I was lucky to be paired with Richard Avent, one of England’s top Umpires whom I had met at the Paralympics. There were 24 pairs with two Umpire Managers in charge of 12 pairs each.

The conditions we had to work in were not ideal. The show court section of the Stadium held courts 1 and 2 which were the televised tables. The BBC filmed every session, every day. With the extra lighting needed, the temperature on those courts was around 44 degrees most days. Very uncomfortable, as we had to wear our jackets on those courts. The outer section housed 8 tables. Jackets were optional there but each pair had to be uniform. The Umpires room, as well as the gluing area, players lounge, racket control, medical room and call area, were all tents and not big enough. The wet days, which there were plenty of, were interesting! In the call area at the beginning of each team session there were up to 100 sweaty bodies in a very confined area and we were expected to toss, check rackets, check clothing for adverts, tape any illegal adverts, and organise ball selection. With not many countries submitting uniform samples, and more stringent Commonwealth Games rules on advertising, the Umpires had to be very vigilant. Even coaches on the show courts had to have manufacturers’ names on their shirts covered. Named towels were also a no-no. The New Zealand uniform was perfect. Well done, Ron (Garrett, NZ Team Manager).

The Umpire’s chair up until the finals was quite high with the Assistant Umpire at ground level. Hand signals were used in all matches by the Umpire. The Assistant was in charge of the flipcards and the timing machine. The Umpire and Assistant swapped roles after each match in the team events. While team matches were on we worked two consecutive sessions a day. Richard and I were selected as a team to umpire the women’s semi final between Australia and Canada on the TV court.

### **Gold Medal Match**

Individual events were more disjointed for the Umpires. Some early round matches lasted only 20-25 minutes. Even so, I was spending long hours at the Stadium supporting the NZ players before or after my umpiring sessions. In the 10 days of play I had only one complete day off. In the later rounds I had to umpire with various partners as there always seemed to be an English or New Zealand player on the table we were scheduled for.

I was honoured and very nervous to be selected to umpire a gold medal match on finals day. Which match I was to do was dependant on the result of Peter Jackson and Li Chunli’s semi final mixed doubles match. I was to umpire the mixed doubles final if NZ was not competing, otherwise the Wheelchair women’s singles final. This was all a bit unsettling as the Wheelchair match was timed for 12.30pm and at 11.50am the mixed doubles semi still had not been decided. Peter and Chunli lost so it was the mixed doubles final.

My Assistant for the match was David Edwards of England. For some unfathomable reason, for the finals, the powers that be replaced the high Umpires chairs with ground level ones. Not a sensible decision, especially for doubles. I had to stand. The match was between Brett Clarke and Jan Fang Lay of Australia and Duan and Li of Singapore. After completing the pre-match duties, the BBC wired me up with their microphones. I thought all they would hear was my heart thumping! It was nerve-wracking but once the match started, normality prevailed. Singapore won 3-1. My only problem was with a Singapore coach who was sitting in the audience but thought he should be part of the act!



*Continued over page*

## Memorable

I thoroughly enjoyed being given the opportunity to officiate at such a large multi-sport event. I was also pleased to be invited to attend the New Zealand Reception held at the new Manchester War Memorial Museum, which was only officially opened that day by the Duke of Edinburgh. It was a magnificent venue and an impressive reception. A locally based Maori group welcomed the team. The table tennis players found it rather tiring as they had to stand for the full 2 hours.

All Technical Officials received tickets for both the Opening and Closing Ceremonies. For the Opening I was lucky enough to be seated in the front row so had great views. For the Closing – well, we were in the open stands along with the athletes and got absolutely drowned.

All in all a most memorable event.

Averil Roberts

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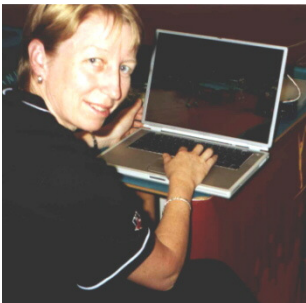
# Table Tennis Turns High Tech

*Helen Codlin (pictured below)* attended the Commonwealth Games in Manchester – not as a player, not as a coach or manager, not as an umpire – but as the operator of a video analysis system providing high tech assistance to the players and coaches. She recounts the experience....

New Zealand led the way in more ways than one in the table tennis competition at the Commonwealth Games. Our Table Tennis team, along with 3 other sports, had the benefit of a Computer Video Analysis System called "Sportscode."

It all started with a vision, a James Morris vision, to be the first country using computer-aided video technology to analyse table tennis. With assistance from Simeon Cairns, and Martin Dowson of Digital Sports, analysis codes were developed and the system was first taken to the Commonwealth Championships in New Delhi in 2001. Unfortunately, there was no time for coaches to implement it. Not one to give up on a good idea, James, through TTNZ, arranged to lodge a Prime Minister's Scholarship application for funding to train a Table Tennis coach in the use of 'Sportscode' and take it to the Commonwealth Games.

