

EDITORIAL

The success of the newsletter just grows and grows. I must thank Mike Broadhurst from sporting Images who has allowed me free access to his massive range of Touch photos. Have a look at his site and see what is available for purchasing for your album. Use the search function as it save time in locating your team.

The NTL proved to be a tremendous success despite the problems some players and referees experienced over 30 hours in traveling to get there. A “wrap up” of some of the highlights is mentioned later in the newsletter.

Also pleasing was the feedback given to me by the many players who enjoy this publication. Even more so was their “promise” to supply me with future articles – let’s wait and see on that point.

I was asked how did I arrive at my Great Moments in Touch and the Allstars, as many current players are not familiar with the names I mention from yesteryears.

It came about in the early eighties when the then Technical Panel came up with an idea to market our sport especially with the schools children group.

The Aussie Touch Cards Series was invented and they were a collector’s series that were ideal to be given away with Mars Bars or breakfast cereal etc. The “hero’s” who formed these series were listed each year and keep until a sponsor could be found to market these players, coaches, managers and more importantly – our sport.

Unfortunately this list is only history stored on a computer. Although the ATA has accepted the concept the marketing avenues have not become available. What better way to let the world know than exposing them here amongst their own fraternity.

GREAT MOMENTS IN TOUCH

In 1982 the GMIT was the staging of the second National Championships in Canberra. The highlight of that tournament was the joint first placing in the Mens Open when NSW and the ACT tied for the winner’s trophy with the scores being deadlocked at 3-3.

NSW defeated Qld in the women 9-1 while the mixed and men over 35’s was an all NSW v Qld affair with NSW winning 3-0 in both games.

ALLSTARS OF TOUCH

My all-star team of 1980 was pretty well accepted by those “oldies” that could remember back that far. Lets see what you think of the 1982 team.

Ray Kiley, Paul Blacklock, Ron Wall, Lisa Neal, Karen Smith, Barry Doyle, John Newton, Maria Arthur, Graham Hill, Mark Carter and Sue La Fontaine. Coach was Graham Rogers and Referee was Brian Burns.

GREAT TOUCH TEAMS OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

I certainly hit the sport with the choice last time. Nobody disagreed with either team – so am I going to get controversial this time around ?

National Team

The Australian Mens Open team has lost only two games in World Cup competition. Results of the four World Cups played are; 33 wins and 2 losses. Scored 421 touchdowns for an average of 12.3 per game and had 63 scored against them.



They have played 16 tests matches for 12 wins suffered 3 losses and 1 draw. Their biggest win was 29-0 against PMG in 1995.

THE BEST EVER SCHOOL TEAM

1991 Queensland Under 16’s Girls

In having to decide on the best schools team ever to represent their State; the decision between the great Qld Boys under 16’s teams who played between 1990 and 1995 and were undefeated for 42 consecutive games; and the equally superb Qld Girls under 16’s teams who between 1990 and 1995 were undefeated for 49 consecutive games; it came down to the lone 1991 Girls Under 16’s team.

This team remained undefeated throughout the 1991 tournament winning all 10 games and scoring 113 touchdowns with only 1 (one) being scored against them. A record for and against that is unmatched in any division of the sport at any tournament throughout the world to date (at rep level).

Nearly every girl in the team went on to represent Queensland at Open division level with half the side making a name for themselves with Australian Teams. There was none more prominent than Sharyn "Billy" Williams, who arguably, (along with Giselle Tirado and Katrina Maher from NSW) was one of the finest women player of the "nineties".

WORLD CLUB MASTERS

Must keep pushing World events, simply for the overseas exposure for the sport. The tournament is open for age categories from 30 years – in 5 year increments up to 50 years and over.



Touch of the Tropics

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

LETTERS

We pay \$800 per team each season to our local Association. Why is Touch so expensive and why is NTRA so cheap?

There are two parts to your question and I'll attempt to answer both – but I can't guarantee they will be to your satisfaction.

Firstly, affiliation fees are structured as follows: \$43.84 per team goes to ATA for Affiliation and \$35.75 per team for compulsory Insurance – a total of \$79.59.

Junior however only pay \$25.41 for Affiliation and \$8.80 per team for compulsory Insurance.

There are two levels of Insurance at ATA and the above figures are the basic cover. The same applies to the NSW TA. - they also have two levels of affiliation.

