



Dates to Remember:

1998	Nov 21-22	Chinese Champs	(Auck)
	Nov	Next TABLE TENNIS INFO	
	Dec	Annual General Meeting	
1999	Jan 9 -15	Summer Nationals	Nelson
	Easter	Veteran Champs	Nth Harbour

INFO MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTION

This issue is being mailed direct to all TTNZ registered members. This is part of the benefits of being a registered member.

No bulk supplies will be sent to Associations or clubs.

If you know of friends who play and are not registered, try and encourage them to do so and support this sport in a small way.

Next issue is late November – absolute deadline for material is 10th Nov. Lets hear from YOU!

TABLE TENNIS PLAYERS DICTIONARY



Table:

Woefully undersized rectangular object divided into two seemingly unequal halves by an insurmountable net.

INTERNET

If you are on the net the following Web site (in USA) is worth looking at. It also has links to a lot of TT sites.

<http://www.hal-pc.org/%7Ecanupnet/>

CHINESE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Will be held in Auckland Stadium on Nov 21-22.

Entry Forms and Info:

Zhu Hui ph 09-5709768
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TABLE TENNIS INFO

Issue: 8

SEPTEMBER

1998

National Development Officer Appointed

John Stapleton has been appointed as **National Development Officer** from mid-October. John started playing table tennis at school in 1977 and he has been involved in administration since 1981 in the North Harbour Association. He has been very successful in increasing membership, developing schools programmes and working with regional Sports Trusts. He is currently northern region coaching co-ordinator.

More page 4

TEST SERIES OFF

The series of three table tennis test

matches scheduled to be played between New Zealand and Australia in October has been cancelled by Table Tennis Australia.

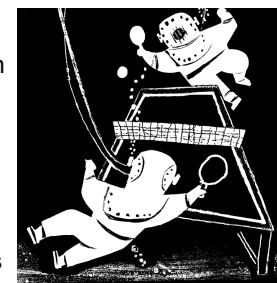
Table Tennis New Zealand Executive Director Mike Brown has expressed deep disappointment over their decision. "It was most unexpected," said Brown. "The Australian Board had approved the series, their Executive Director enthusiastically supported the idea and an agreement over the key details was in place. If any doubt had existed we would not have announced it publicly or invited district associations to host these international matches."

Table Tennis Australia have explained that a severe cut in funding has required them to revise their high performance programme, and the steps taken included calling on their players to pay to attend the Asian Championships. "Players were asked if they were prepared to pay their fares to play in the test series and regrettably they refused," said Executive Director Ron Carlton.

Exchange rate fluctuations have also contributed to Australia's financial situation. Prize money for the star-studded Australian Open (see page 2), escalated dramatically as the value of the Australian dollar dropped from 83 to 55 US cents and the prize money had to be paid in US dollars.

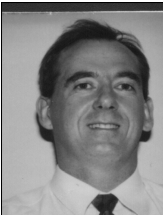
Carlton has given his personal assurance that Australia will work towards bringing the series back on track as an annual event.

New Zealand players were keenly looking forward to the encounters with Australia in front of home audiences, particularly as New Zealand had exciting wins over Australia at the Oceania Championships earlier in the year.



**North Island Champs
nearly sink!**
See Centre pages.

Hello, from the Executive Director



Welcome to the first issue of Table Tennis Info that is being directly mailed to our members. It's great for us to know that you are assured of getting the magazine. We hope you enjoy it.

The magazine itself is brought to you through the efforts of Editor Robin Radford, and TTNZ staff member John Kiley, and I'd like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to their efforts and dedication.

Robin has been involved in Table Tennis for more years than we care to remember, both with the Kapiti Association and on the New Zealand Executive. With his sharp wit and ability for lateral thinking, Robin is the ideal person to edit the magazine, and the whole concept was in fact his. Now retired, he has taken to desk-top publishing and computers like a duck to water, and will soon be taking over the maintenance of the TTNZ web-site in addition to this magazine.

John's forehand may have got slower from the 70's to the 90's, but his love of Table Tennis hasn't diminished. He has worked at TTNZ for the last six years as Office Administrator, following on from administrative roles he has held with the Hutt Valley Association. As chief sub-editor, proof reader and journalist for the magazine, John has a leading role in it's production each quarter.

Our intention is that Individual Member Registration (IMR) will lead to much greater communication throughout Table Tennis. We'd like to inform you directly of what we're doing, and we're always open to comment, feedback and suggestions from our members. Whilst District Associations play a crucial role in the Table Tennis structure, disseminating information through them to our members is not always the best way of keeping you informed.

If you haven't already checked out our Internet web-site, I urge you to do that. It has a lot of information about New Zealand Table Tennis, profiles of players and up to date rating lists. The site has already won two awards, and we think it's one of the best national Association sites in New Zealand. The address is <http://www.tabletennis.org.nz>

I look forward to developing this relationship with you over upcoming issues of Table Tennis Info. Once again, welcome to Table Tennis New Zealand.

Michael Brown

KIWIS at the AUSTRALIAN OPEN

- Chris Herlihy writes:

"A few weeks ago, **Paul Innes**, **Ben Collins** and **Chris Herlihy** along with **Jason Ng** as a spectator headed off to the Australian Open (part of the ITTF Pro Tour) in Melbourne, along with 16 of the top 20 players in the world. Included were **world champion Jan Ove Waldner** and **Olympic Champion Kong Ling Hui**.

Upon arrival we had the opportunity to practise alongside such players as Jean Phillipe Gatien, Peter Franz, Damien Eloi and Kim Taek Soo, just to name a few.

Unfortunately none of us were able to get through our qualifying groups with many top players having to play in groups to get into the main draw. However we all played well and felt we had a chance.

The following day we were able to settle in and watch the world's best. There were many great games and the atmosphere was unbelievable.

The chance to see Waldner play up close was a highlight and the fact he lost his first game to Peter Franz was disappointing. However matches between J-M. Saive and Jorgen Persson, and Gaitien and Wang Liquin made up for this, along with many other great ones.

Throughout the tournament we found that players were very approachable and friendly. We all had the opportunity to talk to players such as Peter Korbel, J-M. Saive, Klinkos Kreanga and a host of others including having a few drinks with some of them at the end of the tournament.

