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Table Talk

Sept 2016 Issue 9

Word from the President

I hope everyone is enjoying the competitive season. The last few months the Table Tennis community has been very busy with the National Junior Championships being held in Alice Springs in July, SA Country Carnival, various winter competitions being run across the state, a Tops and Level 1 coaching course as well as the tournament season.

In addition to this, TTSA has entered into an agreement with SportsPass – check out the article in this edition of Table Talk, as well as our website and Facebook page. Sporting Schools is also kicking along with TTSA's Development

Officer making good progress in contacting schools and affiliates to sign up to the program. If you missed TTSA's segment on SA Sports Show, check out the [Channel 44 website](#) for details or tune into Channel 44.

As far as TTSA goes, our policies continue to be updated and we are in compliance with our legal obligations.

Times continue to be busy, so check out the various articles in this edition of Table Talk to keep up to speed on Table Tennis in Australia and overseas.

Yours in Table Tennis , Paul

Sam wins Silver at the Rio Paralympics!

Well done and a huge congratulations to Sam Von Einem - from progressing through the club system, to state juniors now to medalist at Paralympics! Great job and congratulations to Sam, his family and all those that helped him get to where he got to, fantastic effort!

Sam narrowly lost a thrilling gold-medal playoff in his TT11 table tennis class, falling by three sets to two against world No. 1, Belgian Florian van Acker. It was Australia's first Paralympics medal of any colour in table tennis in 32 years, ending a drought dating back to 1984!



Can you help?

TTSA is looking for help to run this newsletter. If you have any experience in writing or publishing, and enjoy table tennis and are willing to help out, we would love to hear from you.

Contact the editor for more details at:

editor@tabletennissa.org.au

Every issue, the TTSA affiliated clubs are asked if there are any News Items, or past / upcoming events that they would like to see included in the next edition of Table Talk. Below are some of the news items received.

We're hoping to get more news items in future, as it's a great opportunity to spread the news about your club, or to promote upcoming events.

Alex Vanderklugt - Editor Table Talk

Adelaide Table Tennis Club

The Adelaide Table Tennis Club is running their Spring and Summer competition again. Although it might be a little late to join a team, they are always looking for fill-ins, so contact Alan Herman (0431987339) or the club to see if they can fit you in. A word from the club:

"Adelaide has been running this competition since the 1970s so we know how to run it for your enjoyment. We have the latest San Ei tables and Taraflex flooring and we provide two free BBQs and a tournament. And you can't beat the atmosphere and location of the venue."

Please contact me on 0431987339 if you have any questions or text me confirming your entry. I look forward to seeing you there. Alan Herman".



Brighton District Table Tennis Club

2016 SUPER LEAGUE SPRING COMPETITION

Brighton have started their Monday Nights 'super league' competition again. Although this competition has already started, they are keen for more players or fill-ins, so contact the club for more details.

"Adelaide's strongest standard Spring Competition. Matches played over two tables to guarantee finish around 9:30pm."



Woodville Table Tennis Club

Woodville are trying something completely different... a competition with cash prizes! Although the competition has already started, it's not too late to join in. See the flyer below for more details.

CashPong!
Spring Competition

Woodville District Table Tennis Club

Competition starts
26 September 2016
finishing with Harrys BBQ
on 12 December 2016

Weekly cash prizes
to the *Individual Winners*
in all grades

For enquiries please call
David: **0422 915 965**

Southern Table Tennis



Last school term, Sporting Schools programs were delivered to both Christies Downs and Flaxmill Primary. As a follow up, both schools engaged in an interschool challenge at the Southern stadium.

The students thoroughly enjoyed themselves with some very close individual and team matches.

Thanks to both schools for coordinating the challenge and selecting 12 students to come along from each school. Great atmosphere and a lot of fun had by all (pictured right).



Southern held a invitational event on Sept 6th this year. Great to see so many juniors at Southern from the Brighton and Adelaide Clubs to join the Southern juniors in a sausage sizzle followed by a fun night of table tennis.

