



# *Touchies Voice*

## *The Touch Fraternity's Newsletter*

*Edition Number 4/2001 – June*

### **EDITORIAL**

Thanks again for the feedback on the third issue and keep the articles rolling in. Big news in Touch over the past two months is the State of Origin clash between NSW and QLD and details can be view the ATA web sites.

The World Club Masters event in Singapore is beginning to take shape, however attracting referees is starting to become a problem. Any such folks interested should contact the FIT Director - Ian Matthews – e.mail at [breezmat@bigpond.com](mailto:breezmat@bigpond.com)

Your editor is seeking the assistance of an Excel expert. A virus corrupted my history of the sport last year and whilst it was stored in Excel the file cannot be opened yet they still seem to have held the information. I have several such corrupt files, which record many parts of the sport's history and if there is a "hacker" or expert in uncorrupting Excel files then please contact me.

### **STATEMENT FROM YOUR BOARD OF MANAGEMENT**

#### **Business and Investment opportunities**

The ATA executive has a vision that we reach financial independence of player fees by February 2003. The strategies that will achieve this goal are two fold;

1) Investing and trading in residential, commercial and industrial property is the prime commercial vehicle to be developed in meeting our financial objectives. In seeking property investment opportunities we will be negotiating discounts to retail prices and will be arranging financing for

interested investors. Two of our leading banks have expressed interest as have a number of non-banking mortgage lenders.

#### **2) The distribution of the Wellness products.**

The Health and Wellness industry is the fastest growth industry in the western world (Multi trillion dollars). We have a broad and growing range of quality products for those interested in improving their personal comfort and overall wellness. Coupled with the products is a business opportunity for those seeking either a career change or a supplementary income.

These strategies will open up opportunities for all Touch members to become involved, one by the ability to invest in property and two the ability for members to start their own distribution business.

If you would like further information please call Brian Rooney on 0412 416 411 or Peter Del Monte on 0412 377 333.

### **GREAT MOMENTS IN TOUCH**

In 1983 the GMIT was the staging of the third National Championships in Hobart. The highlight of these championships was the joint first placing between NSW and the ACT in the newly formed Mixed Juniors divisions.

Some of the other highlights of that tournament were the 4th placing in the Mens Open by the hosts – Tasmania with South Australia being fourth in the Womens and Northern Territory third in the over 35's.

Whilst the history of the Third Nationals has recorded the placing for all the teams who participated, it

is sad that the actual scores for all the games played (including the semis and finals) are not recorded. 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 1983 the Allstars Touch Card Series listed the following players as being worthy of this status.

Donna Baker, Kerry Norman, Owen Lane, Dennis Dwyer, Graham Oates, Karen Smith, Terry Jack, Ray Kiley, Tim O'Brien, Debbie Ginman, and Mike Campbell. You may notice that Karen Smith has been mentions in all three years while Owen Lane, Terry Jack and Ray Kiley all get a second mention.

Arthur Brannigan was the coach of the year while Gwynne Ker was the Mangers and Barrie Keenahan the referee. The official was Peter Rooney. Some familiar name there

### **GREAT TOUCH TEAMS OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY**

Haven't had complaints yet about this section, so lets see who we put the spotlight on in this issue.

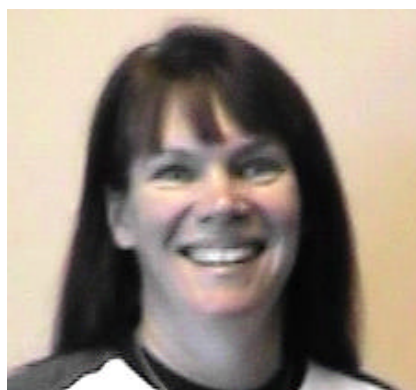
#### **National Team**

The Australian Mens Over 35 team is undefeated in World Cup competition. Results of the four World Cups played show 40 wins with 1 draw. The have scored 523 touchdowns and only had 44 against. This is an average score of 12.75 per game. This team holds the world record for the highest score being 32-0 against Cook Islands in 1991.

They have played 9 tests matches (4 against Canada and 5 against New Zealand), for 9 wins. Their biggest win was 12-0 against NZ in 1991 and have scored 72 for with 11 against.

