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Touch of the World

The International Touch Fraternity's Newsletter

Edition Number 4/2001 – August

EDITORIAL

Time is fast approaching where Countries are now preparing their budgets for the 2003 World Cup in Japan. All F.I.T. Members have been asked to show "an expression of interest" as to what teams they will be likely to be taking to the event.

With the cost of this World Cup in Japan being higher than possibly any other it is important for planning that both Japan Touch and F.I.T. have some idea of what teams are likely to make the journey - one I can promise you that will be extremely rewarding.

The World Masters Club event set down for Singapore in July had to unfortunately be cancelled due to a lack of team entries. Bryan O'Connor had worked tirelessly to get it up and going but not to be. Masters touch appears to be over-catered for in all parts of the world at the present time.

Teams from Counties wishing to compete in the World Schools or World Beach Touch events in Australia later this year should contact event organisers ASAP - detail appear later in this newsletter.

Teams from Australia will be restricted but countries must inform the organisers of their intentions as soon as possible otherwise they risk the possibility of missing out.

This issue has a new column and its purpose is to highlight some of the great moments in our sport over the years the International body has been alive.

The first of these articles traces the history and foundation of the sport from its humble beginnings in 1985 to the present day.

GREAT MOMENT IN TOUCH

I suppose on a Global level the greatest moment in our sport was the formation of the Federation of International touch. Conceived from an idea by the late Phil Smith, whose vision for the sport was infinite, the inaugural meeting was held on Wednesday 20th March 1985 at the President Hotel Melbourne.

Those attending were Ken Wells (Aust) who was appointed as acting chairman for the ensuing 12 months, Peter Rooney (Aust) acting secretary, Phil Smith (Aust), Dick Fairbairn (Aust), Jeff Denehy (PNG), Kirk Jenings (Fiji), Don Benson (NZ) and Dan Brown (NZ).

Each person gave a brief talk on the development of Touch in their area and what contacts they had made in other countries not present, such as Canada and the USA. The meeting made rules regarding teams wishing to tour to other countries.

Further it resolved that the Secretariat would be run out of the ATA office until the first Annual General Meeting the following year where a full International Board would be elected. We have come along way in a short period of time.

APOLOGY TO MICHAEL BROADBENT

In the previous issues of this newsletter I have acknowledged the generous pictorial support of Michael Braodhurst for allowing me to use his images.

Unfortunately Michael's last name is Broadbent - My apologies Michael.

1999 WORLD CUP RESULTS

A virus corrupted my electronic copy of the 1999 results. Does anyone out there in computer land have an electronic copy of them please?

Re the virus, if there is someone out there in Touchland proficient with Excel files - maybe even a hacker, then is it possible to look at some of the corrupted files and reconstitute them ?

WORLD SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIPS



This inaugural event is being held on the Gold Coast in Australia next October 18th to 21st.

It is open to any school team from anywhere in the world and has two age categories of 15 years and under and 19 years and under.

Divisions available will be Boys, Girls and Mixed. Details of the championships or any enquiries can be directed to Patrick Carroll on 07 3824 7899 or at sqtouch@qldtouch.com.au

ST HELENS TOUCH

The Anthony Sullivan Testimonial Fund organisers are delighted to announce a one off 'Touch Rugby' competition, sponsored by World Club Champions St. Helens Rugby League Football Club, on the August Bank holiday of this year.

St Helens Touch (Cont)

A total of 40 teams will be invited to take part in a two-day rugby competition that will be televised by Sky Sports. The top eight teams will compete for total prize money of £5000!! The winners will take home a cheque for £2000!!



Each team will also have the opportunity of playing at the home of World Club champions, St. Helens in what will be a celebration of Anthony Sullivan's Rugby League Career and an exhibition of the ever-growing sport, 'Touch Rugby'

If you are interested in submitting a team, please complete the attached form providing us with all of your details. Send it to the above address with full payment for a minimum of 12 squad members (£45 per player/£540 per squad).

We will confirm that a place has been reserved for you. Please make cheques payable to 'The Anthony Sullivan Testimonial Fund'.

Alternatively you can E-Mail your details to Steve.Wood@alliedunbar.co.uk and send your cheque in the post.

WORLD BEACH TOUCH

Another inaugural F.I.T. event this year is the World Beach Touch - this tournament is being conducted by the Northern NSW Eagles.

It will be held at Forster over the 29/30 September 2001 long weekend. Details can be obtained by contacting Ron Hanson 02 6554 6297 or Matt Wood 02 6654 1449

Details can be obtained from:-
vintage86@hotmail.com



NEW MEMBERS PENDING

The Federation has received several applications for membership to FIT and the Secretary General is currently processing them at the moment.

Possible Members are Pakistan, Norfolk Island and the Canary Islands. There are still some hurdles to conquer with the applications before they are presented to the General Committee of the Federation for acceptance. Members will be kept informed.



TOUCH IN THE USA (SAN DIAGO)

Its hard to believe its been 2 years since we were in Sydney playing in the last world cup, giving the Kiwis a huge scare in the over 30's division.

That was a blast and we owe a lot to Lee Thompson, Dave Mayfield and Matt Walsh for all the time, effort, coaching and help. Dennis Parrish has gotten involved here in San Diego and has "kind of" taken over the organization.

He started a womens team 2 years ago and hopes to bring a mixed and womens team to the next world cup. We have recently secured a beautiful field in San Diego and have started up a psuedo touch league.

As with all fledging associations we are in desperate need of some international quality coaching and

refereeing. I think we can provide housing for someone coming over but not sure if we can provide any cash.

