

Touchies Voice

The Touch Fraternity's Newsletter

Edition Number 7/2001 – November

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EDITORIAL



The Touch World has been an exciting one over the past month or so. The national 18's have come and gone with QLD Secondary Schools showing their dominance in both the Boys and Girls divisions.

Following the NTL was the inaugural FIT World All Schools held on the Gold Coast and attracting 107 teams. It was disappointing that not many schools outside Queensland attended but it was a success from the point of view it was a start on an International event and the students had a great time.

NSW Masters staged their tournament in Newcastle and attracted record numbers, none more so than the over 50's year division. The fields in the center of the trotting track where Newcastle play their regular competition was the venue for the event and were named the Kerry "Joey" Campbell grounds in honour of long time stalwart and hard worker for the Newcastle Club.

The ATA Annual General Meeting is scheduled for later this month. If you have any issue see your delegate.

GREAT MOMENTS IN TOUCH

We move on to 1986 where the Sixth Nationals were held in March in Adelaide and the Australian Men, Women, Mixed and Masters Teams toured New Zealand for the first time.

The Nationals were held on an open park in Glenelg due to commence with a March past, which was, timed to coincide with Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth motorcade driving past the fields.

Her Majesty was to land by launch from the Royal Yacht Britannica and drive through Glenelg on the way to a civic reception at the Town Hall in Adelaide. Unfortunately heavy seas prevented the landing and officials held up the March Past.

The players soon became "fidgety" so relays and sprints were the order of the day. Interesting to note that the great Kerry Norman won the womens sprint and at the end of the nationals remained in Adelaide to compete in the National Surf Life Saving titles.



(The Great Kerry Norman)

She completed the double by winning the Australian Life Saving Beach sprint title the following weekend.

The Queen would have to wait so eventually the March Past got under way and the sixth Nationals officially commenced.

SIXTH NATIONALS HIGHLIGHTS

Queensland showed their victory in the 1985 Mens final over NSW was no fluke by defeating them 2-0 in the preliminary round. NSW however won the final in a close 2-1 encounter with ACT running third and Western Australia fourth.

The Queensland Women did not lose a game defeating NSW 1-0 during the round. At the conclusion of full time in the final the score was level at 2-2, so the dreaded "shoot out" was employed. Unfortunately for Qld they were defeated and NSW won the championships with a 3-2 score.

Kerry Norman was named player of the series even though many felt Karen Smith played an awesome series. ACT came third and Northern Territory fourth.

In the Mixed division NSW were again surprised by a round defeat but this time it was at the hands of the ACT. After disposing of the Army side 17-1 in the semis, NSW went on to defeat Queensland 3-1 in the final. ACT was third with Army fourth.

SIXTH NATIONALS HIGHLIGHTS (Cont.)

The Mixed juniors saw Qld dominate throughout the rounds and finals scoring 55 for and 5 against. They defeated NSW in the final 8-5 with ACT coming third and Western Australia fourth.

Two junior players from the winning QLD team who went on to make their mark in senior ranks were Craig Pierce and Allison McWhirter.

While for the NSW team one of the junior players went on to captain her State and Country in Womens Open - Katrina Maher.

In the Mens over 30's division NSW took a battering in the rounds being defeated by ACT and Queensland. They showed their strength in the semis beating ACT 5-0 and then in the final disposing of Queensland by 3-0. Victoria came fourth and Army fifth.

Mens 35's saw the only clean sweep by NSW, going through undefeated and winning the final from Qld 3-2. South Australia came third and ACT was fourth.

GMIT - 2nd TRANS TASMAN TEST SERIES

On the 14th December 1986 in Sunny Auckland, Australia played New Zealand in a one off test series in Men, Women, Mixed and Masters divisions.



The 1985 Mens Test Team - many of whom played in the 1986 Test Series

Australia won all four games against the home side the men winning 6-0; the women 11-0; the mixed 7-2 and the masters 8-0.

ALLSTARS OF TOUCH

1986 saw the emergence of a new breed of Allstars. All thirteen players had never appeared in the Allstars series before even though some were and still now, household names.

Mark Boland, Garry Lawless, John Christopher, Michael Burke, Eddie Basile, Steve Clements, Greg Devitt, Kendra Hall from the ACT, Michael Jonson, Arthur Tsakissiris, Karyn Coombes, Joanne Hanwood and as a reward for his excellent performance in the mixed juniors, Craig Pierce.