As PM Scholarship applications are awarded to individual coaches rather than National Sporting Organisations I had to prepare a detailed application, along with my work CV which demonstrated other skills and abilities. I am honoured that I was considered a worthy recipient of the scholarship as the project was definitely a worthy one. I was even able to introduce myself to Trevor Mallard (Minister of Sport and Recreation), while we were watching the women's doubles final and I was very proud to tell him that I was one of the Prime Minister's Scholarship recipients.



The \$10,000 Scholarship paid all my costs relating to the project. The costs included training in Auckland and associated travel, accommodation and travel for the Oceania Championships in Fiji where I was practising videoing and coding as well as assisting Murray Finch coach the junior team, and travel and expenses associated with the Commonwealth Games.

They also included equipment such as a digital video camera, tripod, an external hard drive (EHD), cables, and DV tapes. This equipment is now an important resource for New Zealand Table Tennis. The laptop computer was very generously loaned by Apple NZ.

I packed everything into a computer backpack which I tied, along with the video bag and tripod, to a luggage trolley with 3 stretch ties. I felt and looked like the 'trolley lady'. The load was reasonably heavy and the trolley wasn't really designed for English footpaths and makeshift groundcovers. It got the speed wobbles a few times and tipped over. It also developed a rather loud squeak, which we rectified with a bit of dishwashing liquid. It needed maintenance a few times during the Games.

## So what is 'Sportscode'?

The software was developed in Australia and can be customised to any sport. It runs on an Apple Mac. In brief, it allows you to make mini movies, either from video or captured "live", and to show them back to the player or coach at various speeds or in specific sequences. It provides for the coding of segments into categories such as points won or lost by forced or unforced errors, returns of serve or faults. This allowed us to select and play any sequence – eg, a sequence of all points won when NZ forced the error, or all points lost on return of serve, etc.

## The Set Up

At the Games, there was a specific video policy but fortunately it wasn't enforced as strictly as it might have been. (It is the friendly Games after all). We had a position in our part of the playing area to set up the camera and I usually got there early enough to get the best end of the table (from a videoing point of view anyway - ie the right hand side so we could see the serve and the score cards). I had access to power via an extension cord and a multi box at the electronic scoring table so I didn't have to worry about batteries running low in either the video or the computer. Most of the time, I coded 'live' so the laptop was on my knee throughout the match. The stadium was warm enough anyway, but with a hot laptop on my knee I was sweating more than the players, much to Tracey McL's amusement!

Coding live means watching the game itself (not the screen) and coding at the same time by pressing different keys to indicate various statistical data: who served, what game, when the rally started and stopped, whether NZ won or lost, whether it was a forced error, return of serve, fault or a 'lucky' (ie a net or an edge, or a net or an edge which gave some advantage). It sounds a lot but it amounted to 3 keys at the beginning of each rally and 4 keys at the end of each rally.

## Capacity stretched

Each match took a lot of space on the laptop. For those in the know, the laptop had 16 GB's available on the hard drive and that's a lot! I could fit four or five games on the computer - one team match. So I basically had to 'clear the decks' before the next match started in 3-4 hours time, as well as pack up and get back to the village for a meal and then return to the stadium again. 'Clearing the decks' involved fixing any coding errors (which usually occurred when I was distracted or busy clapping and yelling), databasing each game which could take 10-15 minutes each, and then transferring them to the EHD (75 GB's available) which took about 5-10 minutes. Multiply that by 4-5 games and time got a little tight between matches. By the end of the team event, I had only 13 GB's left on the EHD.

## Computer gremlins

Gremlins were my biggest fear, and they visited on a couple of occasions. The scariest moment was when an error message came up suggesting a problem between the laptop and the EHD (the hard drive that I had just transferred all the databased games to!!).



It suggested that I should undo whatever I had just done. The trouble was, I hadn't done anything for at least 15 minutes. At the time Chunli and I were sorting through DV tapes to see if she had any spares I could use (as I thought I might run out). All I could do was turn everything off and turn it all on again, ..... oh, that's right, and swear! Chunli learnt a new word that evening. Turning it off and on didn't work!! I was starting to panic. Karen Li suggested it needed a rest so as there was no better advice offered I packed it up and trundled off to the NZ Team Support Base down the road from the Village. It was with some trepidation that I set it up again at my desk and flicked on the switch of the external hard drive. The magical whirring sound of the fan in the EHD was music to my ears and all was saved. But there was always the thought in the back of my mind that when I turned off the EHD to pack up, it wouldn't go again. I am pleased to report that it did.



