

EDITORIAL

The support for the newsletter keeps flowing in. Thanks for the positive comments. You will find future issue sent in the .pdf format that takes up less space. Some of you received the 4th Issue, after it was converted by DC (Dennis Coffey to those who don't know).

DC is the current ATA's Coaching Director and very good with multi-media productions - so Touchie's Voice thanks him for the formatting of this newsletter.

Some "old hands" are enquiring about where the Allstars of Touch are today. Well looking at the previous list; Kerry Norman is still around and I saw Graham Oates watching the Touch at the ARAFURA games in Darwin last month. As for the others - well maybe someone in "Touchland" can tell us.

Future interviews will hopefully be arranged with legend players like Bobby Brindell, Darren Shelley and great female players like Stacey Gregory and Kerry Norman. If any reader wishes our roving reporter to ask specific questions of these greats - then just forward them to me and I'll pass them on.

This is your newsletter so keep the articles and comments coming in.

GREAT MOMENTS IN TOUCH

In 1984 the GMIT was the staging of the fourth National Championships in Sydney. One of the highlights of these championships was the playing of some of the events at the Sydney Domain in the heart of the city. so lunchtime crowds could watch.

Hundreds of spectators were on hand to see the prize games of NSW and Qld Mens and Women play in front of Parliament House.

A downside of NSW's victory in the Mens was the broken shoulder sustained by Steve Saunders after he dived over for a touchdown that kept NSW in front.

Other highlights of that tournament were the 4th placing in both the Mens and Women Open by the Northern Territory teams. Even more exciting for the Territory was their second placing in the Junior Mixed division, their third placing in the Mens 35's and surprisingly beating Queensland by one point for second place in the Championship Trophy. Bring back the old State versus State Nationals? - lets hear your comments

Like the history of the Third Nationals many scores of the later round games have been lost. So if by any chance some "great touchie" out there has the scores in some archive files then they would be most graciously accepted.

ALLSTARS OF TOUCH

In 1984 the Allstars Touch Card Series listed the following players as being worthy of this status.

Paul Barton, Warren Speechley, Owen Lane, Karen Smith, Lisa Neal and Katrina Maher from NSW. Terry Jack, Maria Arthur, Donna Baker from Qld and Simon Annesley from Northern Territory and Ray Kiley from ACT.

Some great names again - Donna Baker for a second time, Owen Lane,

Terry Jack, Ray Kiley for a third time while Karen Smith makes her fourth appearance. Then of course the first sighting of legend Katrina Maher.



The late, great, Ken Irvine was the coach of the year while Fred Henderson from Western Australia was named the Managers. Neville Hockey was named the referee while the official was Ken Wells.

GREAT TOUCH TEAMS OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

Your acceptance of this section without comment must mean I'm not too far off the mark when it comes to deciding who the great teams were. Thanks for your support.

NATIONAL TEAM



The Australian Mixed Open team is featured National side in this issue. They have played 20 test matches for 16 victories and 4 losses. Their biggest win was 18-0 against Canada in 1988 and against Japan in 1995

Their worst loss was 2-7 against New Zealand in the opening test match in 1998 and is the worst defeat by an Australian team. It fell on Lee Thompson to have the dubious honour of coaching the Australian 35's when they recorded the highest victory in International Touch in 1991 and at the time was coach of the team which suffered the worst loss by an Australian team.



The Mixed team's Test match stats are 199-39. Their World Cup records show they were World Champions from 1988 to 1999 where they surrendered the title to New Zealand. Their biggest win at WC was 23-0 against Samoa in Hawaii in 1995 while their worst loss was 4-6 to NZ in the finals of the 1999 World Cup

The team was undefeated at WC for 22 games with Greg English holding the record of 5 touchdowns in the one game. Most touchdowns at a WC in this division are 14 by Jason Hunt in 1995 and Gavin Shuker in 1999.

Their statistics at WC is 34 wins and 2 losses with a for and against record of 422-37.

STATE TEAM

NSW Womens Open - Won National Championships 12 times between 1980 and 1995 (lost on only 2 occasions). Played a total of 113 games for 101 wins, 6 losses and 6 draws.

