



OFF THE BAT

Newsletter of the Werribee Table Tennis Association

Issue 2, September 2015

A Few Words From The President...

Hi everyone,

With the Winter competition having just concluded, we have an opportunity to reflect on our first completed season in Eagle Stadium. As you are aware, we are currently in a temporary location until our permanent table tennis area is completed as part of Stage 2 of the re-development. We have received feedback from a number of players in relation to their playing experience. I want to share some of these comments and clarify the expected changes of the permanent table tennis area once it is completed.

Some people have indicated that the lighting in the area that we use (Court 12) is not very good, and during the day, there is too much glare coming in through the windows that run the width of the building (parallel to Ballan Road). Our permanent location (when completed) will be back to back with Court 12, so we will still be adjacent to the end of the building and the wall will have the same window configuration as what currently exists. However, the glare will be reduced by the fitting of blinds that will operate automatically depending on the available light. The lighting plan will be also upgraded, which will ensure the light intensity in our permanent location will be considerably better than what we currently experience.

Noise is another issue that will be reduced once we move. The court that we currently use has no acoustic separation from the other three courts (9, 10 and 11). Our new area will have a dividing wall between ourselves and other user groups, which will reduce the current noise and vibration that we experience. The storeroom provided to us will be right next to where we play and will have much more space for storing our tables, barriers, chairs and other equipment.

The current area that we use is also used for basketball, netball, volleyball, and badminton, and there are line markings on the floor for all of these sports. Some players find this a little distracting, particularly when they move away from the table. Whilst the issue will not be completely eliminated in the permanent table tennis area, it will be better, as there will only be markings on the floor for basketball and netball. Other initiatives that will come with the completion of Stage 2 will include a digital audio visual package that will enable all users of the facility to find information on their particular sport through the use of interactive touch screens. The new stadium will be fantastic when completed and we are looking forward to being able to move into the new table tennis area.

In closing, I want to say thank you to all players for your continued support through the Winter Pennant, congratulations to all the winners, and look forward to your participation in our Spring Pennant.

– Alan Thomson

Welcome To Our Club!

Welcome to our new members Chris Diomides, Paul Gibson, Neiss Lim, Jason Robinson, Miguel Rodrigues and George Yanna who joined us during the Winter Season.

We are also pleased to welcome back Jamie Al-Hakkani, Lochie McDonald and Peter McKay who returned to our club this season after an extended break.

The Eagle Has Landed!



On May 27th, we moved into a new area on Court 12 in Eagle Stadium. The additional space means that we are now capable of having a nine table set up. We also have brand new Xiom T5 table tennis tables with a matt finish, which are now used for all competitions and coaching sessions. These are the same kind of tables that were used by competitors in the 2015 Korean Open held in July!

If you haven't seen our new area yet, please feel free to visit us Monday – Thursday from 7:30pm. We would love to see you!

Are You Playing Next Season?

We have a new area, we have new tables... now all we need is new players!

If you are interested in joining our club, please call Gerald Gallina on 0432 485 591 or email us at enquiries@wta.asn.au. We would love to hear from you!

If you are currently a member and would like to play again next season, please let your Grade Supervisor know as soon as possible. **Players who compete in all three pennants this year will have the chance to win one of ten Affordable Table Tennis Gift Vouchers worth up to \$100.** This draw will take place at the Spring Pennant Grand Final Night.



Please note: A lot of effort goes into producing fixture lists for each season. If a player requests to be placed in a team, he/she is then required to pay the relevant fees for that pennant. If a player is no longer able or willing to play after their name has been placed on a fixture list, then they must explain the reason for this in writing. The Committee will then decide if fees are applicable. Any outstanding fees will be recorded and must be paid in order to be accepted for future pennants.

Dates To Remember



- **Spring Pennant Grading:** 14th – 17th September
- **Spring Pennant Starts:** 21st – 24th September
- **Graham Haynes Handicap:** 13th November
- **Spring Pennant Semi Finals:** 7th – 9th December
- **Spring Pennant Grand Final:** 10th December

Coaching



When: Saturday mornings

Time: 8:30am – 10:00am

Where: Eagle Stadium

Cost: \$10 per session

Call Gerald on 0432 485 591

WTTA Annual General Meeting

Werribee Table Tennis Association held its Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 20th May. We are happy to announce the newly elected Committee for 2015:

Executive Committee

President – Alan Thomson
Vice President – Lauren Turner
Secretary – Gerald Gallina
Treasurer – Richard Lilly

General Committee

Michael Turner, Angela O'Connor,
Chris Prosser, Greg Yu,
Parthiv Valera, Trevor Blackhurst
and Martin Draganski.

