

# TABLE TENNIS

# Newsletter

Issued by:- THE AUSTRALIAN TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

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## Pinkewich and Thompson are national champs

by Doug Stewart

Paul Pinkewich of Sydney, veteran of over 100 appearances for Australia in international matches, Australia's "player of the year" on two occasions, winner over a number of world ranked players in an international career which stretches over 12 years, national men's doubles champion three times, winner of several Victorian and New South Wales State singles titles—but never the winner of the national men's singles crown. Until 1978, that is, when Paul played his way to a popular (even in the heart of Victoria-land) finals win against Melbourne's three-times champion Steve Knapp.

Pinkewich had recently returned from five weeks of training in Japan, and the benefits definitely showed from his very first match. Throughout the tournament he showed his usual skill in defence, matched by mobility and speed which enabled him to score an unusual number of attacking winners.

Former Rockhampton player Kerry Thompson, who has lived in Melbourne for the last four years, was the winner of the women's singles title, also for the first time, by defeating Tasmania's Denise Millikan in a tough final. Together with these players, their coaches John Williams and John Hannon deserve credit.

Titleholders Steve Knapp and Robbie Javor in the men's doubles, and Kerry Thompson and Ann Middleton in the women's doubles, were again successful in winning those titles. Knapp, on this occasion playing with Chris Little, won the mixed doubles for the sixth consecutive year.

### EARLY ROUNDS

The only non-seeded player to reach the last 16 in the men's singles was Russian coach, now working in Victoria, Igor Klaf. He played solid table tennis to win against Greg Horne, who had eliminated 16-seeded Keith Jorgensen. In the next round, however, Klaf's defence could do nothing against the hitting of Paul Pinkewich—only two points won in the first game!

The other seeded players to battle for their position in the last 16 were Warren Vickery (9th), Neil Ward (6th), and Garry Walmsley (11th) who were extended by Brian Distant, Nick Fields and Scott Campbell respectively, by a co-incidence each match going to 21-17 in the fifth game. Robert Rockefeller lost a tight four-game match with Gary Munday.

In the fourth round Munday lost the first two games to Vickery then gradually got on top with his heavy-spun shots. Bob Tuckett met Philip Gebauer, who had beaten him in the team events, and won after a tough four games.

Tuckett and Ward played out a long five-game match in the



PAUL PINKEWICH

quarter-finals, with Ward looking better as the tournament progressed. The other three quarters, and the two semi-finals, were all won in straight games.

### VERA SIKORA'S FORM

Wollongong junior Vera Sikora was the star of the early rounds of the women's singles, where she could well have eliminated Denise Millikan. Vera hit with ferocity to win the first two games, and had plenty of chances of winning the fifth before going down 21-18.

Also in the second round, Vicki Woodward survived to beat New Zealander Debbie Looms 24-22 in the fifth game of their match. She spun a hard-hit forehand past her surprised opponent on match point.

(continued on Page 3)

# AUSTRALIAN TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

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DOUG STEWART

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## National Championships (cont. from page 1)

In the third round Melbourne's defender Diane Kilderry had a surprisingly easy win over the top seed Barbara Kearney. Even allowing for Barbara's spotty form in the team events, a 21-12, 21-10, 21-12 result is ridiculous. In the next round, Dianne was given the same treatment by Denise Millikan, who relished the opportunity to blast away with strong forehands.

Chris Little, whom most people thought would take the women's title after her magnificent team efforts, continued that impressive form in beating the well-performed Queenslanders Sharon Dunlop and Pam Whitehouse without any trouble. She started to tighten up in her quarter-final match with the left-handed New Zealander Jan Morris. Ann Middleton was in good touch against Vicki Woodward. Kerry Thompson, although she lost two games to the defending champion Joyce Tregea, won the other three games very easily.

Both semi-final results were in contradiction of form shown up to that stage. Chris Little played without any confidence at all against Denise Millikan, and her usually crisp drives were more often than not missing the table. Denise, on the other hand, showed great determination in extending the rallies to allow her opponent to make an error. In the other semi-final, Kerry Thompson won after a tough five games with Ann Middleton, last year's runner-up and winner of the title in 1971.