Hold the highest winning score at National 25-0, against Tasmania 1987. Went for 41 straight games without a defeat from round 4 of the Nationals in 1980 to the final in 1986.

LETTERS

I constantly get penalised for not retiring five even when I have chased a player twenty metres. The ref keeps saying, "get out of the five" but I have tried to explain they march me for back chatting. Please help me !

There is a fundamental rule you must learn and that is the onus is on you to retire immediately to the imaginary five metre defensive line. You may well run twenty metre across the field but if you haven't made that five metre imaginary line marked by the referee you simply cannot be onside.

It is also important to note that when chasing a player you are in fact retiring immediately along a path that you are allowed to choose - following the attacker, is called shadowing and is allowable.

However if you change your line of direction before reaching the imaginary five metres line then you are "mirroring" the attacking players path and are immediately subject to penalty.

FAMOUS INTERVIEWS

The third in this series of interview by Ian Stanley (Aust. Mens Open Coach) is none other than the legend of State of Origin, Scott Notley.

Not only has Scott represented Queensland since 1987, he played for Australia in 14 Test matches between '87 and '98, and 44 World Cup games between '88 and '99. He is the highest capped player for Australia with a total of 58 Caps.

Ian Stanley, Touchies Voice's roving reporter talks to Scott Notley.

When did you first become involved in Touch and why?

I played my first full year of Touch in 1983. I decided I was too small to continue playing Union after school so decided to give something else a go. A couple of my mates from school were playing Touch in the local competition and I've been playing ever since. I also went back to Union after I filled out a little (not much though).



(Scott Notley giving a congratulatory hug at the end of the World Cup to Craig Madders)

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

I think probably one of the reasons was I injured my knee just after I turned 30 and never played for about 18 months and that forced me to take a long break from the game. Secondly, 6-a-side Touch was introduced just after I had finally recovered from my second knee reconstruction and this changed the way the game was played. I felt refreshed by the break and challenged by the change and this kept me playing for quite a few years longer than I originally anticipated.

I was also lucky enough to be part of some very good Queensland and Australian sides in my latter years which certainly helped keep the selectors picking me in the rep teams.

What were some of your greatest highlights?

Back in 1987 South West Qld played the reigning Champions, Brisbane

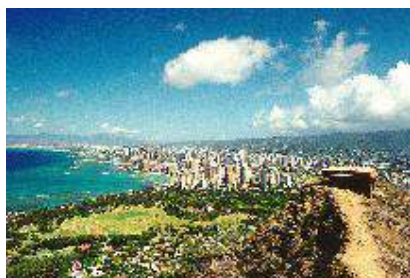
City in the final of our State championships. Former Australian player, Terry Hutchinson helped mould a group of young country guys (from Toowoomba and Ipswich) into State Champions with a 2-0 victory over a team that boasted 7 or 8 current state players. I remember being very excited by the result and then being named in the State team shortly after.

I think just getting to play against NSW and New Zealand was something that I will always treasure. Certainly the victories are more memorable than the losses, but being able to play at that level for over a decade has been a highlight.

Leading Qld onto the field for the first game of the inaugural State of Origin in 1995 in Port Macquarie was also a special moment. The field was ringed by a few thousand spectators and the atmosphere was just super (even if they were Blues supporters). It is a shame that all of our interstate clashes can't be played in the same type of atmosphere.

If you had to pick the greatest moments in your career – what would they be?

I think that anyone who played in the World Cup in Hawaii in 1995 would rate the final over there as one of their greatest, if not their greatest win. We had lost the round game to NZ and the semi as well by a considerable margin. I was rooming with Mark Boland and he kept telling me it was hard to beat a good team three times.



Kapiolani Park
(Pictured from Diamond Head
Queens Beach across the road
Venue of the 1995 World Cup)

I was hoping we were a good team. We were one nil down at half time

and as we kicked off the Kiwi supporters were singing their National Anthem. We scored from the tap off and they never got to finish their song. By the end of the game it was 5-1 and while I had little involvement in the touchdowns, I remember thinking that I had just played in the greatest half of touch ever.