### How was the analysis used?

Initially I was in data collection mode, coding all the women's matches in the team event and some men's team matches when there wasn't a clash in scheduling. I also taped a few games of opponents that our players might meet in a team match and that coding was also reviewed prior to the match. Chunli and Karen would review some of their own games but the analysis became more important in the individual competition. As it turned out, most of the players that Chunli and Karen were to meet were already on the computer so they were able to review those games and discuss or confirm strategy.

Otherwise, we basically reviewed the draw and looked for matches involving players a New Zealander would later meet, which I taped for future coding.

Chunli made the most use of the analysis (as our main medal prospect, she was my priority) but other NZ team members also used it to review the occasional game. The coaches, **James Morris** and **Simeon Cairns**, reviewed some matches to assist in their own assessment and the best strategy to employ.

### Video tapes

I have now dubbed the games that I taped at both the Commonwealth Games and the Oceania Championships onto VHS tapes. They are owned by TTNZ and are an excellent resource for both players and coaches wanting to watch some top class table tennis.

### Future use of Sportscode

We used Sportscode for match analysis only. It is a very powerful tool and could be employed in many different ways including technical stroke analysis, serve analysis, identifying patterns of play and so on.

### Did it help?

As a bench coaching/analysis tool, it provided a very quick easy way of reviewing a match, enabling key rallies which were pivotal to winning or losing the game to be quickly identified and easily reviewed repeatedly in order to assimilate the information. It also provided a psychological advantage for players in that they had the benefit of reviewing their match or previewing an opponent in an upcoming match. No other country had a similar tool so other players may have felt threatened by the knowledge that we may have gleaned from reviewing their games.

With 4 medals out of 7 events, it was a very successful Games for New Zealand Table Tennis and I am proud to have had the opportunity to make a contribution towards that success.

**Helen Codlin**

## Obituary

### Tanya Maree Hefferan

17.3.68 - 23.7.02



A feeling of great shock and sadness was felt by many players, not only in Manawatu but all around New Zealand, as we heard of the sudden ill health and consequent passing of one of our top NZ players - Tanya Hefferan (nee McAvinue).

Starting table tennis at age 8 ½ she became well known at an early age, winning numerous titles throughout New Zealand. These began with national under 12 titles in 1979 and progressed through to the 2000 North Island women's doubles title. Her prowess with the bat took her to Australia in 1982 and 1983 with the New Zealand junior team.

In 1984, one of her best years, she won 33 titles at various open tournaments, reached five other finals, and won two under 17 bronze medals in Australia. In 1985 she moved to North Harbour and continued her winning streak in the under 18 age category.

She will be remembered by the many who encountered her as an aggressive and passionate player. Her speed around the table to retrieve seemingly impossible shots was quite amazing, and her accuracy and power were very impressive.

She married in 1989 and although from then on she made fewer tournament appearances, her love for the game continued. Her involvement on committees throughout her career showed her interest in helping sporting organisations.

The loss of Tanya at such a young age will be felt by both the North Harbour and Manawatu associations. As a player and administrator she could have had a tremendous effect on table tennis in the future.

The players of Table Tennis Manawatu send their thoughts to her husband Alan, son Daniel and also to their families. We know that Tanya will be sadly missed.

**Eddie Millard**  
President, Table Tennis Manawatu

**Top Ratings** We regret we simply ran out of space in this issue and were therefore unable to publish the top 10 ratings that we traditionally include for the end of the year.

The full rating lists are at: <http://www.tabletennis.org.nz>. The tops of the pops as at **7 Oct 2002** (includes NZ Open results) however are:

Men's Open	<b>Aaron Li</b>	Women's O40	<b>Lynda Simpson</b>
Women's Open	<b>Mi Ryung Chun</b>	Men's O50	<b>William Weinstock</b>
Men's U21	<b>Johnny Liang</b>	Women's O50	<b>Val Beaver</b>
Women's U21	<b>Sun Yang</b>	Men's O60	<b>Chip Eade</b>
Men's O40	<b>Malcolm Darroch</b>	Women's O60	<b>Margaret McGregor</b>

