



INTERNATIONAL TABLE TENNIS FEDERATION

PARA-TABLE TENNIS DIVISION

**To the Para Table Tennis Division Meeting
To be held on 22nd October – 24th October 2011**

Oceania Report from Barbara Talbot Oceania Representative IFFT PTT Committee

Oceania Table Tennis Federation (OTTF)

The Oceania Region has been busy with development and meetings to increase development and growth in the region.

There was increased participation in Oceania for the Arafura Games. During the Arafura Games which included the Oceania Paralympics I held a meeting for the members of Oceania. The main aim of the meeting was:

- Increasing participation of disabled players
- Inclusion principles
- Encourage the training of Classifiers, Umpires, Referees and possible Technical Delegates
- Oceania becoming a separate region

From this meeting it was decided that through Oceania Table Tennis Federation (OTTF) we would set up a working committee to build the region and work towards separation from Asia to become a separate region – Oceania.

At this meeting it was proposed to also work with the Oceania Para Committee. Their representative Paul Bird was extremely keen to see Table Tennis expand in the area. It has also been proposed that the next Pacific Games will include AWD Table Tennis, also investigating sanctioning of the event.

I have been liaising with Scott Houston the ITTF Development Officer for Oceania. Scott reports that the Oceania region is developing and he is happy to encourage players with a disability to be included in any programs he runs as well as pass on their details to OTTF, to build up AWD in the region. He has also been seconded onto our Oceania Table Tennis Federation Para Table Tennis Committee.

Oceania Countries

Australia

Australia is the most active in the region but is very welcoming and encouraging of other nations. It has a very inclusive program running concurrent with the able-bodied program. Australia has a Paralympic Squad involving more than 30 players and more players going through the development programs, bringing current athletes numbers to more the 120. Table Tennis Australia works closely with the Australian Paralympic Committee.

Fiji

Fiji is becoming more inclusive and running tournaments with AWD sections. They report approximately 50 players with a disability. Athletes with a disability are encouraged to play able-bodied competition as well where possible.

New Zealand

New Zealand has been increasing its' player numbers and is showing great interest in developing AWD Table Tennis. At this point in time they are assessing their facilities to be able to run a Factor 20 tournament in the next 12 months. Information is being provided and they have a working committee. They are also running Open AWD New Zealand Championships in which other countries are invited. It is thought that maybe Australia and New Zealand could hold sanctioned tournaments close together to increase other countries participation.

New Caledonia

New Caledonia is keen to give more opportunities to their AWD players and, actively involved in increasing their numbers. They are keen for more tournaments in the region as travel is always expensive due to isolation. There are two separate entities for AWD and Able-bodied Table Tennis in New Caledonia. This makes it difficult to co-ordinate and more assistance and encouragement to be inclusive would be an advantage.

Papua New Guinea

Papua New Guinea is keen to move forward. At the Arafura Games they had one Classifier to be trained. Further development is required in the country.

Tonga

Scott Houston reports Tonga have approximately 20 players with a disability currently playing and are hopeful to increase numbers and opportunities.

Vanuatu

Vanuatu's Oceania Para Development Officer reports that Vanuatu would like to include Table Tennis in their program. More development needs to be done.

Other nations

Scott in his role as the Oceania Development Officer is travelling to many of these outlying countries and is including AWD in his training and development courses.

Oceania Players

There has been acceleration in numbers of Oceania players moving up the World Ranking list. Although most are Australians, New Zealand has some entries as well. At this point in time we have several players in the top ten of their classes.

Trainee TD's

Further to building up expertise in the region three experienced Table Tennis persons have been included in the Trainee Technical Delegate Seminar to be held in Hong Kong in December. They are: Neil Montfort, Joachim Kusche and Graham Symonds. All have good experience and should be valuable assets to Oceania.

Oceania separation

Oceania Table Tennis Federation with the agreement of all nations, wishes to separate from Asia and become a region in their own right. The time line for this would be after the London Paralympics 2012.

A Working Committee through OTTF has been liaising with PTT to bring this to fruition. It is understood that development needs to be ongoing and building up of participants. The region is committed to this and taking positive steps to increase participation in all countries. A Regional Championships must be run and it has been decided that Australia would host this event.

I have included separately the proposal to host Regional Championships in the Gold Coast Brisbane Australia.

Barbara Talbot
Oceania PTT Representative
20th October 2011

Regional Championships – Proposal to hold in Australia 2013 at the Gold Coast Queensland 21-28th October 2013

Table Tennis Australia has been liaising with Alison with regard to the requirements to run Regional Championships in Australia with a view to a separated region.

A lot of ground work has been done to gauge Australia's ability to host the event. The Gold Coast has been deemed a suitable destination having facilities to successfully hold the Competition.

Australia believes it can deliver the requirements to host the event.

The Gold Coast in Queensland Australia has world class facilities and also experience in holding major events.

The Gold Coast is a beautiful semi tropical part of Australia and in October the weather is sunny without being too hot. It is a top tourist destination.

Top quality accommodation, with access for wheelchairs are available.

Transport with wheelchair access is available.

Accommodation is within 10 minutes of proposed playing venue.

Meals will be provided at the Accommodation with a possible package lunch provided at playing venue.

The playing venue is of good standard and will possibly have a capital works upgrade before the event.

Wheelchair access facilities will be hired if required and venue doesn't have sufficient number.

The Gold Coast local government and business community are interested in the event going ahead with a view to funding and sponsorship.

The Gold Coast is easily accessed from Oceania countries and closer than in distance than other parts of Australia.

Timetable for event

A Classification seminar would be held 21st -22nd October,

Classification 23rd – 24th, Due to the high number of entrants we believe would need international classification we would plan for two days

Technical Meeting 24th October

Opening Ceremony 25th October

Tournament to continue to 28th October 2013