We found the tournament to be a very worthwhile experience which gave us the opportunity to meet, see and play some of the best.

I would recommend anyone interested in the game to attend this tournament next year as it is a great way to see the best in action for a relatively cheap cost."



DECISION OVERTURNED

A three-person appeal panel has overturned a TTNZ decision to refuse Waikato stalwart and reigning New Zealand Women's Singles Champion **Sarah Finch** permission to play for Auckland at the New Zealand Championships teams events this year.

TTNZ had earlier declared that, as she was a registered member of Waikato, did not live in Auckland, and had not played any interclub matches in Auckland, she did not meet the criteria set down in the TTNZ rules. This decision was reaffirmed despite Finch's pleas, strongly backed by Auckland Selector **Richard Lee**, that she had done much of her training in Auckland with other Auckland team members, she was prepared to play interclub matches in Auckland from the time of the application until the start of the NZ Championships, and there were several instances in the past where players had been granted permission to play away from their home association on the strength of as few as two interclub matches in the outside association.

Both parties were standing firm, and it was soon clear that either TTNZ declared its decision as final and irrevocable, or outside arbitration was sought.

The latter option was chosen, and both parties agreed to abide by the decision of a mutually acceptable appeal panel. The panel (Board member **Dennis Galvin**, and former New Zealand Champions **Barry Griffiths** and **Gary Murphy**) considered both sides of the question and ruled that permission be granted to Sarah Finch to play for Auckland provided Waikato did not field a team in the same competition, and that she played at least four interclub contests in Auckland.

Executive Director **Michael Brown** saw the situation as an opportunity to demonstrate his opposition to the liberal thinking of the past which allowed players to move from one association to another with relative ease. "Either this is an inter-association contest or it is not," he said. "If it is, then it should be contested between each Association's registered members. If it's not, then the top players should be assembled into teams by a selection process that ensures the contest is evenly matched and that the strongest players are not teamed with players well below their standard. As things stand, we seem to be in a limbo somewhere in between." Brown has signaled the need to review the question of eligibility and the wider question of the aim of the teams competition before next year's nationals.

The appeal panel's decision means that Auckland will now be a strong contender for the NZ women's team championship title with two NZ representatives, **Sarah Finch** and **Tracey Epps**, in their team.

From front page~

National Development Officer Appointed

John Stapleton tells us:

"A whistle stop tour of all associations and Regional Sports Trusts will take place in late October to November. The main purpose of this initial visit is to assess the current situation and formulate plans for the future. All associations will be looked at individually and a personalised plan will be formulated, with associations setting their own individual targets and TTNZ adjusting its strategic plan accordingly.

A second tour will take place in the new year with a hands on approach. I will be available to do some of the donkey work required for associations in this period. Clubs, schools and key individuals will be targeted.

The final period will consist of an evaluation of the years programmes, goals and objectives and an on going programme set for the future.

In all situations TTNZ will work with the associations to achieve targets. Incentives need to be put into place to encourage progressive associations as well as helping those who are currently struggling to also excel. The SFRITO (Sports Fitness Recreation Industry Training Organisation) courses will go a long way towards helping in this area. There are some very simple things for us to do in the short term, but the real results will be seen in 12 to 24 months time with your medium term programmes. The end results should all be the same, increased membership and better profits for table tennis at a local level.

We should remember that TTNZ and local associations are all the same. We all exist to promote our sport and wish it to prosper. We face competition from other sports, changes to society, non sports

participation amongst our young and other private institutions who may wish to use sport as a vehicle for profit making, without putting the money back into the sport. Local government can also be either friend or foe in assisting or neglecting our sport. IMR whether you like or dislike it is a very accurate way of measuring our future growth. Personally I have some reservations about it but I believe it can be fine tuned to suit all associations equitably. In the meantime I would urge you to go ahead and accumulate the necessary data for Individual Member Registration (IMR) without fear of financial retribution and I promise that when myself and Michael Brown come to visit you, we will have some very positive news and exciting plans for the



SPECTACULAR PERFORMANCE

In a performance reminiscent of his dazzling form in 1995, **Hagen Bower** upset predictions, seedings, and the expectations of most when he steam-rolled a class field to win the Men's Singles at the Auckland Open Championships.

He was seeded fourth but beat **Shane Laugesen** in three straight games and **Andrew Hubbard** in four to take out the title. The performance indicates that Bower still has the potential to regain the level he achieved three years ago when he unseated Peter Jackson from the No 1 ranking spot by beating him at the Auckland, North Island, and New Zealand Championships.

Asian Championships

LAUGESSEN PULLS OUT OF NEW ZEALAND TEAM

Club commitments and travel difficulties have forced one of New Zealand's top players to withdraw from the team named several weeks ago to compete at the Asian Championships. **Shane Laugesen** has just left to begin a new season in France and a sponsorship deal to finance his trip back to Asia fell through at the last minute. This leaves a team of three men to fly the flag at Osaka, Japan: **Andrew Hubbard**, **Aaron Winborn** and new cap, 21 year old **Chris Herlihy**.

Top male player **Peter Jackson**, now based permanently in France, is also unavailable.

It's a different story with the women – New Zealand is at full strength with **Li Chunli**, **Karen Li**, **Sarah Finch** and **Tracey Epps** all competing. Clearly, in this sort of company we stand little chance of finishing high in the teams events but with Chunli's recent form, her world ranking of 25, and her third place in the last Women's World Cup, anything could happen in the individual events. Chunli is paired with her sister Karen in the Women's Doubles.

The team leaves on 25 September, and returns on 6 October. The manager/coaches are **Zhu Hui** and **Murray Finch**.

NEARLY A WORLD CHAMPION

Anyone who loses 21-19, 22-20 to the eventual winner of a world championship event has got to feel pretty proud of themselves.

New Zealander **John Lelliott** did just that. Turning 70 earlier this year, John qualified for the Over 70 events at the World Veterans Championships held in Manchester in June, and in the singles quarter-final he ran England's Ron Etheridge very close in both games. Etheridge went on to win the world title. John's performance was all the more creditable considering he was playing with a painfully inflamed knee.

