



Touch of the World

The International Touch Fraternity's Newsletter

Edition Number 8/2002 – August

EDITORIAL



It's a long time between this and the last Newsletter. No one seems to care too much as there has only been a trickle of articles sent in for publication – hence no new issue until now.

However I'll try to keep you up to date with what is going on around the Touch World.

FIT has received applications for memberships from India, France, Hong Kong, Canada, and Pakistan.

It takes time to get back to these countries and establish a format where their applications can be put to the General Committee. So to those involved – please be patient.

Spain are working towards joining FIT and are unsure if to request Membership as Spain or the Channel Islands, were the strong base of the sport lies in that region.

The World Cup is progressing at the required speed and a memo was recently sent to all Members requesting more definite details of the teams each country are taking to the event.

Special emphasis was given to ensuring each country had budgeted properly for the event and that if teams were not included in their original budgets that it is unlikely that additional teams will enter.

New Zealand and Australia are preparing for their Trans Tasman series in September and hope it is a good hit out before next years World Cup.

Both countries have visited Japan and made arrangements for accommodation, travel etc whilst over there. Other countries should be making enquiries with the Japan Touch Association and their travel and accommodation experts to ensure that it is available. Leaving it to the last minute could prove to be disappointing.

GREAT MOMENTS IN TOUCH

I suppose one of the truly GMIT would have to be the inaugural World Cup held on the Gold Coast of Queensland in 1988.

The divisions played at the event were; Men, Women, Mixed and Masters. Teams came from Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and the United States.

As coach of the USA team I was more than satisfied with their performance. We won 1, lost 1 and drew 2 with Australia being our only defeat.

Our most memorable game was against Canada. They led 7-5 with two minutes to go when a time-out was called.

A stirring rendition of the Red White and Blue never suffering a defeat at the hands of Canada had captain Jim Ricket going back into the fray with steam coming out both ears. Two great passes from the former Milwaukee quarter back saw touchdowns scored the by invitational players Bill Ker and

Bob Withers which levelled the scores at full time at 7-7

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Great Moments In Touch (Cont.)

The USA had suffered only one defeat in the event. In the Mens competition the final was won by Australia 6-2. New Zealand and Australia contested all finals and in the Womens event the score was 13-0 to Australia.

The Mixed saw Australia dominate 12-0, but they faced stiff opposition to just get home 6-5 in the Masters.

Australia won the first ever World Cup followed by New Zealand and Canada. It was at this event that Bobby Brindle commenced his brilliant International World Cup campaign by being named Man of the Series in the Mens division.

He retained that title four years later and was runner up in 1995 and 1999. This feat will be very difficult to emulate for years to come.

Joanne Urban from Canada won the Womens Player of the series while Stacey White (and again in 1995) and Brett Yates won the Mixed division. Shane Varley from New Zealand was the Masters player of the series.

A selection panel was set up by the Federation to view each game and establish the first ever World Allstars and a Presidents XI team to play in an exhibition game at the end of the tournament.

Australia and New Zealand naturally dominated the selections but Canada were represented by Beth Buttenham as a Manager with players being Kim Walker Dave Nelson, Ray Delegarde, a former great Canadian quarterback, Dave Derbyshire, Charlene Morkin, Dave Thompson, Peter Todorowich and of course their star female player Joanne Urban.

Papua New Guinea had John Balavu as Managers while players were Joe Iori, Tom Kapigeno, Ray Olova and one of their greatest female players Rachel Towameai. Jim Ricket represented the USA



On a domestic front the following can truly be considered a GMIT for the some USA players. Dallas touch came into being through a gift, back in 1999.

Richard Brownjohn from the USA was given a rugby ball by my wife as a birthday present. Since he was 47 at the time, and had not played rugby for about 16 years he thought back to the fun games of touch he played as part of rugby practice.

“ I put out an e mail to a few of my mates to come out and play some touch rugby,” he said, and touch has been played every Sunday in Dallas since then.