A great initiative by the junior coordinators, something worthwhile repeating from time to time. The juniors certainly seemed to enjoy themselves. Well done all!



Ping-Pong-a-Thon at Brighton Table Tennis Club in October

The Brighton Table Tennis Club at 3 Grantham Road, Somerton Park is running a Ping-Pong-a-Thon event on the last weekend in October. I can hear you asking now – what is this all about? Well it's a fund raising event to assist young people who are being exploited in the world, particularly human trafficking in South East Asia.

Our club is running 3 x 3 hour sessions, one on Friday 28 October from 7.00pm, Saturday 29 October from 1.00pm and the last on Sunday 30 October from 1.00pm. I have promotional posters, participant brochures and sponsor cards which, if you contact me on 0466 380 266 or by e-mail dwalsh654@yahoo.com.au, I can send to you. If you wish to participate in this very worthwhile event then you can register as a participant at www.pingpongathon.com/register. Registration is simple and only takes a few minutes.

You then can attend any of the sessions at the Brighton Club as shown above and can also seek donations from family, friends, work mates etc. Details about how to pass on donations received is shown on the sponsor card.

If you just want to come along and play at any of the above sessions and give a donation without registering as a participant then that's OK too. I hope that many of you will participate in this innovative way of raising funds for a very worthy cause as well as having a great time playing ping pong (table tennis as we know it).

Dennis Walsh, Event Organiser for Brighton Table Tennis Club



Legends vs the Best - Whyalla Table Tennis Association

The Whyalla Table Tennis Club staged an outstanding new event at the end of May. A suggestion by Life Member Pauline Stanley some 2 months ago, where a team of current players test their skills against players from yesteryear – The Legends. Teams of 12 players were selected using the best of the Local Club versus “The Legends” with some players having not lifted a table tennis bat for some 15 – 20 years, and boy did it show!

Bob Morris, a real Local Legend with some 56 years of competing invited the old timers Dennis Robinson from Renmark, Kees Mors from Port Lincoln, Sue Gray from Port Pirie to join Bob, Terry and Elaine Evans, Rick Abraham, Darren Morris, Graeme Marsland, Robert Genahl, Pauline Stanley and Dean Tully to show the “new players” how it was done back then.

The night started with 100 players, family and friends having a meal and socialising prior to the start of play, then well into the early hours next morning. The play commenced with top Legends Ricky Abraham teaming with Dennis Robinson against Gary Copley and Andrew Gray. This was absolutely brilliant Table Tennis with these players all showing great skills. The real winner from this standard is the game itself. Dennis and Ricky still showed why they were the best in Whyalla in their era. This section was in favour of the Legends 3 matches to 2. The spectators looking on were very impressed with all Legend players with their retained skills, and being super competitive. The second pairing of Terry Evans and Bob Morris who are long time mates and were doubles partners for many years took on Andrew Grant and Terry’s son Dale Evans in an encounter that the Legends also won 3-2.

Bob Morris did comment to Terry later on the night that he did beat Andrew Grant easily, but he was unable to. Bob did not mention that he lost to Dale Evans whereas Terry won in 5 sets with great relief. Bob partnered Terry in a doubles against Dale Evans and Gary Copley which they won comfortable in 5 sets; 8-11, 11-9, 7-11, 11-7, 13-11. The third pairing of Robert Genahl and Darren Morris was also a close result, the locals snuck in 3-2. Genahl defeated Andrew Steny and Ashley Stokes with Darren Morris causing many headaches for the pair. Darren has not played for 15 years, but certainly the skills showed with a little practice his game would be back to a great standard.