Seven other New Zealanders participated in this monster event, which catered for five age-groups from Over 40 to Over 80, utilised 80 tables and drew players from every corner of the globe.

Play in both singles and doubles was in round robin groups of four, with the top two advancing to post-section play and the other two entering a consolation draw. Other New Zealanders to progress to post-section play were **Bruce Connolly** (HV) and **Val Scarr** (Wair), both in the Over 50 age-group. Val did well to reach the last 32, and she also had success in the Over 40 doubles consolation event, reaching the final with her Russian partner.

NATIONAL COACHING COMMITTEE

A National Coaching Committee has been set up to carry out the coaching programme nationwide. The first meeting will be held on 7 October during the National Championships in Auckland. There are 10 people on the committee:

Chairperson and Board member: Ron Garrett, Coaches: Zhu Hui, Richard Lee, Murray Finch, Stacey Hooper, Aaron Li, Binquan Hu, Co-ordinators: John Stapleton, Colin Hovey and Bryan Keane.

The following will be among the subjects to be discussed at the first meeting:

1. Regional and national camps for seniors and juniors next year.
2. National Coaching Conference.
3. Development tours.
4. Coaching of coaches.

Any suggestions and advice to this committee are welcome.

The Rating System

From 1 January 1999 the present rating system will be discontinued and TTNZ will use the one that is being kept by David Jackson. The main reason for the change is a prioritisation of office activities and a desire to have certain tasks done outside the office so that they can concentrate on key activities.

For the rest of this year, the usual rating list and David's list will be published together so that players can get used to the change. The TTNZ existing list will continue to be the official one for the remainder of this year.

Mainly for technical reasons, David Jackson's ratings will be the only ones published on the Internet web site. These will be updated regularly and are there now.

<http://www.tabletennis.org.nz>

Some Details:

Information regarding the present rating system was published in the Nov 96 and July 98 issues. The following details of the new system have been received:

A player's rating is a number (of points) which represents his/her playing ability relative to other rated players.

A player's rating changes by graded amounts depending upon the rating difference between his/her rating and the rating of his/her opponent. The following tables define the calculations:

Rating Difference	Normal Outcome	Upset Outcome
<25	8	8
<50	7	10
<100	5	12
<150	3	15
<200	2	20
<250	1	26
	0	32

Weightings are applied only to the winners points, the losers points are not adjusted by a weighting factor.

- Players are assigned a rating as soon as they compete in a qualifying event.
- Players are assigned an initial rating based upon their initial results. This may be reviewed at any time when further results are received.
- Players only have one rating and so appear on any list where appropriate with the same rating points.
- Results of all singles matches are processed.
- Players will remain on Rating Lists for a year following their last qualifying match played.

<== Rating Change Table. The winners rating is increased by the amount in the above table (adjusted by the weighting factor below) while the losers rating is decreased by the amount in the **Rating Change Table**.

Weighting Table

2.0 Weighting	National Individual events.
1.5 Weighting	Summer Nationals, North and South Island Championships, National team events.
1.0 Weighting	All other tournaments, Top 12, Team tournaments etc.

JUNIOR Ratings~ Latest Top 10

As at: 27 August 1998

Boys Under 19

- Chen Lei
- Paul Innes
- Jason Ng
- Stephen Hirst
- Yi-Sien Lin
- Vincent Ho
- Shane Warbrooke
- Paul Stewart
- Peter Craven
- Kirk George

Girls Under 19

- Tracey McLaughlan
- Amber Johnson
- Monique Neal
- Catherine Danby
- Lisa Boaden
- Samara Collins
- Rachel Griffiths
- Anna Danby
- Aroha Tam
- Tamsyn Burgess

Boys Under 17

- Yi-Sien Lin
- Paul Stewart
- Peter Craven
- Adrian Soh
- Jeffery Vinicombe
- Guy Williams
- Michael Mullin
- Jimmy Lin
- James Chapman
- John Cordue

Girls Under 17

- Lisa Boaden
- Rachel Griffiths
- Alison Thomson
- Deborah Morrison
- Jenny Brewerton
- Helen Wilson
- Jiani Hu
- Leanne Wight
- Bridgette Carmody
- Claire Dimmock

Boys Under 15

- Adrian Soh
- John Cordue
- Andrew Hovey
- Andy Huang
- Kelsey Fagan
- Allen Tsai
- Johnny Cheung
- Adis Kulasic
- Simon Wallace
- Matthew Dawe

Girls Under 15

- Jiani Hu
- Francesca Collins
- Andrea Gosney
- Kelly Winkley
- Jennifer Lo
- Laura-Jane Young
- Seong Un Lee
- Johanna McCord
- Sacha Welsh

Boys Under 13

- Andy Huang
- Simon Wallace
- Anthony Wilson
- Josh Alexandre
- Allen Yeh
- Hadleigh Bunce
- Scott Ridder
- Ben Warbrooke
- Shaun Poh
- Chris Erskine
- Nathan Lowe

Girls Under 13

- Jiani Hu
- Jennifer Lo



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LONG PIMPLES OUTLAWED

If you play with long pimples (on your bat, not on your face), then you've got till 1 July, 1999 to get used to something else.

A decision by the ITTF Council earlier in the year renders long-pimpled rubber illegal from that date and a revised list of authorised racket-coverings has been sent to all association secretaries. The list clearly marks all rubbers which will become illegal after 1 July. Among the more popular rubbers that will be affected are: BUTTERFLY Feint long; DONIC Piranja, TSP Curl P-1; TSP Curl P-3, YASAKA Phantom 0011 and YASAKA Phantom 0012.

ITTF rules expert David Jackson comments on the possible reasons for the change: "The main feature of long pimpled rubber is the ability to generate a wide variation in spin. This occurs as a result of the unique ability of the pimples to bend on contact with the ball. Obviously the ball's speed and the bat angle contribute to the resultant effect, and this makes the returns very difficult for the opponent to read. This rubber is also very difficult to control, and consequently, for the non-playing spectator, all of this would be quite baffling.