Adult Teams are charged \$190.30 while Junior Teams (17years and under) pay \$50.91. The balance of your fees would go to your local Association to meet the costs of running their competition.

You will need to ask them for their budget or financial accounts to determine how the balance is allocated.

As to why NTRA is so cheap – well I haven't really looked at their pricing structure but basically they do not provide the same level of service or protection as ATA nor can they offer the same level of Technical expertise for development that your State or National Body can provide.

After scoring a touchdown I was ordered by the referee to pick up the ball and return it to the halfway mark. I can't find any such Rule in the rule book, which authorised the referee to "make" me do this.

This is covered by Situation and Decision 4:7:1 Players are not to delay the changeover procedure however it needs to be argued that after a touchdown there is actually a "changeover". It is not compulsory for the scorer to pick up the ball and hand it to the opposition.

If directed to do so by the referee the player must comply with this direction but should only be given it if the opposition players have not chased and are near halfway waiting for the restart.

At the NTL I was coaching from behind the Touchdown Zone line and was told by the referee to go back to the interchange box to coach as I was distracting the players and himself. I though I was allowed to coach from that position.

The rule is that you can coach from the end of the field but you must be no closer than 10 metres form the Touchdown Zone line. Provided you comply with this and your coaching is not abusive etc. then it is difficult to see how you could have been a distraction to players and referees.

The forward pass – or more correctly the referee and the ever increasing line referee's interpretation of it – are a blot on the game with many great movements (including the scoring of touchdowns), being called back due to these rulings. How should the forward pass be correctly interpreted.

It is quite simple and maybe all players and referees should read the rule: 8.2 "A player in possession is not to pass, flick, knock, throw or otherwise propel the ball in a forward direction" So, if the player in possession didn't cause the ball to go forwards then the pass is OK If the wind, or for any other reason, the ball goes forward, then the pass IS NOT a forward pass.

The Line referee furthest from the action is generally in the best position to see if the ball goes forward. Unfortunately they are in the worst position to determine if the player in possession caused it to go forward.

BROOME MASTERS GAMES



Broome Masters are hosting a very exciting concept for the touch player who wishes to have a unique time away from the big smoke.

The touch games are a mixed event (6 a side) with incentive for elderly players who score touchdowns. Men must be 33 or over and women 28 years or more. This tournament should be experience to be believed. Phone 08 9192 2018 or email bonngrdn@comswest.net.au



VTA AFFILIATES CUP

The cream of Victoria's Touch players gathered at La Trobe Uni in Melbourne on Sunday 4th March to contest for the title of the state's premier Club.

Seven affiliates were represented, with a large contingent in the masters divisions. The only disappointing aspect was the non-attendance of many affiliates from regional Victoria.

Elwood Park Touch Association took the honours for 2000-01 with victories in the Mens and Womens Open and Mens 30s divisions. Westside defeated Albert Park 5-4 in the Women's 30s after drop-off, and in the Mens 35s it was once again Albert Park taking the spoils from Westside 8-4.

The Mens 30's was an all Elwood affair with a team from each of their competitions (Elwood & Fawkner) meeting in the final. It was Elwood Park who was to claim the win 7-4 over a determined but inexperienced Elwood (Fawkner Park) team.

In the Mens Open, South Eastern went in as underdogs following an 8-2 touch-up early in the rounds - but surged back in the final to serve notice they were still a force to be reckoned with.

Drawn 4-4 with seconds to full time. Elwood took advantage of an offside player and busted the line from half to find a support player diving at the line and grounding the ball.

The Womens Open saw Elwood defeat Albert Park 5-4 in a nail biting clash, whilst Ballarat took out the regional affiliate winners in the Mens & Womens Open division

Many thanks to La Trobe Uni for hosting the event, and to Albert Park Touch who were the host affiliate.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Your ATA Board has embarked on a program of commercial activities with the objective of securing other sources of income. Once we have completed our current education and training program, we will be working to assist our State Members, and with their support, their Regional and Local Associations to access similar commercial activities.

Currently we are totally dependant on player fees and Government grants in order to fund our services to the sport. Increased competition from other sports and other forms of leisure activities, continue to put pressure on local competitions, Regional, State and National support and administrative services.

