

Touchies Voice

The Touch Fraternity's Newsletter

Edition Number 6/2001 – October

EDITORIAL



Some say the sport is at crises point. Some States and the National Body don't appear to trust the direction each other is taking and mistrust will ruin the game.

Action has been taken by all parties to get the groups together in an attempt to resolve issues. Loss of affiliates and with them their fees is a major worry.

Other areas is the process of getting fees paid at the park and remitted up the line, the over governance of the sport at different levels and most of all the duplication of work at these levels.

The elite participation area is under attack by rival codes that seem to fund their group without any financial problems. This includes the players, coaches, referees and administrators.

It's very easy to criticize and say the ATA or NSW or QLD etc aren't doing anything for their players, but the problem is widespread and although attempts are being made to address this situation, it takes time and co-operation from all concerned.

If those who criticize at every chance they get, have any constructive ideas, then please "pop" me a line and I'll pass them on. Maybe you should go to the following web site and see what initiatives are being developed.
<http://touchfootball.sportingpulse.com/austouch/tae>

GREAT MOMENTS IN TOUCH

In 1985 there were many GMIT and some of these set the stage for the future development of our sport. The annual event we look forward to is the staging of the Fifth National Championship in Melbourne at the South Melbourne Cricket Club in St. Kilda. Ansett Airlines sponsored this event.

There were two new Championship divisions added to this tournament. They were the Mens 30's and the Mixed Open categories.

At this event the inaugural Board of the International organisation was formed with the meeting being 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).

In addition, two Australian teams, Mens Open and a Masters team were selected to play in a Test series against New Zealand. On 23rd March 1985 the Men won 4-1 while on the following day the Masters also won, beating NZ 3-0.

At the commencement of the winter competitions in 1985 the ATA had introduced its first compulsory insurance scheme with American Insurance Underwriters. This Great Moment in Touch is not as insignificant as you may think as many of our athletes have benefited greatly by the then ATA Executive's foresight.

FIFTH NATIONALS HIGHLIGHTS

The major surprise at the event was the Queensland Mens open team snatching the championship from NSW for the first time in History. Coached by Alan Satchell (who is now president of QTA) they defeated NSW by (?) - the scores were never recorded.

ACT came third with Victoria Fourth and in the Womens NSW defeated QLD in the final and ACT came third with Western Australia fourth. Again the scores were never recorded.

The first Mixed National Champions and a team that never lost that title was NSW. QLD second, ACT third and Northern Territory fourth. NSW won 3-1 in the final.

In the Junior mixed division, NSW retained its tile however ACT beat Northern Territory into second place and relegated them to third. Qld were fourth.

In the inaugural Mens 30's division the first place was shared by NSW and ACT who drew the Final. While in the 35's NSW defeated QLD in the final and ACT and South Australia came third and fourth respectively.

One of the other major surprises at the tournament was in the 100m Mens Open sprint. NSW's John Christopher, who was affectionately known as The Legend was outclassed by first timer Brett Kimmorley.

Brett made his first appearance for NSW after representing both Manly and NSW Public Service in the NSW State Cup and the then Vawdon Cup (now the Sydney Championships).

ALLSTARS OF TOUCH

Despite being dethroned as the sprint champion John Christopher headed the Allstars list in 1985. Others great players included Mark Hornery, Paul Wilson, Terry Jack, Donna Jack and Karen Smith, Terry Starr, Ron Wall. John Bonetti, Dennis Dwyer, Geoff Vigors and Steven Stokes.

Donna Jack (nee Baker) gets a third appearance; husband Terry makes it a fourth time while Karen Smith does it five years in a row. John Bonetti from Griffith, NSW played in the winning NSW over 35's team.

Steven Stokes from the Northern Territory mixed junior team was a stand out star in that division and long serving Manly legend Geoff Vigors finally get recognised for his skills and talent. Terry Starr, Ron Wall, Mark Hornery and Dennis Dwyer are household names in NSW with Paul Wilson representing QLD Mens open only in 1984 and 1985.