The ITTF have long recognised problems with the sport from a spectator viewpoint. Experiments have been conducted and statistics recorded and analysed regarding the length of rallies. The ITTF would like to make rallies longer and furthermore they would like to remove some of the complexities of the game, which would then make it easier for the layperson to comprehend what is going on out there.

On the contrary, long pimpled rubber has been long regarded as a saviour for the few defensive players still in the sport. Nevertheless with almost all of the top attacking players using speed glues, there has been only meagre pickings for the very best defensive players in recent times.



Don't be surprised to see a few new pimpled rubbers appear on the market over the next 9 months. The manufacturers are almost certain to keep producing similar rubbers but within the new technical specifications. In this case it means that the pimples will necessarily be either shorter or wider in order to comply."

Change now, or wait ?

Players who use long pimpled rubber have to decide whether they should change to something else now (to get used to different rubber before

next season), or wait to see what comes on the market. Staying in touch with your rubber supplier might be the best option at this stage.

CHINESE CHAMPIONSHIPS - from Zhu Hui

"Because of my background and contact with the Chinese community, I have organised the **"HongkongBank 1998 New Zealand Chinese Table Tennis Championships"** which is fully supported by TTNZ. It is expected to attract over 200 participants. The tournament will be held on November 21/22 in the Auckland stadium.

"Table Tennis is the most popular sport in the Chinese community. During last 10 years, the Chinese population has been increasing rapidly in New Zealand and there are now about 100,000 Chinese people living in the Auckland region alone. We are very fortunate to have **HongkongBank** as the major

Money flows in Southland



If there's one association in the country that can claim to be at a distinct disadvantage in terms of their physical location, it must surely be Southland.

With a development and coaching programme in place, a solid core of promising juniors, and most national tournaments involving an expensive air-trip, one would expect fundraising to be a major headache for this geographically remote Association.

But Southland is a shining example for all to follow when it comes to extracting money from local funding sources. \$21,000 has been granted to them by the Invercargill Licensing Trust alone over the past four years. Add to this a grant of \$3000 from the Hillary Commission local funding scheme; \$15,000 from the local community trust set up by the former Trustbank, with a promise of \$13,000 more over the next two years if Southland meets its own fundraising targets, and you're looking at more than \$50,000.

Local fundraising guru Ron Garrett makes no secret of the fact that money is available if all sources are explored, the money is spent wisely, and the association is seen to be helping itself and not just sitting back waiting for hand-outs. Putting together very detailed and well researched submissions, and generating publicity for local events are also major factors in the Association's success. Southland's newspaper coverage is very good and their promotional work for Table Tennis Week was superb. They will shortly appoint a part time development officer.

The Southland Association is always willing to share its secrets and any association interested in getting more details can contact them any time.

SUMMER NATIONALS looking good for January 99

"A large entry is assured for this years Summer Nationals in Nelson if the early bookings have anything to do with it" said organiser Bryan Keane. (The 1999 event is to be held from the 9th to the 15th of January at the Richmond YMCA.)

The first Summer Nationals held earlier this year were a roaring success with most players saying they'll be back again in '99 and with the new interest shown in table tennis nationally we are sure to attract a lot who missed out on the fun last time.

Entry forms will be out soon with a closing date expected to be in early December so plan for your summer holiday in sunny Nelson and enjoy what some of our smaller towns have to offer. Nelson is a great place for the whole family to visit. Excellent prizes will be on offer and with the two player team

format you can easily enter in the teams side of the competition.

All teams must be made up of players from the same association so get talking to the people in charge and get them to enter you into a team quickly.

The second grade events were extremely popular last year and these were introduced so players of all levels can enter and really enjoy their games. There will be some extra events added this year so grab an entry form from your association secretary to get all the total information you need. Accommodation will be available at the Academy but early bookings are essential so for these and any other information contact Bryan Keane on 03-5477530. He'll be able to arrange most things for you.



Long delays, empty tables, frazzled tempers...

What went wrong at the North Island Championships ?

by John Kiley



All those who went near the 1998 North Island Championships in Auckland in

"I've been waiting more than three hours for a game," complained the young junior player attending his first major tournament. He surveyed a sea of empty tables, knew his opponent was in the stadium, and couldn't understand why his match couldn't be played. He dared not ask – others had done so and been growled at by the organisers. So he kept waiting – for another hour - consoled only by the fact that nearly all the other players were either equally frustrated, or convulsing with mirth at the total chaos. If nothing else, that reassured him that things weren't always this bad at national tournaments.

From the point of view of most players, visitors and spectators, the 1998 North Island Championships were the worst organised in living memory. What is so puzzling is that the event took place in the Auckland Stadium and was hosted by the Auckland Association who have many years of experience running championships at this level. Most agree they have a solid reputation for running a good tournament.

So, what happened ?

It began with a technical problem: one of the three computers on hand to print match cards, process results and display matches on TV screens lacked the required memory capacity. Other computer problems also arose as a result of timetable changes and local modifications made to the original programme. The problems were resolved but things got off to a very slow start and there was also confusion with the first round of matches.

Player names and tables were not included in the opening announcement which meant the start of play was dependant on players being able to read and operate the TV monitors placed around the stadium. Early problems with the monitors rendered them, at first, totally inoperative, and for the remainder of the tournament difficult to read and time-consuming to obtain information from.

So the tournament started badly – and got steadily worse. Many players gave up on using the monitors and relied on officials to advise them when they were due to play. With few people available to function as table stewards, players weren't being chased up. The schedule fell further and further behind and more and more tables remained empty. Second and third division events became a problem. Auckland appear not to favour them at the best of times, and with other things going wrong, generating the division draws and scheduling the matches into an already disintegrating timetable was just one more hassle organisers didn't need. It was players due to play division matches that had to endure some of the longest waits.

Long waits and empty tables have an inevitable consequence – pressure on the seeded players at a later stage. Some were eventually required to play as many as six matches without a break.

Before long the situation had become a nightmare for the organisers – they recognised the plight of the players, but knew the only way for the event to be brought under control was to be left alone to sort out the mess. The players, for their part, needed to plan things like lunch breaks; they were confused and, not unnaturally, asked frequent questions.

