



Touch of the World

The International Touch Fraternity's Newsletter

cary@austouch.com.au

Edition Number 6/2001 – November

EDITORIAL



The Executive have been working hard over the past months communicating with two new potential Members ensuring that all the protocols are in place for the Members to vote on their applications.

I briefly alluded to this in the last newsletter but many of the matters being considered take time and patience to get through all the process.

Singapore Touch has now a new website and has FIT sanction to host the Asian Touch Championships next year in June. This should be a forerunner for future Asian Tournaments that will be run along the same lines as the European Championships.

The European Championships hosted by the Welsh Touch Ass also have installed a web site for any enquiries. See the listing on the last page for both sites.

The World All Schools first championships were held on the Gold Coast of Queensland recently and attracted over 100 teams. The two age categories were 18's and 15's and catered for Boys, Girls and Mixed Divisions. The lack of support from overseas teams needs to be addressed not only by the Executive but all of the Membership,

Each Member is asked to establish from the schools systems in their country the varying reason why the event wasn't supported.

The segment introduced in the last issue, Great Moments in Touch received some positive feedback especially from the older players who remembered the first Test Series and recalled some of the names of the starts of yesterday. I hope this issue's item recalls fond memories.

The Australian Men, Women and Mixed teams travelled to Hamilton, New Zealand to meet their old foe and contest the Trans Tasman Trophy. A full report of the results can be found later on in the newsletter.

There are very few articles coming in from our Members. It would appear the most enthusiastic of them all is the USFIT closely followed by Canada. The survival of future edition will depend on ALL the Members getting excited about their country and send some article to show case their sport.

GREAT MOMENTS IN TOUCH

Following on from the first test series ever played the year 1986 saw four teams from Australian travel to New Zealand to contest the second Trans Tasman Trophy.

On the 14th December 1986 in Sunny Auckland, Australia played New Zealand in a one off test series in Men, Women, Mixed and Masters divisions.



The 1985 Mens Test Team - many of who played in the 1986 Test Series

Only six members of the 1985 winning team backed up in the mens team with three moving into the Masters. Of the notable first timers in this squad was the legend NSW player Mark "Bus" Boland who went on to terrorise New Zealand teams for the next 15 years.

The Womens team were to forever leave their mark on the home side and although not in her too earl years the NZ womens teams of the '90 were using video to study the play of the Australians and none more then legend player Katrina Maher who made her debut on this tour.

Other Legends who also left lasting impression on their opponents were the great Kerry Norman, Karen Smith, Lisa Neal and Gai Taylor.

Only three of the 1985 New Zealand Mens teams were selected for the 1986 series. Although Tony Matthews and Charlie Williams played in the Masters division the Mens Open was a very new team indeed.

Most notable of the debutants was the Legend of Touch New Zealand, Peter Walters. He was joined by two NZ Rugby greats in Graham and Steven Bachop and the fourth hero of the team was Mac Herewini.

Editorial	1
Great Moments In Touch	1
Touch in the USA	2
World All Schools Championships	2
Australian National 18's	3
Letters to the Editor	3
Greatest Teams of the 20th Century	3
New Zealand make History	4
Trans Tasman Trophy	4
Your Newsletter	4
Calendar of Events	5
Touch Web Sites	5

Great Moments in Touch (Continued)

In the Womens team only Donna Morgan went of to play in two more tests while Karen Colville, Adrienne Grey and Gillian Mills played in the '88 series. Carol Howard was recalled for the 91 team but the strength of womens touch in New Zealand did not come to the fore until the late nineties.

Australia won all four games against the home side the men winning 6-0; the women 11-0; the mixed 7-2 and the masters 8-0.



USFIT TOUCH IN THE USA!

Each month, USFIT will update the latest information on touch tournaments, clubs and developments in the USA, and North America. If you are planning an event related to Touch, and would like to communicate this to the touch community, please forward the information to USFIT (c/o: rbrownjohn@palladiumusa.com). As mentioned in our last update, we are currently developing the USFIT web site, and future updates will be included on this site.

Tournament Update

Portland (Oregon) Touch,
August 18, 2001

Matt Walsh and his Portland Touch group put on a great Tournament. Green fields at Reed College greeted the players, and 4 teams battled it out. Matt's team came out eventual winners in a close final that was decided by a "Shoot-Out"!