*The Junior Top Ratings are on page 39*

## South Island Championships Nelson August 2002

<u>Open</u>	<u>Winner</u>	<u>Singles Runner Up</u>
Men's Singles	Aaron Li (C)	Johnny Liang (N)
Women's Singles	Mi Ryung Chun (C)	Jiang Yang (C)
Men's Doubles	A Li & Simon Wallace (C)	
Women's Doubles	V Beaver & A Roberts (NH/W)	
Mixed Doubles	A Li & Wu Chen (C)	
<u>B Grade</u>		
Men's Singles	Lyndon White (C)	Albert Yee (C)
Women's Singles	Hanna Squire (W)	Jacqui Wood (C)
Men's Doubles	P de Boer & L White (C)	
Women's Doubles	M Chang & J Murray (C/NH)	
<u>C Grade</u>		
Men's Singles	Sam Wong (C)	John Armstrong (N)
Women's Singles	Sheng Chen (C)	Glenda Ferguson (N)
Men's Doubles	L Brandt & J Li (C)	
Women's Doubles	S Chang & J Wood (C)	
<u>Over 60 years</u>		
Men's Singles	Wes Willis (A)	Eddie Moore (C)
Men's Doubles	B Penberthy & W Willis (A)	
<u>Over 50 years</u>		
Men's Singles	Sam Wong (C)	Bruce Penberthy (A)
Women's Singles	Val Beaver (NH)	Lynley Barker (C)
Men's Doubles	S Crow & D Glass (C)	
Women's Doubles	V Beaver & J Murray (NH)	
Mixed Doubles	B Penberthy & V Beaver (A/NH)	
<u>Over 40 years</u>		
Men's Singles	Peter de Boer (C)	Dave Samson (C)
Women's Singles	Val Beaver (NH)	Averil Roberts (W)
Men's Doubles	P de Boer & D Samson (C)	
Women's Doubles	V Beaver & A Roberts (NH/W)	
Mixed Doubles	D Samson & L Barker (C)	
<u>Over 35 years</u>		
Men's Singles	Peter de Boer (C)	Lyndon White (C)
Men's Doubles	J Armstrong & L White (N/C)	
<u>Under 21 years</u>		
Men's Singles	Johnny Liang (N)	Yi-Sien Lin (C)
Women's Singles	Jiang Yang (C)	Jiani Hu (N)
<u>Under 19 years</u>		
Boys' Singles	Simon Wallace (C)	John Cordue (C)
Girls' Singles	Mornica Li (C)	Andrea Gosney (C)
Boys' Doubles	K Samson & S Wallace (C)	
Girls' Doubles	M Li & S Linton (C/N)	
Mixed Doubles	S Wallace & A Gosney (C)	
<u>Under 17 years</u>		
Boys' Singles	Simon Wallace (C)	Chris Erskine (N)
Girls' Singles	Mornica Li (C)	Wu Chen (C)
Boys' Doubles	C Erskine & J Wells (N)	
Girls' Doubles	M Li & Wu Chen (C)	
Mixed Doubles	S Wallace & Wu Chen (C)	

### Under 15 years

Boys' Singles	Jack Wells (N)	Chris Erskine (N)
Girls' Singles	Wu Chen (C)	Jiani Hu (N)
Boys' Doubles	C Erskine & J Wells (N)	
Girls' Doubles	K Samson & Wu Chen (C)	
Mixed Doubles	C Erskine & J Hu (N)	

### Under 13 years

Boys' Singles	Andrew Rieper (W)	Jack Chaney (SC)
Girls' Singles	Jiani Hu (N)	Megan Stratford (ML)
Boys' Doubles	J Chaney & A Rieper (SC/W)	
Girls' Doubles	K Ball & M Stratford (MN/ML)	
Mixed Doubles	T Davey & J Hu (C/N)	

## TALLER TABLES FOR TALLER PEOPLE?

Regular readers of *Table Tennis Info* will recall that we've recently featured stories about long tables, round tables, clover-leaf tables - so it came as no surprise when ITTF's *Table Tennis Illustrated* magazine published an article making a plausible case for the table to be made *higher*. The reason? Over the past hundred years, people have grown taller.

Here's an abridged version of the article:

### Time To Raise The Height Of Table Tennis Tables?

By Michael I. Scott M.D.

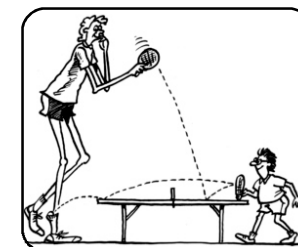
The average height of people throughout the world has steadily been increasing. In America in 1850 the average male height was 162.5 cm. By 1925 it was 167.5cm and today it's 172.5cm. Similar increases were recorded in England. Several Japanese physicians have concluded that the Japanese male in the last generation grew an average of 10cm. By personal observation in China I would estimate the same growth.

The height of a table tennis table has remained constant at 76cm from the 1930's to the present day. From an orthopedic standpoint an increase in table height is almost mandatory. In view of the alterations being made to improve our sport aesthetically some effort should be directed to also improving it from a medical standpoint. Based on several factors, I have arrived at the conclusion that the height of table tennis tables should be elevated a minimum of 5cm.

#### Favourable responses

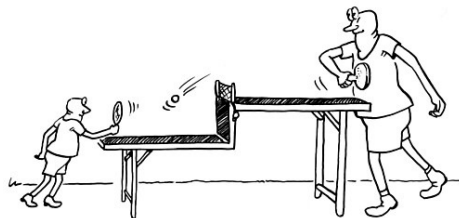
Upon discussing my opinion and recommendation with international coaches and players I have, surprisingly, not encountered any major objections and instead have had generally favourable responses. When I mentioned it to coach Li Zhen Zhi he immediately agreed. Any adjustment had not occurred to him. He believed a 5 - 7.5cm increase would be an excellent improvement. Swedish coaches also thought experimenting with a higher table would be justified.