Locals Ben Friedrich joined with top junior Anushka Mudilage to tackle Legends Sue Gray from Port Pirie and Graeme Marsland the ‘old crock’ from Whyalla. The locals were far too good, leaving the Legend Marsland still trying to pick up the pieces, and his body off the floor. Sue showed some real brilliance, being one of the top players the SA Country for years. Graeme did not look in top condition, but was well attired in his 1988 Country track suit. That looked better than his game! The Legend group lost 5-0. Pauline Stanley along with Elaine Evans showed the spectators that the ‘older’ women could really mix it with David Woolford and Chris Palm. Although not winning a match, each was played a very high standard. The girl’s went down 5-0. The last pairing of Port Lincolns Kees Mors and local Dean Tully struggled against Stephen Palm and Wayne Gurr. I did find out after that they did not want to show their old skill, but keep the peace for long term relations. The 5-0 loss was excellent to watch, with a massive amount of practice their game may come back.

The overall score was the local 22 to the “Legends” 8. This will become an event which will happen again. Bob will contact players from other parts of the State to come and have fun, socialise, and bring back memories (while they can remember). The “old Members” who returned to the clubrooms included Stephen Gray from Port Pirie, Life members Margaret Mors, Rosemary Morris, yesteryear players Geoff Giles along with Kevin Hurrell were present.

Bob Morris, Life Member Whyalla TTA



Picture L to R :Bob Morris, Gary Copley, Dale Evans and Terry Evans

Introducing SportsPass

Table Tennis SA has been working to provide all of our registered members and their families with a working solution designed to reduce the cost of playing the sport of table tennis. To achieve this Table Tennis SA has entered into a Partnership Agreement with SportsPass.



*your sport.
your reward.*

As a result of this work, all registered members of Table Tennis SA, who have provided an email address, received an email to say that '**Your Table Tennis South Australia Digital Membership Card is Coming Soon**'. If you haven't provided an email address, please advise TTSA.

What is SportsPass?

SportsPass is a dedicated member benefits program for Australian sporting clubs and associations that adds value to club and association memberships, whilst also providing a new funding source for Australian sport.

And best of all SportsPass is free to registered Table Tennis SA members of an affiliated club or association, joining hundreds of thousands of other sporting club members Australia-wide who will benefit from SportsPass.

Club and association members receive the SportsPass digital membership card via their mobile phone absolutely free as part of their existing membership, with physical supporter cards available for purchase for family and friends for \$25 per annum, with 50% of this cost being returned to the members club or association.

How does SportsPass Work?

SportsPass works in two simple ways.

Firstly, registered members of affiliated clubs or associations benefit by having access to a huge range of offers from retailers that will save them money. Offers include upgrades, 2 for 1 deals and discounts from hundreds of participating partners, many of which will be updated weekly.

Secondly, clubs and associations have the opportunity to raise much needed cash through rebates received when members use their cards with purchases from participating companies, including dozens of retailers such as Rivers, Katie's, Coles, David Jones, Quicksilver, Roxy, Clarks, Hush Puppies and more. Rebates that will return cash directly to clubs and associations range from 3-50%, offering recurring income annually whilst your members and supporters go about their daily lives.

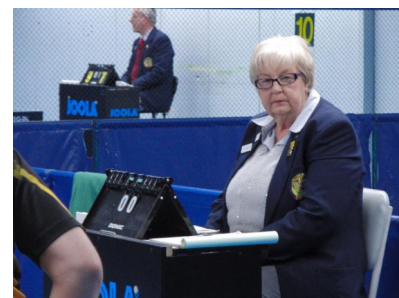
In addition global service and online providers such as Accor Hotels, Hilton Worldwide, Deals Direct, Budget Direct, iSubscribe and The Iconic are supporting the SportsPass program.

Table Tennis SA encourages our members to promote the supporter cards to all your family members and friends as this is an easy way to raise additional funds for your club or association. And of course, the more the SportsPass digital card and physical supporter card is used, the more money members will save, and the more funds you will raise for your club or association.

Eva Kruger becomes a National Umpire!

Congratulations to Eva Krueger (pictured right) for completing her National Umpire Accreditation at the Australian Juniors at Alice Springs!