Calgary Touch Association
2nd Annual Tournament,
September 2, 2001

The best Rugby fields and Club House we have encountered greeted the 10 teams that played for the coveted Beresford Cup at The Calgary Touch Association's 2nd Annual Tournament. Calgary is an incredible spot to visit, and what better cause than a Touch Tournament! This was a five star event with all the trimmings. Eventual winners were the Anzacs that toppled Toronto in the final.

USFIT Nationals, San Diego September
29, 2001

No official write up, however, sign on to www.mlrugby.com for pictures of the event. Curious, but one of the players on the winning team looks a lot like Anthony Hunter! I understand that the games were very competitive, and the event well attended. More to follow in next months write up.

Major League Touch Exhibition,
Las Vegas
November 2-4, 2001

Major League Touch, which is a USFIT sanctioned and supported competition, is launching its competition this November 2-4, 2001. The Major League Touch Exhibition is part of a rugby hybrid weekend hosted by Major League Sports. The best men's, mixed and women's teams in America will be competing for their respective division titles.

USFIT and MLT will also be joining together to run the first ever USFIT Refereeing Level One Course. Please find all the information on this event to follow in a separate e-mail.

USFIT Website

The web site is making progress, and all updates relative to Tournaments, associated Touch clubs, and general Touch information will be hosted on this site. A release date is set for December 2001!

F.I.T. INAUGURAL WORLD ALL SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIPS

The first World All Schools Touch Event finally came to fruition at the Paul Eggers International Touch Fields on the Gold Coast, Queensland from the 18th to 21st October 2001.

The Marching Band of the John Paul College led the opening ceremony March Past that was presided over by a host of dignitaries.

John Paul College has an excellent record as a School Marching Band and have performed all over the world. The excelled at the World Trade Expo in 1988, were World Champions in 1999, performed at the Olympics in Sydney in 2000 and at the Goodwill Games in Brisbane in 2001. In addition they have presented themselves before crowds at Rugby Union and Rugby League Test matches and many State of Origin League clashes.

Dignitaries present for the opening ceremony included Terry Macenroth the Deputy Premier and Minister of Sport in the Queensland Government, Gold Coast City Councilor Dawn Crichlow, F.I.T President Cary Thompson and past F.I.T. President Paul Eggers.

Also in attending was Mark Cooper the QTA President with his Executive Office Melanie Woosham; the former QTA President and current President of South Queensland & Border Districts, Bernie Lowther; Gold Coast Touch President Greg Norman and representative from the major sponsor Coke-a-Cola, Dick Chapman and Shane Gehrke.

Coke-a-Cola provided many substantial products for the event including caps, backpacks, sunglasses etc and their effort and contribution was greatly appreciated by the players.



In the 15 years Boys divisions the Cup winners were Blackwater State High who defeated Carmel College 8-0 in the QF, St. Marys College 5-1 in the Semis and Emmaus College 4-3 in a close final.

The Boys Plate Finals saw Springwood State High School defeat St. Lukes Anglican School 4-2 in the semis and then go on to beat William Ross State High School 7-2 in the final.

With the Girls 15 years divisions the Cup Finals was won by Coombabah State High School who defeated Fairholme College 8-1 in the QF, William Ross SHS 7-0 in the semis and Kirwin State High School 4-2 for the title.

The Plate Final went to All Hallows College I who defeated Kepnock SHS in the semis 2-1 and Dalby State High School in the final 2-1. The Girls Shield finals went to St. Lukes Anglican College beating The Glennie School 2-1.

The Mixed 15 division saw Benowa State High Schools take the title by beating Park Ridge SHS 9-1 in the semis and Miami State High 6-1 in the final. In

the Plate mixed final Kalkadoon State High defeated Chaleville SHS 7-2 in the semis and in the final, St. Francis College 4-2.

In the 18 years Boys divisions Glenala State High defeated The Southport School 7-4 in the QF, and in the semis North Rockhampton 6-2 and beat Cavendish Road SHS 7-5 to win the Cup Final.

The Plate trophy went to Alexandra Hills State High who defeated Kirwin SHS 6-5 in the semis and Marsden SHS 5-1 in the final. William Ross SHS won the Shield final defeating Shalom College 5-2 in the Semis and Marymount College 6-2 for the trophy.

Cup final for the Girls 18's was played out between Kirwin SHS Townsville and Beaudesert SHS with Kirwin running out winners 3-0. On the way to the final they beat St. Michaels College 10-1 and in the semis St. Patricks College 6-1.