Two-time men's doubles titleholders and 1975 Commonwealth runners-up Paul Pinkewich and Bob Tuckett figured in probably the biggest upset in the tournament when they lost to the Victorian junior pair Rodney Carlyle and Warren Park in a quarter-final. Carlyle and Park won an action packed fifth game 24-22, but could not put it together in the same way in the semis against Jeff McCabe and New Zealand's Richard Lee.

Two other New Zealanders, Stuart Armstrong and Malcolm Darroch, brought off a surprise in an early round by eliminating the fifth seeded pair Philip Gebauer and Warren Vickery, then gave Laurie Skeate and Neil Ward a hard five games in the quarters.

## WOMEN'S DOUBLES

The early rounds of the women's doubles went more or less according to form, except for the defeat of Vicki Woodward and Roma Chambers, the 1976 winners, by Jan Morris and Debbie Looms, of New Zealand. A scratch pair which looked capable of causing an upset was Susan Isele and Denise Millikan, who hit strongly and failed only narrowly against Chris Little and Helen Morrow, 1975 champions.

Unseeded Bob Tuckett and Mary Cannon reached the semi-finals of the mixed doubles by beating Skeate/Kearney (seeded 5th) and Ward/Middleton (seeded 2nd). Andrew Savige emerged from retirement to make a brief appearance in this event when he partnered Vicki Woodward. They found the hard-bat hitting of Eugene Herman and the consistent play of Lorraine Chisholm too much for them in the first

round. Max Wellington and Sharon Dunlop defeated sixth seeds Rodney Carlyle and Denise Millikan.

Carlyle was favoured by many to take the junior boys' title from Ward, in view of his impressive form in the last few weeks. Carlyle had beaten Ward in both the senior and junior finals at the South Australian championships, and in both the men's and boys' team events at these nationals.

This pair both reached the finals, Carlyle after beating Warren Vickery, and Ward beating Malcolm Temperley, of New Zealand, in the semis. Temperley reached that position by beating Nick Fields who had beaten fourth seed Robert Rockefeller. In the final, Ward whipped through the first game by the ridiculous score of 21-4, Carlyle won the second almost as easily 21-10, and went to lead 20-18 in the third before Ward showed his fighting ability to take the match at 22-20 (coincidentally, the same final game score as he had recorded against Carlyle in last year's final).

Pam Whitehouse and Therese Handicott, both unbeaten in the girls' team events, played off in the final of the girls' singles, with the former winning comfortably. Susan Isele, Adele Morrow and Lynette Bucky also showed fine form in this event.

## RESULTS

### MEN'S SINGLES

Third round: S. Knapp d R. Haberl 4, 12, 17; B. Hare d Grant Munday 20, -14, 14, 18; J. McCabe d P. Stibal 7, 15, 17; L. Skeate d M. Darroch -23, 21, 11, 10; Gary Munday d R. Rockefeller -18, 21, 19, 19; W. Vickery d B. Distant -18, 17, 17, -20, 17; W. Heginbotham d R. Lassen 12, 17, 13; R. Javor d J. Bartolo 12, 14, 13; P. Pinkewich d K. Kuhlken 13, 20, -19, 9; I. Klaf d G. Horne 17, 18, 18; R. Carlyle d G. Abdilla 12, 6, 12; R. Lee d J. Kilderry 17, 17, 12; N. Ward d N. Fields 6, 14, -23, -12, 17; G. Walmsley d S. Campbell 18, 15, -18, -20, 17; P. Gebauer d D. Williment -11, 15, 14, 20; R. Tuckett d S. Mitchell 8, 14, 8.

Fourth round: Knapp d Hare 8, 19; 19; Skeate d McCabe 20, 18, 18; Munday d Vickery -19, -17, 17, 18, 15; Javor d Heginbotham 14, 19, 16; Pinkewich d Klaf 2, 7, 10; Lee d Carlyle -17, 20, 13, 14; Ward d Walmsley 17, 17, 15; Tuckett d Gebauer 22, -13, 15, 20.

Quarter-finals: Knapp d Skeate 18, 12, 18; Javor d Munday 17, 13, 10; Pinkewich d Lee 11, 8, 12; Tuckett d Ward 15, -21, 16, -16, 12.

Semi-finals: Knapp d Javor 21, 13, 9; Pinkewich d Tuckett 10, 16, 12.