Also congratulations to Bradley Faulkner and Marsha Guseva who are new State Umpires! SA had 5 umpires attend the Australian Juniors at Alice Springs!



Primary School Tournament at Murray Bridge

The first week of our annual primary schools teams event was held at Murray Bridge on Friday August 12th.

Thirteen teams from Callington, Echunga, Cobdogla, Spring Head Lutheran (Mt Torrens) and Keith Area School participated in round robin tournaments.

The students are to be commended for their sportspersonship and their parents/ teachers and supporters for their assistance during the day.

As a result of this day three boys teams from Cobdogla, SpringHead and Echunga and three girls teams from Cobdogla, Keith and SpringHead progressed to the Grand Final Day at Woodville on 19th August.



A great day was had by all and as in the previous two years the Blackfriars' boys dominated their section. Cobdogla was the successful girls' team. The results:

Boys: (maxim possible 21 points)

21 pts – Blackfriars
19pts – Paringa Park
15pts – Springhead
14pts – Cobdogla
14pts - Concordia Blue
13pts – Jamestown
11 pts – Echunga
7pts – Concordia Yellow

Girls: (maxim possible 9 points)

9pts - Cobdogla
7pts - Keith
5pts - Concordia
3pts - Springhead

2016 State Open and Youth Championship Results

Mens Singles:

S. von Einem d. M. Tunbridge 5, 7, 6

Womens Singles:

K. Crowell d. R. Martin -6, 9, 7, 5

Mens Doubles:

M. Tunbridge / J. Schubert d. S. Pandit / S. Houston 8, -10, 8, 8

Mixed Doubles:

M. Tunbridge / R. Martin d. T. Walker / K. Crowell 6, -10, 6, 9

Restricted Singles:

T. Walker d. M. Rogers 4, 6, 8

Restricted Doubles:

K. Neubauer / P. Wilson d. KC Tan / M. Townsend-7, -10, 7, 10, 9

Under 21:

Mens Singles: S. von Einem d. Y-X Tan 4, 6, 5

Mens Doubles: S. von Einem / B. Faulkner d. A. Wu / Y-X Tan 10, -5, -9, 8, 9

Restricted Singles: Y-X Tan d. A. Wu -10, 8, 10, 6

2016 Woodville Junior Tournament

The 2016 Woodville Junior Tournament was hold on June 26th at the Woodville Table Tennis Club. Here are the results;

Under 18

Boys Singles: L. Luong d. A. Wu 5, 9, -7, 6

Boys Doubles: J. Muecke / D. Langley d. L. Luong / I. Lee -7, 9, 6, -4, 9

Under 15

Boys Singles: L. Luong d. J. Muecke 14, 6, 10

Boys Doubles: L. Luong / I. Lee d. J. Muecke / D. Langley -8, 5, 6, -10, 7

Restricted Singles: L. Milsom d. M. Stevels -6, 8, -7, 8, 4

Under 13

Restricted Singles: B. Wu d. M. Thomas 9, 10, 9

Under 11

Singles: B. Wu d. M. Thomas 9, 10, 7

Smash Hit

Singles: M. Thomas d. S. Bellido 9, 8, 6

2016 State Open Veterans

The 2016 State Open Veterans was held on Sunday 7th August at the Woodville Table Tennis Club. Below are the results from the tournament.

Over 75-/Over 80:

Mens Singles: Cuong Du d. J. Kracht -9, 4, 9, -5, 4

Womens Singles: B. Bird d. G. Rapley 9, 9, 9

Over 70:

Mens Singles: D. McCloughry d. A. Smiech 9, -9, 10, 4

Womens Singles: C. Langley d. J. Coombes -10, 11, -12, 10, 7

Mens Doubles: A. Smiech / C. Du d. D. McCloughry / M. Collins 5, 5, 8

Womens Doubles: D. Darwent / D. Tiller d. B. Bird / C. Langley 5, 10, 9

Mixed Doubles: J. Kracht / B. Bird d. I. Vrbatovic / J. Coombes 4, 10, 8

Over 60:

