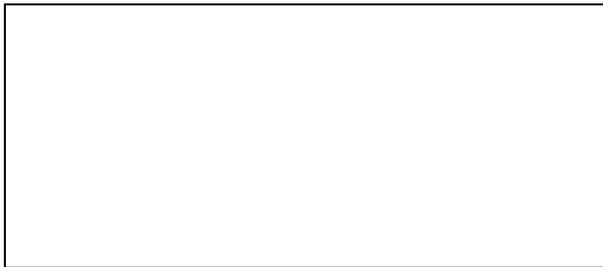
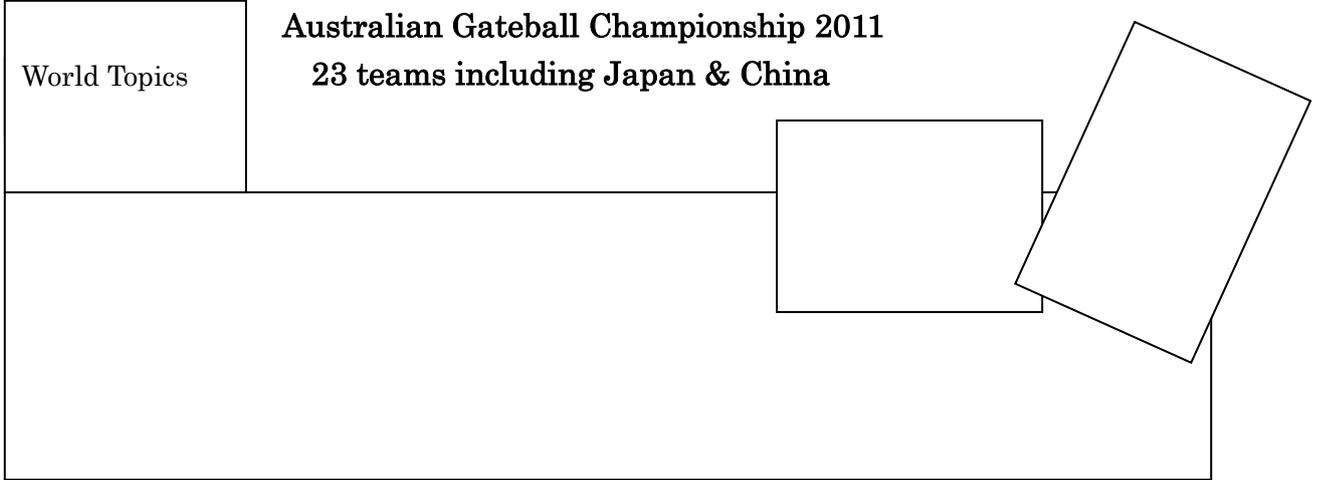


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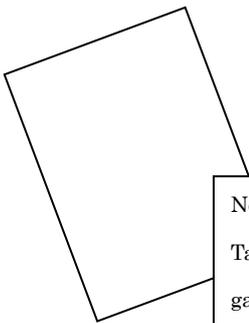
This Month's News

World Topics

Australian Gateball Championship 2011
23 teams including Japan & China

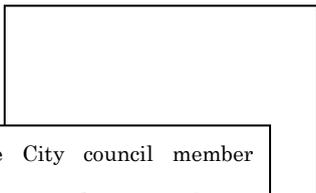
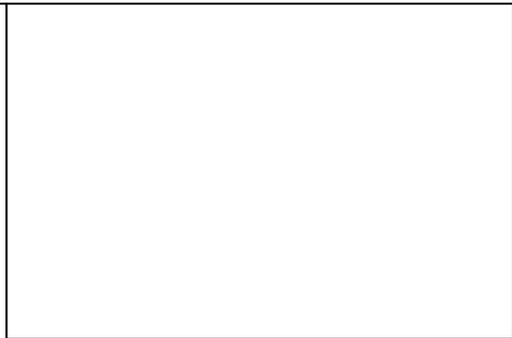


From left: GB Australia National Director Gilon Smith, new president from this year Robyn Wallace, former president Max Murray & inaugural national director of the former GB promotion association Keith McLeod



Newcastle mayor John Tate tries his hand at gateball

From left: Former 1st president of GB Promotion Association Peter Tavender, and Japan Gateball Union Executive Director Mr. Imakawa. Mr. Tavender and Mr. McLeod (on right) participated as players in the 7th World Championships 1988 in Hawaii.