### NSW Mixed Opens

Won the National Championships 10 time between 1985 and 1995. Had never lost in a State verse State series including the State of Origin until the 13<sup>th</sup> May this year. Kathy O'Brien's QLD team defeated NSW in the Interstate Challenge bringing to an end their unbeaten run of series wins.



The Destroyer – Kathy O'Brien

The team had played 60 games at Nationals for 56 wins, 3 losses and 1 draw. Have the second best highest score, 24-0 against Victoria in 1988. Went for 41 straight games without a defeat from the semis of the Nationals in 1986 to round 1 in 1994.

### ARFURA GAMES

The Indigenous Sports Program in conjunction with the Australian Touch Association are sending a Mens and Womens touch team to participate in the 2001 Arafura Games in Darwin from 19 -26 May. Most of the participants are ISP scholarship holders and others are invited participants.

A lot of the players are current youth Australian players like Bo Del La Cruz, Nikki Suey, Katie and Missy Shaw, Lehetta Lane, Anthony Avery Warwick Wright, Damon Viellaris, Dominic Dates just to name a few along with first time Queensland State of Origin Womens player Theresa Anderson

Other teams participating in the games are Papua New Guinea, Defence, Northern Territory, with Western and South Australia, and teams from the Illawarra area and Thursday Island.

The development camp will commence on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May with sessions involving current Australian Womens 20's coach Kerry Norman and the ATA's Elite Programs Director Cathy Gray. Other invited coaches are Happy Appo and Barry Draws.

The week will consist of session on recovery, nutrition, pool sessions, fitness testing, drug and alcohol awareness, time management and, practical session, as well as psychology session with the Australian Sports Commission lecturers. The team will be having these sessions throughout the day and playing during the evening.

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 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

### LETTERS

I've been referring for years and read your article about the forward pass. It was interesting but very few referees agree with your view.

*Everyone is entitled to their own opinion but this has been discussed with the ATA and FIT Referee Directors. They agree and it should follow that whether you agree or not – the correct interpretation needs to be made by yourself and all others who claim to be qualified referees.*

I was at the State of Origin and saw a QLD defender standing absolutely still with her hands at her side. The NSW player ran straight into her knocking them both over yet QLD were penalised, according to the signal, for "excessive physical play"

If someone is standing still and another player runs into him or her I cannot understand such a decision.

*Referees are only human, and as such can make mistakes – contrary to public opinion that they are infallible. I'd suggest the referee made his decisions based of what he saw from the angle he was referring from.*

*This quite possibly was different from the angle you saw the incident, so in essence unless you questioned him about the incident I'm afraid I can't comment on the accuracy or otherwise of the decision.*

## **FAMOUS INTERVIEWS**

### **Katrina Toohey (nee Maher)**

#### ***When did you first become involved in touch and why?***

I first started playing touch when I was 10 years old. My netball coach decided to get a touch team together to play during the netball off-season. Initially mum wasn't going to let me play, saying that no daughter of hers was going to play "football".



At the time, I was recovering from a broken ankle so mum finally decided to let me play as she thought it would help to get me fit for the upcoming athletics season.

Right from the start I absolutely loved playing touch, and within a couple of years I had stopped netball and athletics and was playing touch a few nights a week, all year round.

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

The main reason why I played touch for so long is that I enjoyed it so much. I don't think you can stick at anything in life unless you really enjoy what you're doing. I found touch almost addictive.

The more I played, the more I wanted to play; and the more I improved, the more I wanted to learn and the harder I would train. But it wasn't just the games that I enjoyed – I loved everything about the sport. Touch gave me the chance to travel to every state and territory in Australia, as well as overseas.

It also gave me the opportunity to represent my country – something that I am honoured and proud to have done. But most of all, the one thing that made touch so enjoyable was the people.

I have met so many fantastic people over the years through touch, including most of my closest friends (and my husband).

Even though I'm not playing touch at the moment, I make sure I continue to go down to training and the games just to catch up with everybody.

#### ***What were some of your greatest challenges?***

Probably when I look back over all the years of playing and training, what stands out as being really tough was completing Peter Bell's fitness programs for our Australian team.

