



The History of the National Championships

It has been said that the success of Touch has been as much due to the ambition of its early players as their energy and enthusiasm.

Never was this more evident than during the National Championship inaugural meeting at Newtown Leagues Club when it was decided that planning start on a national championship competition to be played no later than 1980.

The meeting itself was attended by delegates from NSW, Queensland, the ACT, South Australia and Victoria.

A second meeting on September 21 which included representatives from Tasmania fixed the date and venue as the weekend of December 6th and 7th at the Gold Coast.

The competition was to be at State level therefore only State teams could play in select divisions. These were:

Mens Open : ACT, NSW, QLD, SA, TAS and VIC.

Womens Open: ACT, NSW, QLD, and SA

Mens 35's: ACT, NSW, QLD and VIC.

Queensland and New South Wales also fielded junior players for an under 16 National title which proved the forerunner of what is now a highly successful division in mixed competition.

Its purpose was not to demonstrate the reaction of youth to the sport, but to illustrate how mixed competition would look in future competitions. Adding lustre to the scene was the inclusion of children of rugby league greats Billy Smith and Johnny Raper. Raper's son and Smith's daughter followed the tradition of their parents by playing in the same team.

The Championships were an interesting and exciting time from start to finish although getting started presented a problem or two. The first was bringing the selected site of the Championships, the Gold Coast Trotting Club, up to match condition. This required almost completely rebuilding the centre of the arena then constructing bridges over both the trotting and dog tracks. As it was also a drought year a fair amount of watering was needed to bring the grounds to a presentable colour and condition.

The total cost of more than \$10,000 was only met thanks to a generous donation from Johnson's Wax. The teams duly arrived on December 5 to the ccomodation booked at the Golden Gate Hotel and promptly taught organisers a lesson they would never forget, it is perhaps not such a good idea to have competing teams from different states all under the one roof.

Nevertheless, things somehow worked out well, there was a great feeling among the players and only a few 'instances'. The Championships themselves were something else again for despite the sunny claims of the tourist brochures, it absolutely poured with rain. I had been on the Gold Coast for two weeks before the Championships holidaying and getting things ready for the big event. Watching the downpour was shattering.

A group of us stayed up until 2am on the Sunday morning debating the options. Fortunately someone had friends in the right places because when we had a short sleep the sun was shining and there wasn't a cloud in the sky. And by about lunchtime when it came to get into the main games and final series the ground was almost dry. It was unbelievable that it could happen so fast.

It was a competition of highlights including the moment when Touch President Phil Smith, Paul Eggers vice-President and myself as director of referees and others were watching the march past.

Also watching but relative unknown to many of the players was Gold Coast MP Doug Jennings. Just how little known came to light during a brief shower when he was politely but firmly given an umbrella to 'hold over the official dignatories to stop them getting wet'.

But thanks to sponsors, Johnsons, Dunlop and Ansett and the skill and enthusiasm of the players, coaches and referees, the Championships were a huge success - not the least for NSW which took the laurels in every event.

The Championships also marked the selection of the first National team, a tradition that has been maintained to this day. What cannot be overlooked was the magnificent contribution of the small army of volunteers at a time when Touch had no fulltime administrators.

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THE AUSTRALIAN TOUCH ASSOCIATION

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS - GOLD COAST 1980

MENS OPEN

COMPETITION TABLE

After Preliminary Rounds		P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts	Diff	Ave
1	New South Wales	5	4	0	1	24	1	14	23	24.0
2	ACT	5	3	1	1	14	4	12	10	3.50
3	Queensland	5	2	0	3	11	2	12	9	5.50
4	Sth Australia	5	2	3	0	7	18	9	-11	0.39
5	Tasmania	5	1	4	0	6	24	7	-18	0.25
6	Victoria	5	0	4	1	3	16	6	-13	0.19
		30	12	12	6	65	65		0	

Team Results

<i>New South Wales - 1st</i>				
1	ACT	Won	3	0
2	Queensland	Drew	1	1
3	Victoria	Won	4	0
4	Tasmania	Won	8	0
5	Sth Aust	Won	8	0
F	ACT	Won	3	1
MVP -			27	2