To put my theory to a practical test I had a new table elevated precisely 5 cm and asked Sean O'Neill (172cm, five times USA Champion and twice Olympian) to try it. He was immediately well pleased with the adjustment.



Being USATT Team Physician for over 15 years I can confirm that as players' height increases there has been a slight increase in the number of players with lumbo-sacral and other related orthopedic and muscular strains.

My suggested increase is approximately one-half the average increase in the height of people.



### Bathroom cabinets

Table tennis officials may have completely ignored the increased height statistics, but not bathroom cabinet manufacturers in the USA. Instead of the standardised 76cm high cabinets in vogue since the 1930's they are now raising their height to a minimum of 86.25cm. Cabinet makers have become aware that the average height of people, not only in the USA but worldwide, has steadily been increasing. Realising that just washing your face can be a back breaking task, they adjusted the height to fit the average individual's physical requirements. Table tennis manufacturers should do the same.

To allay suspicions be assured there is no personal motive or agenda involved in this proposal. With a new pair of thickly soled shoes I personally am capable of reaching only 167.5 cm in height.

*Michael I. Scott M.D. is a member of the ITTF Sports Science Committee and a member of the ITTF Research and Development Advisory Board. Furthermore, he is an International Umpire, the Swaythling Club International North America Representative and has been the team physician to the United States national team on many occasions.*



### Table Tennis hits Paraparamu Mall

As part of the Coastlands Sport and Fitness week during the school holidays **Bob Knight, Alan Thompson** and **Peter Jones** set up a table in the mall to promote the three local clubs.

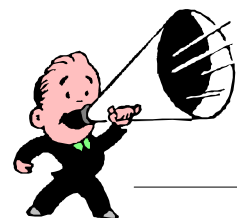
They soon had children lining up to have a hit and many Asian

students stopped to challenge them. At times they had 4 to 6 people waiting and crowds stopped to watch. About 40 people had a hit and it was good fun and a great spectacle.

The Thursday night club subsequently enrolled several new people and they were hoping for an influx of juniors to see in later days.

Photo shows Director of Operations, Bob Knight (centre), supervising rising star Alan Thompson (r) showing his winning style. Just off-camera Promotion Officer Peter Jones was busy discussing clubs with a prospective member.

**Bob Knight.**



## Reporting briefly.....

Congratulations to **Bruce Penberthy** (Auckland) who recently passed his International Umpires Exam. Bruce was presented with his certificate and badge at the South Island Championships.

**David Jackson** has resigned from the Board of TTNZ. There are now 2 vacancies on the Board and it is expected they will be filled at the AGM in November.

There has been an update to the **coaching logbook**. The nutrition page has been updated. The new page can be printed from the TTNZ web site, or obtained from the National office.

**Marie Rau** has stepped down as Secretary of Counties Manukau. Marie tells us she took on the job for one year - 21 years ago but.....! She remains secretary of the Manurewa club and has been for many many years. We wish her all the best in her retirement!!??!!

The new secretary is **Dave Slight** and we wish him all the best in the commencement of his stint.

We hear of a new book - **Sizzling Chops and Devilish Spins** by Jerome Charyn. The book was reviewed in the Listener 11/5/02 and there is a review at <http://www.previewport.com>. American orientated but could make entertaining reading.

There is now a **Selectors** page in the TTNZ web site. It is hoped that the selectors will constantly update the info therein and keep players informed on issues that may affect selection - details of upcoming events etc.

The **Canterbury** Association has employed **Raina McKechnie** as their Administration Officer on a part time time basis. Raina commenced duties on May 1st and occupies an office in the Canterbury stadium.

It is good to hear that willing volunteer workers are rewarded by their clubs. **Russell Wiseman**, the mainstay of the Cambridge BHP Table Tennis Club for so long, was made it's first Life Member for his long service. The announcement and presentation was made by the club's youngest club captain ever, **Jim Morrison** (12).

**Tracey McLauchlan** has resigned from the position of Player Liaison Officer as from 1 October 2002.

The **2004 Oceania Championships** have been allocated to New Zealand and will be held in Northland.



Congratulations to **James Morris** and **Christine Craven** who tied the knot in Orlando on a recent trip to USA. We hear they went to a relatives wedding so added theirs to the trip as well. Best wishes.

The **Empire Club** in Petone has just received resource consent to extend its club rooms. The extension will dramatically improve playing conditions by allowing more space between tables and providing an access way and seating between two rows of tables. The redevelopment will increase the capacity of the stadium to 14 tables with up to 18 with closer spacing.

