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Touch of the World

The International Touch Fraternity's Newsletter

Edition Number 2/2001 – April

EDITORIAL

Thanks to all those who wrote back and provided positive feedback on the Federation's first electronic newsletter. It was good to hear that such a venture was received so warmly by the International Touch fraternity.

In future issue you will probably note reoccurring items, especially articles on F.I.T. tournaments that are still pending. It is incumbent upon F.I.T. to continue to promote its events and to this end I will be constantly reminding you of them.

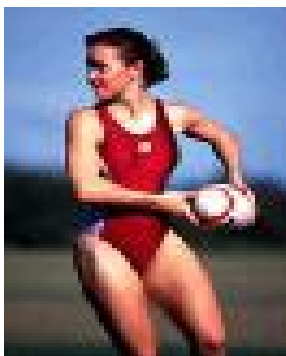
NEW VICE PRESIDENT

The F.I.T. Executive has bolstered their ranks by the appointment of a new Vice President – Tracy Molly from Touch New Zealand.

Tracy's background in Touch has a heavy Legal dominance and her new role will add another voice to the decision making and a more balanced and legal one. Welcome aboard.

WORLD CLUB MASTERS

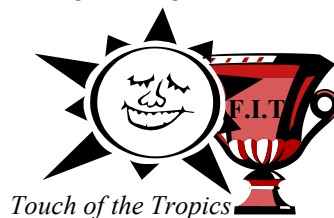
In July 2001 the Second World Master Club Championships are being held in Singapore. It is open to all teams from anywhere in the world who meet the age criteria.



(Picture by courtesy of Sporting Images)

The tournament is open for all age and gender categories from 30 years, in 5-year increments up to 50 years and over.

The divisions available are men, women and mixed in the above age groups. The tournament will be held from 25th July to 29th July and time is running out to get there.



For information, entry forms or any enquiries – contact Singapore Touch Association - (Bryan O'Connor) at eventsasia@pacific.net.sg

TOUCH IN DALLAS

Dallas has a thriving touch club that has been active for the last two years. We have been to the USA Nationals in Hawaii in 2000; we didn't win but came home with the coveted Team Sportsmanship Award!

We are hosting an international tournament in May, with teams coming from around the States and Canada. We play every Sunday in Dallas and can be contacted at our web site www.dallastouch.com or @ 214-821-9873. Any world travellers that make it through Dallas are welcome to come play some touch and have a beer.

We hope to have some players selected to the United States teams that will be competing in Japan in 2003. Stay in touch.

THE EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 2002

The event has been scheduled for the weekend of the 13th and 14th July 2002. It is to be staged at the Cardiff University playing fields Llanrumney in Cardiff. Have a look at our site. www.Euro2002.WalesTouch.org.uk

The University have linked up with Wales Touch and are able to offer accommodation for this weekend at the Llys Taly Bont Site, Cardiff. This is where the evening function on the Saturday will take place. It may therefore be advantageous for teams to base themselves here.

It is a short drive to the actual venue for the event and they have astro-turf and a number of other facilities on site, which can also be used for training etc. Contact Eddy Lewis at the university for further details lewise3@cardiff.ac.uk.

The Cardiff University web site can be visited at www.cf.ac.uk

Pre tournament matches will be offered and some warm up games against Cardiff based teams on a Monday and Thursday evening can be arranged. It may also be beneficial to contact Glen Whiu the English Touch President to arrange some other games prior to arrival in Wales.

Division played will be the same as in past European Championships eg Mens, Womens, Mixed & Seniors.

The University accommodation is a good. There are other quality hotels i.e. the Cardiff Post House and Moat House, which are both within easy access to the ground. (I will provide you with contact details for these ASAP).

They probably already appear on the Wales Tourist web site, which is at www.tourism.wales.gov.uk with the co-ordinator for the championships at present being Neil Perkins who can be contacted at n.perkins@virgin.net

TOUCH IN HAWAII

Hawaii's Touch Nationals are set for August next year and the event organisers want to invite all USA teams, and any non-USA teams to be a part of an exciting tourney we plan to put on like we did last year for our mainland players.

We had awards, good food to eat, dancing, and most importantly established new acquaintances with the same aspiration we have for the game of touch.



More details will be provided but the event will be on Oahu, on the North Shore at Kahuku. So any teams, which are interested, can contact myself - Moana Kalua'u at mosharrock@hotmail.com.

We will try to update our website, if not, contact me directly and I will give you more information.
Mahalo (Thank you)

"TOUCH-TASTIC" DISPLAY BY WALES IN EDINBURGH

Wales Touch Association retained the European Championship Trophy after some exceptional displays of skill in winning the men's, women's and runners up in the mixed event at Edinburgh over the weekend of the Championships.

The first day of competition started early for both the men's and women's open and it was clear from the early

stages that competition was going to be tough for both categories.

The men's team started their campaign with a win against Scottish 4-0 in an ill-tempered game. The foundations however were set for a battle with the old enemy England. The team did not appear to be firing on all cylinders and at the end of the game scores were level at 3-3.