Final: Pinkewich d Knapp 16, 18, -17, 19.

### WOMEN'S SINGLES

Third round: D. Kilderry d B. Kearney 12, 10, 12; D. Millikan d R. Lee 17, 9, 7; J. Morris d M. Bartolo 10, 19, 17; C. Little d P. Whitehouse 14, 6, 12; K. Thompson d H. Morrow 19, 7, 6; J. Tregea d S. Horne 12, 6, 10; V. Woodward d P. Rosario 14, 11, 12; A. Middleton d D. Evans 8, 19, 11.

Quarter-finals: Millikan d Kilderry 13, 11, 15; Little d Morris 19, 18, 19; Thompson d Tregea -17, 10, -21, 12, 10; Middleton d Woodward 15, 12, 15.

Semi-finals: Millikan d Little 17, 11, -18, 17; Thompson d Middleton 14, -19, 19, -18, 14.

Final: Thompson d Millikan 18, 13, -13, 19.

### MEN'S DOUBLES

Quarter-finals: S. Knapp/R. Javor d D. McClintock/B. Hare 12, 19, 5; L. Skeate/N. Ward d S. Armstrong/M. Darroch 15, 19, -14, -25, 13; R. Lee/J. McCabe d G. Munday/G. Walmsley -15, 18, -19, 18, 16; R. Carlyle/W. Park d P. Pinkewich/R. Tuckett -12, -14, 15, 13, 12.

Semi-finals: Knapp/Javor d Skeate/Ward 11, 13, 13; Lee/McCabe d Carlyle/Park 18, 14, 17.

Final: Knapp/Javor d Lee/McCabe 11, 15, 16.

### WOMEN'S DOUBLES

Quarter-finals: A. Middleton/K. Thompson d B. Kearney/P. Rosario 17, 15; M. Le Gassick/D. Kilderry d M. Bucky/L. Bucky 13, 15; J. Morris/D. Looms d J. Tregea/A. McDonnell 19, 19; C. Little/H. Morrow d S. Isele/D. Millikan 21, -16, 16.

Semi-finals: Middleton/Thompson d Le Gassick/Kilderry -19, 15, 10; Little/Morrow d Morris/Looms 11, -12, 12.

Final: Middleton/Thompson d Little/Morrow 20, 19.

### MIXED DOUBLES

Quarter-finals: S. Knapp/C. Little d E. Herman/L. Chisholm 14, 14; G. Munday/P. Whitehouse d M. Wellington/S. Dunlop 16, 16; R. Javor/K. Thompson d R. Lee/J. Morris 21, 20; R. Tuckett/M. Cannon d N. Ward/A. Middleton 6, -20, 15.

(continued on page 4)

# Finals Night at the Nationals

by Alan Cleaves

It was "standing room only" at Albert Park centre court when the finals of the 1978 Australian Championships were staged on Friday September 22.

An enthusiastic crowd of 700, the largest crowd ever at the Centre, cheered on their favourites.

Highlight of the night was Paul Pinkewich's first Australian singles titles. After many attempts and several finals, Paul at 27 took the title at last in a classic "attack versus defence" match of magnificent calibre.

## MIXED DOUBLES

The match between the top seeded Steve Knapp/Chris Little, winners in 1975, and third seeded Robbie Javor/Kerry Thompson started off with all players attempting to hit at every opportunity.

Knapp and Little, with Little's forehand and angle blocks working crisply, ran away after 12-all to win the first game very comfortably 21-14.

The second game went to Javor/Thompson 21-17.

With Little hitting crisply in the deciding game, ends were changed at 10-3 to Knapp and Little.

With Little serving deep to set up kills, Little and Knapp raced away to take the title 21-15, 17-21, 21-9, in a match in which the women outshone their partners.

## WOMEN'S DOUBLES

The final between Kerry Thompson/Ann Middleton (title holders) and Chris Little and Helen Morrow (1975 winners) opened quietly.

There was little difference between the pairs, Thompson and Middleton holding their lead to 18-17.

Morrow and Little missed critical shots at 19-all and 20-19 and Thompson and Middleton took the first game 22-20.

The match continued in similar vein. There was very little difference between the pairs except that Thompson and Middleton seemed to show more confidence at vital stages, and they ran out winners at 21-19 to retain the doubles title they won last year.