“Initially, we played a very hybrid game which included allowing the ball to be kicked on the sixth possession, and we even experimented with line outs,” continues Richard.

He further said “believe me, it was nothing like the touch we play today. In July of 2000 we heard about the Touch Nationals scheduled for Hawaii for August of 2000. We were able to assemble a team of players, and made the big trip to our first USA nationals.

It was in Hawaii that we were introduced to the real game of touch. What a revelation. We met up with the San Diego and Hawaii players who basically gave us the touch lesson of a lifetime.

Our team played in the mixed and men's divisions and while the scores showed that we lost every game, we really won through learning about touch and making friends with the West Coast and Hawaii players.

At the end of the tournament we were presented with the Team Sportsmanship award, and it was a brilliant time for all that made the trip. The majority of the original Dallas team still play touch on Sunday, and we still laugh about the games and times we had in

Hawaii. We will again travel to Hawaii in September of 2002 and hope to perform at a higher level than 2000, wish us luck!”

GREATEST TEAMS OF THE 20th CENTURY

Continuing in the series of great teams of the 20th Century it is hard to go past the Australian Womens open team who won all four World Cups to date.



(1999 World Cup Team)

In their four World Cup Campaigns they have played 35 games with 34 victories and one draw. They have scored 409 for with only 24 against which is a F&A average of 17.04.

They have a undefeated streak of 35 games from 1988 to 1999 at World Cup one more than Australia's mens 35's.

The most touchdowns scored at World Cup was 22 by Gabriel Maher in 1999 with Giselle Tirado scoring the most in one game – 9 touchdowns. Biggest win was 28-0 against Tonga in 1999.

Their Test history for the 20th Century is just as impressive with 15 wins from 15 tests and scoring 116 touchdowns for and only 20 against.

This unbeaten run was disrupted by New Zealand on the 9th November 2001 in Hamilton when they defeated the Aussie 5-4 in a close fought encounter.

Their biggest Test win was 21-1 against Canada in 1987 during the tour of USA and Canada.

FAMOUS INTERVIEWS

In the last issue of this Newsletter I introduced this segment of Legend Players being interviewed by various Touch personalities.

The commencement of the section said "This is the fifth in the series of famous people interviewed by Ian Stanley.."



As you know it was the first in the FIT series, as the ATA series has been going for some time.

I apologise to all those who wrote and asked me for copies of the previous four interviews by Ian. They were produced in the ATA Newsletter.

In saying that - this is the second in the series of famous people interviewed by Ian Stanley. Touch of the Worlds' roving reporter finally catches up with another great legend of International Touch – Peter Walters

In a career spanning five World Cup campaigns and seven International Test series, Peter has amassed a record 46 World Cups caps and 18 Test caps to be the most capped Touch Player in the history of World Touch with 64 caps.

At the ATA's National Touch League in Coffs Harbour this year our roving reporter caught up with Peter and asked him about his illustrious career.

When did you first become involved in touch and why?

In 1981 during a weekly touch competition I was introduced at the Marist Rugby Club in Auckland whom I played Under 21 rugby for.

Here came a new game that excited me, fitted in with my life, was low cost to play and I got to play with all my mates.

In the following years competitions were starting up all over Auckland. I was playing rugby at both senior and the representative level then decided in 1987 I would play competition touch 4 days a week and made touch my main sport.

To what do you attribute your longevity at the elite level of the sport?

I don't drink or smoke; I have generally had good eating habits. On the physical side I have maintained good flexibility, strength and stamina through a regular ongoing training program that has included gym work, aerobics instructing, weights, duathlon and various types of cross country.

On the mental side my confidence and will to win are always high because am safe in the knowledge that I have put the work in, so age is not a barrier.

What were some of your greatest challenges and achievements?

Helping to build my club side Galaxy into one of the most powerful touch clubs in the world. We started as an open men side in 1987 and now in 2002 we have 8 sides ranging from under 16 mixed to over 35 men, 72 members in the club.