Mens Singles: G. Abdilla d. G. Bungey 5, 7, 8

Womens Singles: A. Abbas d. C. Matthews 6, 4, 7

Mens Doubles: G. Abdilla / G. Bungey d. P. Fernandes / R. Trzesinski 3, 11, 7

Womens Doubles: J. Coombes / D. Darwent d. A. Abbas / L. Baker 6, 10, 7

Mixed Doubles: K. Tan / A. Abbas d. R. Trzesinski / C. Matthews 3, 7, 10

Over 50:

Mens Singles: S. Pandit d. K. Malyschko 8, -4, 1, 5

Womens Singles: K. Crowell d. R. Martin 4, 6, 10

Mens Doubles: D. Brand (V) / A. Vanderklugt d. D. & K. Malyschko 8, 7, 9

Mixed Doubles: G. Abdilla / L. Baker d. K. Malyschko / R. Martin 11, 7, 4

Over 40:

Mens Singles: P. Langley d. S. Pandit 8, -8, 9, 5



Womens Singles: R. Martin d. K. Crowell 2, 8, -5, 10

Mens Doubles: P. Langley / S. Pandit d. D. & K. Malyschko 7, 8, 9

Womens Doubles: K. Crowell / Cl. Langley d. C. Giang (V) / R. Martin 5, 5, 4

Mixed Doubles: P. & Cl. Langley d. K. Malyschko / R. Martin 6, 5, 9

Over 30:

Mens Singles: P. Langley d. A. Phan 9, -9, 6, 8

Womens Singles: T.H.Oanh Pham (Canada) d. Cl. Langley 7, 13, -9, 7

Mens Doubles: F. Ford / R. Weaver d. A. Phan/P. Du 9, -4, 7, 5

Mixed Doubles: P. & C. Langley d. R. Weaver / T.H.Oanh Pham 10, -5, 3, 12

Would you like to help?

TTSA is looking for help to run this newsletter. If you have any experience in writing or publishing, and enjoy table tennis and are willing to help out, we would love to hear from you.

Contact the editor for more details at: editor@tabletennis.org.au

Country Carnival 2016

The Country Carnival was held at the Murray Bridge Table Tennis Club on the weekend of July 2nd & 3rd. Well done to the country affiliates in joining forces at Murray Bridge for a very successful event.

A big turnaround on past years, 12 tables and a 13 hour day on Saturday to get through all team matches, and 12 tables also fully occupied for most of a 11 hour day on Sunday to get through the 38 individual events.

Well done to organisers Laurette, Sally, Claire and the Committee! On the next page are the finals results of the main events;