## MEN'S DOUBLES

Regrettably there was never much doubt that Knapp and Javor would retain their title against the sixth seeds and surprise finalists Richard Lee of New Zealand and Jeff McCabe of Victoria.

Knapp and Javor ran away to lead 17-8 and win the first game 21-11.

With Javor's forehand working very crisply and Knapp making few errors, the champions appeared to coast along to take the next two

games 21-15, 21-16 for a very comfortable win.

## WOMEN'S SINGLES

The unexpected final between third seed Kerry Thompson of Victoria and fifth seed Denise Millikan of Tasmania gave the large crowd an interesting problem.

Could Thompson with her better-known attacking strokes overcome her nerves to dominate the game or could the up-and-coming Millikan, first-ever Tasmanian in a national final, find tactics to force her opponent into errors, reinforcing her nervousness?

After a slow start, Thompson began to get her forehand top-spinners going to Millikan's backhand and with Millikan's blocks not functioning accurately, took seven consecutive points to lead 8-7.

Thompson continued to make errors but held her lead to take the opening game 21-18.

With confidence regained, Kerry Thompson led all the way to take the second 21-13, and looked safe for the title.

In the third game Millikan tried some successful forehand looping and moved to a 17-13 lead, increasing it to win 21-13 against a jittery Thompson.



KERRY THOMPSON



PAM WHITEHOUSE

Both girls in the break were earnestly advised by their mentors. A weak short shot by Thompson let Millikan in for a kill and resuming her blocking against Thompson's top-spins, she levelled at 5-5, increasing her score to 6-5 with a fierce forehand.

Some half-hearted loops by Thompson, a good Millikan loop, a clean-missed Thompson took Millikan to 10-6.

Here Kerry Thompson recovered her "cool", put in three penetrating services on which she attacked and recovered to 9-10.

Millikan blocked off to give Thompson the lead, but a weak push into the net and a bad forehand loop by Thompson put Millikan in front once more at 17-16.

Strong loops by Thompson were well blocked back by the Tasmanian challenger before Thompson increased her lead to 19-17.

Here came a fatal mistake. Millikan put up a short high ball which Thompson killed - 20-18.

Thompson tried to bustle her way to victory, but Millikan got an edge for 20-19.

But Kerry Thompson was not to be denied her first Australian singles title and took the next point to win 21-18, 21-13, 13-21, 21-19.

## National Championships (cont.)

Semi-finals: Knapp/Little d Munday/Whitehouse 13, 19; Javor/Thompson d Tuckett/Cannon 15, 14.

Final: Knapp/Little d Javor/Thompson 15, -17, 9.

## JUNIOR BOYS' SINGLES

Semi-finals: N. Ward d M. Temperley 9, 8; R. Carlyle d W. Vickery 15, 11.

Final: Ward d Carlyle 4, -10, 20.

## JUNIOR GIRLS' SINGLES

Semi-finals: P. Whitehouse d A. Morrow 18, -11, 16; T. Handicott d L. Buckby 16, 12.

Final: Whitehouse d Handicott 11, 10.

## VETERANS' SINGLES

Final: J. Healy d J. Marton 16, 14.

## MEN'S CONSOLATION

Final: W. Spivak d M. Temperley 14, 19.

## WOMEN'S CONSOLATION

Final: L. McKeough d C. Derrick 17, 17.

## MEN'S SINGLES

Speculation was rife as to whether Steve Knapp would be able to judge what Paul Pinkewich was doing with his "mystery" black bat.

Knapp's tactics seemed to be to play short, slow dipping loops and to wait for the right ball which he could hit with a fierce fast-loop, mainly to Paul's backhand corner.

The difficulty with such tactics is that the attacker has to be very consistent and very patient or the rally is over before the "right" ball arrives.

In the first game, Knapp tried desperately to penetrate the tight defence of Pinkewich but trailed 13-17 and 14-19.

Possibly in search of alternative tactics for later games, Knapp put up a high ball which Pinkewich attacked and missed.

Knapp again varies the pattern by putting up another high ball, but this time Pinkewich made no mistake and led 20-16.

