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Touch of the World

The International Touch Fraternity's Newsletter

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EDITORIAL



Much is happening in the World of Touch and none more important that the preparations for the 2003 World Cup.

Many countries have responded to a request for expressions on interest in attending the event and besides our Members there is interest from many other countries. It appears at this stage that some 70 teams will be attending.

Arrangements are being made to get these countries apply for membership of the Federation so that they can be officially part of the International touch fraternity and enjoy the benefits of F.I.T.

Masters Touch is so well catered for that the World Club event set down for Singapore earlier this year was cancelled. The Federation hopes to run the World Championship in 2002 but a venue and time of the year has yet to be established.

Masters Games which have Touch as just one of their sports have captured a large section of the Masters Touch community and it appears our best bet will be to try and "plug into" a Masters Games event to run the World Championships.

Our current Constitution that was written in 1991 needs to be revisited to bring it in line with the every

changing and vibrant, world sporting environment.

To this end, Members will be asked shortly to vote on some minor changes to allow for a more widely acceptance of our Membership base. Delegates for each Member have been approached to ensure the correct person is authorised to vote on the matters in the electronic manner in which changes will be made.

Development is a constant phrase many people "bandy" about yet with little appreciation of what is actually involved. Australia is undertaking a Development (18 years) Tour of the Cook Islands in February 2002 and hope to present clinics and seminars to the local Touch players and especially to the schools children and youth of the Islands.

Development in many countries is confined to the local areas where the Touch administrators reside and in some cases the expansion the game has not gone beyond the immediate region. It is a responsibility of all of us to ensure that in each Member country we continue to push the sport to all their regions and localities within your country.

Part of any good development is the creating of a National database of players so that at any one time the governing body has details of all its participants on one national system.

In the past I have had approaches from potential sponsors who ask "how many players world wide do we have" While I make an estimate they then ask about our data bases and all I can say is - I don't know ! This does little to inspire any sponsor investing in our organisation.

It is therefore important that those people running the sport in each country be vigilant in establishing a national register of players so that if approached we can provide potential sponsors with correct and updated information on our player base.

GREAT MOMENT IN TOUCH

The year 1985 was mentioned in the last issue of the newsletter as being of significant importance as it was in this year that our founders set the stage for the future development of our sport.

During the fifth Australian National Championships held in Melbourne Victoria, the inaugural Board of the International organisation came into existence

During the course of the Australian National event, two Australian teams, Mens Open and a Masters were selected to play in the first Test series against New Zealand.

On 23rd March 1985 the Aussie Men won 4-1 while on the following day the Aussie Masters also won, beating New Zealand 3-0.



As this was a history making event those intrepid players should be recognised. The Australian Mens team was Paul Barton, Greg Baron, John Christopher, Mark Hornery, Terry Hutchinson, Terry Jacks, Anthony Job, Gary Lawless, Tim O'Brien, Chris Messingham and Greg Young. the coach was Alan Satchell

(Great Moment In Touch - Cont.)

with the managers Peter McNeven who went on to coach the Australian Mens Open team from 1987 to 1999.

The New Zealand teams was Charlie Williams, Lindsay Hooker, Steve Hanson, Tony Matthews, Joe Stanley, Warren McLean, Roger Rota, Allen Lindsey, Billy Kern, Barry Radich, Richard Leggett, Dan Brown and Graeme Smith

CALGARY TOUCH ASSOCIATION, SECOND ANNUAL TOURNAMENT. SEPTEMBER 2ND, 2001

The green swards of the manicured fields of the Calgary Rugby Park shimmered in the clear, early-morning, high altitude light against a majestic backdrop of the sun-dappled Rocky Mountains.



(Calgary's famous Warthogs)

With temperatures climbing to 27 C by mid-afternoon, Calgary Touch Ass welcomed 11 teams to play in the 2nd Annual Calgary Tournament for the magnificent Beresford Cup.

The cup is named after Colin Beresford, a founding member of the club and a stalwart supporter. Colin returned from a field assignment in Peru, specifically for the tournament, and was stunned to find out when asked to award the cup, that his devious colleagues had bought a trophy and named it after him.

Eleven teams entered (twice as many as last year) and arrived from near and far including Dallas, Texas and Toronto, Ontario who each traveled more than 2000 km. Teams were organized into two pools and played a series of round robin games within

their pool before embarking on the knock-out stages.

Calgary Touch Association fielded five teams, and additional teams were entered from Calgary 15 a-side clubs. CTA teams included Downunders "A" and "B", Hazco Blues, Warthogs and of course, last but not least, the anatomically correct Sphincters.

The tournament was organized and executed with military precision by a committee that included Bryan Leach (Chairman) Geoff Jenkins (President CTA), Paul Fanelli (Club Captain) and Peter Sroba (Comp Organizer).

A key factor in the successful organization was the presence of an Administration Team, which was lead by Sandy Sroba, and included Lynn Fanelli, Roxanne Coogan, Elizabeth Leach and Mary Lynn Richardson. The Admin. team was responsible for recording scores, ensured that all games started and finished simultaneously, and that everything ran smoothly.

