



## **Newsletter 1 2006**

Welcome to our newsletter! 2006 has turned out to be an exciting year as several recent developments have given us an invigorated foundation on which to build our future, and the NT has become a more active member of the Australian badminton scene. More on these later, but first, a brief note from the President.

### **President's Preamble**

"There have been quite a few developments in NT Badminton in the last few months. In Feb '06, NTBA submitted its' annual (2006/7) grant Application to the NT Govt. Last year we received \$19,200 from this grant, with expenditures and Key Performance Measures identified under the following categories "Managing your Business", "Planning your Pathway", "Developing your Community" and "Building your Capacity". Less than 1/3 of the grant represents financial assistance for travel to competitions, with the remainder to be used to develop the skills of players, increase player participation and improve the management of NTBA's business. If you have any ideas that could help the Association in these categories please get back to me! A few highlights: NTBA's Constitution was amended in May 06 to meet recent govt legislation, a big thank you to the many of you who contributed comments to the document. A successful Alice Springs Open was held in May 06 with Steve and Kaye getting special mention in the local newspaper. Dina continues to develop junior players in his twice weekly training sessions....a great job! We continue to go to schools in the Darwin area and present our "Introduction to Badminton" program as part of the Australian Sport Commissions' Active After School program. Let us know if you would like to give up 1 hr/wk to help out. Please also get back to us if you have any ideas about how the Committee can better meet the needs of its members and develop the sport in the NT!"

Alan Puhlovich  
President  
NT Badminton Association

## **June Bevan Australasian U17s**

The NTBA funded a small group of boys to attend the June Bevan U17s tournament earlier this year to compete in the individuals events. Originally consisting of three, this was unfortunately reduced to two just before we left, and the attending players were William Fong and Ross Bleakley. Also attending was Rodney Pearce as the Manager/Supervisor/General purpose team official.

William and Ross contended the boys singles and doubles events, but both faced some stiff competition, and both got a rather disproportionate amount of byes. William had a good win against a Tasmanian who threatened to come back in the second set and force a third set, but he held his ground and won the second 21-19.

Unfortunately, no other singles matches were won, but both boys were denied a lot of matches. As an example, Ross was relegated to the plate after coming up short against a New Zealander, and then faced a bye and a forfeit. Without hitting a shuttle, he was in the finals! While he lost that match, it was the hardest I have ever seen him play, and he acquitted himself pretty well.

William also faced this problem in the plate with his first round after coming up against a NSW boy who was eventually to be ranked in the top 10 – he beat the Tasmanian to make the finals also, but was then eliminated in a close match. Both boys missed out on a lot of singles matches, unfortunately, but did show that they can compete at the middle level of players present for the event.

The June Bevan tournament was very well run, but there was some dissatisfaction in a few areas. Internal WA politics aside, of concern were the shuttles, which were initially extremely brittle and slow. Those in use were Yonex AS-10s and of which were probably unsuited to the standard of play in the environmental circumstances Perth provided (dry and cold). The shuttle director took to manually humidifying each and every tube, and by the end of the tournament the shuttles were acceptable, but certainly not ideal. This is an issue for Badminton Australia and Yonex to sort out as Yonex is BA's sole supplier.

Furthermore, there was a lot of teams present and the standard varied a whole lot. It was suggested that the teams be reduced. This would make the tournament easier to manager and also make selection more competitive.

It will be interesting to see if how these changes affect things for the next U17s even which is to be held in Christchurch, NZ, should the NT decide to send some of their juniors to compete.

For detailed results of the tournament, please visit [www.badminton.org.au](http://www.badminton.org.au).

### **Brisbane Open:**

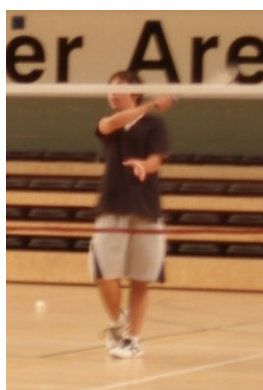
Several players from the NT attended the Brisbane Open recently and put up a good show. The recent efforts put into training by all ensured that some very good matches ensued.

Those attending were:

Sadina Pawero  
Tom Miller  
Rodney Pearce  
William Fong  
David Djari  
Rama Mamout  
Jeffrey Lai



*Bobby (David) in Action!*



*Jeffrey Serving*

Other than it being extremely cold for us, Brisbane was a very pleasant place. The accommodation was literally a two minute walk from the hall which gave us a lot of freedom in breaks and preparations for matches.

While the NT pretty much came up trumps, Jeff and Tom won the mens B doubles plate. Good effort guys! Tom as always played very well, and Jeffrey found some form at the net to clinch the win!

Special mention must go to Elaine, Ben and Annie for their support and hospitality during the trip. Thanks!

### **NTBA Tournaments**

**(My Apologies for this being quite Darwin oriented, and light on details)**

The Alice Springs Open was held earlier in the year and several players from Darwin also attended.

The tournament was won by Steve Haskard – well done Steve!

### **Junior Training Group**

The NTBA and Mr. Saidina Pawero have restarted the juniors programme, and a special mention must go to those that run and assist with this.

Thankyou to:

Sadina Pawero  
Tom Miller  
Rama Mamout  
Rodney Pearce

You have probably noticed training taking place prior to club nights on Mondays and Wednesdays, and Fridays during the period where the competition is not held. Junior participation, with the help of those above (especially Dina) has grown to the point where some nights require the use of all four main courts, and even the fifth court! Obviously when this occurs, some courts cannot be directly supervised, so if anyone is interested in assisting, please let one of the above people know.

## **Upcoming events**

The NT Open

The Ede Clendinnen Shield

More on these in the next installment!

To find basic information on Badminton in the NT, please visit [www.ntbadminton.org.au](http://www.ntbadminton.org.au)