



OFF THE BAT

Newsletter of the Werribee Table Tennis Association

Issue 3, December 2015

A Few Words From The President...

Hi everyone,

As the year draws to an end, I want to touch base on a few things that will impact our competitions next season.

Finishing Times

It is extremely important that we adhere to our finishing time of 10:00pm on all of our nights of play. For us to be able to do this, we need to ensure that matches are beginning on time at 7:30pm and it is the umpire's responsibility to ensure that warm up times before each match are kept to no more than two minutes.

Centre management is looking closely at all user group activities to ensure booking times are being followed. Whilst we are mindful of the importance of finishing on time, we also want to ensure that we are not rushing people through their matches to the extent that it detracts from their enjoyment of the competition. The Committee is looking at the viability of increasing our booking times on some of our nights of play and we will continue to explore our options around this issue.

Completion of Stage 2 of Eagle Stadium Redevelopment

Stage 2 of Eagle Stadium redevelopment is currently on track for completion in May, which will allow us to move to our permanent table tennis location. We are looking forward to moving into this space, which will be in the building under construction opposite to where we are currently playing. The court we will play on will have improved segregation from other sports, brighter lighting and less line markings on the floor. We will also have a dedicated storage space for our gear, so all of these factors should ensure a first class facility that all our players and visitors will enjoy.

Competitions

Our Committee is looking at a number of options in relation to offering our players, as well as new members, some additional competition. We are also considering some tweaking of our current competition structure and will continue to evaluate these concepts in the new year. Some ideas that we are looking at include:

- Restructuring A1 and A2 to form an additional grade (A3?) and considering the possibility of a two player team format with each match being the best of seven games.
- Introducing a doubles competition.
- Entering teams representing WTTA into Table Tennis Victoria competitions.

President's Award

Congratulations to B1 player Jamie Taylor who is the recipient of the President's Award for 2015. Jamie has been an active member of WTTA for several years and continues to develop and improve his game. He always displays great sportsmanship when participating in matches and his general conduct sets a wonderful example to others. He is always happy to help out with setting up and packing up, a fantastic ambassador for our club, and a very worthy winner of this award. Well Done, Jamie!



Spring Pennant

Thanks to all players who have participated in our pennant this season, and congratulations to all premiership and aggregate winners.

I wish everyone a happy and safe Christmas, and hope to see you back in January 2016 for our preseason practice nights, prior to competition resuming at the start of February.

– Alan Thomson

Welcome To Our Club!

Welcome to our new members Antonio Beshara, George Beshara, Dev Bharakhada, Joseph Cai, Li Cai, Felix Ha, Jules Kitson, Daniel La Rocca, George Lutfi, Vijay Manthena, Dean McGowan, Vijaya Mohan, Rakesh Raizada, Hong Song, Lauren Song and Mason Spagnolo who joined us during the Spring Season.

We are also pleased to welcome back Steven Stephanou and Ben Testa who returned to our club this season after an extended break.

Are You Playing Next Season?

If you are interested in joining our club, please call Gerald Gallina on 0432 485 591 or email us at enquiries@wttas.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.

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



- **Summer Pennant Grading:** 18th – 28th January
- **Summer Pennant Starts:** 1st – 4th February
- **Summer Pennant Semi Finals:** 9th – 11th May
- **Summer Pennant Grand Final:** 12th May

Please note: There will not be a Grading Night for B2 on 26th January due to the Australia Day Public Holiday.

Coaching



Coaching has now finished for 2015. The next session will be at 8:30am on Saturday 23rd January, 2016 at Eagle Stadium. If you have any questions, please call Gerald on 0432 485 591.

New Club Shirts

Our newly designed WTTA club shirts are now available! They cost \$25, which includes the option of having your name or nickname featured on the back. A total of 49 shirts were ordered for our first delivery and it has been great to see so many players wearing them. If you would like to place an order, please speak to your Grade Supervisor. A special thank you to Richard Lilly for organising these shirts for us.



Off-season Secrets

Footballers have a short break and then get right back into training for the next season. So should you! Here are our top three tips to help ensure that you are ready to conquer the Summer Pennant.

1. Practice, practice, practice!

The absolute most important thing to do is to keep playing regularly, as this will help you maintain (and hopefully improve) your form. If you do not have a table at home, Eagle Stadium has tables available for hire for \$8 – \$12 per hour.

2. If you are thinking of changing your bat, do it now!

With the Summer Pennant not starting until February, this gives you plenty of time to be able to get used to your new bat in time for the competition (providing you listen to our first tip, of course!)

3. Look on the internet.

There are various websites featuring blogs, videos and documents with great table tennis advice. Some of the best ones include:

- www.pingskills.com
- www.allabouttabletennis.com
- www.mhtabletennis.com

Do you know of any other table tennis websites deserving a special mention? Have you got any expert off-season tips you would like to share? Please send us an email at editor@wtta.asn.au.