Our teams have toured Australia in 1995, 1996 and 2000, and toured in New Zealand on many occasions from 1994 onwards. Our role was to help promote and lift the profile of touch.

New Zealand open men first ever win over Australia at Sydney in

1993 was great. In doing so we also held them scoreless 1-0 and won the Tran-Tasman trophy.

Galaxy open men 1994 undefeated 11-match tour of New Zealand some memorable matches against all the top club sides around New Zealand.

The 1999 World Cup in Sydney when I was Player/Coach for NZ Senior Mixed Team was really special. We went through tournament undefeated including a 10-4 defeat of Australia in the final.

Then in 2000 the Auckland Open Men Team as Player/Coach. I had 8 players including 5 NZ Reps left from the previous year, so had to rebuild my team to win the nationals. We went on to win everything that year including the National champs in Rotorua.

Who were some of your most difficult opponents?

At Club level we had some epic battles with Tatoutatou, Falcons, Brothers and Tigers. At National Level the Bay of plenty Men sides of the eighties and early nineties were tough adversaries as were the Canterbury Men of the nineties.

At International level our nemesis the champion Australians provided me with some fantastic highs and some disappointing lows and such is the nature of International competition.

Australian greats that I have enjoyed competing against are Bobby Brindle, Mark Boland, Sam Ayoub, Scott Notley, Corey Foster the MacDonald Brothers and of course, Shane Frederickson. I have to say Maria Sonda was a great competitor in the Senior Mixed.

Who are some of the best players you have played alongside?

In the Men grade in the early years is Mac Herewini, Steve Bachop, Charley Williams, Barry Clemas, Richie Barnett, Wally Rifle and George Rogers. In the recent years Remus Gentles, Jason Tomai,

Kenny Pourewa, Saulo uamasi,

Dave Hoani, and Matty Mataio. In the Mixed are Monique Hirovana, Dianne Kahura and Vicki Radcliffe.

What are your favourite foods?

I love Crayfish, Watermelon and Pork Spare Ribs.

What are favourite movies?

I have really enjoyed Gladiator and Braveheart.

If you had to pick some great moments in your career, what would they be?

There have been many special moments for me. I remember trialing out and being selected in my first Auckland Open Men's Team in 19985, then 3 months later being selected in my first New Zealand team. Being Captain of the New Zealand team at 4 World Cups from 1988 through to 1999 was special.

Meeting your new team mates from different provinces, watching them developing as people and touch players, sharing knowledge and experiences, striving for an ultimate team goal as well as your own individual goals – all great stuff.

This year at the 2002 NZ Nationals I was fortunate to play in the same team as my daughter Kylee. Our Auckland mixed rep side won the open mixed grade going through undefeated.

If you could attend any sporting event in the world, what would it be?

The Athletics track events at the Olympic Games would be great. Watching the world's fastest athletes compete over 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m and the 1500m would be awesome.

If there were a rule change to better the game of touch what would it be?

I would introduce a compulsory drop off for representative matches (40 minute games) at every 6, 16, 26, 36 minutes mark, dropping off a player every minute.



It would mean better time keeping system needed but would be much more exciting for players and more importantly the spectators and sponsors we are trying to attract.

I would also wire up for sound at least 2 players from each team and the match officials to give viewers a better appreciation of the game of touch.

What is the motivation that drives you to play Touch at such a competitive level over the years?

Touch is my release; it's my fun, my way of de-stressing. So motivation to play is easy. At the highest level which is Representative and international touch, the demand for results are such that you must allocate much time and energy and apply yourself to high performance training. This has but only inspired me to carry on competing at this level no matter what the odds.

I have always believed that you show your opponents RESPECT by putting on your best performance every time you take the field, whether the result is 1-nil or 20-nil.

Thank you Peter Walters for your outstanding performances in Touch – and welcome to the Legends Club

TOUCH IN THAILAND

Touch in Thailand is predominantly at club level in the form of Touch sections within Rugby or Sports Clubs. Women's Touch is the most popular but mixed teams are on the increase.