Coach of the year was Graham "Buck" Rogers from the ACT, Ian Curtis from the Army was Manager of the year while Lance Harrington was the referee. The late Phil Smith was the official of the year and was awarded the first Life Membership of the Australian Touch Association at the presentation ceremony at the end of the Nationals

LETTERS

In the rules it only define jewellery, long fingernails or long studs as matters that need attending to prior to a game commencing. What about items such as sunglasses, knee braces, tongue studs, belly rings and other body piercing etc., can players wear these.

At all level of Touch, the competition organisers have a duty of care to all the participants. This includes the player themselves, their team mates and opponents, as well as spectators who at park level are always close to the action.

Any item – even if a doctor's certificate has been provided – which is considered by the competition organisers as dangerous, has to be removed, otherwise the player cannot participate

The referee awards a touchdown and is not advised by his line referees of any infringement. The game goes on and at half time the team scored against protests that the touchdown was scored by the acting half.

These facts are confirmed by a line referee, who did not, (for whatever reason); bring this to the center referee's attention at the time. In line with Ruling at 6:18:1 can the referee change his mind.

No – once the game has been restarted the option for the referee to change his mind is no longer available. This would also apply if half or full time was signaled just after the event and before the game could be restarted.

ADELAIDE BEACH TOUCH FESTIVAL

Its that time of year again and your chance to compete in the Adelaide Uni Beach Touch Championship to be held on the 18th of November at Glenelg.



This is an ideal start to a Summer of Touch with both Mens and Women divisions. Nominations for the event close on the 14th of November so don't Delay!

Return entry form and money to: Adelaide University Touch Club inc.; c/- Sports Association Inc; Adelaide University, SA 5055. All enquiries to the Adelaide University Touch Club - call Pen on 8362 1638 or e.mail for info at austouch_club@hotmail.com

FAMOUS INTERVIEWS



This is the fourth in the series of famous people interviewed by Ian Stanley, the Aussie Mens Open Coach. TV's roving reporter finally catches up with the legend of Mixed

Touch, Stacey Gregory

This months famous touch player that I've interviewed is none other than the irrepressible Stacey Gregory

Stacey represented Australia in the mixed division at the 1988, 1991 and 1995 World Cup and in 1999 in the Womens 30 at the World Cup for Masters.

She has 38 World Cup Caps and is ranked sixth in Australia with her representative career at World Cup. This is a sensational effort given she missed the 1997 World Cup for Masters.

Stacey has 9 Test Caps and this ranks her in twelfth place for test Matches played by an Australian. Having a total of 47 Caps for Australia overall Stacey is ranked as the sixth highest player to have represented her country.

When did you first become involved in touch and why

It was about year 7 (1st form) at high school I played for fun with a group of girlfriends, as I was very involved in rep & state netball at the time. I first played mixed for Cronulla in 1982/83 and I found it very social and a great way to keep fit.



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

Being very much a team person who thrives on a challenge, to compete against other states and countries helps. Each year I tried harder than the last to be fitter and more skilled and to improve my game in every way possible.

Also it was important to have fun and enjoying every moment of each training session, game, trip away and tour that I was involved in. Being with a lot of great people and friends and making many more was a bonus.

What were some of your greatest challenges?

Without a doubt some of my major challenges were getting over 2 knees reconstructions and to get as fit as possible as quickly as possible and getting back on the paddock. Playing mixed touch though I must say was always a challenge. Competing with and against men with their speed and skill is without doubt always the greatest challenge to any female player. This, for myself, was the major reason I keep challenging my own ability.

Who were some of your most difficult opponent, and why

Very hard question for a female mixed player to answer nearly every male player I came up against was a difficult opponent in one way or another. Many a Queenslander and a New Zealander had awesome ability.

Probably a Queensland mixed player I remember having a great duel with as far as defending him was Corey (SKIPPY) Foster. He was a guy with a great step who went on to be Mens open state and Australian rep. (I pulled off a few touches on ya though Skippy). I was always lucky enough to have the most difficult opponents, as my team mates to name them would be an endless list.

If you had to pick your greatest moment in your career - what would it be?

Greatest moments are too numerous. Every time I was named in a State or Australian Side, every win or each time I named captain of sides were memorable moments - but probably two stand out.

Playing for a Womens open team called Sylvania Sea Lions coached by two of the greatest - Darren Shelly and Steve Sutton. A group of girlfriends and a lot of hard training put us into a playoff for the top five sides in the 1992 Metro Cup.