I'll never forget all of those repeat 400 & 200 metres we endured. However, completing these tough sessions was also extremely satisfying and built great team spirit. We knew that no matter how hard things got for us during a game, it wouldn't be as tough as the fitness sessions we had got through together.

Renee Murphy has also told me that all the repeat 400's I have done will stand me in good stead for labour and childbirth - I'm not so sure.

In terms of playing, every game against Queensland was a big challenge. It didn't seem to matter who was in their team or who was in ours, the games were always very close, and inevitably ended in extra time, a shootout, or a drop off.

In about 13 years of playing against Queensland, I can't think of one game that wasn't tough.

#### ***Who were some of your most difficult opponents, and why?***

It's really hard to name most difficult opponents, as there have been so many players over the years that, for various reasons, have made it difficult to beat teams they played in.

However, if I had to name one person who would scare me if I were isolated in a one on one situation, it would have to be Giselle Tirado. Her step and speed made her extremely dangerous to slow middle players, especially after the game changed from 7 a side to 6 a side.

#### ***If you had to pick your greatest moment in your career, what would it be?***

There have been so many great moments in touch over the years, I don't think I can name just one. Being chosen in the Australian Women's Team when I was just 16 years old was pretty special now that I look back on it, although at the time, I didn't think it was such a big deal.

Every time I ran out on the field as Captain of Australia was also a great honour – not because I was captain, but because of the team

The Australian Women's Team has never lost an international game and this is an incredible record considering we have been playing international games since 1986.

But probably, if I had to choose my greatest moment, it would be winning the 1999 World Cup in Sydney.

This was my last game as captain of the Australian Women's Team, and it was so special because all my family and friends were there watching, and my sister Gab was also in the team.

To see my dad sitting at the end of the field, in his wheelchair, with tears in his eyes, so proud of Gab and me, is something I will never forget.

#### ***What's your favourite food?***

Chicken schnitzel and chips and ice cream.





### ***What's your favourite TV show?***

Don't have one at the moment – but in a year's time it will probably be Hi 5.

### ***Who are the stars of the sport now that you and others have recently retired?***

It's pretty difficult for me to name the best payers in the game at the moment as I haven't been closely involved with women's touch over the past year or so.

However, from NSW, the Judd twins are exceptionally talented, being able to do just about anything in the game when they put their mind to it.

### ***If there was a rule to change to better the game, what would it be?***

I think to improve the game, we need to reduce the number of players allowed on the field in a game from fourteen to eleven or twelve. I think that (like the limited interchange rule has done for rugby league), we need to bring back endurance as a significant factor in the game, instead of pure speed.

Six a side has sped up the game and increased the number of tries scored, but by having eight reserves on the sideline, fitness is now far less important (especially in one off games).

I believe that a touch team should contain a variety of types of players – workers, ball players, and speedsters. I am concerned that 6 a side, 14 players per team has altered the balance of the team too far in favour of speed, at the expense of skillful ball players and workers (endurance players).

Seeing players performing under duress and having to dig deep towards the end of games I believe is both an appealing spectacle, and satisfying for

the players involved. Touch has traditionally been marketed as a sport requiring great speed AND fitness. I don't think we should have reduced the importance of either of these qualities.

### **Thank you Kitty You are one of the great Legends of Touch**



### **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](mailto:vintage86@hotmail.com)

### **WORLD CLUB MASTERS**

Due to lack of team entries the World Masters Club event due to be played in Singapore next month has been cancelled. Thanks to those teams who did commit.



### **SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK Colin & Marianne Maguire**

The past 5 months have been the busiest of our life since relocating to South Australia from the NSW Touch Association.

The time that we spent at both the Sydney Mets and Sydney Scorpions was very rewarding with the hardest thing that we had to leave behind being the close friends that we made throughout this time.

We both hope that the regions continue to develop in the future and

that the time and effort spent was all worth it.

Touch SA has been a very exciting and extremely challenging prospect with so much to do and what seems like such little time to do it. On arrival in South Australia, people involved in the sport down here have been outstanding.

There is a genuine air of anticipation of what is about to happen. I hope that there isn't too much pressure associated with providing the service that we intend to offer.