St. Ursulas College won the plate trophy beating Emmaus College 4-3 in the semis and Marborough SHS 3-2 in the final. The Shield final was won by Marymount College who defeated Christian Outreach College 8-0 in the semis and Carmel College 4-0 in the final.



Keebra Park State High School stole the show in the 18's Mixed Cup final. They won the title by defeating Trinity Catholic College Lismore 9-3 in the QF, St. Francis College 5-4 in the semis and Benowa SHS 6-3 in the final. The Plate Finals went to Blackwater State High who defeated Charleville SHS 7-0 in the semis and Chinchilla SHS 5-2 in the final.

As the next World All Schools will be held on the Gold Coast Queensland in October 2003, School teams from around the world are invited to prepare for the event NOW. The Gold Coast is an ideal holiday venue with very reasonable and spacious accommodation to suit all the needs of the overseas visitor.



NATIONAL 18's CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Australian 18's Championships were the domain of the Queensland State Secondary Schools, winning both the Boys and Girls divisions.



The Girls continue to raise the bar for their opponents finishing the event with a for and against of 83-5, an average of 16.6 (F&A) but with an average of over 10 touchdowns per game. They have remained undefeated now for 43 games.

The early history of the Girls saw NSW and Queensland share three titles each between 1987 and 1992. NSW CCC won in 1993 and NSW CHS won in 1996 but on the remaining seven occasions the championship title went to Queensland. They hold the record for the highest score at the event, (in the NTL era) of 22-0, however in 1990 the Queensland team defeated Western Australia 23-0.

QSST Boys also seem to have the wood on their opponents winning their final against a strong NSW CHS 8-5. Between 1987 and 1995 they won six of the nine titles.



In 1996 the Championships Title went to New Zealand with NSW CHS winning in 1997 and 1999. Queensland won the remaining three years. Their biggest win in the post '95 era (NTL) was 17-0 with the highest recorded win being by NSW in 1990 of 21-0.

Queensland holds the longest winning streak for the boys. From the Bronze play off in 1999 they have remained undefeated up to and including the final of 2001 - 19 games in total.

The player of the series and player of the final for the Girls was Kelly McGennity from QSST (she was also player of the series and player of the final in the World All Schools). The Boys player of the series was Joe Williams from NSW CCC while the player of the final was Adrian O'Shannesy from QSST

LETTERS

Can a referee allow a quick tap to be taken before he indicates the mark ?

Rule 15 Player Note A states; "..... a player may take a quick tap providing the referee acknowledges such a request and providing the tap is taken at or beyond the correct mark"

In the "Mexican Standoff" - what happens when a player in possession, jumps backwards to prevent a touch being made by the defender but the rest of the defending team have moved backwards to re-align?

As the defence was moving forward "IN AN ATTEMPT TO EFFECT A TOUCH" they are allowed to re-align when a touch is imminent. If the player in possession pulls out of the touch and the defenders have moved backwards to re-align, the referee will simply instruct them to move forward again. There is no penalty in this situation.

GREATEST TEAMS OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

It is hard to go past the **Australian Womens Open Team** - Undefeated in International competition until last weekend. Their World Cup results are; 35 games played, 34 victories and only 1 drawn game. 409 touchdowns at an average of 11.69 per game and only 24 touchdowns scored against them.

Biggest win was 28-0 against Tonga in 1999. Their Test history is just as impressive with 17 wins from 18 tests and scoring 128-29. This is an average of 4.9 touchdowns scored per game, with an average of 2.2 scored against them.

Their Test highest score was against Canada in 1987 21-1 which is the biggest win ever recorded in a Test match in any division.

Sister Gabriel and Katrina Maher are the most capped player with 9 caps. Both Giselle Tirado and Gabriel Maher have more caps as they played in the mixed division in a five match Tri -Test series between Japan and Great Britain in 1995. Gabriel Maher is the most capped female player with 14 caps.

The leading touchdown scorer for the team at World Cup is Giselle Tirado who has scored 27 Touchdowns.



1999 World Cup Australian Womens Team

Now how about letting me know of some Great Park Teams out there in Touchland so we can feature them.

NEW ZEALAND MAKE HISTORY

New Zealand created history in the just completed Trans Tasman Test series. For the first time in the history of Women's International Touch Australia lost a game. Not since their first test match in 1986 had the Womens team been beaten in test or world cup events. In game 2 of the series NZ run out winners 5-4 thus breaking a 15 years unbeaten run.