Each week we were expecting it to be our last. We fought on to win a berth in the final against the invincible Easts womens side. Going in as major underdogs with a huge crowd watching and pulling off a very unexpected but very memorable win was absolutely exhilarating. The victory was celebrated by a team of mad women, for about a year.

Secondly playing for NSW against QLD in Queensland in 1994. After them beating us both rounds for the first time ever. We pushed the game to a Drop Off, with Qld scoring in their first set of six.

I yelled to Darren Shelly at our tap off we needed a bit of Daz magic - we needed to score in our set and that's exactly what we did to the shock and horror of the Qld players. Within the next 2 mins we scored again to win the Nationals - what an unforgettable game.

Yes Stacey that was indeed a great game and your final pass, which scored the winning touchdown, was a gem. The video of that game is used by coaches as an analysis tool as part of the Level 3 Coaching course. That's how good the game was and how exciting the drop off became. Well done. Now tell me what's your favourite food

I love everything (I love any chicken dish) (chocolate, chocolate) and more

Your favourite TV show

CSI Investigations/Hi Five

Who are the stars of the sport now that you and other have recently? Retired.

It's hard to pick mixed stars as they are picked from mens and womens players these days - but as far as all round skills the Judd twins get my vote.

They just need to be challenged, as for mens players a lot of great ability out there, Jason Yee, Jason Stanton, and QLD's Macdonald Brothers.

Can you name some up and coming future champions.

Speaking from NSW players Louise Winchester, Erin Turner, Jade Walsh, Brad Holden, and Kurt Nowoty. I'm sure there is many more out there but I don't get around to see all the games any more.

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

At the moment I don't think I would change any rules. Maybe, in a few years I'd look at a few small changes. But one rule is very important to remember "PLAYERS KEEP THIS GAME ALIVE SO LOOK AFTER THEM"!!!

Thank you Stacey Gregory - you are certainly entitled to join the Legends File

THE LEGENDS FILE

Boland, Mark
Gregory, Stacey
Toohey (nee Maher), Katrina
Notley, Scott

GET TO KNOW YOUR DO

This is second article in the series of profile on the Development officers of our sport and before we meet some of the NSW DO's I must continue last months article written by Graeme Murphy and publish some of the conclusions of his findings.

Graeme concludes by saying that maybe the DO's role should be re -prioritised to help their organisation improve its services to their associations and give training to both the clubs and associations on how to provide these services.

Depending on the level they are working at DO's may have to: -

- ❑ Promote their club's support services, including contact details of the Membership Officer
- ❑ Facilitate links between a variety of community group, eg schools, local government, and sports clubs
- ❑ Advocate to parents, students and business groups why people should become members of their sport
- ❑ Communicate these benefits and what they provide for the Australian community
- ❑ Assist clubs and associations to improve their services delivery through improved organizational development strategies.
- ❑ Deliver volunteer and club/ass. Management programs
- ❑ Develop products that are appropriate and relevant for different target groups
- ❑ Develop monitoring and evaluation frameworks
- ❑ Demonstrate results by showing conversion rates from non-member to member or as an outcome, retention of members through better service delivery.

The full article was published in Active Australia April 2001, called "Sport Development Officers – Are They effective?" Thanks to Graeme Murphy who now has moved from the Sports Commission to take over the helm as GM of the ACT Touch Association. TV's wish you well in your new role.

New South Wales has turned out some fine and enthusiastic DO's and we'll attempt to profile some of them who are currently traveling the state assisting in the development of Touch.

Riley Sohier (42) is the DO for the Hunter Western Hornets. He resides at Orimbah on the Central Coast NSW Married with 3 children. He has the nickname of Mac (as when you ring him he is generally in a McDonalds). The local Penrith connections however call him Muck or Muckster, and reason will remain anonymous.

His first involvement in Touch was in August 1978 in the South Sydney Comp. Representative honours were with Penrith Mens Open in 1988.

The Accreditations levels Riley has obtained in touch are: Level 2 Coach, Level 2 Selector, Level 1 Referee, Level 3 Coach Course Presenter and a Level 1 Referee's Course Presenter.

In addition he is a Level 1 Sports Administrator, Level 1 Athletics Coach (Sprints, Hurdles, Relays & Jumps) and has a Senior First Aid Certificate.



Robert Summers. Started as the Southern Suns Development Officer in Nov 1998 and is married with one child, Bradley aged 11.

Started playing Touch at Western Suburbs Touch in the late 80's for a couple of years so you might say he qualifies as a Met. He quickly saw the light and moved to Wollongong where he played in the Wollongong Touch Association competition.