WTTA App

We now have 68 members who have signed up to our App! This App is free to download and allows our players to receive regular notifications so you can stay informed about our club's latest news, have quick access to fixtures and standings, and instantly be alerted of any last minute changes. If you would like some help with downloading the App, please speak to your Grade Supervisor.

In Memory of Chris Horwood

We are deeply saddened by the passing of Chris Horwood on 13th October, 2015. Chris spent countless hours over the years volunteering his time to our sport. He was a former Committee member and coach for our club, played an important role in the creation of the Manningham Table Tennis Club, and previously held the position of CEO for Table Tennis Victoria. We are very thankful for all of his hard work and dedication. Our sincerest condolences go out to Chris' family and friends.

Upcoming Tournaments

January

National Hopes Challenge
16th – 17th January

February

Victorian Closed Junior Championships
21st February

Victorian Closed Veteran Championships
28th February

March

Bendigo Open Junior Tournament
6th March

Croydon Open Veteran Tournament
12th March

Croydon Open Junior Tournament
13th March

Croydon Open Senior Tournament
14th March

Warrnambool Open Junior Tournament
19th March

Dandenong Open Junior Tournament
26th March

Dandenong Open Senior Tournament
27th March

Dandenong Open Veteran Tournament
28th March

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

Graham Haynes Handicap Tournament

Our annual Graham Haynes Handicap Tournament was held on Friday, 13th November. The handicap rule always makes some exciting matches, which was certainly the case on this night! Congratulations to the winner George Beshara (B2) and runner up Daniel La Rocca (B2). Thank you to everybody who participated and Lauren Turner for organising the tournament.



2015 Spring Pennant Results

Congratulations to this season's winners and runners up!



A1

Aggregate Champion: Garry Keenan

Winning Team: Fourth Floor – Garry Keenan, Mick Najdovski & Jake Ballestrino

Runners Up: Point Cook – Gerald Gallina, Vijaya Mohan & Grant Bone

A2

Aggregate Champion: Jasveen Singh

Winning Team: Fantastic Three – David Lupat, Felix Nisenblat & Ray Dalton

Runners Up: Naughty Boys – Michael Luong, Roman Cuevas & Frank Vandenbosch

B1

Aggregate Champion: Angela O'Connor

Winning Team: Koalas – Angela O'Connor, Jamie Taylor & Chris Prosser

Runners Up: Panthers – Isaac Mumford, Andre Mumford & Hee Sook Choi

B2

Aggregate Champion: Daniel La Rocca

Winning Team: Penguins – Akram Ansari, Daniel La Rocca & George Lutfi

Runners Up: Hawks – Chris Diomides, Li Cai & Mason Spagnolo

Thank you to everyone who came along to the Grand Final Night. It was a great night and it was exciting to see such awesome matches!



A Visit From TTV's New CEO

We were fortunate to have the new CEO of Table Tennis Victoria Dennis Makaling attend our Grand Final Night. Dennis spoke to some of our members about the future plans for table tennis in Victoria. We thank Dennis for taking the time to visit our club and hope to see him again soon.

Gift Voucher Winners

Players who competed in all three pennants this year had the chance to win one of ten Affordable Table Tennis Gift Vouchers worth up to \$100. This draw took place on Grand Final Night. Congratulations to our winners Brad Gibson, Darren Birkett, Viv Ieng, Avik Roy, Martin Draganski, Parthiv Valera, Akrim Ansari, Jake Ballestrino, Chris Prosser and Steve Harris.

Season's Greetings!

The Committee wishes you and your family a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We thank you for your continued support throughout the year and look forward to seeing you again in 2016.




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@wttta.asn.au. We are always open to suggestions and submissions.

Stay In Touch!

 **Phone:** Alan Thomson (President) – 0400 774 633

 **Website:** www.wttta.asn.au

 **Email:** enquiries@wttta.asn.au

 **Facebook:** Werribee Table Tennis Association

 **Team App:** WTTA

Know Your Committee

This issue's featured Committee member is Gerald Gallina!



Gerald is the Secretary of WTTA and the Grade Supervisor of B2. He is also an accredited Level 1 Coach and runs coaching sessions on Saturday mornings. Gerald has been playing table tennis on and off since he was 18, and has been a member of our club since 1999. He currently competes in A1 and in Section 2 in the Veterans League at MSAC. Besides table tennis, Gerald enjoys playing and watching most other sports, walking, hiking, gardening, going to the cinema, dining out and going on holidays. He has three children and is currently planning an overseas trip to Japan next year with his wife Noelma.

Did You Know?



Early table tennis paddles were typically made of cardboard, cork or wood and covered with leather, cloth or sandpaper.