Thank you to our members who took the time to attend this meeting and give valuable input. Congratulations to Bryne Disney, Lauren Turner, John Weightman, Mick Najdovski, Frank Vandenbosch, Gerald Gallina, Raymond Kho, Angela O'Connor, Steve Harris and Jack Borgartz who each won an Affordable Table Tennis gift voucher on the night.

Thank You Steve

After more than a decade of hard work and dedication, Steve Harris announced his resignation from the Committee at the end of the Summer Season.

Steve first joined the Committee in 2002 and at various times has acted as Grade Supervisor for B1, B2 and most recently, A2. We sincerely thank Steve for his valuable time and contributions. The Committee isn't the same without you, but we're glad that we still get to see you competing on Monday nights.



Where Has Sui Gone?



Former A1 champion and coach Sui Deng has been missing from the Table Tennis courts lately. We are happy to report that the reason for his absence is because he has recently embarked on a new venture. Sui has now opened his own restaurant, Kanji Noodle & Sushi Bar, in Northcote! So if you ever find yourself over that side of town, why don't you pop in, say hi to Sui and grab some great Japanese food.

Sui says he is looking forward to returning to WTTA once he has his new business under control. We wish Sui the very best of luck and look forward to seeing him again soon.

Michael Says Thanks

B1 Grade Supervisor Michael Turner sincerely thanks everyone for your recent thoughts and well wishes. The Committee's gift of a fruit basket provided a great relief to hospital food and he really appreciated the mega "get well soon" cards signed by WTTA players. Michael says he is feeling good, and even though he still has a while to go, he cannot wait to be able to play table tennis again. We wish Michael the very best of luck with his recovery and look forward to having him back again soon.



Know The Rules - Serving

- **Behind the white end line**
First of all, make sure that the ball is behind the white end line of the table at all times. This means that you cannot serve from the side of the table, as you have to be behind the white line.
- **Visibility**
The ball must be above the level of the table surface at all times and be visible to your opponent.
- **Rest the ball freely**
To start your serve, make sure that the ball is resting on the open palm of your free hand – not on your fingers. This is so you cannot impart any additional spin onto the ball.
- **Vertical throw**
You then need to throw the ball vertically straight upwards (not backwards or sideways) without imparting spin. The ball is in play as soon as you have deliberately thrown the ball up – so if you miss the ball or it does not hit the table, you lose the point.
- **Ball height**
The ball must rise at least 16 centimetres (6 inches) after leaving your hand. You may throw the ball up higher than this if you wish.
- **Hit the ball when it is dropping**
You cannot hit the ball whilst it is still rising – you must wait for the ball to drop first.
- **Bounce on both sides of the table**
As the ball is falling, you must hit it so that it bounces on your side of the table first, then goes over the net and hits your opponent's side of the table. Although the ball has to bounce once on your side of the table, it can bounce any number of times on your opponent's side of the table. Of course, if your opponent does not hit the ball before it bounces twice on his/her side, then he/she loses the point.
- **Placement**
You can serve the ball to anywhere on the other side of the table in singles, but only to and from the right half of the table when playing doubles.
- **Ball hitting the net**
If the ball touches the net while passing over it, and providing that the service is good in all other respects, the serve is a let and must be replayed.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please speak to your Grade Supervisor or refer to ITTF's "The Laws of Table Tennis".

Our New Banners

As most of you have probably already seen, WTTA now has two new promotional banners. One of the banners is currently featured near the entrance of Eagle Stadium, and we are hoping to create some more banners in the near future. Thank you to Michelle Lilly for designing the banners, Roman Cuevas for taking the photographs, and the models Michael Turner and Angela O'Connor.



WTTA App

WTTA now has its very own app available through Team App! This app is a great way to stay informed about our club's latest news, have quick access to fixtures and standings, and instantly be alerted of any last minute changes. Thank you to Richard Lilly for getting this up and running, and the 60 members who have signed up already.

