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## 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](mailto:editor@tabletennissa.org.au)

## Word from TTSA President



As the 2018 TT season kicks off in earnest, it is important that we reflect on what was 2017 and the key highlights of the year:

- We continued building our **player pathways** with the introduction of our Smash Hits program - we expanded the program to include a north and south 'hub' with over 70 junior players competing on a weekly basis over the summer period (previously these beginners would stop playing over this time). Our Summer Smash Hits has been an amazing success and we will be looking at further expanding this in 2018 – with a review to be undertaken on how we can engage with our country affiliates in this exciting program.
- We continued to build on our **Female Friendly** coaching sessions with additional programs undertaken with further consideration to be given to hosting these events in the regional areas in 2018.
- We hosted two (2) **Coaches Forums** throughout the year with an opportunity provided to all registered coaches to attend – numbers have been fantastic and it is something that we will continue to focus on in 2018 to ensure we build a player focused coach culture.
- We hosted the 2018 Australian Senior and Youth Championships at The ARC in Campbelltown with excellent feedback provided by attendees and our national federation – Table Tennis Australia.
- We completely revamped our Winter Penant finals program and created a '**Super**

**Saturday'** – the feedback was a resounding success with the atmosphere electric! We will continue to build on this in 2018!

- We co-ordinated the **Country Carnival** and held a successful event in Murry Bridge – numbers continue to improve as does the standard.
- Our player pathway programs continue to provide opportunities for our players to progress through the ranks – we introduced a Para High Performance Program as well as continuing to provide Emerging Athletes, Development Players and our High Performance player's opportunities to develop and learn and take their game to the next level.
- Our results at National events continue to improve with the best overall results for our junior program, para players and youth players in years!
- Our state veteran's players continue to exceed expectations with a material number of medals, rankings and best ever personal performances in an ever-increasing high standard of play.... over 400 players from over 6 different countries competing. .... the veteran's scene continues to grow with new players representing the state and performing exceptionally well.....
- From a governance perspective we continue to **evolve our governance practices** and frameworks to support the sport in SA as well as all of our internal and external stakeholders.

The Board of TTSA is very proud of what we have delivered in the 2017 and we are very much looking forward to delivering a successful 2018.....

Best wishes for the season.

Paul Langley President/High Performance

## 2018 TTSA AGM and new Life Members

The TTSA AGM was held on Sunday 4th March 2018 at Sport SA, with a great turnout from most of the affiliates. The AGM is not only important to TTSA because it's a legal requirement, but it's an opportunity to reconnect with all the members, and acknowledge our achievements as a community. Paul Langley, President of TTSA, gave a detailed overview of how table tennis in SA is progressing, summarizing our achievements and challenges ahead.

What made this AGM particularly special, was the nomination, and acceptance after a vote, of two new Life Members. Life Membership is the highest honour that can be bestowed by the Association for longstanding and valued service to the Sport in South Australia. The two recipients of the life membership were Maurice Quinn and Greg Bungey, both of whom have been actively involved in Table Tennis for over 40 years, at local club level, as officials and also as key volunteers on the TTSA Board. Instead of boring you with the details and stats, here are a few questions I asked.

By Alex Vanderklugt - Editor Table Talk

### Maurice Quinn - Life Member of TTSA

#### **What are 1 or 2 of your greatest moments in table Tennis?**

Over my 40+ years of involvement, I have participated in a wide variety of table tennis activities, so it is hard to focus on just one or two moments. But the things that immediately come to mind include;

- Doing the 5RPH Table Tennis radio show for 12+ months,
- Table Tennis Level One Coach Of The Year in 1998,
- Coaching young players and being part of their skill development and growth to State Team representation, and in some cases Australian representation,
- Involvement with officiating and umpiring Jean Philip Gatien in a test match between Australia and France, and
- Being Non Playing Captain of a State Team which takes a gold team medal is a close fought match at National Junior or Youth Championships.....its fantastic to watch the players hard work come to fruition, and another goal being ticked off.



#### **What would you say to people that might want to become involved more in the running or management of table tennis, like you have?**

Table Tennis needs more skilled volunteers these days. The expectation and role of those managing table tennis is much more demanding than that of years ago. On the flip side, there is a lot of satisfaction in delivering a well run tournament or major event, helping junior develop in to highly skilled players or obtaining sponsorship or grants to fund particular projects which benefits the table tennis community. I encourage more people to get involved in volunteering, many hands help spread the workload.