Our long term goal for your ATA is to be able to operate, with expanded services, independent of our current fee structure. That is a laudable goal and it is achievable provided as many members as possible lend their support to the projects and come up with new ideas that we can efficiently and economically put into action.

Our first project is to support a Distributorship in a new range of Health & Wellness products through a company by the name of Nikken Wellness Pty Ltd.

The products are totally non toxic and non evasive. They deal with patented state of the art magnetic, far-infrared and ceramic fibre products, which through many recent product experiences greatly enhance the quality of the lives of those who use them.

In addition to the products, there is an excellent business opportunity available to those members and hopefully non members who are seeking either a career change or a quality second job.

An added benefit of expanding the business opportunity is that a residual income will be generated for your

ATA for the long term benefit of the sport and its members.

Should any touch player, referee or official be interested in finding out more about the Nikken products, the business opportunity or the long term goals of your ATA, please contact Bill Ker at the ATA 0262852703 or Brian Rooney on 0295202347 email retire_rite@hotmail.com for any further information.

All net income (less operating expenses) derived from this or any other venture your ATA will undertake will be used for the benefit of its members and the development of the sport.

You will see more detail in future advertisements in this and other publications.

Brian Rooney
President ATA.

FAMOUS INTERVIEWS



Legend Player – Mark Boland

Australian Mens Open Coach, Ian Stanley, who we interviewed last issue, now interviews some of the current legends of the sport. First in this series is NSW Legend – Mark “Bus” Boland.

When did you first become involved in touch and why?

I first became involved in 1980 in the Parramatta competition. They were the days, 20 teams in Men's 1st Div. at the park. I completely became involved because of on-going league injuries but mainly as I'd developed a spinal disease - it was much safer to play touch, but then I still played league for quite a few more years but found touch more enjoyable.

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

Because I enjoy it so much, training, games, going away, camps and everything involved with playing at that level, I was completely devoted to, and looked forward to playing all the time.

Also I been blessed that since I began playing for Parramatta in 1982 right up until now I played with people who've become my best friends and remained my best friends. In addition Parramatta's success helped my longevity and I think Parramatta have bred a big number of the best players to have ever played the game.

What were some of your greatest highlights?

At club level winning my first State Cup and first Metropolitan Cup. At regional / NTL – Scorpions winning the first 4 tournaments ever – I only played in three but I went to a few training sessions of the other one so I'm claiming it.

At NSW level – actually being selected. There were other highlights in the ensuing years e.g. being made captain and winning State of Origin but actually playing, thrilled me to bits.



(NSW v QLD – State of Origin)

Australian level – probably being the captain of Australia Men's Opens in 1988 at the 1st World Cup. The biggest thrill about that was not just being named by Buck Rogers and Peter McNeven in the team, but as I was only 23 years old getting heaps of support without a hint of derision from my, at the time, state captain, Mark Scott.

In addition the support from very well respected and great players such as Andy Yiangou, Mick McCall, Ronny Wall and Garry Lawless lifted me. In fact the whole team was just great.

What is it about the Scorpions that makes the team so successful?

Firstly I'd say Gary Croft has given us all the support in the world from an administrative level. Then of course our coaches Sam Ayoub, Ian Stanley and the manager Frank O'Malley. Until you've played under these guys you don't appreciate how much better it is to be able to just train and play and not worry about anything else – period !

Then obviously the team itself. I don't know if it's the same in other teams but this one has a quality about it that makes you feel attached to the team whether you're playing or not.

Once you've actually played in the side you still feel a part of it. Another interesting fact is that our side has worn Asics Lethal touch shoes every year.

I think the only side to do so. It might be a bit basic giving credit to the Scorpions success down to the playing shoes but given we've won a high percentage of all our games by only one touchdown and that those shoes suit all playing conditions which you get in Coffs Harbour, I don't think they should be underestimated.

We all probably know the stand out players in a team. But in teams that you've played in who are the people that really blend a team?

Especially in touring teams these guys are just so essential to the team playing well. I suppose the standouts to me are a few guys who were obviously very, very good players, but more importantly had the ability to make the team laugh, stop any backstabbing and teach respect to everyone else in the team.

The best I've seen of these are; Michael McGovern, Paul Dart and Mark Scott.

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

Very difficult question I'd be sure to leave someone out who I think is / was a great player. But if I went through the teams I've played against the most over the years and come up with a few I couldn't leave out.