The club has received \$60,000 in funding from the Hutt City Council and has some of its own towards the project. Fundraising activities will now be increased and the \$240,000 project is expected to commence early in 2003.

**The Board**, following **Li Chunli's** success at the Commonwealth Games, is investigating the possibility of having **China** send it's World number one woman and another player to play a series of matches against Chunli and one other player to be selected.

Now - that would be a great spectator event!

Only 200 completed **survey forms** (which was included in April TT INFO) were completed and returned. The survey is being collated but results are not available yet.

**TTNZ Board meetings** will in future be in line with the TT season and will be held in February, July and September. The Chairman will however be elected in a short meeting after the AGM.

### Cadet Challenge

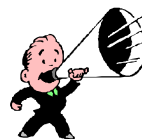
**Jiani Hu** and **Binbin Zhu** were selected in the Oceania team to compete in a World Cadet Challenge event held in Hungary in June. **James Morris** accompanied the team as one of two coaches. The boys finished 6th out of 8 teams and the girls 8th out of 8. Binbin qualified in group play for the main draw and Jiani reached the last 8 in the consolation girls event. (Photo page 41).

A level one **coaching course** will be held at Port Waikato on the weekend of 14/15 December, 2002. Table Tennis in the area is growing and **Mrs Phyllis Hoete** has arranged for National Coach **James Morris** to conduct the course which she says will fulfill a need for more grass root coaches in the area. Mrs Hoete (09 2329643) or James Morris (09 433-8565) can be contacted for more information.

### TT INFO Logo

Notice anything different this issue? Seems we ran foul of a certain large sporting body (who recently had a large turnover of administrators) by using their silver fern beneath the little ball person! No, we did not knowingly copy theirs – it was marginally different and taken from an old publication not related to you know who.

Begging a quiet existence we decided a redesign of the fern was prudent.



**North Harbour** have a player aged 88 (Bert Robinson) who plays once a week.

They have issued a challenge - does any club have anyone older who plays regularly? If so, send a photo and details to TTNZ, PO Box 867, Wellington."



### 2003 Australian Youth Olympic Festival to Include Table Tennis

TTNZ has accepted an invitation to attend the **Australian Youth Olympic Festival**, to be held in Sydney from 8 to 12 January next year. This event is designed to give elite athletes in the 15-18 age

range an "Olympic type" experience at a multi-sport event attended by many of the world's best junior athletes.

In a publicity statement Australian Olympic Committee Secretary-General Bob Elphinston said that famous Olympians will play a leading role in the Opening Ceremony and act as team leaders throughout the event, helping and encouraging the younger athletes. "Imagine the thrill for these young athletes competing at the Olympic venues in an Olympic style event," Elphinston said. "This again highlights one of the great legacies of the Sydney 2000 Games."

The festival was first held in Sydney in 2001, featuring only ten sports and excluding Table Tennis. There will be 17 sports participating in 2003: Archery, Athletics, Badminton, Canoe/Kayak (sprint & slalom), Cycling (road & track), Fencing, Gymnastics (artistic, rhythmic & trampoline), Judo, Rowing, Shooting, Swimming, Table Tennis, Tae Kwon Do, Water polo, Weightlifting, and Wrestling. Countries expected to compete in the Table Tennis include China, Australia, Hong Kong, Korea, New Zealand, Oceania (excluding Australia and NZ), and Singapore.

Table Tennis teams will comprise 2 males and 2 females. The event is restricted to athletes born between, and including, 1 January 1985 and 31 December 1988 (ie, anyone turning 15, 16, 17 or 18 any time during 2003 is eligible).

The New Zealand team is:

**Josh Alexandre, Nathan Lowe, Sarah Ho, Hanna Squire.**

The non travelling reserves are:

**Chris Erskine, Michelle McCarthy, Florence Li**

The selectors have based selections on results from the 2002 season with emphasis on the major events (Oceania's, New Zealand, North and South Island Championships). They also took into account the training ethic of the players they considered.



### Juniors - Top Rated

(refer page 33)

Boys' U19	<b>Andy Huang</b>	Boys' U15	<b>Binbin Zhu</b>
Girls' U19	<b>Sun Yang</b>	Girls' U15	<b>Wu Chen</b>
Boys' U17	<b>Andy Huang</b>	Boys' U13	<b>Steven Zeng</b>
Girls' U17	<b>Mornica Li</b>	Girls' U13	<b>Jiani Hu</b>

## Coaches' Page - Footwork

**Liu Hongwei** (Tom Liu) is a professional coach from Beijing, and a former representative for his province. While studying English in New Zealand he has played a number of tournaments (semi-finalist at 2001 NZ Men's Singles) and has coached Waikato players in squad and one-on-one situations. The following are pointers from him on footwork.