#### **How do you think the future looks for table tennis in SA?**

It is a tough gig to promote and develop table tennis. In fact, in this day and age, it seems all sports are suffering. Attracting new players, particularly juniors, requires a lot of 'getting back to basics' in terms of getting out in to the community to attract participants to the sport. SA has a solid veteran base, and social table tennis (a hit, coffee and biscuit) seems to be on the increase and has a large influence on sport income.

SA is on the road to rebuilding in the junior ranks, with more work to do to reclaim our status at National level. I think affiliates need to work together and we need to recognize / embrace the many other table tennis groups silently operating in SA. Otherwise, it is going to take many passionate volunteers to maintain sport stability, and I think we may need to accept that social table tennis will have a greater participation rate than competitive participation.

## TTSA 2018 AGM and new Life Members

### Greg Bungey - Life Member of TTSA

I felt very honoured to be nominated and voted as a Life Member of Table Tennis SA at the recent Annual General Meeting. I am humbled to join the ranks of TTSA Life Members, people who I have enormous respect for and who over many years have given so much to the sport of table tennis.

#### **What are 1 or 2 of your greatest moments in table Tennis?**

To mention just 1 or 2 of my greatest moments is hard, so here are just a few.

Firstly, around 1994 the Country Carnival had ceased to happen for a couple of years and I felt that at the TTSA Board level there was not much occurring in regard to the development of Country table tennis. Together with a friend, Mr Keith Chellew, we developed a Country Plan for the resurrection of the Country Carnival, the creation of the position of a Country Director on the TTSA Board and the creation of a Country Committee to support the Country Director. With the support of many fabulous Country table tennis delegates and in my position as Policy & Planning Director I successfully put the plan to the Board and was delighted when it was adopted. That year the Country Carnival was held in Victor Harbor and has been running ever since.

Secondly, being a father of 2 children I have always strongly supported junior table tennis. One of the achievements that I have been most proud of was creating the State Junior League with the help of Mr John Matovanovic and the late Mrs Betty Jolley, this competition was successful and ran for a couple of years. Then in 2008 with the assistance of a Government Grant I introduced the Junior 'Smash Hit' program that was run by the then Table Tennis SA State Development Officer, Jessica Cabban. This again was successful and was aimed at increasing juniors within clubs by making the coaching a lot of fun.

Thirdly, In 1996 I was asked by Table Tennis Australia to write a manual on how to conduct a tournament. This I did which took about a year to write and was called 'The Ultimate Guide to conducting Table Tennis Championships'. I received a very nice letter from Table Tennis Australia acknowledging the fantastic manual which was great – Albeit, I don't think the manual was used much at all.

Fourthly, I qualified as an International Umpire in 1998. I umpired the Women's doubles final at the 2006 Melbourne Commonwealth Games, umpired a Men's singles final at the World Veteran's Championships in Auckland in 2014 and was the Chief Umpire at the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games of 2018 – These were all extremely exciting and satisfying moments.

However, I think my greatest moments in table tennis have been in watching the development of my children through their involvement in table tennis. An exciting, proud and most stressful moment was watching my daughter Kerry win the Australian U/18 Girls Singles Championships in Townsville, Queensland.

#### **What would you say to people that might want to become involved more in the running or management of table tennis, like you have?**

I very much encourage others to become involved in some management capacity in table tennis not simply because we need volunteers but because of the satisfaction that you achieve in making a contribution and in the personal development that you gain. The added advantage is that you make so many friends from people from all walks of life.

#### **How do you think the future looks for table tennis in SA?**

I think that the future of table tennis in South Australia is looking very bright. The key to success is having a committed Board that is focussed on good governance, good management and continued improvement; we have this at the moment under the Presidency of Paul Langley. But most of all there needs to be an atmosphere of positivity and I feel that we also have this in the sport at the moment. Table Tennis SA is in a strong financial position, the TTSA Winter Pennant competition is growing, the new junior Smash Hit program has been a success, tournaments are being well supported and we have a great communication medium with our Web Site, Facebook and this magazine 'Table Talk'.





## Summer Smash Hit & the Adelaide Cup

A key new initiative for TTSA was to run a Summer Smash hit program for juniors from various schools and local clubs. Keith Marsh, TTSA's Sport Development Officer, has been running this, with the help of clubs and a large number of other volunteers including club officials and parents.

The Smash Hit program ran from November 2017 till March 2018. There were two hubs in this program, the first "Southside" with players mainly from Adelaide, Southern and Brighton Table Tennis Club, and "Eastside" with players mainly from Payneham, East Adelaide, Houghton, Campbelltown and Vietnamese Table Tennis Club.