Jim Marinos, Andy Yiangou, Jamie Black, Darren Shelley, Dom Squadrito, Brett Gillard, Michael McGovern, Garry Lawless, Bob Brindell, Scott Notley – there are many others but these guys probably top the list of players because they have endured and always had the ability to control or change a game.

There are also a number of great Parramatta players who had great qualities but were never opponents.

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

Probably the second half of the 1995 World Cup final against New Zealand. We had been beaten twice by them during the tournament and were down 1-0 at half time when it could so easily have been 2 or 3 nil. We had a perfect second half and won 5-1.

What's your favorite food?
Steak, chips & salad.

Your favorite T.V show?
Seinfeld.



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

I don't know so much about recent people having retired being stars, or in fact, players being current stars, but the best players in the game are: Shane Frederiksen, Trent McDonald, Craig Pierce and Neil Ward.

I know naming just four people out of such a huge number of great players is controversial but for skill, aggression, class, competitiveness and mistake free football I'd put my hard earned on those guys in a 4 on 4 game.

Can you name some up and coming future champions?

Its probably being a bit harsh on under 20's players, but as I haven't really seen many 20's games over the past year or so and the fact that I've never seen the best younger player come and dominate men's open yet I really can't comment.

I'd have to say what we could see is guys who already are recognized players actually going beyond their own expectations and depending on their commitment, players who could really dominate a game like Bobby Brindall and Scott Notley have done.

These players are – Jason Zabelo, Andrew Galea, Jason Stanton, Kurt Nowotny, Neil Ward, Craig Pierce, Trent McDonald, Shane Frederiksen. Not having seen this years NTL it's difficult to comment on many interstate players.

If there was a rule to change to better the game – what would it be?

Id make a rule saying you can't introduce any new rule that keeps driving people away from Touch. If you play in an affiliated competition somewhere, if you pay you're registration fee and if you're good enough you should get picked to play for Australia.

O.K that's oversimplified, but on paper it looks easier than not making

a representative team just because you live in an "Odd" numbered house and unknowingly tried out for the "Even" numbered houses team without first putting in a letter saying you didn't even want to live in that particular street, but it's all you could afford and the even numbered team didn't want you anyway.

You know what I mean. Touch was always a game anyone and everyone could come and play, now it seems – well different.

If you could change one aspect of Touch, what would it be?

I think I just answered that. O.K a rule I'd change would be not having to play the ball facing straight on to the try line. It's too difficult for referees to be completely consistent with it.

In some instances you'll get penalized and in others, which look exactly the same, a touchdown is allowed. It's a huge difference. If you could play it sideways the referees aren't under pressure and both teams can work out their own methods of taking advantage of roll – balls being askew.

**Thank you Mark Boland
A Touch Legend**

**VICTORIAN TOUCH
GOBAL SITE**

Ever wondered just how many Touch teams / club / associations out there in the wilderness have tapped into the 'fad' of going "on-line"? Well wonder no more! Says Peter Shefford from the Victoria Touch Association.

Triton Touch Club in Melbourne have surfed the web for countless hours and have come up with what they regard as one of the most comprehensive listing of Touch web sites available - and one would be hard pressed to argue. From America to Wales; lunchtime Touch to the World Cup - if it's on-line there is a good chance Triton has it listed.

In addition to their Links page, the Triton site contains the club history,

player profiles, action photos, Touch news, match reports, and soon hopes to add a message board to it's arsenal. You can be entertained and view the site at www.tritontouch.org

PEAKHURST FINALS

Peakhurst Inn have won our Mens first division for the ninth year in a row in a very good game defeating the minor premiers Priority One 3-1 The game was played in torrential rain with the referee's forced to halt play and consult with both captains about the conditions before agreeing to continue (same weekend as the NTL floods).

If all touch games were played in the spirit that this game was played then touch would surely draw back a lot of old and new players.

We will shortly begin our plans to organise fundraising for a trip to Japan. The players are excited about the development tour and to repay the generosity of the Japanese team from Juntendo University.