To be an excellent player you **must have good footwork!** Any player's development will be determined by the quality of their footwork.

### Basic Footwork:

- ◆ **Step.** This means the foot closest to the ball steps towards the ball. The step must be fast. This is suitable for short balls or when the ball is not too far from the body.
- ◆ **Feet apart, together, apart.** This is when the feet come together as the player moves sideways. This is effective when the ball is close to the body and for 'push' players.
- ◆ **Skipping or bounding.** This is when a player uses the strength in their legs to move position without noticeably changing the distance between the feet. This suits players with natural explosive power and is especially effective when turning from the backhand to hit a forehand.
- ◆ **Cross Step.** This involves taking a smaller step towards the ball and then a large step crossing the legs and striking the ball as you land. This is used for covering long distances, especially when you have hit a forehand from the backhand side and need to get to a ball wide on the forehand.
- ◆ **Small quick steps.** This is a more advanced footwork pattern involving taking small quick steps towards where you **think** your opponent may hit the ball (before they hit it) without fully committing yourself until the ball is hit.

We use many footwork patterns during a game. No player uses one footwork pattern alone - all must be mastered.

### What to watch when practising footwork:

- ◆ **Waist.** You must use your waist (turn your body) every time.
- ◆ **Balance.** You must be well balanced and stable although your weight is constantly being transferred between your feet. Your weight must be on the front of your feet.
- ◆ **Choosing the best footwork for the situation.** Accurate footwork is not only quick - it must also give you maximum advantage for the **next ball**.

### Requirements:

- ◆ **A good 'ready position'.** Legs bent, body bent forward at the waist, weight on the front of the feet, feet approximately the width of the shoulders apart.
- ◆ **Good timing.** Hitting the ball at the correct height and as the weight is moving forward, or in the case of the cross step, as the foot lands.
- ◆ **Good judgment.** Knowing which footwork pattern to use.
- ◆ **Leg power.**

Liu Hongwei

## Explanation and intent of the new service rule



The new service rule comes into operation in NZ on 1 January 2003. The following was published by the International TT Federation to help players understand the "new way".

The **intent** of the new service rule is to make the **rule itself** clear and easy to interpret. The new rule is designed to make the service in table tennis an open technique which is fully visible to the receiver at all times.

In order for the server to ensure that he/she complies with the new service rule, here are a few pointers to help achieve this objective:

- ◆ As soon as the free hand (the hand holding the ball in service) and arm has projected the ball upwards, the free hand/arm must be immediately removed to the side. In other words, the free arm must not remain in any area between the ball and the receiver - it has to be out of the line of sight of the receiver and the ball.
- ◆ If the server could imagine a triangular space created by the ball and both net posts, then extends this space upwards to head level, the server must then ensure that no part of his body or clothing enters this space (or remains in this space) after he projects the ball upwards in service. This will ensure that the space between the ball and the receiver remains clear of any obstructions. This is a simple way to ensure that the service meets the legal requirements.
- ◆ A slight modification from current services is required. Players must learn, in forehand services, to swing their free arm out of the way as fast as possible to create a legal, open and visible service.

The new service rule is at: <http://www.tabletennis.org.nz>

The rule, explanation, intent, powerpoint presentation and video are available at <http://www.ittf.com> Click on the "New Service Rule" red square at the bottom right of the home page.



(Left) The **Oceania Team** at the **World Cadet Challenge** in Hungary in June (see Reporting briefly - page 38)

Kiwis present are: (Back left) **James Morris** (Boys Coach), (3rd from left) **Binbin Zhu** and (front row 2nd from left) **Jiani Hu**.