Country Carnival 2016 Results

Mens A Singles

Chris Gorman Jnr d Josh Jantosh 9,5,2

Women's A Singles

Laurette Norton d Barb Talbot 5,5,5

Mens A Doubles

Josh Jantosh/Scott Davies d Chris Gorman/Darren Lush Jnr -10,9,7,9,

Mixed A Doubles

Gary McDougal/Barb Talbot d Robby Tyas/Laurette Norton -7, 8, -9, 2, 5

Mens B Singles

Nathan Schubert d John Camillo -8,10,-7,8,5

Womens B Singles

Sarah Pilven d Easther Ratner 2,6,3

Mens B Doubles

Chris Gorman Snr/Ben McFeate d Stephen Palm/Charlie Braunack 8, 6, 4

Womens B Doubles

Marga Steele/Sarah Pilven d Amanda Schache/Elaine Matthews 7, -12, 10, -8, 2

Mixed B Doubles

Myahls Smith-Gurr/Deidre Solly d Ben McFeate/Elaine Matthews 2,10,6

Mens C Singles

Luke Wienke d Jacob Copley 12,-4,7,1

Mens C Doubles

Jacob Copley/Joshua Verhaaf d Nathan Rohlach/Tim Norton -10, -6, 9, 12, 8

Womens C Singles

Amanda Schache d Tania Palm 7,9,-5,2

Womens C Doubles

Dianna Shirley/Tenae Smith-Gurr d Sylvia Steny/Tania Palm 9,9,-13,8

Mixed C Doubles

Jacob Copley/Tenae Smith-Gurr d Diana Shirley/Luke Wineke 1,-8,10,10

18-39 Mens Singles

Hayden Wellington d Cyrus Wong 11,-8,4,6

18-39 Womens Singles

Sarah Pilven d Amanda Schache 3,4,6

Mens A Teams

Gt Southern (Chris Gorman Jnr, Darren Lush, Hayden Wellington) d
Murray Bridge 1 (Garry McDougal, Des Short, Robby Tyas)

Womens A Teams

Murray Bridge (Laurette Norton, Barb Talbot, Tamara Attrill) d
Gt Southern (Joy McKenzie, Jenny Porter, Sally Kunze)

Womens B Teams

Gt Southern (Deidre Solly, Elaine Matthews, Esther Ratner)

18-39 Doubles

Nathan Rohlach/Hayden Wellington d Cyrus Wong/Nathan Schubert 3,-10,-8,10,10

Over 40 Mens Singles

Chris Gorman Jnr d Denis Robinson -11,9,5,-8,8

Over 40 Mens Doubles

Chris Gorman Jnr/Darren Lush d Stephen Palm/Gary Copley 7,-8,5,4

Over 40 Womens Singles

Laurette Norton d Sally Kunze 6,4,6

Over 40 Womens Doubles

Barb Talbot/Laurette Norton d Sally Kunze/Elaine Matthews 7,6,3

Over 40 Mixed Doubles

Robby Tyas/Laurette Norton d Barb Talbot/Steve Hock -13,11,-7,-8,6

Over 50 Mens Singles

Dennis Robinson d Des Short 9,-6,6,8

Over 50 Womens Singles

Sally Kunze d Dianna Shirley 4,4,1

Over 50 Doubles

Dennis Robinson/Peter Rogers d Sally Kunze/Ian Morris 8,6,4

Over 60 Mens Singles

Des Short d Denis Robinson -13,-10,7,10,8

Over 60 Womens Singles

Sally Kunze d Deidre Solly -7,-8,8,6,5

Over 60 Doubles

Des Short/Gary McDougal d Geoff Haby/Rod Stoeckel 4, 6, -9, 0

U18 Boys Singles

Josh Jantosh d Ben Freidrick 12,6,3

U18 Doubles

Riely Burn/Josh Jantosh d Tenae Smith- Gurr/Ben Freidrick 7, 13, 1

U15 Boys Singles

Peter Mueller d Riely Burn 4,9,9

Mens B Grade

Gt Southern (Chris Gorman SNR, Ben McFeate, Peter Mueller) d
Whyalla (Stephen Palm, Wayne Gurr, Myahls Smith-Gurr)

Mixed C Grade

Whyalla 1 (Tania Palm, Joshua Verhaaf, Jacob Copley) d
Murray Bridge (Luke Wienke, Diana Shirley, Neville Rathjen)

2016 National Junior Championships

The 2016 Nationals Juniors Championships was held in Alice Springs, starting with the Opening Ceremony on Saturday 2 July and concluding with the Closing Function on Saturday 9 July. This year's travelling Party consisted of 29 people – athletes, team officials and supporters.



Overall, the teams performed very well, with 3 of the 4 teams missing out on a top 3 finish (finishing 4th) – with 2 of those teams (U15 Boys A and U13 Boys teams losing on countback for the bronze medals).

Throughout the week there were some excellent individual results in the team events as well excellent team spirit and support shown! Below is a snapshot on some of the performances throughout the week.

Without doubt, the 2016 National Juniors tournament was an excellent success – team harmony was as strong as I had seen it in the five years that I have attended

the event. Congratulations to all involved in what was a very successful and enjoyable week!