Things continued to get worse and by

about the middle of the second day Murphy's Law had been unleashed in all its fury. Players became more and more frustrated; organisers more and more hassled and less and less tolerant. Mistakes crept in. The whole atmosphere became unpleasant and at one stage an announcement was made threatening to cancel the tournament if any more balls disappeared off tables. One of the two referees, Ivan Moffat, refused to remain associated with the event and did not attend on the final day.

One of the less palatable facts was that a number of spectators offered to help but their offers were rejected, at times curtly. Eventually, several senior officials from outside Auckland moved in nonetheless and played a useful role in keeping things moving. Players themselves also took the initiative and often ended up arranging their own matches on empty tables.

There was a notable absence of any official TTNZ representation. A liaison person could have eased the tension between the organisers and the players, although several outsiders wisely and effectively took on that role.

Is there an explanation ?

In the safety of hindsight, how does the host association explain this fiasco?

"Some time prior to the North Island Championships the Auckland Management Committee decided to experiment with the use of computers and monitors to run the championships," said Auckland Chairman, Bob Inns. "It was an experiment we don't want to repeat. As it turned out there was a considerable gap between what we believed we would get and what we got. The problem we had was that the computer ran the tournament, whereas in Auckland we have been used to manually running tournaments and being in control of the total process."

With computer technology declared as, if not the main problem, then at least the starting point for subsequent problems, the question again needs to be asked, why ?

Computers have been running table tennis tournaments in New Zealand for several years, and computer screens have been used as a means of calling players to the table since the idea was pioneered by South Canterbury in 1993. It appears that Auckland paid the penalty for not test-driving their chosen system in their own stadium at an earlier event (eg, the Auckland Junior Open, or some other smaller tournament). This would have provided a chance to iron out any technical problems. And there were other factors. The decision by John Bower to resign as Tournament Manager shortly before the championships had a severe impact. Up until then he had either carried out or supervised all the lead-up work and his experience with previous national tournaments was one of Auckland's major assets. "John was appointed at the start of the season," recounted Bob Inns. "Two weeks prior to the running of the North Island he pulled out for 'personal reasons'. This was a major blow."

We invited John Bower to elaborate but he preferred not to make his reasons public.

The loss of John Bower was not the only staffing problem. The tournament badly needed an energetic team of people functioning as table stewards - delivering match cards to the table, hurrying the players along, ensuring the results are handed in, etc.

Bob Inns is squarely facing the music. "A lot of the criticism is justified. However, players do not help themselves by continually questioning tournament officials on the timing of their matches, pinching balls off tables, and generally giving absolutely no consideration that there are people involved with the tournament other than themselves. Thank God these players are in the minority."

Was anything salvaged ?

It might sound cynical and almost patronising, but all involved can justifiably look back with wry satisfaction that at least the tournament was completed. It may well not have been.

Conditions were ripe for the wheels to fall off completely.

Continued Page 12

North Island Champs Disaster

Apart from more than the usual number of division matches being defaulted, all the matches were played, and no session continued to an unreasonable hour in the evening.

Some of the people involved showed good crisis management skills, and many players did their very best to remain co-operative, particularly in the early stages.

There was also some great table tennis.

Will it happen again ?

Auckland are due to host the New Zealand Championships in early October. Can players expect the same thing to happen again ? Definitely not, assures Bob Inns. "We will be reverting to our tried and true monitoring board. We're looking forward to the Nationals and I am sure these will be run in accordance with the normal high standards that Auckland has delivered over a number of years."

If the relatively problem-free Auckland Open in August is taken as an indicator, it looks as though Bob Inns could be right.

A meeting took place between TTNZ and the Auckland Association to discuss the problems. A number of detailed reports have also been received. The meeting and the reports have been useful to identify what went wrong and steps have already been taken to ensure a similar situation doesn't arise at the New Zealand Championships.

OTAGO ACTIVE IN SCHOOLS

Otago TTA secretary and coach, **Bob (Ben) Hurr**, has spent weeks zig-zagging across Dunedin teaching school students how to play table tennis. Nine different schools, 796 students, and a determination to put a carefully planned development programme in place next year – all add up to one very clear signal: Otago is getting serious.

WARKWORTH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

The first ever Warkworth Open Table Tennis Championships proved a great success in July.

Conducted at the Mahurangi College gym by the North Harbour Association, the event featured a separate Rodney Residents section.

Dave D'Audney of Silverdale was residents men's champion, **Eileen Schwab** women's and junior girls champion; brother **Alex** junior boys champion. Following the success of the day, a club is to be established at the College. (Details contact **Daniel Telders** phone 425-9211 or **Jan Sommerwill** 425-9688).

In a packed programme, 55 "visitors" also competed in the open events. **Val Beaver**, the Counties-Manukau number one, dominated the day winning six events of seven entered. Next best was North Harbour's **Pat McArthur** who won four events and was runner up once.

Up and coming Auckland junior **Ben Collins** won the men's singles, his first open tournament victory. Harbour stalwarts **David Baker** and **Ray Dulangon** (men's doubles) and **Darren Engle** (mixed doubles) also enjoyed their first ever open tournament titles.

Auckland's **Nam Hang Lee** and Harbour's **John Te Pania** won all the veteran events between them. Nam Hang was over 40 champion, John over 50 and the pair won both the doubles.

In junior events Harbour junior **Matt Dawe** won the hard luck award, losing all four finals reached. Waitemata's **Kelsey Fagan**, highly ranked nationally, scooped all the under 14 and 17 boys events while Northland sisters **Ann-Marie** and **Sacha Welsh** won the under 20, 17 and 14 singles titles between them. Best performed Harbour junior was **Janice Chen** with two titles.

David Baker – North Harbour

NELSON SUMMER TABLE TENNIS CAMPS

Nelson is proving to be the mecca for a lot of the keen young table tennis players and this summer will prove to be no exception.

The Academy Christmas holiday bookings are already heavy for the new and exciting camp programmes which will run over the December/January period. These camps are for players of all levels and will start on December 12 and run to January 23rd. During this time players will learn the most up to date Chinese training techniques which will develop their own style of play to the level they desire.

The coaches will be Aaron Li, current NZ Champion and a proven South Island coach along with the Academy's resident coach Binquan Hu, who needs no introduction.

Binquan-trained students have gained remarkable results again this year.