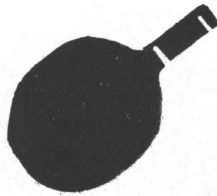
After a long rally, Paul got to and returned a very difficult net-cord which the surprised Knapp pushed into the top of the net. First game 21-16 to Pinkewich!

Early in the second game, Knapp executed a neat drop-shot-and-smash combination and led 6-4, soon taking the score to 8-4 with a fine edge.

But once again the perfect retrieving by Pinkewich brought the scores back to 8-8.

In a series of tremendous rallies, Knapp attacked brilliantly and consistently, but his best shots came back again and again.

Pinkewich led 18-17, with both players looking hot and weary and towelling vigorously.



Knapp forced an error to level at 18-18, but then put up a weak short ball which Pinkewich killed with his forehand. Another flat-hit by Pinkewich took him to 20-18 and a misjudged drop-shot by Knapp gave Pinkewich the game 21-18 and a two-nil lead.

Capitalising on his lead, Paul began to hit anything high or loose straight at Knapp's backhand, and led 3-2 and 6-4.

Knapp tightened his top-spin attack and fought back to lead 10-6. Possibly to draw the players' attention to over-use of towelling breaks, the referee (Ron Chaddband) stepped on to the court and spoke to both players, to the cheers of the crowd.

Knapp fought on with superb attack and drew ahead to 17-13. Not since the days of the pre-war clashes between Jim Thoms and Ken Adamson have I seen a better-matched attack and defence, and it was fitting that Jim Thoms should be watching the struggle at ringside.

Knapp maintained his lead in a tense finish and took the third game 21-17 to go into the interval with a fighting chance.

After the break Steve opened up serving in the fourth game and ran to a 4-1 lead by crashing shots at Paul's body at short range.

One ball he belted between Paul's arm and hip before Paul could even decide where the ball was heading.

If these tactics had been repeated whenever Knapp had the service, the match may have had a different ending.

The pendulum swung to see the scores level at 13-13.

Paul attacked and finished off the rally with an exhibition-style jumping forehand smash, to lead 14-13.

But it was Knapp who again attacked and kept Paul away from the table to tie the scores at 15-15.

Magnificent rallies followed. Down 16-17, Knapp slashed a forehand down the side of the table to catch Paul, in rare moment, out of position. Level again!

Tempted to slash at a ball very close to the net, Knapp hit the top of the net. Soon after, his top-spin shot hit the top of the net, flew high, and Paul had a match point at 20-17.

But Steve was not yet prepared to give in. A classic drop shot caught Paul stranded, (20-18) and slashing attack forced Paul into error - 20-19.

Steve attacked desperately until a short ball tempted him into forcing the pace and the match was over - 21-16, 21-18, 17-21, 21-19, to the new Australian Champion Paul Pinkewich!

# NEWS FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING

by ATTA Secretary John Hannon

## Officers elected:-

PRESIDENT: L. Hitchen (W.A.).  
VICE-PRESIDENT: A. Cleaves (Vic.).  
HON. GENERAL SECRETARY: J. Hannon (Tas.).  
HON. INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY: L. Haycraft (Vic.).  
HON. TREASURER: J. Beer (Vic.).  
PATRON: R. Jones (Vic.).  
RECORDS OFFICER: K. Javor (Vic.).

## COMMITTEES

Player of the Year: \*L. Wharmby, V. Matison, R. Chadband.  
Umpires: Qld., J. Berndt; Tas., W. Atkinson; Vic., C. Gadd; S.A., N. Bell; N.S.W., K. Montford; W.A., P. Hopkin.  
Tours: \*L. Haycraft, L. Hitchen, K. Bowler.  
Standing Orders: \*L. Hitchen, J. Jackson, J. Hannon.  
Rules: \*L. Wharmby, J. Hannon.  
Coaching: \*N. Harwood, G. Walmsley, W. Oatey.  
Promotion: \*J. Jackson, H. Rockefeller, N. Shorter.  
Disciplinary: Qld., J. Bond; Tas., L. Wharmby; Vic., S. Barker; S.A., N. Bell; N.S.W., N. Callinan; W.A., L. Hitchen.  
Equipment: \*J. Hannon, W. Savige, V. Matison.  
Auditors: E. Leder, S. Barker.  
Finance: \*J. Beer, J. Hannon, L. Haycraft.  
Newsletter: J. Bond.  
Junior: \*H. Rockefeller, C. Hughes, G. Walmsley.  
Selectors: \*V. Matison, E. Coster, B. Hodge.  
\* - Chairman.