By Paul Langley

Individual Results

U13 Boys Doubles – Isaiah Lee – Gold
U18 Mixed Doubles – Marsha Guseva – Gold
U13 Girls Doubles – Sally Du/Jennifer Nguyen – Bronze
U15 Boys Doubles – Isaiah Lee/Liem Luong – Bronze

Order of Merits

Sally Du - U13 Girls #8
Isaiah Lee - U13 Boys #5

Liem Luong - U15 Boys #7
Marsha Guseva - U18 Girls #4

Honourable Mentions

U13 Mixed Doubles – Isaiah Lee/Sally Du – Quarter final
U15 Boys Doubles – Dyson Langley/Jay Muecke – Quarter final
U15 Boys Singles – Liem Luong – Quarter final
U18 Girls Doubles – Marsha Guseva – Quarter final
U18 Girls Singles – Marsha Guseva – Quarter final



City of Onkaparinga 2016 Veterans Tournament results

The City of Onkaparinga 2016 Veterans Tournament was held on Sunday August 21st at Southern Table Tennis. Here are the finals results of the main events;

O75 Singles - Final

Cuong Du bt Jurgen Kracht 4,-8,4,8

O70 Men's Singles - Final

Alex Smiech bt Cuong Du 4,-6,7,8

O70 Women's Singles - Final

Julie Coombes bt Cynthia Langley 12,2,-9,9,0

O70 Men's Doubles - Final

Jurgen Kracht/Alex Smiech bt Cuong Du/Allan Richards 18,6,7

O70 Women's Doubles - Final

Julie Coombes/Maralyn Dixon bt Cynthia Langley/Denise Tiller -4,-7,11,8,7

O70 Mixed Doubles - Final

Jurgen Kracht/Cynthia Langley bt Cuong Du/Maralyn Dixon 3,6,-9,6

O60 Women's Singles - Final

Chris Matthews bt Lorraine Baker -8,11,8,-9,2

O60 Men's Doubles - Final

George Abdilla/Greg Bungey bt Kok Chong Tan/Robert Trzesinski 7,7,4

O60 Women's Doubles - Final

Julie Coombes/Chris Matthews bt Alice Abbas/Lorraine Baker 6,5,9

O60 Mixed Doubles - Final

George Abdilla/Lorraine Baker bt Kok Chong Tan/Alice Abbas -8,8,2,12

O50 Men's Singles - Final

Trevor Walker bt George Abdilla -8,-6,8,9,9

O50 Women's Singles - Final

Kay Crowell bt Ruzhen Martin 6,8,-5,11

O50 Mixed Doubles - Final

Trevor Walker/Kay Crowell bt George Abdilla/Lorraine Baker 9,8,-7,14

O40 Men's Singles - Final

Paul Langley bt Trevor Walker 8,4,6

O40 Women's Singles - Final

Ruzhen Martin bt Kay Crowell -7,9,9,-5,7

O40 Men's Doubles - Final

Paul Langley/Trevor Walker bt David Malyschko/Kevin Malyschko 8,-9,7,-8,8

O40 Mixed Doubles - Final

Paul Langley/Claire Langley bt David Malyschko/Melissa Nottle 4,-10,5,7

O30 Men's Singles - Final

Michael Zhang bt Marc Townsend 5,7,8

O30 Men's Doubles - Final

Ken Neubauer/Riccardo Salvagno bt Matthew Lambert/Marcel Storken 9,9,10



Scott Houston at the 2016 Rio Olympic Games

I was fortunate enough to be part of the 2016 Australian Olympic Team in the capacity as table tennis Team Leader and Assistant Coach. My primary role was to be the key conduit between the Australian Olympic Committee and Table Tennis Australia to ensure that all logistical and administrative duties were completed. I was also responsible for assisting with the on-table aspects of the trip, both prior to and during competition.