<i>Australian Capital Territory - 2nd</i>				
1	NSW	Lost	0	3
2	Tasmania	Won	7	1
3	Queensland	Drew	0	0
4	Sth Aust	Won	2	0
5	Victoria	Won	5	0
F	NSW	Lost	1	3
MVP -			15	7

<i>Queensland - 3rd</i>				
1	Sth Aust	Won	5	1
2	NSW	Drew	1	1
3	ACT	Drew	0	0
4	Victoria	Drew	0	0
5	Tasmania	Won	5	0
H'C	Sth Aust	Won	6	1
MVP -			17	3

<i>South Australia - 4th</i>				
1	Queensland	Lost	1	5
2	Victoria	Won	3	2
3	Tasmania	Won	3	1
4	ACT	Lost	0	2
5	NSW	Lost	0	8
H'C	Queensland	Lost	1	6
MVP -			8	24

<i>Tasmania - 5th</i>				
1	Victoria	Won	4	1
2	ACT	Lost	1	7
3	Sth Aust	Lost	1	3
4	NSW	Lost	0	8
5	Queensland	Lost	0	5
H'C	Victoria	Lost	1	4
MVP -			7	28

<i>Victoria - 6th</i>				
1	Tasmania	Lost	1	4
2	Sth Aust	Lost	2	3
3	NSW	Lost	0	4
4	Queensland	Drew	0	0
5	ACT	Lost	0	5
H'C	Tasmania	Won	4	1
MVP -			7	17

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS - GOLD COAST 1980

MENS OPEN

After Final Rounds	P	W	L	D	F	A	Diff	Ave
ACT	6	3	2	1	15	7	8	2.14
New South Wales	6	5	0	1	27	2	25	13.5
Queensland	6	3	0	3	17	3	14	5.67
Sth Australia	6	2	4	0	8	24	-16	0.33
Tasmania	6	1	5	0	7	28	-21	0.25
Victoria	6	1	4	1	7	17	-10	0.41
	36	15	15	6	81	81	0	

WOMENS OPEN

COMPETITION TABLE

After Preliminary Rounds		P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts	Diff	Ave
1	New South Wales	3	3	0	0	35	1	9	34	35.0
2	Queensland	3	2	1	0	9	12	7	-3	0.75
3	ACT	3	1	2	0	4	20	5	-16	0.20
4	Sth Australia	3	0	3	0	2	17	3	-15	0.12
		12	6	6	0	50	50		0	

Team Results

<i>New South Wales - 1st</i>				
1	ACT	Won	17	0
2	Queensland	Won	10	0
3	Sth Aust	Won	8	0
F	Queensland	Won	8	0
MVP -			43	0

<i>Queensland - 2nd</i>				
1	Sth Aust	Won	6	1
2	NSW	Lost	1	10
3	ACT	Won	2	1
F	NSW	Lost	0	8
MVP -			9	20

<i>Australian Capital Territory - 3rd</i>				
1	NSW	Lost	0	17
2	Sth Aust	Won	3	1
3	Queensland	Lost	1	2
MVP -			4	20

<i>South Australia - 4th</i>				
1	Queensland	Lost	1	6
2	ACT	Lost	1	3
3	NSW	Lost	0	8
MVP -			2	17

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS - GOLD COAST 1980

MENS 35 YEARS

COMPETITION TABLE

After Preliminary Rounds		P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts	Diff	Ave
1	New South Wales	3	3	0	0	9	3	9	6	3.00
2	ACT	3	2	1	0	5	4	7	1	1.25
3	Queensland	3	1	2	0	11	5	5	6	2.20
4	Victoria	3	0	3	0	3	16	3	-13	0.19
		12	6	6	0	28	28		0	

Team Results

<i>New South Wales - 1st</i>				
1	ACT	Won	4	3
2	Victoria	Won	4	0
3	Queensland	Won	1	0
F	ACT	Won	4	1
MVP -			13	4

<i>Australian Capital Territory - 2nd</i>				
1	NSW	Lost	3	4
2	Queensland	Won	1	0
3	Victoria	Won	1	0
F	NSW	Lost	1	4
MVP -			6	8

<i>Queensland - 3rd</i>				
1	Victoria	Won	11	3
2	ACT	Lost	0	1
3	NSW	Lost	0	1
MVP -			11	5