With two games left in the round robin the team welcomed their encounter with Canary Islands as they came away as convincing winners 8-0. The Spanish team could not cope with the organised attacking strategies of a bonded Welsh team. During the last game Wales went down 2-1 to the surprise package of the whole tournament - Jersey.

Running alongside the European Championships was a "Rest of the World" invitation event with teams from Australia, Natal, South African and a Great Britain Colonial teams.

In the women's open the Welsh team had to face the Southern Hemisphere teams as well as the European contingent. In the early encounters the well-drilled Welsh team went down narrowly to Colonials and Australia 3-1 and 1-0 respectively.

The first European match of the group was against England and the team won convincingly 3-0. The Welsh ladies then went down 3-2 to a South African side full of very experienced touch players.

The remaining European Cup matches were all important to the Welsh team with only the top two in the group playing off for the final. A 3-2 win against Jersey and a convincing 5-0 win against hosts Scotland, placed the Welsh team at the top of the European Cup group.

With the men's and women's events nearing a conclusion, the sun appeared and the crowds started to mass. The atmosphere was building with the Welsh contingent providing immense vocal support. The Welsh men were now on the big stage and

proved to be far to well drilled for their English counterparts.

Gwion Kennard scored two well executed tries to assist with the convincing victory by 5-0. In the other semi final, Scotland proved to be the surprise winners against the now favourites, Jersey.

The ladies final was set with Wales facing old enemy England. It wasn't long before the Welsh team moved up a gear and started to make some ground, driving the ball well through Alison Eves, Rachel Parsons and Natasha Mathews.

It was Pip Thornhill who crossed the scoreline first diving to score. Wales started to pull away with further touchdowns from Rhianon Thomas and Parsons. England pulled out all the stops and scored just before half time.

In the second half Wales moved the ball around with ease and further touchdowns from Parsons and Thornhill seemed to put the game out of England's reach. The English team weren't, however going to give up without a fight and clawed a further touchdown back; at the final whistle Wales clinched the first event 5-2.



(Picture by courtesy of Sporting Images)

The atmosphere was bubbling as the Welsh men moved forward to face Scotland in the men's open final. It was the Welsh men's captain Russell Thomas who showed some exceptional pace and skill to put Mike Nicholas over for the first touchdown.

The Welsh team looked full of ideas as they moved up a gear executing some well-executed moves. A further touchdown for Wales scored by Ian Worgan, and a return for Scotland meant the score at half time was 2-1. After the turn around Wales came out

with a bang and touchdowns from Mathew Burns and Richard Thomas enabled Wales to scoop the second event 4-1.

With the first day over Wales Touch teams proved to be a formidable force in the men's and women's divisions.

The mixed event commenced the following day and expectations were high after the earlier Welsh success.

The initial round robin match placed Wales mixed team against Jersey. After failing to capitalise on some early opportunities the Welsh went down 1-0. A fast turn around saw the team then face an enthusiastic England team.

Despite some fine displays of driving play from experienced campaigner Dean Kidd the team went down 5-2.

In the following game everything seemed to click into place for the Welsh side in the battle against Canary Islands, and at the final whistle the side cruised to victory 7-0. In the remaining pool game Wales put up a fine display to convincingly beat Scotland by 5-2



The semi finals were set and Wales were again to battle it out against England. At half time the scores were even at 3 tries each. Only a few minutes into the second half Mark Jennings found some space and raced fifty yards to score, this was the last score of the game and Wales came out on top 4-3. In the other semi final Jersey cruised to an easy win against Scotland.

The final was set and after an exceptional start Wales went ahead in the first three minutes leading by 2-0 through scores from Kidd and Neil

Perkins. The Jersey side however fought back and at half time the Jersey side were ahead 3-2.

Wales pulled a touchdown back at the start of the second half thanks to Non Evans. After injuries to Clive French and Huw Laugharne the Welsh team struggled with the speed of the Jersey attack, at the final whistle Wales went down by 6-3.

Cary Thompson the President of the Federation of International Touch stated, " It was great to see that Touch was developing so well throughout Britain. Wales have held onto the European Cup after some fine displays of Touch. The future co-hosts of the bi-annual European Cup will be Wales in 2002"



Neil Perkins a Development Officer with the Wales Touch Association stated "It was a fabulous weekend for Wales Touch. We were the only nation in the European Cup to have separate men's, women's and mixed side, which shows how strong the game is in Wales".

WORLD SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIPS

This inaugural event is being held on the Gold Coast in Australia next October 18th to 21st.

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 can be viewed at:- vintage86@hotmail.com

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.



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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
13/14 July 2002	European Championships - Wales
May 2003	F.I.T. World CUP – Master - Japan
May 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 Braodbent



TOUCH WEB SITES

Federation International Touch
www.internationaltouch.com.au

Australia Touch Association
www.austouch.com.au

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

China
www.beijingtouh.bigstep.com

Richmond Touch Rugby (England)
www.touchrugby.com

Dallas Touch Association
www.dallastouch.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

South Africa
www.touchrugby365.com

Welsh Touch
www.rcttouch.co.uk
European Championships 2002
www.Euro2002.WalesTouch.org.uk

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

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

Arafura Games
www.arafuragames.nt.gov.au

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