The key clubs in Thailand include the Southerner's, Pattaya, British Club, Corsairres, and Phuket. Annual Womens Touch tournaments include Pattaya (as part of the Pattaya 10's) and Touch, as part of the Bangkok 7's Rugby.



A Southerner's tournament is being planned for October to coincide with the Bangkok 7's Rugby.

(Southern's Green with their Bowl) Mini-tournaments and friendly matches with sides from neighbouring countries occur during the year between Asian tours.

Touch is also being played at the International Schools, especially in Bangkok. Common school curriculums include Girls Touch and Boys Rugby, with annual inter-school tournaments from neighbouring countries. Bangkok schools include the International School of Bangkok (ISB) and the Patana International School.

Coaching of the girls Touch teams is supported by members of local Sports and Rugby Clubs. The development of Touch in Thailand is in its infancy but the potential is high due to increased interest in Thailand Rugby with patronage from the Thai Rugby Union, and the increased involvement of Touch at schools.

Members of the existing Rugby and Sports Clubs are combining efforts in developing Touch with the formation of a national Touch Association being the ultimate goal.

TOUCH IN FINLAND

A long, cold and dark wintertime is again over and the sun is shining almost the clock around. We Finns are living a very busy time because we want to enjoy every hour the change of nature and preparing to our holidays.



There have been two interesting projects around Touch during last six months. Larger projects has been my masters degree work about the rugby in Finland and minor has been a presentation of Touch in the school to our student of physical education.

Both work are "the first steps to success" and they both are good knowledge about the game.

Rugby work was made in three different towns among school children. It was four hours lesson introduction to rugby and after practice the kids answered a questionnaire about their experience.

When I have a proper abstract I will send it to you. In this summer there is going to be a first rugby league in Finland among four teams.

This work was done by Klaus Flörchinger, a German student who came here three years ago and stayed in Finland. He is going to continue his work in the future. I have been as a supervisor for his work and also in the future.

I think that he would be a very good a contact person about the Touch, because he has time to develop the game here in Finland.

My time is so limited because I am trying to develop the whole area of ballgames. A smaller work was a short presentation for the students of physical education. Two students found knowledge about Touch and kept a lesson to the other students.

They were very interested about the game and found it useful for the school. Their findings were that the game claims good moving, co-operation and timing. Strange things were touching and leaving the ball in the ground.

I think that the main reason was the lack of rugby tradition. Those who experienced the game first time were very interested about the game and think that Touch would be a good alternative for the schools. Quit promising...

MALICE IN DALLAS



DTA's (Dallas Touch Association) 3rd annual Malice in Dallas touch tournament began with the majority of teams socializing and sizing each other up at a pre-registration party held at the local Holiday Inn.

The mood was festive as new acquaintances were made old and ones renewed. It was great to see the East Coast team that made the trip to their first Dallas tournament. San Diego showed with 17 players and Houston, lead by former Dallas player Sean Hanrahan, were up ready to do battle.

The good news is that teams are making the effort to attend the tournaments and further develop touch in Texas and the USA. Also of note is that San Diego and Dallas fielded full women teams, a first for Dallas and largely due to the Dallas Debutantes (Rugby

team) committing to the tournament along with our regular ladies of touch.

Saturday began early and cheerful for the Kiwi's who were enjoying the Crusaders vs. Brumbies win the night before. Thus began the Malice in Dallas. Fortunately, the Touch gods were with us as the weather forecasters predicting rain and thunderstorms were wrong, and the weather was perfect with a high in mid 80's.

The tournament was set up as an open format for all teams, which allowed for both men's and mixed to play on the same teams. In addition, we played a best of 3 women's competition. This year eight teams competed in a two pool round robin to seed teams and then moved into a quarter final knock-out series which lead to the semi's and finals. This allowed for a minimum of 4 games for each team.

Teams that played in the open format were: San Diego Men, San Diego Mixed, Harlequins (Dallas), Southern Slappers (Houston), Team Repeat Offenders (Dallas), Team Short Bus (Dallas), Mongrels (East Coast), and Team Blarney Stone (Dallas).