The program has been highly successful, with almost 70 players, with most players having a great time and looking forward to next season.

At the end of the season, it was decided to bring together players from the two Hubs (Southside and Eastside), to compete for a brand new event, the **TTSA - Adelaide Cup**.

From Keith Marsh:

*The games were of a highly competitive standard and played in the very best of spirits.*

*In the end, the rubbers were tied at 33 all and we had to go to games to decide the winning team. Southside came out on top 84-78 but clearly, Table Tennis was the winner on the day.*

*Throughout the day, players were constantly requesting updates on which team was winning as were many of the parents.*

*The TTSA Adelaide Cup was well received by all involved and I have no doubt, the 2019 challenge will be just as eagerly fought for!!!*



*I must extend my thanks to the helpers on the day, Kay Crowell, Michael Freegard, Heath Campbell, Phil Davies, Alvan White, Marcel Storken, John Gallagher, Graeme O'Shaunessy and Meg Marsh. Their valuable contribution ensured a great success.*







The Commonwealth Games ran from 4th to 15th April 2018. Unfortunately not a lot of table tennis was aired on TV, although a little more could be watched from the Commonwealth Games App or some videos that made it onto Youtube.

Although SA was not represented by any of our players, we were well and truly represented by people in other capacities. Our friends Wing, Glenn and Lenore (pictured above) were official umpires for many of the major matches.

We also had Greg Bungey, who's role was coordinating which umpires officiate which matches. A very complex task, managing 40 umpires, 25 from Australia, the rest from overseas!

We also had our very own Paul Langley as an official commentator for many of the table tennis matches, accompanied with William Henzell amongst a few others.





## Queen's Baton Relay

TTSA was invited to participate in activities provided at Adelaide Oval to celebrate the Queen's Baton Relay.

TTSA set up a marquee and provided 3 tables for the public in attendance to 'come n try'. Things were looking grim early with the rain persisting, forcing the 2 external tables to remain covered.

The weather did improve and the public started to make an appearance. The serve and knock down a coke can for a small packet of chips proved attractive to the young, and others enjoyed a hit on the other 2 tables.

Thanks to Kay, Marsha and Dyson for helping to set up and deliver the activity for the public to enjoy.



## Geelong to host 2018 Table Tennis Australian Open Platinum Series

ITTF-Oceania is excited to announce that the Australian Open will be staged in Geelong, Victoria from the 24-29 July. As part of the ITTF World Tour, the Platinum Series event will see the world's best athletes coming to Australia to compete for over **315,000USD in prize money**.

The event will be an opportunity to promote table tennis and capture the public's interest. The tournament will also increase the local competitive scene, providing a promising high performance environment for Oceania athletes.

The City of Geelong is enthusiastic about the prospect of hosting the event for the next three years.

Bruce Harwood, City of Greater Geelong Mayor: *"It's great to have that continuity, it'll build as the event grows over the three year period. We hope that the quality of the event grows and gives Geelong huge exposure in Asia and in other parts of the world."*

More than 150 athletes from around the world are expected to attend the five day event. Want to see some of the best players, just over the border? Check it out, it will be a great event!







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**DATES** 14 - 19 October 2018  
**MINIMUM AGE** 30  
**COST** \$70 per person plus \$70 Games Levy  
**COMPETITIONS**  
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**AGE CATEGORIES**  
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 Doubles & Teams Combined Age 70 - 110,  
 111 - 130, 130+  
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 Paul Martin  
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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!).

- Where will the 2018 Australian Table Tennis Open, a Platinum event, be held in 2018?
  - Geelong
  - Adelaide
  - Gold Coast
  - Perth
- Who, pictured right, received '50 years as a life member of TTSA' at the 2018 TTSA AGM?
  - Greg Bungey
  - Cynthia Langley
  - Brian Howard
  - Bill Oatey
- Where will the 2018 Masters Games be held this year in October?
  - Darwin
  - Hobart
  - Alice Springs
  - Townville
- What if the official ball for the 2018 Winter Pennant Competition?
  - DHS 40+
  - DHS D40+
  - Nittaku Premium 40+
  - Butterfly G40+
- Which SA Player has been appointed the Table Tennis Australia CEO?
  - Steve Dainton
  - Scott Houston
  - William Henzell
  - Phil Males



### Newsletter Feedback

Do you like the type of articles and content in their Newsletter?  
What else would you like to see?

We'd love to hear your comments and feedback, which we will use to make this newsletter more useful and enjoyable to read.

Write to the editor at

[editor@tabletennissa.org.au](mailto:editor@tabletennissa.org.au)

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