1979 NATIONALS will be played:

In Adelaide for the Senior;

In Wynnum (Qld.) for the Sub-Junior.

NATIONAL JUNIOR TRAINING CAMP: Will be held in 1979 provided a suitable venue is available together with a Government subsidy being involved.

BALL APPROVALS: The following have been approved for use in tournaments for 1979:

Nittaku NXXX 3 Star White and Colour;

NXX 2 Star White;

Halex 3 Star White and Yellow.

TSP Astoll White and Yellow;

Barna 3 Crown White;

Slazenger Panther White and Yellow.

BALL ADOPTION: Nittaku NXXX 3 Star White balls have been adopted for the 1979 National Senior and Sub-Junior Championships.

1979 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS: Australia will participate.

1979 COMMONWEALTH: Australia will participate subject finance being available.

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP DATES: Tas., 28th July; W.A. and N.S.W., 23rd July; S.A., 16th July; Qld. and Vic., to advise.

OFFICIALS FOR ASIAN: Team Leader/Delegate, L. Hitchen; Delegate, L. Haycraft; Manager, J. Hannon; Assistant Manager, A. Cleaves.

SELECTORS FOR ASIAN: Mens: Messrs. Hitchen, Cleaves and Knapp; Women: Messrs. Hitchen, Hannon and Mrs. A. Middleton.

NATIONAL UMPIRES: The following were successful in passing their final national umpires examinations: Mrs. V. Gay, Dr. R. Augustyne, Mrs. P. Price, Mr. R. Neville, Mr. S. Scott, Mr. W. Sander-son.

NATIONAL DIPLOMA COACHES - 1 STAR: Awards to the following were announced: Ken Sleep (S.A.), B. Buckby (S.A.), P. Roserio (Vic.), K. Berndt (Qld.).

The A.T.T.A. Council has announced that it has re-appointed the National Director of Coaching, Eric Coster, for a further period of two years from 1st January, 1979.

Eric's new address is - 155 Berowra Waters Road, Berowra Heights, N.S.W., 2082, Telephone (02) 4562339.

# SOUTH AUSTRALIA WINS WOMEN'S TITLE

by Doug Stewart

It was inevitable that Victoria's string of successes in the Australian women's team championships should at some time come to an end. This it did this year—after 20 successive wins of the Ron Jones Shield by Victoria in a series which started in 1958.

South Australia was this year's winner. The team was led by 1975 national women's and girls' singles champion Chris Little, who has played little between winning those titles and the start of the season. Backing Chris was 1971 national champion and this year's Ansett tournament winner Ann Middleton, and the consistent Mylene Buckby who has had a good record in junior events over the last four seasons.

It is appropriate at this time to look back at Victoria's 20-year reign and at some of the players who fashioned this unusual (can it ever be bettered?) record.

In many of those 20 wins, of course, Victoria was led by the incomparable Suzy Javor. Suzy was a spectator at this year's championships, and I talked to many current Melbourne pennant players who agreed that she was still worthy of a place in the national side.

Suzy won her first Australian women's singles title in 1958, when the State team's run started. She went on to record 10 such victories. Other Victorians to win the national singles title in recent years included Mary Le Gassick and Lyn Gilbert each twice, and Chris Little when she was living in Melbourne in 1975.

## DOUBLES WINNERS

Many other Victorians won the Australian women's doubles title in those years, including five-times winner Lorraine Nicholson, Eva Banhid, Helen Morrow, Dianne Kilderry and Lyn Gilbert each twice, and more recently Vicki Woodward, Roma Chambers and Kerry Thompson.

Victoria did not come away from the tournament empty-handed, as that State won both the men's and the boys' team titles, being unbeaten in both. Queensland was similarly unbeaten in the girls' event.

Final standings were:—

**MEN:** Victoria 5 wins, 44 rubbers; New South Wales, 3 wins, 28 rubbers; Queensland, 3 wins, 27 rubbers; South Australia, 3 wins, 20 rubbers; Western Australia, 1 win, 9 rubbers; Tasmania, 0 wins, 7 rubbers.