The women's division was contested between San Diego and Dallas. The tournament opened with a very close women's game. San Diego were the eventual winners (1-0) after a tenacious defensive battle.

Pool play commenced and after a short lunch break the eventual pool leaders of Pool A were the Southern Slappers, and the Dallas Harlequins were the leaders of Pool B.

The quarter finals played the top seed versus bottom seed of opposite pools and we ended up with a very strong group of semi finalists. Prior to the semi's the women played again with a must win required for Dallas to stay in the hunt. Another very close game but the veteran San Diego Woman's

team managed to pull away and win the title with a 2-0 victory.

.A well fought match with the young up and coming Dallas Women's team proving that they have what it takes to compete at a tournament level. This could prove to be a great rivalry in years to come.

The semi finals pitted the unbeaten Harlequins against San Diego Men, and the Southern Slappers played the lads from the Blarney Stone.

Lots of Kiwi and Aussie accents noticed throughout all the teams providing some real experience on the fields. Eventual winners were the Harlequins (5-3) over San Diego and the Slappers made their reservation for the finals with a (3-2) win against Blarney Stone.

Thus the stage was set for a very competitive final. Incidentally, the Southern Slappers had the Aussie's leading their charge and the Dallas Harlequins had a Kiwi at their helm. Could the Crusaders vs. Brumbies match be the foretelling of things to come?

After a 30 minute break the finals were underway and the Southern Slappers played a tough offensive game with plenty of set plays and settling moves. The team was captained by Sean Hanrahan a tough competitor and very experienced touch player from Aussie.

The Harlequins are no slugs either and were lead by the Kiwi Anthony Holder. The Quins held on until half time staring down a 3 -1 deficit. Both Glen Sargeant and Sean Hanrahan figured heavily in the Slappers offensive patterns running sweeps and dump and go moves.

The second half started with the Slappers pushing hard on offense, however, a few chinks in the defense and one intercept had the game tied up 4-4. With about two minutes left Anthony Holder scooped from a great dump, and split the defense wide open to

score. The game closed out with the Quins on top 5 - 4.

A great day for all that played. Congratulations to the winners Dallas Harlequins and the San Diego Ladies on their victories in Dallas! , Thanks to all the teams that traveled from far places and participated in this years event.

See you all at the next Malice in Dallas in 2003. Next year will be a two day event with Men's, Women's and mixed format so stay tuned.

JERSEY TRAVEL TO SOUTH AFRICA

For those of you who don't know where it is, Jersey is the largest of the British Channel Islands, situated off the northern coast of France. It is approx 80 square miles and the main industries are finance, agriculture and tourism.



Jersey Touch has been going for 5 years and this season has 42 mens, ladies and mixed teams playing in the league. 5 Jersey based players represented England in Sydney 1999 and we are aiming to have an Island Team in a future World Cup.

Jersey played in its 1 st major competition 2 years ago in Edinburgh at the European Cup and were thrilled to win the Mixed Trophy. Everyone is looking forward to Cardiff this year and competing against old friends.

A Jersey touring side visited Cape Town, South Africa in October last year, playing against a Western Province Select, Cape Town and local teams. Although only a small group traveled we learnt a lot and had a brilliant time with the help of the Cape Town Touch players.

It was an most enjoyable time and one we hope to experience again in the future. Any Teams wishing to visit Jersey and play touch can contact Mo Obarska :- e mail; [:mo_obarska@hotmail.com](mailto:mo_obarska@hotmail.com)

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 to provide as wide a circulation as possible

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2002

18/19 th May	Japan Cup	Kumagaya	Japan
6/9 th June	Asian Touch Championships		Singapore
8/9 th June	Qld -v- NSW State of Origin	Brisbane	Australia
6 th July	UK National Championships	Wigan	England
13/14 July	FIT European Championships	Cardiff	Wales
18/21 September	Australian Youth Championships	Coffs Harbour	Australia
19/21 September	Trans Tasman	Coffs Harbour	Australia
28 th September	USA National Championships	Hawaii	USA
27 th Sept. / 2 nd Oct.	Australian All Schools (15's)	Canberra	Australia
31 st Oct/2 nd Nov.	Australia Cup	TBA	Australia

