



Touch of the World

The International Touch Fraternity's Newsletter

Edition Number 1/2001 – February

EDITORIAL

A first, electronically speaking. Thanks to all those contributors we are able to set about publishing the first Federation Newsletter since the early 90's when hard copy items were sent to our then Members.

With email, it is now a lot easier to communicate with each other and what better way than sharing other's news items.

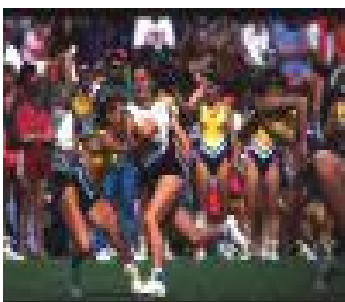
This newsletter belongs to YOU - the players, officials, and all members participating in touch throughout the world

Send me your snippets, your events calendar, your web site, or any other article you wish published.

The success of this newsletter will depend upon **you** submitting articles but more importantly helping in the circulation of each issue to as many "touchies" as possible. Please send this Newsletter to everyone in your email address book.

WORLD YOUTH CUP

The inaugural World Youth Cup held recently in Auckland attracted thirty teams from eleven nations including the New Zealand Maori teams.



The New Zealand teams dominated the Boys divisions while Australia had control in the Girls divisions. The Mixed category failed to be the deciding factor as they were shared, thus so was the World Cup Trophy.

Congratulations go to all teams that participated and especially those who traveled from England, Japan and South Africa. – well done !

ASIA PACIFIC GAMES

At the recent Asia Pacific Games, Touch was the second largest sport with 783 individual participants. There were 40 sports and Touch was only bettered by softball with 1055 participants. Third was netball – 657 with Soccer fourth - 490.

SOUTH PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL TOUCH SERIES

At the recent F.I.T. General Meeting it was agreed that an organising committee of S.P.I.T should begin focusing on the year 2002 event with the possible venues being Samoa, Tonga or Niue.

The 1998 event was held in New Zealand at the Waitemata Athletic Stadium and was attended by four nations – New Zealand, Samoa, Niue and the NZ Maori teams.

Pacific Island nations will be invited to form part of the new committee and teams from all Islands will be welcomed to attend the tournament.

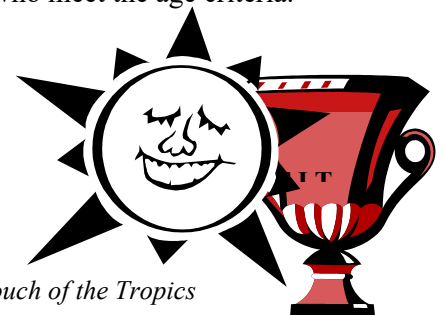
Details will be released in the next Newsletter.

WORLD CUP JAPAN 2003

Plans are well under way for the next World Cup to be staged in Japan in the year 2003. The Secretary General of the Federation is visiting Japan in late March to finalise the dates and venue for the event.

WORLD CLUB MASTERS

In July 2001 the Second World Master Club Championships are being held in Singapore. It is open to all teams from anywhere in the world who meet the age criteria.



Touch of the Tropics

The tournament is open for age categories from 30 years – in 5 year increments – to 50 years and over.

The divisions available are men, women and mixed in all age groups. The tournament will be held from 23rd July to 29th July.

For information, entry forms or any enquiries – contact Singapore Touch Association - (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.

WORLD SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIPS (Cont.)

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 at vintage86@hotmail.com



EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

The European Championships are set to be held in Wales in July 2002.

This follows on from the very successful tournament played in Edinburgh this year where the touring Australian Masters teams participated.

The Aussies came away with several Invitational Trophies (BUT only a European Country can win the main event).

Any teams (club or otherwise) who wish to receive an invitation to attend the tournament in Wales can contact the Editor.

AUSTRALIAN NATIONALS

The Australian National Titles will be contested over the week beginning 11th March and concluding the 17th 2001. The event will be held at the International Sports Stadium at Coffs Harbour along the NSW north coast.

Open divisions will be played over three days from the 11th with 48 open and under 20 teams competing. The seniors will follow this on the 14th where there are 70 teams, which have entered in six divisions.

This tournament is one of the many at which the ATA's elite talent squad is assessed and their performances come under review.

TOUCH IN CANADA

We started with a small group of 6 players 2 years ago and have grown steadily ever since then till now where we have a regular turnout of around 30 people every weekend with a database of 65+ people.

It is awesome to have another proper Touch Club in Vancouver in addition to Calgary. We are now in the process of starting a Canadian Touch tournament this year, which we really need in order to give the sport a shot in the arm.

I can be contacted at work in Toronto at Telephone (416) 467-2778 and can chat about any plans for the future especially about teams touring from overseas. - Tim Goudie



YOUR NEWSLETTER

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Sporting Images by courtesy of Michael Braodhurst

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

11/13 March 2001	Australian NTL (Opens/20's) – Coffs Harbour
15/17 March 2001	Australian NTL (Seniors) – Coffs Harbour
19/26 May 2001	ARAFURA Games – Darwin
TBA July 2001	Trans Tasman Tests (Australia v NZ) – TBA
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
July 2002	European Championships - Wales
TBA 2003	F.I.T. World CUP – Master - Japan
TBA 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 Braodhurst



TOUCH WEB SITES

Federation International Touch
www.internationaltouch.com.au

Australia Touch Association
www.austouch.com.au

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

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

England Touch Association
www.english-touch.com

New Zealand (unofficial) Touch site
www.nztouch.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

South Africa
www.touchrugby365.com

Welsh Touch
www.rcttouch.co.uk

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

Arafura Games
www.arafuragames.nt.gov.au