These two coaches share a wealth of knowledge and experience that is seldom seen in a country like NZ.

The cost of the camps range from \$135 to \$265 depending on the length of the camp selected. These costs include Coaching, Accommodation, all Meals and the camps are limited to 10 players.

For more information phone Bryan Keane at the Academy on (03) 5477530.

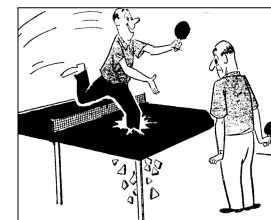


Table Tennis Writer arrives at Wellington's Evening Post

Former South Canterbury table tennis player Daryl Holden has recently taken up a position as sports journalist with Wellington's Evening Post. As with the Timaru Herald, he has quickly established himself as a specialist table tennis writer and has already had large-scale success.

Within one week, two very large photographs of Karen Li, a photo of Andrew Hubbard, a comprehensive story on the Wellington Open, an article on Li Chunli, and a half-page personal profile on Karen Li, have all been published.

The Karen Li story was an impressive example of the kind of journalism that works really well with the general public. It began with her views on the All Blacks, how she finds life in New Zealand as a Chinese immigrant - and then launched into an overview of her table tennis successes in New Zealand and her early table tennis training in China. It ended with a glimpse of her lifestyle in New Zealand, her love for beef, lamb and KFC, her regular participation in netball and touch rugby, and her pride in the fact that she now sees herself as a genuine Kiwi. The eye-catching headline "Made in China – Heart in NZ" spanned five columns above the story and picture of her in deep concentration waiting to receive service.

It's well worth keeping in mind that stories following this sort of formula seem to be the most sought after by sports and general editors.

We wish Daryl, and other professional writers with a specialist interest in Table Tennis, all the very best with their endeavours and assure them that the fruits of their labours are greatly valued by table tennis players throughout New Zealand.

Editors Note

Any article submitted by a professional writer would be more than greatly appreciated by this modest publication.

Hamilton Ladies Table Tennis Club

The earliest records show the club started in 1966, although some of the original members who are still playing today believe it may have started earlier.

The club was very strong in the 1970's with about 45 members. Numbers declined in the mid 1980's, down to 15 members, but has increased gradually again to this year's total of 36 - an increase of twenty percent on the previous year. This is mainly due to members encouraging friends to come along, and the friendship offered to new members.

The social side of this club is very important with members sharing a lunch (with a sales table) once a month when a tournament is organised i.e. graded round robin, handicap tournament, yankee tournament. A typical days play is doubles, with players drawing partners and playing to the clock for 5 rounds, individual scores are kept, with a lucky number prize. Five minutes rest is taken, to allow bookwork to be completed, raffle drawn, prizes given out, and any notices. The scores taken are then used to grade players and about 5 rounds are completed with winners going up and losers down so everyone gets even games.

Tea and biscuits are served to finish off the morning, and a chance to catch up on happenings during the week.

Alison Neal

OBITUARY – Jean Elliott

- A tribute from Merv Allardyce.

"On 27 June 1998 Heather Jean Elliott JP died in her home in New Plymouth at the age of 92."

"I first met Jean in the 1950's in the days of the Sweetman Shield (a challenge trophy for some North Island associations).

Jean represented North Taranaki as a player until arthritis affected her legs when she was reduced to the role of "Camp Mother." Player, coach, administrator extraordinary with a mind as sharp as a tack; a person who never hesitated to say what she thought; a person to be respected.

For about 10 years she was a regular North Taranaki delegate to the NZTTA (as it was then) annual meetings. For her services to table tennis Jean was elected a Life Member of NZTTA. (Her late husband, Les, was also a Life Member.) When she was unable to attend the AGM's there was seldom a year went by when she didn't ring the National office to record her apology and to have a chat about table tennis.

In addition to her involvement in table tennis, Jean was active in other organisations notably as a Justice of the Peace and as a member of the Labour Party. She was a Life member of both.

Jean is survived by son John (still an active player), two grandchildren, seven great grandchildren and four great great grandchildren."

Coach Education

Fifty coaches will undergo an Introductory programme at a weekend course in October. Funding to cover all travel and accommodation costs has been provided by SFRITO. (Sports Fitness Recreation Industry Training Organisation)

TTNZ are re-writing the Introductory Level and Level One coaching programmes. They will continue after this and write the Level Two programme. Once these are written, they will be able to run a nationally co-ordinated programme of coach development. This will involve holding courses, certifying people, and providing career paths for coaches.

AARON LI TOPPLED AT NORTH ISLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS

Displaying the maturity that goes with five years of professional table tennis, Shane Laugesen beat Chinese born title-holder Aaron Li in five games, coming back from 0-2 down. He only just won the third game 21-19 and the final two game scores were 15 and 18.

Karen Li swept everyone aside as predicted to win the women's singles without dropping a game. She conceded an average of less than 9 points per game.

David Jackson and Val Beaver dominated the veteran events while a massive number of upset results were recorded among the juniors, particularly in the Under 17 age-group.

Full results are listed on next page (16).

Taradale Table Tennis Club – (Napier)

The Taradale Club has been in existence for nearly 60 years and after playing for many years at the Taradale Town Hall now play each week during the winter at the Taradale Club. This is a modern chartered club with excellent facilities and we are able to have 5 tables in operation in a large function room with a very high ceiling.

We, like most T T clubs, have the usual problem of attracting members and our current membership is currently just over 30 senior players. We also run a junior club for intermediate school children which we hope provides a pool of senior players in years to come.

We are fortunate that our club is well equipped. We have an electric practice ball machine and this year replaced 4 of our tables with new Butterfly Octet tables imported through HB Sports from Germany. We have also ordered a further table for next season to make up our complement of 5 tables. We find these tables excellent and they are a real "breeze" to take down and store as they are fully castored. No more lifting and carrying of heavy tables at the end of the evening! We were fortunate that we got a substantial donation towards the cost of the tables from Eastern & Central Community Trust. With this help we were able to donate replaced tables to schools in the area.

At 6pm on Wednesday evenings a small band of senior players get the playing area set up for the junior club (Form 1 to 4 children). They coach and supervise the children until 7.30 when the senior club starts.

