



OFF THE BAT

Newsletter of the Werribee Table Tennis Association

Issue 5, September 2016

A Few Words From The President...

Hi everyone,

This was our first Winter Pennant in our new area and what a chilly one it was!

The season consisted of some very close competition, including four count backs to determine the top teams and aggregate winners. Congratulations to all of the players who made it into the finals. It was wonderful to see members, families and friends come down to support players at our Grand Final Night. A special thank you to Michael Turner, Jake Ballestrino and the other members who helped set up. The night would not have been possible without your efforts and we are all very grateful.

I also want to thank everyone for making this one of the most successful seasons we have ever had, with our club now having approximately 120 members. This is fantastic and I look forward to welcoming more new members to our club next season.

As most of you are aware, our club held its first Trivia Night on 10th September. It was a wonderful evening and a great way to celebrate our 40th year. 72 people attended the event, with Table #7 being the winners. This night would not have been possible without the efforts of the Promotions Committee. Thank you to Chris Prosser, Michael Turner and Angela O'Connor for all of their hard work in organising such an exciting and successful Trivia Night. Another big thank you to the quiz master himself John Ballestrino for hosting the event and making sure everyone had a great time, as well as the other members who assisted on the night.

The Spring Pennant begins the week of Monday 19th September, so please make sure you tell your Grade Supervisor whether or not you are playing next season. We are looking at bringing in a couple of new changes, including splitting A1 into two separate grades, with the view of eventually filtering this down to the whole club. The Committee is also currently working on refining our club's rules to make them more user friendly.

To ensure we start and finish on time, it is really important that players arrive by 7:15pm to help set up, as well as pack everything away at the end of the night. We are looking at purchasing a lockable cabinet in place of the shelves in the storeroom, so keep a watch out for this new addition. This will provide us with a more streamline process and help keep our belongings safe.

In addition, Richard Lilly has been working hard on bidding for hosting the 2018 Veterans Table Tennis Championships. More than 500 players from both Australia and around the world will compete in this event, which can be hosted in Victoria only once every eight years. Thank you to Richard for all of his efforts with this. Fingers crossed we get this amazing opportunity!

I look forward to seeing you all again soon for another wonderful season.

- Lauren Turner

Welcome To Our Club!

Welcome to our new members Ben Adams, David Bartolo, Caleb Collett, Dimitri Djulai, Rezza Fallahpour, Mahdi Foraty, Ian Hasell, Steven Huang, Asif Hussain, Nathanael Levonian, Andrew Lutfi, Asrar Mohammed, Umar Mohammed, Aneruddh Nandakumar, Raymond Nguyen, Miguel Rodrigues, Nishad Shah, Zach Seychell, Samer Skaik, Peter Tegelaers, Scott Vanstone, Robert Worthington and Luke Zahra who joined us during the Winter Season.

We are also pleased to welcome back Earle Boulter and Russell McClelland 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 Lauren on 0402 526 857 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. The Spring Pennant is beginning the week of 19th September, so get in quick!

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.



New Competition – Tuesday Mornings



We now hold a weekly competition just for fun on Tuesday mornings!

Time: 9:00am – 11:00am

Where: Eagle Stadium

Cost: \$5/week

Call Gerald on 0432 485 591

Club Shirts

Our WTTA club shirts are still available for only \$25, which includes the option of having your name or nickname featured on the back. If you would like to place an order, please speak to your Grade Supervisor.



Dates To Remember



- **Spring Pennant Grading:** 12th – 15th September
- **Spring Pennant Starts:** 19th – 22nd September
- **Graham Haynes Handicap:** 21st October
- **Spring Pennant Semi Finals:** 5th – 7th December
- **Spring Pennant Grand Final:** 8th December

Coaching



When: Saturday mornings

Time: 8:30am – 10:00am

Where: Eagle Stadium

Cost: \$10/session

Call Gerald on 0432 485 591

Trivia Night

Our club held its first Trivia Night on September 10th. It was a great night filled with many laughs and a wonderful way to celebrate our 40th year. Thank you to everyone who came along and helped support our club. We hope you all had fun and congratulations to Table #7.

A special thank you to Chris Prosser, Lauren Turner, Michael Turner and Angela O'Connor for all of their hard work in organising the event, John Ballestrino for being an awesome host, Jack Holmes for being a great bartender, Russell Holmes and Andrew Scott for their assistance with setting up, and all of the people who helped clean up at the end.



Pacific Werribee Community Fair

WTTA was a part of Pacific Werribee's Community Fair held on 28th – 29th May.

It was fantastic to interact with members of the local community, gain new players for our club and see people have some fun. We also got the opportunity to have a hit of table tennis with AFL players Corey Enright and Mitch Wallis!