We have several beautiful fields at Qualcomm stadium, about 70 players and a beautiful climate here in San Diego. There is a couple tournaments scheduled, including Nationals in September and San Diego is the ideal place for touch.

Anyone qualified and interested in assisting the USA Touch Association should contact The Editor.

LOST E.MAIL ADDRESSES !

Since the beginning of this series of newsletters, I have many mail items returned with notations of incorrect addresses or recipient not known - you know the usual stuff when a message doesn't get through.

So if you know of anyone who is no longer receiving this direct, tell them to drop me a line. On this point - does anyone out there have Peter Walters' (NZ Galaxy) latest e.mail contact, if so please advise as he owes me a bottle of Red or two.



UK OPEN NATIONALS

The UK OPEN NATIONALS has been developed as a new tournament that allows all nations to complete. This differs from the original UK Nationals, which by definition should only allow participants from the four home countries, England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

In consultation with the Welsh Touch Association, this year's tournament has been dedicated to Paul Nepia for his outstanding contribution to the game in Wales. Games will be played at 11.00 am Saturday 18th August 2001.

Venue is the Richmond Athletic Ground, Kew Foot Road, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 2SS

The divisions being played are Men, Women, Mixed, Youth and Vets with the Federation of International Touch rules applying to the event.

The cost per person is £18 per team member with a minimum of £180 per team. Entries close at 11.00am Friday 10 August 2001 and are accepted on a first come first serve basis.

If you are submitting a team please send information providing us with all of your details to:

TOUCHRUGBY LTD, LILLA HOUSE, 23 BLONDIN AVENUE, EALING, LONDON, W5 4UL.

Alternatively you can email your details to: glenn@touchrugby.com and send your cheque in the post.



Touch Singapore

INAUGURAL ASIAN MASTERS TOUCH TOURNAMENT

The first F.I.T sanctioned Asian Masters Touch Tournament was staged on the weekend of July 28 / 29. Cary Thompson receives our thanks for his assistance and support during the lead up to the cancelled World Cup Tournament – with this Asian Masters tournament the offshoot that eventuated.

After much excitement and interest from numerous teams as far away as Australia, New Zealand, USA, Japan and the UK – Singapore hosted the 1st Asian Masters Touch Tournament with seven (7) teams contesting the championship.

Players and supporters travelled from Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta and the Solomon Islands to compete in what could only be termed a competitive 'fun' tournament.

The first rain in weeks did not dampen the enthusiasm of any of the competitors with most of Saturday's fixtures played in what could only be termed as 'heavy' conditions – with many parts of the playing surface 2 inches under water.

After Day One – the Kuala Lumpur A team and the Wanderers A team from Singapore were sitting a-top of their respective pools with the Jakarta Touch and the Ride-Out Rebels from Singapore completing the top four (4) positions with these teams contesting the Cup and Plate Championship.



Kuala Lumpur B, Hapi Isles Touch (Solomon Islands) and Wanderers B would play for the Bowl and Wooden Chopsticks trophies.

The sun was shining on Sunday morning and with the playing surface still holding patches of water, so this guaranteed very steamy conditions for the finals.

A close contest between Wanderers A and Jakarta Touch put the locals into the Cup final against Kuala Lumpur A - who had a convincing win over the Ride-Out Rebel team.

The eventual winners overall and Asian Masters Champions were: Cup Champions Kuala Lumpur A with the Runners-Up Wanderers A

Plate Champions Jakarta Touch and Runners Up was Ride-Out Rebels. Bowl Champions Hapi Isles (and a very Hapi team they were....;) with the Runners Up - Kuala Lumpur B

Wooden Chopsticks were Wanderers B. As for the Wanderers Women's team - the Wantoks claimed the Runner Up trophy after assisting with

both referees and friendly matches in between competition.

Player of the Tournament was David Roderick captain of the Cup winning Kuala Lumpur A team whose experience and skills shone throughout the event.

The tournament was fortunate to have the services of two up and coming Australian referees Steve and Jillian Cratchley who traveled from South Australia – thanks to you both.



All attending have suggested that the tournament was a great start to the development of an annual Asian Open & Masters Touch Tournament.

The next Asian tournament will be held in June 2002 and will include both the Open and Masters categories with additional teams from Pakistan, Hong Kong, Thailand, Japan and the Philippines all suggesting that they all will be eager to contest for the Championship trophy.

Please e.mail this on to all the addresses in your address book

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

29 Sept/1 Oct 2001	F.I.T. World Beach Touch (Clubs) – Forster NSW
18/21 October 2001	F.I.T. World Schools – Gold Coast
26/28 October 2001	Bangkok Int'l Sevens – Ladies Touch
9/11 th November 2001	Trans Tasman Tests (Australia v NZ) Hamilton NZ
13/14 July 2002	European Championships - Wales
May 2003	F.I.T. World CUP – Master - Japan
May 2003	F.I.T. World CUP – Opens - Japan

New Zealand Touch
www.touchnz.co.nz

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

Portugal Beach Touch Rugby
www.bdj3.pt

Scottish Touch
www.scottouch.connectfree.co.uk

Touch Singapore
www.touchsingapore.org

South Africa
www.touchrugby.co.za

Welsh Touch
www.rcttouch.co.uk

European Championships 2002
www.Euro2002.WalesTouch.org.uk

ACT Touch
www.acttouch.com.au

NSW Touch
www.nswtouch.com.au

Queensland touch
www.qldtouch.com.au

South Australia Touch
www.touch-sa.asn.au

Victoria Touch
www.victouch.com.au

Western Australia Touch
www.watouch.com.au

Michael Braodbent's photo gallery
www.sportingimages.com.au

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

Sporting Images by courtesy of
Michael Braodbent



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
<http://www.touchrugby.com>