Alan Satchell was fittingly named Coach of the Year and his offside, Peter McNeven as Manager. Bobette Wilkinson from Victoria who was responsible for pulling the event together in Melbourne was named Official of the Year. The late Innes McDougal from the ACT was named as Referee of the year.

GREAT TOUCH TEAMS OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

National Team

Australian Mens 30's have finished first at four World Cup events - 1991, 1995, 1997 and 1999 amassing an impressive 385 touchdowns having only 29 scored against them in the 32 games they have played.

Their highest score was against the USA in '95 winning 31-0. The most touchdowns scored at the one event was 15 by Len Ryan in 1997 while he, Garry Lawless and Glen Andrews share the World record (in that division) of 5 in the one game with New Zealand's great Eric Dayberg. They remain undefeated having also won their only Test match against New Zealand in 1995.

State Team

NSW Mens Open won the National Championships 9 time between 1980 and 1995 (lost on only 5 occasions). Played a total of 121 games for 101 wins, 12 losses and 8 drawn games. Holds the highest winning score for this division being 19-0 against Western Australian in a semi final in 1982. They went for 41 straight games without a defeat from round 1 of the Nationals in 1980 to the final in 1985.



LETTERS

I was running backwards to get onside with my arms outstretched and the referee warned me not to passively obstruct. After the game he told me it was an offence to do what I was doing and I could be penalised. Is that right?

Yes it is partially correct. In the Rule Interpretation Booklet the Situation 4 : 13 : 1 States "A defending player who is retiring extends his arms either by stretching them outwards or upwards. Is such action against the Rules?"

The decision given is as follows:- "The action constitutes passive obstruction and would be subject to warning or penalty ONLY if an attacking player were impeded."

You can see therefore that if your action interfered with an attacking player before you reached an onside position you could be subject to a penalty.

At the Rollball the defence can move forward as soon as the acting half touches the ball. What if there is no acting half, do you have to wait until the referee calls "play on"? And

when is it determined that there is no acting half in position ?

In the first part of your question the defence can move forward as soon as the ball leaves the hand of the "attacking player. This also applies even if the attacking player uses their foot to roll the ball.

It is determined that there is no half (the word acting half is no longer applicable) in position if an attacking player moving in to assume that role is more than two steps away from the ball as it leaves the hand of the attacking player. There is a whole section of Situations and Decisions relative to the half commencing at 1:9:3 in the Rule Interpretation Booklet.

GET TO KNOW YOUR D O

This section is the first in a series of article of the Development officers who spread the Gospel, according to Touch, throughout the Australian sporting fraternity.

Before providing information about the Touch Development officers who are scouring the land spreading the Touch message to all and sundry it may be timely to sit back and assess the value of their efforts.

An article (published in Active Australia April 2001) called "Sport Development Officers – Are They effective ?" written by Graeme Murphy who was a former ATA DO; questions what else is involved in the process besides recruitment, as the word development means what it says.

“ Effectiveness for a development officer depends on what you aim to achieve, what you do and how you evaluate what you have done.

Many DO's are simply junior recruitment officers, but there is more to development than increasing a sport's junior participation base

If a DO is a recruitment officer, what happens if they are successful ? If there is a rise in the number of juniors, can the sport support the

increase ? What sort of increase can be properly serviced – 5%, 10%, 50% ? A good DO doesn't just recruit, they help improve the capacity and capability of their sport to support and maintain current and new members

There appears to be three reason for the current strategy adopted by many sports:

1. to make students aware of their sport
- 2 to recruit teams to play their sport or sport generally
- 3 to encourage them to become spectators or fans of their sport

Unfortunately the effectiveness of this strategy is getting students to participate appears to be limited in the long term.



One of the flaws with this “school hopping” strategy is the ability to link motivated students to local clubs and the clubs’ ability to support the school with its programs either around the time of the visit or in an ongoing capacity.

Research tells us that the vast majority of new members to sport come through word of mouth from friends, peers or family. SO DO's have a vital role in ensuring clubs and associations give members a positive experience through fun and enjoyment and the satisfied member do the recruiting, by singing the praises of their sport.