A special thank you to all of the members who took the time to help out over this weekend. We really enjoyed participating in this event and look forward to doing so again in the future.



Welcome To The World!

Congratulations to Andrew Scott and his wife Michelle on the arrival of their twins.

Mia and Roscoe were born on the evening of June 3rd one minute apart, weighing 3.267 and 3.4 pounds. How adorable are they! We are so happy for you and wish you the very best.



Farewell Greg

Greg Yu is leaving us for sunny Queensland. Greg has been a competitor in A1 for many seasons and a very valuable Committee member, acting as the A1 Grade Supervisor for the past two seasons. We sincerely thank Greg for his dedication and wish him the best of luck with his new venture.

With Deepest Sympathy

We are saddened by the recent passing of Mary Vandenbosch. Our sincerest thoughts and condolences go out to Frank and his family at this difficult time.

WTTA Annual Closed Championships

The 2016 Annual Closed Championships were held on 11th – 14th July.

Thank you to everyone who participated in this tournament and congratulations to this year's winners and runners up!

A1

Singles Champion: Samer Skaik

Runner Up: Parthiv Valera

Doubles Champions: Samer Skaik & Emmanuel Tongzon

Runners Up: Garry Keenan & Chris Hudson

A2

Singles Champion: Richard Lupat

Runner Up: David Lupat

Doubles Champions: Michael Luong & Richard Lilly

Runners Up: David Lupat & Richard Lupat

B1

Singles Champion: Dean McGowan

Runner Up: Jamie Taylor

Doubles Champions: Daniel La Rocca & Raymond Kho

Runners Up: Michael Turner & Jamie Taylor

B2

Singles Champion: Javier Rodrigues

Runner Up: Hong Song

Doubles Champions: Rohan Rodrigues & Javier Rodrigues

Runners Up: Dimitri Djulai & Daniel Desmond



2016 Winter Pennant Results

Congratulations to this season's winners and runners up!



A1

Aggregate Champion: Emmanuel Tongzon

Winning Team: Emfaton – Emmanuel Tongzon, James Wong & Samer Skaik

Runners Up: Far From Sober – Chris Hudson, Richard Bray & Trevor Blackhurst

A2

Aggregate Champion: David Lupat

Winning Team: Naughty Boys – Jamie Al-Hakkani, John Ballestrino & Michael Turner

Runners Up: Fantastic Three – Chris Slattery, Raymond Kho & Mark Hammett

B1

Aggregate Champion: Dean McGowan

Winning Team: Meerkats – Daniel La Rocca, Steven Huang & Chris Diomides

Runners Up: Hippos – Dean McGowan, Hee Sook Choi & Jack Holmes

B2

Aggregate Champion: David Bartolo

Winning Team: Pigeons – Li Cai, Nishad Shah & Simon O'Keefe

Runners Up: Penguins – Akram Ansari, Joseph Cai & Robert Worthington

Thank you to all of our members for another fantastic season!



WTTA App

We now have 108 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.

Upcoming Tournaments

HWATT Melbourne Open Junior Tournament
3rd September

Geelong Open Veteran Tournament
11th September

National Senior Championships
24th September – 1st October

National Junior & Cadet Top 10 Ranking Tournament
7th – 9th October

National Veteran Championships
14th – 22nd October

Geelong Open Junior Tournament
5th November

2016 Pan Pacific Masters Games – Gold Coast
11th – 13th November

Albury/Wodonga Open Veteran Tournament
26th – 27th 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 Russell Holmes!




Russell is the Vice President of our club and works as a Logistics Operations Manager. He currently plays in B1 and has been a member of our club for five years. In his spare time, Russell loves spending time with family, four wheel driving and going camping anywhere along the Murray River. He also loves to play and watch sport, with his favourites being AFL (barracking for Essendon Bombers), cricket, Formula One, and of course, table tennis. Besides sport, Russell enjoys watching crime documentaries on television and going out for a good meal, with his dislikes including stupid drivers, soccer, winter, the government, the media and Richmond Football Club.

What Do You Think?



This is your club! If you have any ideas for the newsletter or general feedback about our club, please speak to a Committee member or send an email to editor@wttas.n.au. We value your opinion and are always open to suggestions.

Stay In Touch!

 **Phone:** Lauren Turner (President) – 0402 526 857

 **Website:** www.wttas.n.au

 **Email:** enquiries@wttas.n.au

 **Facebook:** Werribee Table Tennis Association

 **Team App:** WTTA

Did You Know?



Although it is commonly thought that table tennis started in China, the sport was actually invented in England in the late 1880's.