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

**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.**

THE 2001 NTL

Mens Open

- 1 Cobras
- 2 Mets
- 3 Cyclones
- 4 Sharks
- 5 Razorbacks
- 6 Scorpions
- 7 Crusaders
- 8 Eagles
- 9 Hornets
- 10 Rebels
- 11 Suns
- 12 Barbarians



Womens Open

- 1 Mets
- 2 Cobras
- 3 Sharks
- 4 Rebels
- 5 Suns
- 6 Hornets
- 7 Cyclones
- 8 Crusaders
- 9 Barbarians
- 10 Eagles
- 11 Scorpions
- 12 Razorbacks



Mixed

- 1 Sharks
- 2 Cobras

- 3 Scorpions
- 4 Mets
- 5 Razorbacks
- 6 Hornets
- 7 Eagles
- 8 Cyclones
- 9 Suns



Mens 20's

- 1 Sharks
- 2 Mets
- 3 Razorbacks
- 4 Scorpions
- 5 Rebels
- 6 Suns
- 7 Eagles
- 8 Hornets
- 9 Cobras
- 10 Crusaders
- 11 Cyclones



Womens 20's

- 1 Sharks
- 2 Rebels
- 3 Razorbacks
- 4 Mets
- 5 Cyclones
- 6 Hornets
- 7 Cobras
- 8 Scorpions
- 9 Eagles
- 10 Suns

Men 30

- 1 Scorpions
- 2 Mets
- 3 Sharks
- 4 Cobras
- 5 Cyclones
- 6 Suns
- 7 Crusaders
- 8 Eagles
- 9 Hornets
- 10 Barbarians
- 11 Touchwest
- 12 Defence



Men 35

- 1 Crusaders
- 2 Scorpions
- 3 Hornets
- 4 Razorbacks
- 5 Suns
- 6 Sharks
- 7 Mets
- 8 Eagles
- 9 Cyclones
- 10 Cobras



Men 40

- 1 Mets
- 2 Suns
- 3 Razorbacks
- 4 Sharks

- 5 Scorpions
- 6 Cobras
- 7 Eagles
- 8 Hornets
- 9 Barbarians
- 10 Crusaders
- 11 Defence



Men 45

- 1 Razorbacks
- 2 Eagles
- 3 Hornets
- 4 Mets
- 5 Cobras
- 6 Suns
- 7 Sharks
- 8 Cyclones
- 9 Defence

Women 30

- 1 Razorbacks
- 2 Suns
- 3 Scorpions
- 4 Hornets
- 5 Crusaders
- 6 Cobras
- 7 Eagles
- 8 Sharks
- 9 Cyclones
- 10 Defence



- SHARKS -

THE OVERALL CAHMAPIONS

Men 50

- 1 Sharks
- 2 Mets
- 3 Rebels
- 4 Razorbacks
- 5 Cobras
- 6 Cyclones



The overall Permit Holder winner of the NTL were the Gold Coast Sharks and below is the president of the Australian Touch Association Mr. Brian Rooney presenting the trophy to Mr. Bernie Lowther from the Sharks



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

Arafura Games
www.arafuragames.nt.gov.au

South Africa
www.touchrugby365.com

Women 35

- 1 Scorpions
- 2 Suns
- 3 Sharks
- 4 Cobras
- 5 Eagles
- 6 Cyclones
- 7 Hornets 40
- 8 Sharks 40



Above is the very popular and absolutely fabulous Judy Malcolm – an evergreen player from Manly in NSW.

Still playing great touch in the over 35's division even though her opponents are ten or more years younger. Its great to see such dedication and enthusiasm. Well done.

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

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

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

England Touch Association
www.english-touch.com

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

At the NSW annual general meeting recently Rod Wise from Southern Suns and Brian Kidd from Penrith Touch, and a member of the NSW Referee's Panel were awarded Life membership of the NSW Touch Association.

The honour was just reward for many years of service to their respective Association and the announcement of the awards received a standing ovation by the delegates and observers present at the meeting

Congratulations to you both – and well deserved

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

4/11 May 2001	Broome Masters Games – Broome
5/6 th May 2001	NQ Open Championships – Townsville
11 th May 2001	NSW Catholic Colleges – Coffs Harbour
Mid May 2001	NSW Independent Schools – T.B.A
12/13 May 2001	State of Origin (NSW v QLD) – Wollongong
19/26 May 2001	ARAFURA Games – Darwin
June 2001	National Training Camps
9/10 th 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
TBA July 2001	Trans Tasman Tests – TBA
26/29 July 2001	World Clubs (Masters) Championships – Singapore
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
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.