2003

22/27 th January	Australian Youth (20's) Tour	South Island	New Zealand
15/17 th March	Australian Nationals (Opens/20's)	Coffs Harbour	Australia
19/22 nd March	Australian Nationals (Seniors)	Coffs Harbour	Australia
17/20 th May	FIT Master World Cup	Kumagaya	Japan
22/25 th May	FIT Opens World	Kumagaya	Japan
28 th June / 12 th July	South Pacific Games	Suva	Fiji
17/20 September	Australian Youth C'ships	Coffs Harbour	Australia
Sept/October	FIT World Clubs (Opens / Masters)	Various Venues	Australia
Sept/October	Australian All Schools (15's)	TBA	Australia
10/11/12 th October	FIT World Schools Championships	Brisbane	Australia
30 Oct/1 st Nov.	Australia Cup	TBA	Australia

2004

20/26 th January	Australian Youth (20's) Tour		Fiji (TBC)
12/14 th March	Australian Nationals (Opens/20's)	Coffs Harbour	Australia
16/19 th March	Australian Nationals (Seniors)	Coffs Harbour	Australia
June	Asian Touch Championships		Singapore
June / July	FIT European Championships	TBA	TBA
22/25 September	Australian Youth Championships	Coffs Harbour	Australia
Sept/October	Australian All Schools (15's)	TBA	Australia
28/30 th October	Australia Cup	TBA	Australia

2005

19/23 January	FIT Youth World Cup	TBA	Australia
19/22nd March	Australian Nationals (Opens/20's)	TBA	Australia
24/26th March	Australian Nationals (Seniors)	TBA	Australia
June	Asian Touch Championships		Singapore
21/24 September	Australian Youth Championships	Coffs Harbour	Australia
Sept/October	Australian All Schools (15's)	TBA	Australia
October	FIT World Schools Championships	Cold Coast	Australia
27/29th October	Australia Cup	TBA	Australia
11/13 November	Trans Tasman Test Series	South Island	New Zealand

2006

18/21st March	Australian Nationals (Opens/20's)	TBA	Australia
23/25th March	Australian Nationals (Seniors)	TBA	Australia
June	Asian Touch Championships		Singapore
June / July	European Championships	TBA	TBA
20/23 September	Australian Youth Championships	Coffs Harbour	Australia
Sept/October	Australian All Schools (15's)	TBA	Australia
Sept/Oct	FIT World Clubs (Opens/Masters)	Cold Coast	Australia
26/28th October	Australia Cup	TBA	Australia

2007

17/20th March	Australian Nationals (Opens/20's)	TBA	Australia
22/24th March	Australian Nationals (Seniors)	TBA	Australia
June	South Pacific Games	TBA	Samoa
June / July	FIT Master World Cup	TBA	TBA
June / July	FIT Opens World	TBA	TBA
19/22 September	Australian Youth Championships	Coffs Harbour	Australia
Sept/October	Australian All Schools (15's)	TBA	Australia
1/3 November	Australia Cup	TBA	Australia

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

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

Japan Touch
www.jp-touch.com

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

Portugal Beach Touch Rugby
www.bdj3.pt

Rhondda Cynon Taff Touch
www.rcttouch.co.uk

San Diego
www.sandiegotouch.com

Scottish Touch
www.scottishtouch.co.uk

Touch Singapore
www.touchsingapore.org

South Africa
www.touchrugby.co.za

Welsh Touch (see below also)
www.walestouch.org.uk

USA Touch
www.usfit.com

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



I wish to thank [Michael Braodbent's Photo Gallery](#)

For allowing FIT to use his pic in this newsletter

www.sportingimages.com.au