To download the App, please follow these instructions:

1. Go to your App store (available for Apple and Android devices, currently not available for Windows phones) and search for "Team App". You should see a green box with a "T" in the middle. Click to download.
2. Once it has downloaded, open the app and click "Sign Up". If you already have a Team App account, then simply log in.
3. To sign up you will need to provide an email address, a password at least 8 characters long and a few other details.
4. You will then receive an email with an "Activate Your Account" button. Click on this.
5. In Team App, type in "WTTA" into the top search bar and you will see us listed. Click to join.
6. You will have several options for membership - ignore these and click continue to gain immediate access.

If you have any problems downloading the App, please speak to your Grade Supervisor.

WTTA Annual Closed Championships

The 2015 Annual Closed Championships were held on 13th – 16th July. Thank you to everyone who participated in this tournament and congratulations to this year's winners and runners up!

A1

Singles Champion: Vikas Dhiman

Runner Up: Jack Bouchaud

Doubles Champions: Garry Keenan & Chris Hudson

Runners Up: Gerald Gallina & John Weightman

A2

Singles Champion: David Lupat

Runner Up: Gavan Hunter

Doubles Champions: David Lupat & Richard Lupat

Runners Up: Jack Borgartz & Nathan Farrugia

B1

Singles Champion: Jamie Taylor

Runner Up: Zahid Hossain

Doubles Champions: Zahid Hossain & Jason Robinson

Runners Up: Andre Mumford & Isaac Mumford

B2

Singles Champion: Tony Le

Runner Up: Cleve Fryer

Doubles Champions: Cleve Fryer & James Quail

Runners Up: Chris Diomides & Nishit Patel



2015 Winter Pennant Results

Congratulations to this season's winners and runners up!



A1

Aggregate Champion: Jack Bouchaud

Winning Team: Colosseum – Jack Bouchaud, Peter McKay & Brad Gibson

Runners Up: Fourth Floor – Garry Keenan, Mick Najdovski & John Lev

A2

Aggregate Champion: Richard Lupat

Winning Team: Lightning – Jasveen Singh, Gaurav Mahajan & Ray Dalton

Runners Up: Typhoons – Richard Lupat, Felix Nisenblat & Ted Powell

B1

Aggregate Champion: Zahid Hossain

Winning Team: Panthers – Zahid Hossain, Jason Robinson & Kevin Payne

Runners Up: Giraffes – Isaac Mumford, Edwin Sorto & Andre Mumford

B2

Aggregate Champion: Raymond Kho

Winning Team: Parrots – Tony Le, Raymond Kho & Cheryl Worthington

Runners Up: Falcons – Hee Sook Choi, Martin Draganski & Andrew Draganski

Thank you to everyone who came along to the Grand Final Night. It was a great night and it was wonderful to see so much support.



Our New Trophy Cabinet

We now have our own trophy cabinet! You can see a selection of some of our trophies on display in the corridor next to the Cafe at Eagle Stadium. Make sure you take a look when you walk past! A special thank you to Lauren Turner for setting up the cabinet and lending her trophies, and Richard Lilly and Garry Keenan for also letting us use their trophies for the display.



Upcoming Tournaments

Mornington Peninsula Open Veterans Tournament

20th September

National Junior Championships

26th September – 3rd October

Australian Veterans Championships

17th – 24th October

Australian Corporate Games Table Tennis Tournament

21st November

2015 Bairnsdale & District Table Tennis Association's Annual Keenagers Tournaments

21st – 22nd November

Albury/Wodonga Open Veterans Tournament

28th – 29th November

For more information, please visit the Table Tennis Victoria Website:
www.tabletennisvic.org.au

Know Your Committee

This issue's featured Committee member is Lauren Turner!



Lauren, also known as "Lozz", is the Vice President and Match Recorder of our club, and has been playing table tennis for five years. She works as a Secondary Teacher of Physical Education and Mathematics, and is known for being a bit of a perfectionist. All of her family and friends know just how crazy she is about netball - she has been playing it for 20 years! Lauren's favourite AFL team is the Geelong Cats, she loves pasta and Thai food, and she absolutely adores her pet cat Charlie.

What Do You Think?



If you have any ideas or would like to see something included in the newsletter, please speak to a Committee member or send an email to editor@wta.asn.au. We are always open to suggestions and submissions.

Stay In Touch!



Phone: Alan Thomson (President) - 0400 774 633



Website: www.wta.asn.au



Email: enquiries@wta.asn.au



Facebook: Werribee Table Tennis Association

Did You Know?



Table Tennis was banned in the former Soviet Union from 1930 to 1950 because the sport was believed to be harmful to the eyes.