# North Island Open Championships Auckland July 2002

<u>Open</u>	<u>Winner</u>	<u>Singles Runner Up</u>
Men's Singles	Andy Huang (A)	Shane Warbrooke (A)
Women's Singles	Sun Yang (BP)	Kadia Keller-Rice (BP)
Men's Doubles	B Collins & A Huang (A)	
Women's Doubles	K Keller-Rice & Sun Yang (BP)	
Mixed Doubles	T Armstrong & Sun Yang (BP)	
<b><u>B Grade</u></b>		
Men's Singles	Shane Warbrooke (A)	Dominic Chan (W)
Women's Singles	Raewyn Young (W)	Sophie Shu (A)
Men's Doubles	G Burton & T Hanna (NH/W)	
Women's Doubles	S Ho & S Shu (WK/A)	
<b><u>C Grade</u></b>		
Men's Singles	Trevor Coad (A)	Paul Whitehead (WK)
Women's Singles	Florence Li (A)	Katie Stretton (NH)
Men's Doubles	P Johnston & P Whitehead (NH/WK)	
Women's Doubles	S Ho & Y Lee (A/NH)	
<b><u>Over 60 years</u></b>		
Men's Singles	Chip Eade (WT)	Nam Hang Lee (A)
Women's Singles	Annice Robottom (MN)	Nellie Milich (NL)
Men's Doubles	B Penberthy & P Winder (A)	
Women's Doubles	N Milich & A Robottom (NL/MN)	
Mixed Doubles	B Penberthy & A Robottom (A/MN)	
<b><u>Over 50 years</u></b>		
Men's Singles	William Weinstock (A)	David Scott (NH)
Women's Singles	Averil Roberts (W)	Val Beaver (NH)
Men's Doubles	P Low & D Scott (A/NH)	
Women's Doubles	V Beaver & J Murray (NH)	
Mixed Doubles	W Weinstock & A Roberts (A/W)	
<b><u>Over 40 years</u></b>		
Men's Singles	William Weinstock (A)	Patrick Low (A)
Women's Singles	Val Beaver (NH)	Averil Roberts (W)
Men's Doubles	P Low & D Scott (A/NH)	
Women's Doubles	V Beaver & A Roberts (NH/W)	
Mixed Doubles	B Rakovica & V Beaver (A/NH)	
<b><u>Over 35 years</u></b>		
Men's Singles	Dominic Chan (W)	Jun Tang (A)
Women's Singles	Hilary Low (CM)	Raewyn Young (W)
<b><u>Under 21 years</u></b>		
Men's Singles	Peter Craven (A)	Andy Huang (A)
Women's Singles	Sarah Ho (WK)	Jenny Hung (C)
Men's Doubles	P Craven & A Soh (A)	
Mixed Doubles	M Jones-Middleton & S Ho (W/WK)	
<b><u>Under 19 years</u></b>		
Boys' Singles	Adrian Soh (A)	Andy Huang (A)
Girls' Singles	Sun Yang (BP)	Florence Li (A)
Boys' Doubles	J Alexandre & A Soh (A)	
Girls' Doubles	F Li & Sun Yang (A/BP)	
Mixed Doubles	J Alexandre & S Ho (A/WK)	

## Under 17 years

Boys' Singles	Andy Huang (A)	Binbin Zhu (A)
Girls' Singles	Sarah Ho (WK)	Florence Li (A)
Boys' Doubles	J Alexandre & B Zhu (A)	
Girls' Doubles	Sarah Ho & F Li (WK/A)	
Mixed Doubles	Y Yuen & Sarah Ho (WK)	

## Under 15 years

Boys' Singles	Binbin Zhu (A)	Jack Wells (N)
Girls' Singles	Sophie Shu (A)	Katie Stretton (NH)
Boys' Doubles	S Zeng & T Zeng (A)	
Girls' Doubles	S Shu & S Zeng (A)	
Mixed Doubles	B Zhu & S Shu (A)	

## Under 13 years

Boys' Singles	Michael Wu (A)	Steven Zeng (A)
Girls' Singles	Sophie Shu (A)	Sally Ho (A)
Boys' Doubles	M Lowe & M Wu (A)	
Girls' Doubles	Sally Ho & S Shu (A)	
Mixed Doubles	S Zeng & S Shu (A)	

## The stars were not out at Auckland

By Dennis Galvin

Some cross-booking of New Zealand's top players robbed the North Island championships of a quality field in the men's open events.

The championships had been taken over by Auckland after Taupo withdrew as host, then an 11<sup>th</sup> hour arrangement for a training camp in England by the Commonwealth Games team stripped the North Island event of the stars.

It seemed strange for four of the younger players to reach the semis of the men's singles, although two were reshaping their careers after periods of absence. Andy Huang won the final on his home tables from Shane Warbrooke, another Auckland, and the losers of the last four were Paul Innes of Waikato and the nomad Adrian Soh, previously of Waitemata and Nelson and now of Auckland.

Huang and Soh, and Peter Craven of Auckland (formerly Northland), have been attending training camps with the NZ team and must be considered fringe players, but Warbrooke and Innes are returning to form after breaks. Craven was beaten in the quarters by Warbrooke who further confused the standing of graded events by winning the B grade. Ben Collins of Auckland teamed with Huang to win the doubles from Craven and Soh.

In the women's singles former New Zealand representative Kadia Keller-Rice was beaten by fellow Tauranga player Sun Yang who had the rare distinction of winning three titles. Kadia was playing for NZ before Sun Yang was born and nowadays spends more time with a tennis racquet than a table tennis bat. Kadia and Sun Yang won the doubles from the Neal sisters Monique and Shelley and Sun Yang and her Tauranga partner Tim Armstrong won the mixed doubles.

So Tim, Kadia and Sun Yang now have five more golds to add to their CVs. They have been involved in junior coaching in the Bay and their work showed in the age group results.

Annice Robottom made a worthwhile trip from Wanganui to win all three over 60 titles as did William Weinstock (Auckland) in the over 50 men's events.