**WOMEN:** South Australia, 5 wins, 35 rubbers; Victoria, 4 wins, 33 rubbers; Queensland, 3 wins, 26 rubbers; New South Wales, 2 wins, 22 rubbers; Tasmania, 1 win, 13 rubbers; Western Australia, 0 wins, 6 rubbers.

**BOYS:** Victoria, 6 wins, 43 rubbers; South Australia, 5 wins, 33 rubbers; New South Wales, 4 wins, 30 rubbers; New Zealand, 3 wins, 32 rubbers; Queensland, 2 wins, 32 rubbers; Western Australia, 1 win, 17 rubbers; Tasmania, 0 wins, 2 rubbers.

**GIRLS:** Queensland, 5 wins, 44 rubbers; New South Wales, 4 wins, 26 rubbers; New Zealand, 3 wins, 24 rubbers; Victoria, 2 wins, 25 rubbers; South Australia, 1 win, 10 rubbers; Tasmania, 0 wins, 6 rubbers.

The men's team event was never really in doubt after New South Wales had taken Queensland in the third round, 5-4. This was a solid team performance by Queensland, with Gary Munday and Garry Walmsley each taking two singles and Laurie Skeate one. N.S.W. was the second seeded side, and Victoria's string of easy victories—9-0 in each of its first four matches—meant that N.S.W. could not win unless they defeated Victoria 9-0 in the final match which would have brought them level. This prospect seemed so remote that Paul Pinkewich stood down from the final, which saw Victoria win 8-1 with Philip Gebauer downing Bob Tuckett to present a complete whitewash.

I don't know whether a men's team event has ever been so easily won—44 matches won and only one loss—but certainly the strength of the Victorian side was unusual. It comprised 1977 national champion Robbie Javor, 1976 national champion Steve Knapp and 1977 "Player of the Year" Bob Tuckett.

Like Knapp and Javor, Pinkewich posted an unbeaten record, dropping only a single game to Skeate. Javor dropped games to Skeate and Neil Ward, and Knapp won all his matches 2-nil.

Following Knapp, Javor, Pinkewich and Tuckett in the team records were Munday (10 wins, 5 losses), Ward (8-4) and Skeate (9-6).

## WOMEN'S TEAMS

Victoria's loss of the women's team title was not entirely unexpected. South Australia's challenging side included the in-form Ann Middleton and the "comebacker" Chris Little, while all the Victorians

have shown only patchy form during the season.

Victoria dropped Helen Morrow for Roma Chambers for the final match, and Roma lost the opening rubber narrowly (21-17 in the third) to Ann Middleton. Chris Little showed dashing form to beat Kerry Thompson and Roma Chambers, Ann Middleton lost to Vicki Woodward, and Mylene Buckby lost two matches to reach a 3-all score. Then followed two long matches Little/Woodward and Middleton/Thompson, each of which was won by the South Australians.



**ANN MIDDLETON**

Chris Little was unbeaten for South Australia, 15 wins. Ann Middleton (14-1) gave good support, an unbeatable combination. Mylene Buckby chipped in with wins against ranked players Barbara Kearney and Mary Cannon.

Vicki Woodward posted a 10-2 record, losing only to Chris Little and Pam Whitehouse. Roma Chambers was 9-3, beating Denise Millikan for a good win.

The surprise of the tournament was the poor form of the 1977 No. 1 ranked woman Barbara Kearney, whose record was seven wins and eight losses. Therese Handicott had a good win over Denise Millikan, and Sharon Dunlop beat Barbara Kearney, Kerry Thompson and Roma Chambers.

The Victorian boys gave a solid team performance to record their State's 13th win in the last 15 years in this event. Only Queensland was able to take them as close as 3-6.

Rodney Carlyle was the unbeaten star of the boys' team event, including a 21-11, 21-17 win over Neil Ward. Under 16 national titleholder Robert Rockefeller was 12-3, including a win over Warren Vickery. Vickery (losses to Carlyle, Rockefeller, Ward and Nick Fields) was 11-4, as was Jamie Bartolo, and New Zealander David Williment.

## GIRLS EASILY WON

Queensland won the girls' team event just as easily as Victoria won the men's—44 matches won and only one loss.