Although planning for the trip commenced before the end of 2014, the duration of the campaign lasted just under a month. The team departed for a six day pre-competition training camp in Santiago, Chile on 26 July. We were accommodated by the Chilean Table Tennis Federation and they did a fantastic job in hosting us. They provided full access to their national training centre, provided their national team players as training partners and agreed to play a Test Match against us to finish off the camp. Our women's team won the Test Match 4-1 and our men's team lost 3-2.

The team checked into the Olympic Village in Rio on 31 July. It was an amazing experience to be inside the village – there were close to 30 18-storey apartment buildings that housed more than 10,000 athletes and thousands more officials from more than 200 National Olympic Committees. We held another five day training camp at the Olympic table tennis venue to put the finishing touches on our preparation.



Another highlight for the team was being able to march in the Opening Ceremony at Maracana Stadium on 5 August. A crowd of approximately 80,000 created a deafening noise as we walked into the stadium and it was phenomenal to see so many high profile athletes in the same place at the same time, proudly marching for their country.

The day after the Opening Ceremony was the first day of competition for table tennis. The singles events were first and as was to be expected, we faced stiff opposition. In men's singles David Powell lost 4-0 to Marcelo Aguirre (Paraguay) in the first round, while Chris Yan lost 4-2 to Aleksandar Karakasevic (Serbia). In the women's singles, Melissa Tapper lost 4-2 in the first round to Caroline Kumahara (Brazil). Flying the flag for Australia was five-time Olympian Jian Fang Lay. She beat Maria Dolgikh (Russia) 4-3 in the first round, Sofia Polcanova (Austria) 4-2 in the second round, before succumbing 4-0 to Yu Meng Yu (Singapore) in the third round.

The team events started the day after the singles events concluded. Up first was our women, but unfortunately they were unable to win a match against a highly skilled North Korean outfit, going down 3-0. The following day our men found it just as tough against much higher ranked Hong Kong, also surrendering 3-0. The brutal nature of Olympic table tennis means that all events are straight knock-out so there is no room for error; although we had chances we were unable to capitalise.

Despite our limited feats on-table the trip was still a success. With five out of six team members being Olympic rookies, the exposure gained on the world's biggest stage will hold them in good stead for the upcoming home Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast in 2018. On a personal level, it was an honour to be part of the 2016 Olympic Team and to be present for the world's biggest sporting spectacle.

By Scott Houston, Team Leader and Assistant Coach, 2016 Australian Olympic Team.



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QUIZ - Test your Table Tennis Knowledge!

This fun section tests your knowledge of table tennis and you might learn something new along the way. We will choose different topics each edition, with the answers to each question revealed at the bottom right (don't cheat!).

1. What's the new rule coming into effect in Australia from Jan 1st 2017?
 - a. Coaching will be allowed in-between points as long as it does not delay the game.
 - b. The point scoring system will revert back to 21 point games.
 - c. Serving two consecutive 'let' serves will result in losing the point.
 - d. Volleying the ball will become legal.
2. Before Sam von Einem won a silver medal at the 2017 Rio Paralympics, Australia has not won any medals in Table Tennis since which year?
 - a. 1902
 - b. 1984
 - c. 2010
 - d. 2014
3. Who has just become an Australian National Umpire?
 - a. Maurice Quinn
 - b. Scott Houston
 - c. William Henzel
 - d. Eva Kruger
4. What or who is 'Zermello'?
 - a. The latest and new TTSA Sponsor
 - b. A new international rating system that TTSA will implement starting this year
 - c. A piece of software for loading results into the Ratings Central database
 - d. Our new coach from China, who will coach our high performance team
5. How can you provide feedback about the new Winter Pennant changes?
 - a. You can't, TTSA does not accept feedback
 - b. Email TTSA at JunkMail@TTSA.org.au
 - c. Email the Match Director dlowe@tabletennissa.org.au



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What else would you like to see?

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Write to the editor at

editor@tabletennissa.org.au



Quiz answers: 1 a, 2 b, 3 d, 4 c, 5 c