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Touch of the World

The International Touch Fraternity's Newsletter

Edition Number 3/2001 – June

EDITORIAL

It is indeed pleasing to hear the positive response to the newsletter – keep those articles coming as future issue rely on your generosity and time.

The World Masters Club event is getting closer and Bryan O'Connor has included an article here for all teams to read and hopefully get their registration in on time. Please assist.

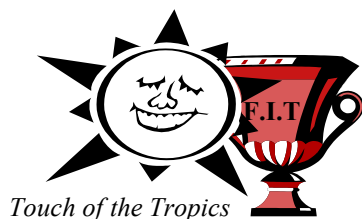
Schools are being catered for in the World Schools Championships. The event is limited to 150 teams and already places are filling fast.

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

The final FIT World event this year is the Beach Touch Championships in Forster NSW. There is a Beach Touch Rugby event somewhere in Europe this year but that is rugby not Touch and is not connected with FIT. Details of all these tournaments are contained in the newsletter

WORLD CLUB MASTERS

The close of registrations for the Masters Touch Tournament & Asian Touch Championship in Singapore will close end of the first week of June - see www.touchsingapore.org for all relevant information.



Touch of the Tropics

The tournament is looking to attract more graded referees so please do spread the word - information on the referees package is included on the web site.

Could I ask that all teams who are coming please either e-mail or fax the registration form so as to confirm acceptances.

**ALL TEAMS THAT HAVE
ALREADY REGISTERED
PLEASE RE-SEND YOUR
REGISTRATION FORMS AND I
WILL FOLLOW UP
IMMEDIATELY**

On the close of registrations I will revert to the individual team coordinator and progress from there.

Please send/re-send your registration forms before the end of the 1st week of June – Friday 6th, 2001

For further information, entry forms or any enquiries – contact Singapore Touch Ass. (Bryan O'Connor) at eventsasia@pacific.net.sg

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

WORLD BEACH TOUCH

Another inaugural F.I.T. event next 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 viewed at:- vintage86@hotmail.com

TOUCH IN THE CANARY ISLANDS, SPAIN.

The seven islands of the Canary Islands are situated some 60km off the North West coast of Africa and close to the coast of Morocco. Most of the inhabitants on the islands are either of Spanish, or Latin American decent.

Canarian people have a relaxed and warm attitude to life, and they know how to party. The climate in the Canaries is a summer season all year round, which is ideal for Touch and tourism.

Touch In The Canary Islands, Spain (Continued)

The islands of Tenerife, Lanzarote Fuerteventura and Gran Canaria, are popular destinations for European holidaymakers especially the more adventurous travelers, particularly, during the Northern Hemisphere's cold winter months.



Touch started on the island of Gran Canaria 3 years ago and was introduced to the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, and a private sports club, Atlantico, by their present part-time coach of Rugby and Touch, Brian Charles.

Brian is also a sports teacher and he has encouraged the development of Touch amongst several schools on the island. Last year, he organised an open Touch day, and the parents, kids, and adults who participated, had a great time.

In 2000 a team representing the Canary Islands competed in the mixed and men's division at the European Touch Championships, in Edinburgh, Scotland.

These Championships were used as a vehicle by Club Deportivo Touch - the first Touch Association in Spain - and F.I.T., to expose, promote, and publicise the sport in the Canary Islands, and the rest of Spain. Positive results from this "top down" approach have benefited the sport of Touch in the region.

The Provincial government of Gran Canaria, through its generosity, part-sponsored representatives of the Canary Islands Touch Team with their expenses to the European Championships, and hopefully will

develop a stronger interest in the sport as it progresses in the province.

The Canary Islands Touch Team received strong coverage in the local media from provincial newspaper and regional television networks. The media coverage obtained in Scotland was also of benefit to the team, as does the Canary Islands Touch Team's inclusion in a global newsletter of this kind.

This year there are three Canary Islands representative Touch Teams - men's, mixed and women's categories - evolving for the forthcoming summer touch tournaments in the U.K., and in preparation for next years European Touch Championships in Wales. An inter-faculty Touch Championship is expected to commence at the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria next month.



Club Deportivo Touch is now developing stronger links with other sports clubs, schools, institutes and organisations in Gran Canaria, The Canary Islands, and mainland Spain, to promote Touch. It is hoped that new initiatives in the coming months by C.D.Touch, will ensure the further development of Touch education on the islands, and in the rest of Spain.

It is anticipated that in the next few years, Veteran, Youth and School teams will also be able venture to parts of the world to represent their island or province in the Canary Islands Touch Team, as "Touch for all" grows in popularity and structure in this island province, in Spain, and the World.