Pam Whitehouse and Therese Handicott—who went on to fight out the final of the girls' singles title—were unbeaten with 12 wins each for

Queensland. Andrea McDonnell, who lost only to New Zealander Linda Dyer, was 14-1.

Others with good records included the deceptively casual Lynda Dyer and NSW's Vera Sikora, each 11-4. Ruth Lee, another New Zealander, was 10-5.

New South Wales did well to finish second in this event, in spite of a spotty 5-7 performance from an out-of-form Mary Cannon. Wendy Jordan starred with three wins in the vital match against New Zealand.

I had to be impressed with the strength of the Queensland girls. Pam Whitehouse, Therese Handicott and Andrea McDonnell were, as their records indicate, the three best in the competition. Their two other team members, who played one match each, were Sharon Dunlop, who had such a fine record in the women's team events, and Susan Isele, who was most impressive in the individual events. In addition, there was the late withdrawal through illness of Lesley Smith, who is just as good as all the others.

Much of the comment about women's table tennis during the tournament was on the theme of "Queensland will win the women's team event for years and years to come, if those girls keep at it". I certainly agree with those sentiments, but the question is: "will they keep at it?" With so many stars giving each other tough competition, they certainly have the chance of developing into top players.



## UNIS, COLLEGES TOURNEYS

Monash University won the Australian Inter-Varsity table tennis championships and South Australian Institute of Technology the Australian Inter-Collegiate title when these events were played in Melbourne in August.

At the conclusion of the two tournaments, combined teams from the two associations were selected and played, with the match going to the Combined Universities 9-2.

Next year's World Student Games will be held in Mexico City in August. It is not known at this time whether table tennis will be on the program. It wasn't at last year's World Student Games in Bucharest, but has been included on previous occasions.

Results from the combined teams matches were:—

Bill Robson (Sydney University) d Doug Stewart (Riverina College) 9, 16; d Ken West (S.A. Institute) 17, 8; d Raymond Kennington (S.A. Institute) 7, 11.

Ross Wilkinson (Monash University) lost to Stewart -15, -12; d West 15, 16; d Kennington 16, 16.

Tony O'Brien (Sydney University) lost to Stewart -11, -13; d West 15, 18; d Kennington 11, 16.

Robson/Wilkinson d West/Kennington 15, 16; Robson/David Fitz-Henry (Sydney University) d West/Stewart 15, 19.

# SQUADS CHOSEN FOR WORLD AND COMMONWEALTH CHAMPIONSHIPS

Next year's World Championships will be held at Pyongyang, North Korea, from April 25 to May 5. The Commonwealth Championships will probably be held in Edinburgh, Scotland, a week or so before those dates.

While it has not been finally decided as to the extent of Australia's participation in these events the Australian selectors have named the squad from which team members will be chosen.

**MEN:** R. Carlyle (Vic.), R. Javor (Vic.), S. Knapp (Vic.), P. Pinkewich (N.S.W.), R. Rockefeller (Vic.), R. Tuckett (Vic.), N. Ward (S.A.).

**WOMEN:** B. Kearney (N.S.W.), C. Little (S.A.), A. Middleton (S.A.), D. Millikan (Tas.), K. Thompson (Vic.), P. Whitehouse (Qld.), V. Woodward (Vic.).

Comment on these selections by Doug Stewart:—

While one does not always agree with selectors, it is hard not to agree that these nominated squads seem to be very appropriate.

As far as the men are concerned, Australia's top four—Knapp, Pinkewich, Tuckett and Javor—are considerably in advance of other senior players. This is probably the reason why the selectors have looked to juniors to fill the remaining positions in the squad.

Neil Ward is, of course, an experienced international player as well as being Australian junior champion for the last three years. He represented Australia in the last World and Commonwealth Championships, where his play was the subject of a lot of favourable comment by Asian and European observers.

Rodney Carlyle certainly deserves to be considered as he has had four wins over Ward and one over Tuckett this season. Robert Rockefeller, the present national under 16 champion, is a dynamic

player who must be considered an outstanding prospect for the future.

Six of the women's squad are at present the top six ranked players in Australia. The other, Pam Whitehouse, is the present national junior champion. Like Rockefeller, she will be playing in the Asian Championships in Kuala Lumpur in November, and good performances by these youngsters could see them off to next year's World Championships.

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