Rob refereed and became a member of the committee working at most area of the committee finally becoming President and is currently a proud Life Member of W.T.A. and was subsequently honored by the N.S.W.T.A with a Blues award.

He has coached and represented Wollongong Touch at the Sydney Championships, State Cup, Country Championships, and Inter-Regional Championships. Represented Region 6 (South Coast & Highlands) at Intra-Regional Championships then went on to represent Country at City V Country. Represented Southern Suns at National Touch League

He has referred at the Sydney C'ships, Inter Regional C'ships, State Cup, and at Country Championships

His role as a selector has included the NSW Men's Open, Team Leader for Men's 30's, Region 6 and Southern Suns Director of Selectors.

Prior to becoming a DO, Rob was a member of the N.S.W.T.A. Selectors Panel and his accreditations include Level 2 Coach, Level 2 Selector, Level 3 Referee, and Level 3 Course Presenter for coaching. A Level 1 Course Presenter for Selecting, and Level 2 Course Presenter for Referee and Senior First Aid

Kane Weeks starting playing at Werris Creek when he was 16. He attended his first tournament in 1993 as manager of Erina Mens 45's team at the State Cup in Port Macquarie. Since then he has

managed affiliate, regional, country, state & Australian teams. Kane has coached affiliate, regional and NSW teams.

His accreditations include a level 2 coaching, level 1 referee & selector Started as a DO in November 1998 and enjoys quality time with his kids Tori & Beau, likes honest people, a game of golf with mates, catching up with friends at Touch tournaments.

He has a low tolerance of slack attitudes, pretend sports, hot beer and cranky people. His favourite foods are steak, Mexican, everything really.

The most memorable moments in Touch include beating QLD in a drop off in the Mixed Open final of the Nationals in 1994 and coaching my first team, Terrigal U/18 girls at the State Cup and reaching the semi finals.

Winning the Country Championships as coach of the Muswellbrook Mens 30's team was a buzz and ranks as one of my fondest memories.

GREATEST TEAMS OF THE 20th CENTURY

An article on a team in this section will be published in the next issue. Sorry to all those who were waiting with baited breath.

AUSTRALIAN 18's CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Australian 18's Championships as mentioned in the Editorial were the domain of the Queensland State Secondary Schools, winning both the Boys and Girls divisions.



The Girls continue to raise the bar for their opponents finishing the event with a for and against of 83-5, an average of 16.6 (F&A) but with an average of over 10 touchdowns per game. They have remained undefeated now for 43 games.

The early history of the Girls saw NSW and Queensland share three titles each between 1987 and 1992. NSW CCC won in 1993 and NSW CHS won in 1996 but on the remaining seven occasions the championship title went to Queensland. They hold the record for the highest score at the event, (in the NTL era) of 22-0, however in 1990 the Queensland team defeated Western Australia 23-0.

QSST Boys also seem to have the wood on their opponents winning their final against a strong NSW CHS 8-5. Between 1987 and 1995 they won six of the nine titles.



In 1996 the Championships Title went to New Zealand with NSW CHS winning in 1997 and 1999. Queensland won the remaining three years. Their biggest win in the post '95 era (NTL) was 17-0 with the highest recorded win being by NSW in 1990 of 21-0.

Queensland holds the longest winning streak for the boys. From the Bronze play off in 1999 they have remained undefeated up to and including the final of 2001 - 19 games in total.

The player of the series and player of the final for the Girls was Kelly McGennity from QSST. The Boys player of the series was Joe Williams from NSW CCC while the player of the final was Adrian O'Shanesy from QSST

F.I.T. INAUGURAL WORLD ALL SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIPS

The first World All Schools Touch Event finally came to fruition at the Paul Eggers International Touch Fields on the Gold Coast, Queensland from the 18th to 21st October 2001.

The Marching Band of the John Paul College led the opening ceremony March Past that was presided over by a host of dignitaries.

John Paul College has an excellent record as a School Marching Band and have performed all over the world.

The excelled at the World Trade Expo in 1988, were World Champions in 1999, performed at the Olympics in Sydney in 2000 and at the Goodwill Games in Brisbane in 2001. In addition they have presented themselves before crowds at Rugby Union and Rugby League Test matches and many State of Origin League clashes.

Dignitaries present for the opening ceremony included Terry Macenroth the Deputy Premier and Minister of Sport in the Queensland Government, Gold Coast City Councilor Dawn Crichlow, F.I.T. President Cary Thompson and past F.I.T. President Paul Eggers.