Read about Graeme's conclusion in the next Issue of Touchie Voice

Jason Harrison – North Queensland State Development Officer. Played touch for 16 years and has extensive coaching and technical knowledge. Coached WA Mixed and Schoolboys Teams for several years, and has been a member of the WA State Coaching Panel, Touch West Junior and Selectors Co-coordinator. Level

1 Referee, Level 2 Selector, and Level 2 Coach. State Development Officer since August 2001.



Mark Stephens – Central Queensland State Development Officer. Academic Qualifications: BA/Dip Ed Physical Education, BA

Psychology, Grad Dip Management, MBA Sports Administration, in the process of completing.

Touch Technical Qualifications: L2 Coach, L3 Referee, L1 Selector. Player for nearly thirty years in three different states. For many years he played in regional representative teams and was a Northern Territory State representative for a number of years. State Development Officer since October 2000.

Troy Morgan – South West Qld SDO Troy has been involved in Touch since 1989. Member of South West Queensland Under 20, Mixed and Open sides. Played for the Sun West Razorback's Men's Open side.

Played in the State of Origin Men's Open division in 1999 & 2001. Troy is currently completing a graduate certificate in Sport.

Touch Qualifications: Level 1 Referee, Level 1 Coach; other sports Qualifications include Level 1 Young Athlete Coach, Level 1 Sprints, Hurdles Coach, Level 1 Strength & Conditioning Coach, Level 1 triathlon Coach, Level 2 Coaching Principals. Qld State Development Officer since September 2001



Brent Chambers – Sunshine Coast Fraser and Burnett Districts SDO. Has been involved in touch as a

player for 9 years and represented Wide Bay School Boys U15's and Opens for 3 years.

He was selected as a shadow player for Queensland twice. Played in SCF & BD Region for 4 years. Brent has represented SCF & BD in many

divisions including U18's, U20's, Open Men's and Open mixed.

Represented the Sun West Razorbacks in U20's men division. Level 3 Referee, Level 2 Referee Course Presenter, Level 2 Coach. State Development Officer since April 2000

Daryl Francey – Brisbane City SDO

He represented Queensland in Mens Open in 87, 88 & 90, Mixed in 92 and Mens 30's in 96,97 and in 2001 as a Coach.

For Australian, Daryl represented in the Mixed 30's at the Masters World Cups in 97 and 99. He completed a Diploma in Sports Studies.



He is currently a Level 2 Coach, Level 3 Referee, Level 1 Selector, Level 1 Sports Administrator, Level 2 Referee Course Presenter, Level 4 Coaching Course Presenter, and Level 1 Selectors Course Presenter. He has been a State Development Officer since April 1993.



Ryan Pollock – South Queensland and Border Districts SDO. Involved in Touch for 8 years. Qld Schoolboys Touch: 1996.

Gold Coast Sharks Mens open player for 2 years. Queensland Mixed Open shadow player 2000. Bachelor of Applied Science (1 year left). Level 2 Coach, Level 3 Referee, Level 3 Coaching Course Presenter, and Level 1 Selector. State Development Officer since February 2000.

QUEENSLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL TOUCH

On the 9-12 August Queensland Primary School Touch held their two State Championships for Girls and Boys.

The girls' championships were held in the Metropolitan West Region at Ipswich Grammar while the boys'

championships were conducted at Carseldine QLD in the Metropolitan North Region.

The girls' championships had all 12 regions participate while the boys' championships had 11 regions involved. The boys' championships welcome two more regions this year being South-West and Northern.

Both Championships proved that Primary School Touch is gaining in strength. Each year we see the playing standard improve and the level of attack and defence is outstanding for 12 year old students.

The Girls championships proved to be a close affair with the two teams for the final not being decided until the last round of games.

After 11 games in a round robin format the final was contested between South Coast and the host region Metropolitan West. The final proved to be a showpiece for primary girls touch with the game being locked up at 0-0 at halftime.