We would like to send a warm hello to all those in the Touch community, from the Canary Islands, Spain.

Oliver Rivero Galvan.
Spokesperson
Club Deportivo Touch,
Las Palmas de Gran Canaria,
The Canary Islands, Spain.
Club email address:
touchspain@hotmail.com

TOUCH IN DALLAS USA

*"Fear not to touch the best."
Sir Walter Raleigh*

On Saturday, May 19, 2001, thirteen touch teams gathered in Dallas, Texas to determine who were going to be the best. The tournament was organized and hosted by the Dallas Touch Association who has been playing touch in the Dallas area for the last three years.

Teams came from Calgary, Hawaii, San Diego, and Toronto, and along with six local teams played from morning until dusk to establish who were the North American Champion.



The early rounds of play established the front runners, and the quarter finals had San Diego No3 (Del Mar Hoodz), Toronto, the Calgary Outriders, the Calgary Warthogs, Dallas Harlequins Rugby Club, Toasters, San Diego No2 (Del Mar Hoodz Mixed) and Dallas Touch's own Untouchables playing off for the semifinals.

The semifinals saw Toronto versus the Toasters and Del Mar Hoodz versus the Dallas Harlequins. After two tough games the stage was set for the finals with Del Mar Hoodz matched with the Toasters as the

headliner, and the Harlequins versus Toronto for third place.

Due to the excessive heat and humidity, and the fact that Toronto had played the entire event, six games total, with only seven players (an incredible feat), they declined the playoff game.

A women's game was played as the curtain raiser for the final with great ability displayed by both teams. The Dallas ladies were narrowly beaten by San Diego. What a brilliant sight it was to have more than 60 spectators cheering on the women's game.

With a slight breeze and cloud cover finally cooling the fields the Del Mar Hoodz lined up against the Toasters.

As expected the level of play was excellent with great settling moves and tricky inside passing. The Del Mar Hoodz played a flowing game with long passes and sweeps from both sides of the field setting up their trademark "dump and go."



The Toasters exhibited tons of pace and were well drilled giving the Hoodz a tough game and scoring in the last minute to close the gap. It should be noted that both these teams had players that went to the 1999 World Cup in Australia (crikey, it was a beaut!).

Final score: Del Mar Hoodz 4, Toasters 3. This is the Hoodz' fourth win in a row, having won the USA Nationals in 2000, the San Diego Invitational, the Newport Beach Tournament, and now the Second Annual Dallas Touch Association Tournament.

Prize giving festivities, food and beer closed the day out at the Blarney Stone Pub in Dallas. We hope to see all the teams back next year for more great touch and camaraderie.

Richard Brownjohn
Dallas Touch Association
www.dallastouch.com

ST. HELENS TOUCH (England)

The club originated in 1998 under the name "Yickers". Founder, Tommy Frodsham, the ex-St Helens RLFC player, entered his team in the Wigan League for the first time that year. In 1999 the team made it to the final of the cup, but were beaten in the final moments by a late try.

After negotiations with St Helens RLFC the team changed its name to 'St Helens Touch' and was affiliated with the English Touch Association in early 2000. The team became the figurehead of the sport in the St Helens area and the newly founded St Helens League.

After a one-year sponsorship deal with Polar Ford, St Helens went on to win the league in their third year. This year, St Helens has adopted their old name, "Yickers", as their nickname. With more sponsors on board, the team is looking forward to the new season.

Match report - Friday 25th May 2001. St Helens 6 def Dustbowlers 5. This was the first league match of the season for the Yickers in the defence of their title against 98 & 99 champions, The Dustbowlers. The Dustbowlers were led by the always impressive Jeff Bimsom and the somewhat short tempered John Ellis (sorry John). At half time

The Dustbowlers were leading 3-1 with St Helens feeling frustrated at wasted chances and the odd strange decision. The second half saw the advantage begin to change, but with 5 minutes left The Dustbowlers were leading 5-4.

On to the scene came Tommy "here comes the hotstepper" Frodsham to sell John Ellis a dummy in the proportions of Lord Charles to level the score.



(Tommy Frodsham)

The dustbowlers pushed forward for a last attempt to take the points when Graig Howey intercepted a pass to race 60 yards to score the winning try for St Helens.

A nervous start for the St Helens boys, but 3 points in the bag will please coach Tommy Frodsham who needs next week off to recover.

Christopher "Doc" Hale
St. Helens Touch

CALGARY TOUCH ASSOCIATION (Canada)

The Calgary Touch Association sent two teams to the recent tournament in Dallas, Texas. After playing in our own little pond for three years this was an opportunity to check our ranking in North America.