<i>South Australia - 4th</i>				
1	Queensland	Lost	3	11
2	NSW	Lost	0	4
3	ACT	Lost	0	1
MVP -			3	16



STATES 1980 STATISTICS

Aust. Capital Territory		L	D	F	A		
Men	6 3	2	1	15	7		
Women	3 1	2	0	4	20		
Men 35	3 2	1	0	5	4		
		12	6	5	1	24	31

New South Wales		W	L	D	F	A	
Men	6 5	0	1	27	2		
Women	3 3	0	0	35	1		
Men 35	3 3	0	0	9	3		
		12	11	0	1	71	6

Queensland	P	W	L	D	F	A	
Men	6	3	0	3	17	3	
Women	3	2	1	0	9	12	
Men 35	3	1	2	0	11	5	
		12	6	3	3	37	20

South Australia		W	L	D	F	A	
Men	6	2	4	0	8	24	
Women	3	0	3	0	2	17	
Men 35	0						
		9	2	7	0	10	41

Tasmania	P	W	L	D	F	A	
Men	6	1	5	0	7	28	
Women	0						
Men 35	0						
		6	1	5	0	7	28

Victoria		P	W	L	D	F	A
Men	6	1	4	1	7	17	
Women	0						
Men 35	3	0	3	0	3	16	
		9	1	7	1	10	33

OVERALL STATES RESULTS

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Ave
Aust Capital Territory	12	6	5	1	24	31	0.8
New South Wales	12	11	0	1	71	6	11.8
Queensland	12	6	3	3	37	20	1.85
South Australia	9	2	7	0	10	41	0.24
Tasmania	6	1	5	0	7	28	0.25
Victoria	9	1	7	1	10	33	0.30
		60	27	27	6	159	159

Biggest Win	Team	Score	Round	Opponent
Men	New South Wales	8 - 0	Rd. 4	Tasmania
Women	New South Wales	17 - 0	Rd. 1	ACT
Men 35	Queensland	11 - 3	Rd. 1	Victoria

Best Attack - excluding finals		Score	Ave.
Men	New South Wales	24	4.80
Women	New South Wales	35	11.7
Men 35	Queensland	11	3.67

Best Attack - including finals		Score	Ave.
Men	New South Wales	27	4.50
Women	New South Wales	35	11.7
Men 35	Queensland	11	3.67

STATES 1980 STATISTICS

<i>Best Defence - excluding finals</i>		Score	Ave.
Men	New South Wales	1	0.20
Women	New South Wales	1	0.33
Men 35	New South Wales	3	1.00

<i>Best Defence - including finals</i>		Score	Ave.
Men	New South Wales	2	0.33
Women	New South Wales	1	0.33
Men 35	Queensland	3	1.00

<i>Best F & A - excluding finals</i>		Score	Ave.
Men	New South Wales	24-1	24.0
Women	New South Wales	35-1	35.0
Men 35	New South Wales	9-3	3.00

<i>Best F & A - including finals</i>		Score	Ave.
Men	New South Wales	27-2	13.5
Women	New South Wales	35-1	35.0
Men 35	New South Wales	9-3	3.00

National Champions 1980

Pos.	Teams	Men	Women	Men 35	Total
1	New South Wales	15	15	15	45
2	Aust Capital Territory	10	7	10	27
3	Queensland	7	10	7	24
4	South Australia	6	6		12
5	Victoria	4		6	10
6	Tasmania	5			5

NATIONAL HANDICAP CHAMPIONS

Pos	MENS OPEN TEAM	SAT	SUN	HCAP	TOTAL
1ST	TASMANIA	7	1	10.5	18.5
2ND	SOUTH AUSTRALIA	9	1	8	18
3RD	Victoria	6	3	8.5	17.5
4TH	NEW SOUTH WALES	14	3	0	17
5TH	ACT	12	1	4	17
6TH	QUEENSLAND	12	3	0	15

**THIS WAS BASED ON THE MENS OPEN ONLY
 ALL FOUR TEAMS WERE GIVEN A HANDICAP POINTS START AS JUDGED BY
 PHIL SMITH (Tournament Director). COMBINED POINTS WERE
 ADDED FROM SATURDAY TO A FURTHER ROUND FOR H'CAP ON SUNDAY.
 THESE POINTS ADDED TO HANDICAP START GAVE THE FINAL RESULT.**