Newcastle City council member Tim Owen makes speech at opening ceremony



Japan team with players from all over Japan

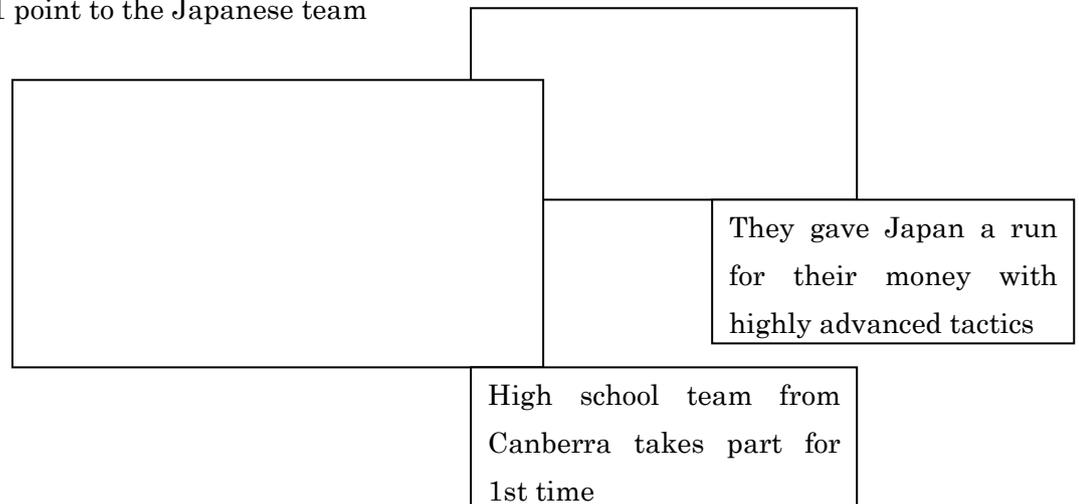
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The championship was held September 16-18 in Newcastle, a town on the coast about 2 1/2 hours drive north of Sydney. One team from Japan, 3 teams from China and 19 teams from Australia took part, with 23 teams in total. On the 1st day there was public practice followed by an opening ceremony and welcome party in the evening. The winning team after league matches on the 2nd day and league matches and finals on the 3rd day was the Chongqing team from China. Australia's level of expertise keeps improving year in year out and there were many who keenly watched Japan's play during the Championships, with some saying they'd learnt a lot from seeing their elaborate tactics. Gateball first started becoming popular in 1986 and a Gateball Promotion Association was formed within the Australian Croquet Association. In 2009 the name was changed to Gateball Australia. The fact that people who supported the spread of gateball came together and it became recognised as a sport in Australia is proof that gateball is loved by many.

High school team takes part for 1st time in event's history

(Main text on left)

The first high school team to take part came from the capital Canberra to participate. They are from a small school with 70 students and they started a team, practicing every weekend with the Canberra team which is well-known at the World Championships. The results of that practice really showed through with them putting up a brave fight and only losing by 1 point to the Japanese team



Chinese team wins!

With Japan, Asia sweeps top 4

(Main text on left)

China won this Championship in 2007 too, but this time 3 strong teams from China participated and showed their abilities that helped them dominate the top 4 in the 10th World Championships in Shanghai last year. The 3 Chinese teams monopolised the top 4 along with the Japan team, and demonstrated China's high level of techniques.



The director and many representatives of the Chinese Gateball Association from Beijing and Shanghai came over

The winning Chongqing team

Japan & the winning team came head-to-head in the semifinals. Chongqing won by 1 point.



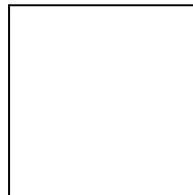
Crafty ideas for event running

These are just some of the innovative plans and ideas for running events!

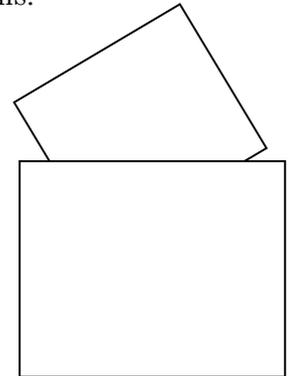
There were also great ideas like a 1 dollar donation raffle ticket with prize money, and commemorative photos by a professional photographer for the participating teams.



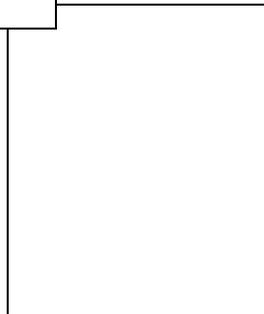
The logo in the photo was used on posters, banners and flyers instead of large advertising to help keep the budget to a minimum



Each team was given a smartly designed captain's armband



Simple handmade score board



The referee's scale was a spatula-like tool bought at a DIY store

Pet bottle with logo handed out to all the participants. Everyone wrote their name on their bottle and refilled it from the tap during the event. It gave a glimpse of how other countries help to save the environment.