Since relocating the State has had to endure some massive changes to come up to the level of Service that we wish to provide. We have moved Offices to an extremely professional location of which we share with City Touch. Marianne has been busy rebuilding the link with the School system to ensure the development of the sport continues while I have been busy with Government Grants, Sponsorship and other Management areas.

On top of this we have co-ordinated the State Team attending the Arafura Games, implemented New policy, designed uniforms for team and staff, liaised with the Executive and much more.

The Staff at Touch SA grew from zero to 3 with the Employment of Linda Teslik as the Technical and Administrative Assistant.

Since joining the team Linda has been a revelation and her ability to handle any task set for her, is outstanding. Additionally the Association has the responsibility of overseeing the largest competition in SA, City Touch.

The staff at City Touch, Nick & Rob, work hand in hand with Touch SA to ensure the best possible delivery of our Sport to everyone. They have undergone a lot of changes after recommendations from Touch SA & the ATA.

We also had visits from Interstate which include the CEO of the ATA,

Bill Ker and the President of NSW Touch John Howard. Not to mention the brains behind Penrith Touch Sue Howard.

While in attendance they were given the opportunity to speak with the affiliates of SA at a dinner co-ordinated by the Association.

### **Moving State, Coaching at the NTL and A Wedding.**

Our wedding was something that topped off a great time in both our lives. We had just returned from a very successful NTL campaign with wins in both divisions we Coached.

We are both very supportive of our Coaching duties and understand the effort that goes into such a win. With Col winning the Womens Open and Marianne yet to win the pressure was on.

We worked as coach and assistant in the 35's as if working together isn't enough, coaching is something that we both love and have really concentrated on at the expense of playing. We both have aspirations of coaching at a higher level.

For one and a half weeks this Year we got to relax in sunny Forster with all of our friends and experience one of the best days ever.

There were plenty of Touch people in attendance and in particular we would like to thank Fran and Ron Hanson, Kane Weeks and Rob and Denise Summers for all their help on the big day.

There were some funny quotes in the speeches but you will have to go to another source for all that info.

In the time that we have worked together it would be remiss of us to say it has all been smooth sailing. It can be difficult, however the good thing is that we both love the one sport.

We work quite well together and given the amount of time per day that

we see each other we are lucky to still be alive. (Ha Ha)

In the old days at NSW it seemed to be an issue but in SA the strengths that supporting each other has brought to the State has been well received. If there were any problem it would be only having one car.

We both see a bright future for our sport over here. We are committed to spending some time in SA to ensure that the Sport of Touch increases in popularity and the level of service to our affiliates is second to none.

We would like to see anyone that wants to visit the State come along, see what the State has to offer.

Who knows you might even decide to stay!

### **COACH WANTED**

Peakhurst are looking for a coach for our under 23 Mens side and possibly an under 18 Mens side for this years Sydney Championships. If anyone is interested please contact Frank Gabriel on 9584 8290 or via e.mail at [frankgabriel@hotmail.com](mailto:frankgabriel@hotmail.com)

### **ARAFURA GAMES RESULTS**

#### **MEN - Day 1:**

Illawarra 8 - Defence 1; WA 8 - SA 2; PNG 3 - Thursday Island 3; ISP 3 - NT 3; WA 4 - Defence 0; Illawarra 3 - NT 1; ISP 8 - PNG 0; SA 5 - Thursday Island 3;

**Day 2:** ISP 6 - Illawarra 2; NT 4 - WA 3; Thursday Island 6 - Defence 4; SA 13 - PNG 3; WA 4 - ISP 1; NT 9 - Thursday Island 1; SA 3 - Defence 1; Illawarra 9 - PNG 0;

**Day 3:** WA 5 - Illawarra 3; ISP 10 - Thursday Island 1; Defence 6 - PNG 5; NT 5 - SA 4; WA 12 - PNG 1; Illawarra 15 - Thursday Island 2; ISP 5 - SA 2; NT 7 - Defence 0;