Also in attending was Mark Cooper the QTA President with his Executive Office Melanie Woosham; the former QTA President and current President of South Queensland & Border Districts, Bernie Lowther; Gold Coast Touch President Greg Norman and representative from the major sponsor Coke-a-Cola, Dick Chapman and Shane Gehrke.

Coke-a-Cola provided many substantial products for the event including caps, back packs, sunglass etc and their effort and contribution was greatly appreciated by the players.

In the 15 years Boys divisions the Cup winners were Blackwater State High who defeated Carmel College 8-0 in the QF, St. Marys College 5-1 in the Semis and Emmaus College 4-3 in a close final.

The Boys Plate Finals saw Springwood State High School defeat St. Lukes Anglican School 4-2 in the semis and then go on to beat William Ross State High School 7-2 in the final.

With the Girls 15 years divisions the Cup Finals was won by Coombabah State High School who defeated Fairholme College 8-1 in the QF, William Ross SHS 7-0 in the semis and Kirwin State High School 4-2 for the title.

The Plate Final went to All Hallows College I who defeated Kepnock SHS in the semis 2-1 and Dalby State High School in the final 2-1. The Girls Shield finals went to St. Lukes Anglican College beating The Glennie School 2-1.

The Mixed 15 division saw Benowa State High Schools take the tile by beating Park Ridge SHS 9-1 in the semis and Miami State High 6-1 in the final. In the Plate mixed final Kalkadoon State High defeated Chaleville SHS 7-2 in the

semis and in the final, St. Francis College 4-2.



In the 18 years Boys divisions Glenala State High defeated The Southport School 7-4 in the QF, and in the semis North Rockhampton 6-2 and beat Cavendish Road SHS 7-5 to win the Cup Final.

The Plate trophy went to Alexandra Hills State High who defeated Kirwin SHS 6-5 in the semis and Marsden SHS 5-1 in the final. William Ross SHS won the Shield final defeating Shalom College 5-2 in the Semis and Marymount College 6-2 for the trophy.

Cup final for the Girls 18's was played out between Kirwin SHS Townsville and Beadesert SHS with Kirwin running out winners 3-0. On the way to the final they beat St. Michaels College 10-1 and in the semis St. Patricks College 6-1.

St. Ursulas College won the plate trophy beating Emmaus College 4-3 in the semis and Marborough SHS 3-2 in the final. The Shield final was won by Marymount College who defeated Christian Outreach College 8-0 in the semis and Carmel College 4-0 in the final.

Keebra Park State High School stole the show in the 18's Mixed Cup final. They won the title by defeating Trinity Catholic College Lismore 9-3 in the QF, St. Francis College 5-4 in the semis and Benowa SHS 6-3 in the final. The Plate Finals went to Blackwater State High who defeated Charleville SHS 7-0 in the semis and Chinchilla SHS 5-2 in the final.

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

9/11 th November 2001	Trans Tasman Tests (Australia v NZ) Hamilton NZ
17/18 November 2001	Southern Suns Regional C'ships – Wollongong
18th November 2001	Adelaide Beach Touch - Adelaide
24th November 2001	ATA Annual General Meeting - Canberra
24/25 November 2001	Northern Junior State Cup - Cairns
29th Nov / 1st Dec.	Australia Cup / Southern Cross Cup - Canberra
30th Nov. / 2nd Dec.	Qld State Championships - Toowoomba
7th/9th December 2001	NSW State Cup - Port Macquarie
17/24 February 2002	Australian 18's Tour - Cook Islands
17/19 March 2002	NTL (Opens/20's) – Coffs Harbour
21/23 March 2002	NTL (Seniors) – Coffs Harbour
6/9th June 2002	Asian Touch Championships - Singapore
13/14 July 2002	European Championships - Cardiff, Wales
18/21 September 2002	Australian 18's Championships - Coffs Harbour
27 Sept. / 2nd Nov.	Australian All Schools Championships - Canberra
17/20th May 2003	FIT Master World Cup - Kumagaya, Japan
22/25th May 2003	FIT Opens World Cup - Kumagaya, 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

Touch SA
www.sharks.asn.au

Victoria Touch
www.victouch.com.au



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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.macadwork.com/paradisetouch/nt00.htm

Portugal Beach Touch Rugby
www.bdj3.pt

San Diego
www.sandiegotouch.com

Scottish Touch
www.scottouch.co.uk

Welsh Touch
www.rcttouch.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

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