I should also mention the first half of the World Cup in 1999. In the Trans Tasman Series in 1997 and 1998 Australia had scraped through with a 2-1 victory after losing the first game of each series and we were facing them again in the final for the first time in the World Cup.

Our preparation had been good, the team had been together for a couple of years unchanged and team harmony was excellent. I think this resulted in a first half performance that was unbelievable.

The game was over by half time at 5-0 and some of our touchdowns were fabulous team efforts. I think just standing around after the final soaking up the victory, knowing I had played my last game for Australia in what was a sensational team effort was also a very special moment.

Who were some of your most difficult opponents and why?

I think Bobby Brindell was the best player in Qld for a very long time. He was the man you had to stop if you wanted your team to win. He was good both in attack and defence and was also a cool head in a crisis.

For the very same reasons, Mark Boland was the man down south and the centre of NSW teams for longer than I can remember.

Shane Fredriksen is the best of the current players with possibly a wider range of skills than either of the two players above.

The thing he lacks in comparison to Mark or Bobby is the leadership skills and the realization that as the best player in the country, he is

responsible for setting the example that others should follow. Only time will tell whether Shane is ready to take that next step.

What's your favourite food?

Thai



Typical Thai Rice & Lamb dish

Your favourite TV show?

The Practice

Can you think of any rule changes that you might make for a better game?

I think there are a couple of little changes I would make. You can take your pick.

Allow the person rolling the ball to be facing in a forward direction (forward of horizontal) rather than straight ahead as it is now.

When a defensive player knocks the ball down – turnover, not six to go as it is now. I think this would result in more intercepts and more scoring (at least for a while) and this should take a little pressure off the referees.

Drop-offs should start 6-a-side not 5 as it is now. The attacking side gets an advantage that it doesn't earn by starting with one player already reduced. I would also allow the tap-off to the team who scores first in the normal game rather than the winner of the toss. Again at least you earn the right to tap off that way.

At NTL the seeding should be done more like tennis rather than separating odds and evens as it is now. Currently the top team from the previous year has to beat the 3rd and 5th etc. best team to stay top of their

pool the next year. While the team who came second only has to beat the 4th and 6th best team etc, to remain top of their pool. What sort of reward is that? I think 1,4,5,8,9,12 should be on one side and the rest on the other.

**Thank you Scott Notley
Another true
Legend of Touch**



F.I.T. WORLD BEACH TOUCH

The inaugural F.I.T. World Beach Touch tournament is being 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

**APOLOGY TO
MICHAEL BROADBENT**

**WORLD MASTERS
GAMES 2002**

In 2002 Touch will be a part of the World Masters Games - the largest participation, multi-sport festival on earth. If you are aged 30 plus, enjoy sport, and have a real zest for life ... then the World Masters Games are definitely for you.

Melbourne in spring time is an extraordinary city of beauty and effervescence, and the special events program that accompanies the games will provide ample opportunity to experience this for yourself. With vibrant nightlife, great shopping, magnificent restaurants, chic street cafes, and exquisite galleries and museums - there is sure to be something for everyone.

Inspired by the spirit and camaraderie of great sporting events

such as the Commonwealth and Olympic Games, the World Masters Games are as much about fun and participation as they are about winning.

Touch Victoria is proud to be associated with these games, which will be held in Melbourne over the period 5th to 13th October 2002, and encourages ALL Touch players - both current and aspiring - to get involved in this unique experience.

Further details may be obtained from www.2002worldmasters.org, or by emailing info@2002worldmasters.org, or via phone on 03 9211 2002.

**World Masters Games - Celebrating
Sport for Life!!!**

**This is your newsletter
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

31 July/2 Aug 2001	NSW Combined High Schools Boys – Cabramatta
16/18 th August 2001	Queensland Country Cup - Rockhampton
20/23 Sept. 2001	Australian 18 Years C'ships – Coffs Harbour
28/29 Sept. 2001	Yass 1975-2001 Reunion
TBA Sept. 2001	ATA Annual General Meeting
29 Sept/1 Oct 2001	World Beach Touch (Clubs) – Forster
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
May 2003	FIT World CUP – Master - Japan
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

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>

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.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