We usually start organised play about 8pm with a few rounds of "aggregate doubles" which mixes everybody up and scores accumulate until the end of the season. After this our hard working club captain, Lester Bartle, organises some further activity such as "round robin" for the rest of the evening which usually finishes about 10pm.

As we play at a chartered club we can have a drink during the evening and usually a number of members gather in the lounge after play has finished for a social half hour.



Eric Lamb

Club member **Sue Hobbs** certainly seems to enjoy the club atmosphere.

North Island Championships

Auckland

Open Men's Singles Women's Singles Men's Doubles Women's Doubles Mixed Doubles	Winner Shane Laugesen (Auck) Karen Li (Nth Harbour) A Hubbard & A Winborn (HV/Auck) T Hefferan & K Li (Nth Hb) S Laugesen & B Beazer (Auck/HV)	Singles Runner Up Aaron Li (Nels) Sarah Finch (Waikato)
B Grade Men's Singles Women's Singles	David Hall (Wait) Pat McArthur (Nth Hb)	Terry Murphy (Auck) Jill Murray (Nth Hb)
C Grade Men's Singles Women's Singles	Alois Wolloner (Wait) Diane Te Pania (Nth Hb)	Ben Chapman (Wang) Ann McLean (Auck)
Over 60 years Men's Singles Women's Singles Men's Doubles Women's Doubles Mixed Doubles	Alan Tomlinson (Auck) Nellie Milich (Nthland) B Burns & P Winder (Auck) M McGregor & N Milich (Wait/Nthl) B Otene & M McGregor (Wait)	Bill Otene (Wait) Nancy Brant (Counties-M)
Over 50 years Men's Singles Women's Singles Men's Doubles Women's Doubles Mixed Doubles	Nam Hang Lee (Auck) Val Beaver (Counties-M) B Lassen & B Penberthy (Auck) V Beaver & P McArthur (C-M/Nth Hb) B Lassen & C Cunningham (Ak/Nth Hb)	Chip Eade (Wait) Pat McArthur (Nth Hb)
Over 40 years Men's Singles Women's Singles Men's Doubles Women's Doubles Mixed Doubles	David Jackson (Auck) Val Beaver (Counties-M) D Jackson & P Low (Auck) V Beaver & A Roberts (Counties-M/HV) D Jackson & V Beaver (AK/Counties-M)	Doug Pattinson (Auck) Averil Roberts (HV)
Over 35 years Men's Singles Women's Singles Men's Doubles Women's Doubles Mixed Doubles	David Jackson (Auck) Jill Murray (Nth Hb) S Lui & A Phang (Auck) P Low & J Murray (Auck/Nth Hb)	Pat Low (Auck) Averil Roberts (HV)
Under 21 years Men's Singles Women's Singles Men's Doubles Women's Doubles Mixed Doubles	Chri Herlihy (Waikato) Karen Li (Nth Hb) C Herlihy & P Innes (Waikato) K Li & C So (Nth Hb) G Windley & M Beazer (HV)	Jason Ng (Auck) Tracey McLauchlan (HV)
Under 19 years Boys' Singles Girls' Singles Boys' Doubles Girls' Doubles Mixed Doubles	Jason Ng (Auck) Lisa Boaden (HV) P Innes & J Ng (Waik/Auck) A Johnson & T McLauchlan (Ak/HV) Yi-Sien Lin & R Griffiths (Canty/Wait)	Shane Warbrooke (Auck) Tracey McLauchlan (HV)
Under 17 years Boys' Singles Girls' Singles Boys' Doubles Girls' Doubles Mixed Doubles	John Cordue (Wgton) Lisa Boaden (HV) P Craven & G Williams (Nthl/Wang) J Hu & L J Young (Nels/Wait) J Cordue & F Collins (Wgton/Auck)	Guy Williams (Wang) Alison Thomson (Wang)

Under 15 years Boys' Singles Girls' Singles Boys' Doubles Girls' Doubles Mixed Doubles	Winner Adrian Soh (Nels) Francesca Collins (Auck) A Soh & A Tsai (Nels/Auck) A Thomson & L Wight (Wang) J Lin & L Burgess (Auck/Nth Hb)	Singles Runner Up Kelsey Fagan (Wait) Jiani Hu (Nels)
Under 13 years Boys' Singles Girls' Singles Boys' Doubles Girls' Doubles Mixed Doubles	Andy Huang (Auck) Jiani Hu (Nels) H Bunce & N Lowe (Wait/Auck) D Burgess & J Hu (Nth Hb/Nels) A Huang & J Hu (Auck/Nels)	Nathan Lowe (Auck) Danielle Burgess (Nth Hb)

Men's Open 1. Aaron Li 2. Shane Laugesen 3. Chen Lei 4. Hagen Bower 5. Aaron Winborn 6. Hu Binquan Andrew Hubbard 8. Chris Herlihy 9. Paul Bowman 10. Jared Smith	SENIOR Ratings ~ Latest Top 10 <div>The Ratings are as at 27 August 1998 Lists are held by Association secretaries. There are considerably more players rated.</div>	Women's Open 1. Karen Li 2. Sarah Finch 3. Tracey Epps 4. Tracey Phillips 5. Sabine Westenra 6. Shelley Neal 7. Debbie Garrett 8. Tracey McLauchlan 9. Maxine Goldie 10. Val Beaver
Men's Under 21 1. Chen Lei 2. Chris Herlihy 3. Paul Innes 4. Jason Ng 5. Mark Stewart 6. Graeme Windley 7. Stephen Hirst 8. Yi-Sien Lin 9. Vincent Ho 10. Shane Warbrooke Conrad Lee	Women's Under 21 1. Karen Li 2. Tracey McLauchlan 3. Melissa Beazer 4. Amber Johnson 5. Monique Neal 6. Catherine Danby 7. Lisa Boaden 8. Samara Collins 9. Rachel Griffiths 10. Anna Danby	Men's Over 40 1. David Jackson 2. Bob Lassen 3. Barry Wynks 4. Maurice Burrowes 5. Yigang Zhao Doug Pattinson 7. Warren Evans Pat Low 9. Terry Murphy 10. William Weinstock
Men's Over 50 1. Bob Lassen 2. Warren Evans 3. William Weinstock 4. Alan Tomlinson 5. Alan Alabaster 6. Chip Eade 7. Nam Hang Lee 8. Bruce Connolly 9. John Lelliott 10. Robert Dunn	Women's Over 50 1. Val Beaver 2. Chris. Cunningham 3. Lynley Barker 4. Pat McArthur 5. Jill Murray 6. Val Scarr 7. Ngaire Garrett 8. Kaylene Findlay 9. Ann McLean 10. Diane Te Pania	Men's Over 60 1. Alan Tomlinson 2. Nam Hang Lee 3. John Lelliott 4. Colin Tipper 5. Bill Otene 6. Albert Roberts 7. Colin Neutze 8. Gerry Doyle 9. Ron Wells 10. Herbert Thompson
		Women's Over 40 1. Val Beaver 2. Yvonne Fogarty 3. Ulrike Kusche 4. Averil Roberts 5. Chris. Cunningham 6. Lynley Barker 7. Pat McArthur 8. Jill Murray 9. Val Scarr 10. Linda Wynks
		Women's Over 60 1. Annice Robotom 2. Margaret McGregor 3. Elsie Spooner 4. Kath Thompson 5. Nellie Milich