**Day 4:** NT 5 - PNG 1; WA 16 - Thursday Island 2; ISP 7 - Defence 0; Illawarra 5 - SA 1; **SEMI**

**FINALS :** WA 3 - Illawarra 2; ISP 4 - NT 2;

**Day 5 : BRONZE :** Illawarra 4 - NT 3; **GOLD / SILVER:** ISP 6 - WA 5 (in a drop off).

#### **WOMEN /MIXED - Day 1:**

ISP Women 7 - NT Women 2; Northern Districts 5 - WA Country 0; WA 3 - NT 0; Northern Districts 5 - NT 2; WA Country 6 - NT Women 1; Thursday Island 3 - WA 3;

**Day 2:** Thursday Island 8 - NT 5; WA 7 - ISP Women 3; Northern Districts 10 - NT Women 0; NT 6 - NT Women 3; WA 7 - WA Country 2; Thursday Island 8 - ISP women 3;

**Day 3:** ISP Women 6 - NT 4; Northern Districts 4 - WA 3; Thursday Island 5 - WA Country 1; WA 3 - NT Women 3; Northern Districts 2 - Thursday Island 2; WA Country 3 - ISP 0;

**Day 4:** WA Country 5 - NT 4; Thursday Island 11 - NT Women 2; Northern Districts 10 - ISP 0; **SEMI FINALS:** Northern Districts 6 - WA Country 1; WA 4 - Thursday Island 3;

**Day 5: GRANDFINAL WOMEN**  
ISP 2 - NT 1 (in a drop off)

#### **MIXED BRONZE:**

Thursday Island 6 - WA Country 4; **GOLD / SILVER:** Northern Districts 8 - WA 7 (in a drop off)

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all the addresses in your  
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**Editorial: Cary Thompson**  
**All articles for publication**  
**are to be submitted to**  
**[cary@austouch.com.au](mailto: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

June 2001	National Training Camps
9/10 <sup>th</sup> June 2001	NQ Junior Championships – Townsville
19/21 June 2001	NSW Combined High Schools Girls – Wallsend
6/7 July 2001	QLD Southern Junior State Cup – Glasshouse Mountains
Mid July to Nov 2001	Sydney Championships
20/22 July 2001	QLS Secondary Schools Trials – North QLD
26/29 July 2001	World Clubs (Masters) Championships – Singapore
31 July/2 Aug 2001	NSW Combined High Schools Boys – Cabramatta
16/18 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.internationaltouch.com.au)

Australia Touch Association  
[www.austouch.com.au](http://www.austouch.com.au)

ATA Insurance – Sportscover  
[www.sportscover.com](http://www.sportscover.com)

ACT Touch  
[www.acttouch.com.au](http://www.acttouch.com.au)



NSW Touch  
[www.nswtouch.com.au](http://www.nswtouch.com.au)

Touch News  
[www.touch.asn.au/](http://www.touch.asn.au/)

Queensland touch  
[www.qldtouch.com.au](http://www.qldtouch.com.au)

South Australia Touch  
[www.touch-sa.asn.au](http://www.touch-sa.asn.au)

Victoria Touch  
[www.victouch.com.au](http://www.victouch.com.au)

Western Australia Touch  
[www.watouch.com.au](http://www.watouch.com.au)

Chile – Santiago Touch  
Rugby  
[www.atamericas.com/touch](http://www.atamericas.com/touch)

England Touch Association  
[www.english-touch.com](http://www.english-touch.com)

New Zealand Touch  
[www.touchnz.co.nz](http://www.touchnz.co.nz)

Paradise Touch (USA)  
[www.macadwork.com/paradisetouch/nt00.htm](http://www.macadwork.com/paradisetouch/nt00.htm)

Portugal Beach Touch Rugby  
[www.bdj3.pt](http://www.bdj3.pt)

Scottish Touch  
[www.scottouch.connectfree.co.uk](http://www.scottouch.connectfree.co.uk)

Welsh Touch  
[www.rcttouch.co.uk](http://www.rcttouch.co.uk)  
European Championships  
2002  
[www.Euro2002.WalesTouch.org.uk](http://www.Euro2002.WalesTouch.org.uk)

Michael Braodhurst's photo  
gallery  
[www.sportingimages.com.au](http://www.sportingimages.com.au)

Arafura Games  
[www.arafuragames.nt.gov.au](http://www.arafuragames.nt.gov.au)

South Africa  
[www.touchrugby365.com](http://www.touchrugby365.com)