History was also created when the New Zealand Mixed team whitewashed the Australian 3 tests to nil. Never before has a NZ side proved to be so dominant over the Australian and they simply confirmed their status and ranking of the number one Mixed team in the world.

AUSTRALIA RETAINS TRANS TASMAN TROPHY

The Australian Touch teams retained the Trans Tasman Trophy in Hamilton New Zealand over the weekend when it won the final test match of the Series against New Zealand.

The Series involved three test matches in mens, womens and mixed divisions, with Australia winning the mens and womens divisions. The New Zealand mixed team showed they will still be the team to beat at the World Cup in 18 months time

The Series tapped off on Thursday 8 November at refurbished Westpac Trust Stadium in Hamilton with Australia winning the mens. The womens match was decided in a drop-off Australia's way, whilst the young Australian mixed team had a tough introduction to international touch, losing in a drop-off 9-10.

On Friday the teams met again with the Australian men winning in a drop-off, thus securing the trophy in that division. Australia's mixed were defeated by one touchdown giving the New Zealand team the Mixed trophy. The Australian women lost (4-5) its first game in 15 years of international competition.

On the final day of competition, the Australian and New Zealand teams had one rubber apiece, leaving the overall Series winner to be decided by the result of the womens test match.

The Australian women won the final match 3-2 to ensure the Trans Tasman Trophy remained on Australian side of the Tasman. The final game results were

Women

Game 1 - Australia 4 def NZ 3

Game 2 - NZ 5 def Australia 4

Game 3 - Australia 3 def NZ 2

Mixed

Game 1 - NZ 10 def Australia 9

Game 2 - NZ 7 def Australia 6

Game 3 - NZ 8 def Australia 6

Mens

Game 1 - Australia 8 def NZ 6

Game 2 - Australia 4 def NZ 3

Game 3 - NZ 6 def Australia 5



YOUR NEWSLETTER

Remember this newsletter belongs to YOU - the players, officials, and all the members of the World's touch fraternity. Send me your snippets, your articles any events, or your calendar, or any other items you wish published.

The success of this newsletter will depend upon you submitting articles but more importantly assisting in the circulation of each issue to as many "touchies" as possible.

Please e.mail this on to all the addresses in your address book and please continue to write to me with stories about your club

Editorial: Cary Thompson
All articles for publication are to be submitted to cary@austouch.com.au and may be edited to comply with standards of language and legal obligations in respect of defamation etc.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

17/24 February 2002	Australian 18's Tour - Cook Islands
17/19 March 2002	Australian Nationals (Opens/20's) – Coffs Harbour
21/23 March 2002	Australian Nationals (Seniors) – Coffs Harbour
6/9th June 2002	Asian Touch Championships - Singapore
13/14 July 2002	European Championships - Cardiff, Wales
17/20th May 2003	FIT Master World Cup - Kumagaya, Japan
22/25th May 2003	FIT Opens World Cup - Kumagaya, Japan

If you wish to have any Touch event listed here then please provide details and it will be published in the following issues.

TOUCH WEB SITES

Federation International Touch
www.internationaltouch.com.au

Australia Touch Association
www.austouch.com.au

Chile – Santiago Touch Rugby Club
www.atamericas.com/touch

China
www.beijingtouch.bigstep.com

Richmond Touch Rugby (England)
www.touchrugby.com

Dallas Touch Association
www.dallastouch.com

St. Helens Touch - England
www.st-helens-touch-rugby.co.uk

England
www.touchrugby.com

France
www.multimania.com/touchrugbyfr

Fiji Touch
www.teivovo.com

New Zealand Touch
www.touchnz.co.nz

Canterbury NZ
www.touchcanterbury.co.nz

Paradise Touch (USA)
www.makatwork.com/paradisetouch/nt00.htm

Portugal Beach Touch Rugby
www.bdj3.pt

San Diego
www.sandiegotouch.com

Scottish Touch
www.scottouch.co.uk

Touch Singapore
www.touchsingapore.org

South Africa
www.touchrugby.co.za

Welsh Touch (see below also)
www.rcttouch.co.uk

European Championships 2002
<http://euro2002.walestouch.org.uk>

ACT Touch
www.acttouch.com.au

NSW Touch
www.nswtouch.com.au

Queensland touch
www.qldtouch.com.au

Touch SA
www.sharks.asn.au

Victoria Touch
www.victouch.com.au

Western Australia Touch
www.watouch.com.au



Michael Braodbent's Photo
Gallery
www.sportingimages.com.au