The ambient conditions in Dallas were somewhat challenging (90F and 90% humidity) compared with what we had faced at home, (maximum temperature to date of 72 F and humidity of 30%).

Both teams acquitted themselves well, making it to the semifinals of the main tournament. We combined both teams for the Consolation final and were successful in a competitive and good-spirited Consolation Final against Dallas Hurricanes (despite Calgary providing the referee!) We had a great time and learnt a lot.

Funds for the trip were raised at a BBQ/karaoke and silent auction evening at our sponsor Big Rock Brewery, and a generous donation from Canadian Pacific Railway.



Calgary will host the 2nd Western Canadian Championships on Sunday September 2nd. (This is the Labor Day Weekend in U.S. and Canada.) In addition to the usual divisions we are looking at including an over 40's division. For more details contact jghjenkins@home.com. We invite all teams to send teams to Calgary.

It's a great place to visit (big-city amenities, small-town friendliness, safe and clean) so bring the family for a few days and come see the magnificent Rocky Mountains, real live bears and our other attractions. If you're coming from the U.S. your dollar buys 50% more.

Visitors are more than welcome and if business or pleasure brings you to Calgary any time for a short or long duration, please feel free to contact us and come out for a game or two, followed by some cold refreshment.

Geoff Jenkins,
Western Canada
jghjenkins@home.com



INDIGIOUS TOUCH PROGRAM

The Australian Touch Association (ATA) held an Indigenous Touch Development Camp in conjunction with the Indigenous Sport Program (ISP), in Darwin on the 19-26 May 2001.

The development camp was combined with the Arafura Games and provided participants with an opportunity to compete as a team and use the skills obtained during the camp in a practical manner.

All of the touch players who attended have been identified by the ATA and are at a State or Australian level. They have all received funding assistance through the ISP athlete development programs. The athletes who attended were:

Women players included Lehetta Lane (NSW), Natalie Butler (NT), Tamara Appo (NT), Tamara Appo (NT), Lesley Huen (QLD), Natalie Ambrum (NT), Katie Shaw (QLD), Theresa Anderson (QLD), Bo Delacruz (NT), Nicole Suey (QLD), Sara Hamilton (QLD) and Haley Davey (NT)

The men were made up of Trent Appo (NT), Anthony Corrie (NT), Marcus Ewin (NT), Arian Pearson (NT), Aaron Appo (NT) Warwick Wright (NSW), Damon Viellaris (QLD), David Conlon (QLD), Russell Davey (NT), Craig Viellaris (QLD), Anthony Avery (NSW) and Dominic Dates (NSW).

During the week they attended sessions on recovery, stretching, talent ID and information on other current ISP & ATA programs that are available.

Also in attendance was Kerry Norman who is the Australian U20 coach. During the week Kerry assisted the athletes with some practical sessions to help improve their game as well as assisting them patterns for the games.

There were two other coaches who attended. Barry Draws from NSW and Harry Appo from the Northern Territory.

Both of these coaches have coached at a national level and were able to share with the athletes some of their coaching skills as well as learning from Kerry. Both the men and women's teams played a maximum of 2 games a night. Due to there only

being 2 women's teams in the competition it was decided that the women would play the mixed teams but in the grand final it was still a women's game.

Both of the teams went well with both making the finals. In exciting finals, both divisions were decided in extra time drop-offs, with the ISP teams prevailing.

In the men's division ISP defeated WA 6-5. David Conlon scored the first try 5 minutes into the match. After being in front for majority of the game the ISP were penalised in the second half giving WA the chance to come back which they did.

With the score 5 all at full time the game came down to a drop off and luckily the ISP were able to score to become the Arafura Games gold medallists.

Whilst in the women's the ISP defeated Northern Territory 2-1. The NT team was able to score a try in the first half of the game with the ISP ladies not being able to score until the last minute of the game with the current Australian Open woman representative, Bo De la Cruz scoring this try.

Due to the score being 1 all at full time the game went into a drop off with both teams down to 4 players Bo Delacruz again made a break in the NT defence and put Nicole Suey over to score.

The development was considered a huge success by all involved. The ISP would like to thank all of the staff at the ATA (particularly Maree Guthrie, Peter Topp and Cathy Grey) as well as Kerry Norman, Harry Appo, Barry Draws and Isabel Appo for contributing their time to the development camp.

The ISP and ATA would also like to thank all of the athletes who attended for not only their time but also their behavior and attitude towards the camp.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

26/29 July 2001	F.I.T. World Clubs (Masters) Championships – Singapore
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

South Africa
www.touchrugby365.com

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 Braodhurst's photo gallery
www.sportingimages.com.au

Arafura Games
www.arafuragames.nt.gov.au

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.

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 Braodhurst



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