DO WE NEED NAMES FOR OUR NATIONAL TEAM?

Hamish Rennie from Hamilton has asked whether TTNZ has ever tried a name for our National team. He suggests **"Black Bats"**, for both the Mens and Womens Teams.

Hamish's reasoning is "Bats are indigenous to NZ", "are nocturnal" (most TT is played in the evenings), "have an incredible ability to pick things out of the air after judging flight/movement" (spin etc), "there are male and female Bats!" and of course, "we play with bats that have a black side".

The Editor adds INFO's little bit:

In addition the NZ tradition of "Black" is incorporated with a word connected to the sport. Think about Cricket and their Black Caps.

Of course the question to be considered - are our teams well known enough for a name to have any impact?

Perhaps, especially with the recent publicity and the hope that the Li sisters will both compete in next years world championships (Li Chunli is currently ranked 25 in the world and sister Karen, NZ's no 2 to Chunli, should be moving up from her 1996 76th world placing.)

Ha Ha, one could ask, would the ladies like to be called "Bats"? - **That** might not go down so well, so how about **"Table Ferns"** for them! This relates clearly to part of the sport with the traditional "Fern" relating to Women's teams.



So, - have your say and Write/Fax/E-Mail us, or TTNZ, in time for the November issue.

Hamish Rennie is a lecturer with the Department of Geography at Waikato University and specialises in Resource and Environmental Planning.

His Table Tennis involvement is as a member of the BHP Club (Bruntswood, Hautapu, Pukeroro) which is the closest one to Cambridge, where he lives. He says he plays, poorly, A Grade interclub at Hamilton, and has played in Canterbury, Otago, Wellington and Newfoundland in the past. His greatest success: the Atlantic Region C Grade singles title in the early 1980s!



OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENTS

With the introduction of a **magazine** and a **web page** to the range of communication tools, TTNZ are now very much in need of people in various parts of the country to supply them with written reports and photographs on events and issues, that the National Office and magazine editor (both based in Wellington) might be out of touch with. Applications are invited for the position of "Magazine/Web Page correspondent" in each of the following areas:

**Auckland/Northland
Upper central North Island
Lower central North Island/Wellington**

**Marlborough/Nelson/West Coast
Canterbury
Otago/Southland**

Please ask around your Association to see if anyone is interested and have them get in touch the National Office.

The Humble Spud!

From Ron Fleming

Spuds In Front On Sports Table



Recent medical findings from the Dann Nutrition Centre in the UK illustrate that the "fast and slow carb" properties of New Zealand's most popular vegetable, the good old "spud" comes at a time when nutrition regimes for sports people are becoming unnecessarily complex and costly.

These latest findings provide a simple, natural and inexpensive way to achieve an effective, low-fat carbohydrate regime.

The starch found in chilled baked potatoes makes them a recommended pre-sport "slow carb" or "cruise carb". The particular form of starch is good for sustained muscle activity. By releasing vital glucose into the blood stream slowly, cold baked potatoes sustain blood sugar levels throughout a training session or sport event. Immediately after sport, athletes need rapid glucose replacement and research shows they can get it from hot mashed potato. Because mashed potato has a high Glycaemic index it acts as an effective "fast carb" (unlike pasta whose structure restricts it to "slow carb" status), facilitating the quick recovery of glycogen stores.

New Zealand world mountain running bronze medallist and three times national cross country champion, Melissa Moon, has a potato base diet and has been using potatoes for carbohydrate loading before and after big runs since she started competitive athletics five years ago. Living proof of the nutritional qualities of **the humble spud**.

NORTHLAND'S 50th.

A barbecue luncheon started off the celebrations in the Northland Table Tennis Centre at Kensington Park, Whangarei. During the afternoon a special Doubles Event was organised which put past and present players together.

The Patron Bill Hurrey (past New Zealand president) unveiled a commemorative plaque celebrating 50 years and a Jubilee cake was cut by Doris Love, our oldest player at the reunion. (N.Z. title holder, as Doris McAdam: Women's Doubles 1935, 1937 and 1938 - also 1937 Mixed Doubles) .

Buck Batger spoke about plans for the new extension which will include an area for 4 tables plus storage space and committee room. People were offered the opportunity to buy a block for the extension at \$100 with their name recorded on extension wall for posterity. Darky Woodman also spoke of 40 years of memories he had with North Table Tennis. The official dinner started at 6.30p.m. and chairman Brent Davies officiated the evening. The hall was covered with memorabilia supplied by many families which was read with great interest.

A life membership award was made to Neti Traill for her contribution to Northland Table Tennis. Mrs Traill was 8 times NZ Womens Singles titleholder between 1960 and 1970.

A great day was had by all and Northland Association were appreciative of all the good wishes sent to them for the celebrations.

Rumour has it that everyone was sent home when the Night was closed by James Morris playing "Now is the Hour" and "Auld Lang Syne" on the bagpipes!