Significant roles were also played by Dan Kazakoff and Jim Loewen from the Calgary Rugby Union who provided the facilities, marked the fields and provided plenty of beer and a steak BBQ. David Phillips and John Davies (Calgary Referees Association) took up the challenge of refereeing Touch, and then after several games, refereed the final.

After the competitive and good natured play during the round robin, in each Pool, Downunders A and Calgary Irish topped Pool 1, and Anzacs and Toronto topped Pool 2. The Semi-Final consisted of reverse-crossovers, with Downunders "A" playing Anzacs and Calgary Irish playing Toronto in two highly competitive games.

By 4 p.m. the grounds were abuzz with anticipation as a full team of 12 Anzacs (consisting primarily of Aussies and Kiwis who have been playing 15 a-side for the summer) swarmed onto the pitch, and the talent-laden but short-handed team from Toronto came out to meet them



(The anatomically correct Sphincters)

Toronto arrived in Calgary with 8 players, and lost Andrew Cagney with a broken arm halfway through game 2, so they played the remaining 5.5 games of the tournament with only one substitute. In a highly skilled game played at ferocious pace, Anzacs rolled out on top to claim the Beresford Cup.

Toronto didn't return home empty handed. In addition to Male MVP: Ivan Williams (Toronto), for his scintillating speed and sleight of hand, Andrew Clark received the highly coveted Warthogs "Stinker of the Day Award" – an engraved wooden spoon.

Dan Morrison (Downunders "A") was runner-up, when he raced across the try line, and in a mystifying display of irrational exuberance, rifled the ball into the grandstand before touching down!

Erin Colborne (Calgary Warthogs) earned the Female MVP Award for an excellent display of aggressive running and good handling skills.

Erin was not present to accept the MVP award so two guest players from the Sphincters used their best show biz skills and Bob "Dolly Parton" Patterson accepted the award from Colin "Elvis" Hill on behalf of Erin.

A great day was had by all. (Players, partners, children and dogs). New friendships were made and old ones renewed.

As the summer draws to a close and another long, cold Canadian winter looms ahead, we are preparing to go indoors and play Cage Touch.

Our VP-Commercial Operations has suggested contacting the infamous Vince McMahon (World Wrestling Federation) for sponsorships.

Check our website for more photos and details.:

www.calgarytouchrugby.ca

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 rebuild them ?

TOUCH IN THE ROCKIES

The intrepid Texas Tornados (Dallas Touch) sent a mixed team up to the Great White North to attend the Second Annual Calgary Touch Association Tournament.

The weather was phenomenal with temperatures ranging from the mid 50's in the morning and heating up to the 70's for the finals.

The Calgary Rugby Club fields and clubhouse were made available to the 10 touch teams who showed up to do battle, including Toronto Touch and Dallas.



A wonderful backdrop to the fields were the amazing Canadian Rockies, quite a sight, and quite a change for the Dallas group that is more used to concrete hard fields and views of mesquite trees wilting in the summer heat.

The tournament was set at 5 teams per pool, with four games guaranteed prior to the semi- finals and finals.

Dallas drew some tough competition, with Calgary A, the Warthogs, Saracens and Irish teams fit and wanting to claim a win.

We started off with a bang, with a win over the Saracens, and great plays from our links and wings. Next up were Calgary A, this was the same team that did so well at the Dallas tournament in May, and they were well organized, with great rucking and lots of speed. Dallas held them in the first 1/2 but with only 8 players, we struggled in the second 1/2 and were behind at the final whistle.

With a 15 minute break to suck in as much oxygen as we could (Calgary is at approx. 4000 ft), we filed out to meet the mighty Irish. The Irish, we were informed played a lot of 7's rugby and it showed with great pace, and excellent passing skills, they went ahead early.

Our team responded well and played hard defense but finally were beaten 9 - 5. The final game of our pool was against the Mighty Warthogs! These guys played us in Dallas in May and soundly thrashed our B team, however, we had a few ringers from our A team in this match and the tables were turned.

We were able to drive well and finally secured a good win against an excellent team. Final score Dallas Touch wins 2 and loses 2!

Having lost 2 we were out of the semi finals and were forced to drink copious amounts of Big Rock beer while watching the semi finals and finals.

For the record, Irish were defeated by Toronto Touch and Calgary A were defeated by the ANZAC's in the Semi Finals. Both matches were fast and furious with excellent touch prowess displayed by all participants.

The Finals saw Toronto Touch fight gamely with 8 players against a full squad ANZAC team. The ANZAC's played very exciting touch with numerous wraps, dump and go, and scissor moves and finally ran away with the game.



Thanks to Eric Willis our Media and Communications Liaison for designing the shirts, and setting up interviews with the local print and electronic media. Also I must send thanks to Calgary who put on an excellent tournament - we will be back next year!

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

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
22/23rd June 2002	Asian Touch Tournament - Singapore
13/14 July 2002	European Championships - Wales
17/20th May 2003	F.I.T. World CUP – Master - Japan
22/25th May 2003	F.I.T. World CUP – Opens - Japan

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.beijingtouh.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>

France
www.multimania.com/touchrugbyfr

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

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