In the second half Metropolitan West took control of the match and went on to win 2-0. Metropolitan West proved that they were the dominant region with four of their players being selected in the State team to contest the National Championships in Darwin in September.

The remaining members of the State team came from a number of regions indicating the closeness of all teams.

The Boys championships saw Wide Bay attempting to win 3 consecutive State Titles but this prove to be a big challenge with more teams involved this year.

In the end Wide Bay reached their third final in as many years and came up against a very strong , competitive Metropolitan East team. With their pool match ending in a draw it was always going to be a tight contest. Metropolitan East came out firing and had a 4-1 lead at halftime.

Wide Bay weren't going to let their title slip away so easily and came

back hard in the second half running in two quick touchdowns but that was the end and they went down 4-3.

At the championships a Queensland Merit team was selected, as there is no National Championships for boys. This Queensland Merit side was dominant by Wide Bay players and Metropolitan East players



EIGHTH AUSTRALIAN MASTERS GAMES

The touch events at the Eighth Australian Masters Games are being organised by Newcastle City Touch Association and will be held from 11th to 14th October 2001. Many well know "oldies" will be there to show off their secrets they unleashed on the Touch Community over 30 years ago.

None more spectacular than two of the finest players of the past, the ATA Chief Executive Mr. Bill Ker and former ATA Treasurer Mr. Trevor Richards and the current Treasurer, Annette Donselear. All three according to their trainers are fighting fit and should last a good ten minutes.

Also attending is an "old Manly stalwart" Colin Thomas who is playing in a mixed team with the likes of International Tourist Linda Patterson, the famous Gartner girls and many former Manly champs.

Good luck to them all and I hope they all feature in the finals series on 13/14th. Anyone wishing to pop in for a look can view the games at the Regional Touch Centre, which is located inside the Harness Racing Club at Broadmeadow.

There is ample seating inside the air conditioned club as well as outside and all touch fields can be clearly

viewed from both positions. Bar and food outlet service is available inside the club which also has wheelchair access.

There is ample off street parking facilities at Marathon Stadium. For more information visit the Masters Games website

www.nhevents.com.au

**This is your newsletter
Please e.mail this on to all
the addresses in your
address book
and
Please submit any
stories or article
on your local 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

October 2001	Australian Masters Games - Newcastle
18/21 October 2001	World Schools – Gold Coast
20/21 October 2001	NSW Country Championships - Dubbo
26/28 October 2001	Bangkok Int'l Sevens – Ladies Touch
9/11 th November 2001	Trans Tasman Tests (Australia v NZ) Hamilton NZ
17/18 November 2001	Southern Suns Regional C'ships – Wollongong
24/25 November 2001	Northern Junior State Cup - Cairns
TBA March 2002	NTL (Opens/20's) – Coffs Harbour
TBA March 2002	NTL (Seniors) – Coffs Harbour
13/14 July 2002	European Championships - Wales
17/20th May 2003	FIT World CUP – Master - Japan
22/25th May 2003	FIT 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.

TOUCH WEB SITES

Federation International Touch
www.internationaltouch.com.au

Australia Touch Association
www.austouch.com.au

ATA Insurance – Sportscover
www.sportscover.com

ACT Touch
www.acttouch.com.au

NSW Touch
www.nswtouch.com.au

Touch News
www.touch.asn.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

North Sydney Touch
www.northstouch.asn.au



Penrith Touch
www.penrithtouch.asn.au

Wollongong Touch
www.Wollongongtouch.asn.au

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

England Touch Association
<http://www.touchrugby.com>

France
www.multimania.com/touchrugbyfr

New Zealand Touch
www.touchnz.co.nz

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

Portugal Beach Touch Rugby
www.bdj3.pt

Scottish Touch
www.scottouch.connectfree.co.uk

Welsh Touch
www.rettouch.co.uk
European Championships
2002
www.Euro2002.WalesTouch.org.uk

Michael Braodent's photo
Gallery
www.sportingimages.com.au

Arafura Games
www.arafuragames.nt.gov.au

South Africa
www.touchrugby365.com