

November 2012 Newsletter

Annual General Meeting

We will be holding our annual general meeting on Monday the 26th of November 2012. I have recently had a look back at the reports from the last 10 AGM's and the recurring theme in all those reports is that it would be good to see some new faces involved in helping run our club. At the moment we only have a very small committee who have done the job for many years and are managing to run the club in an efficient manner. However it would be great to have a broader group of people to give their opinions at meetings and to eventually assist with some of the tasks that need to be done in running a table tennis club. If anybody wants to find out more then please have a chat with one of the current committee members.

Air Conditioning

With the warmer weather coming I thought I should provide an update on what has been occurring with our air conditioners. Last year many of you would have noticed that the air conditioners were not working very well. After a lot of work by Geoff GOSS this winter in liaising with council and various air conditioning experts it was established that due to our stadium having a very low water pressure that almost no water was making it into the air conditioning units. Not a good thing for an evaporative air conditioner. A solution to the water problem has been implemented and hopefully we will now have a much more efficient air conditioning system than last year.

Warm up etiquette

While reading through some table tennis forums on the internet I came across an interesting discussion in relation to warm up etiquette. There were many complaints about players not hitting to a set spot or pattern and just hitting balls all over the place and playing as though trying to win points. The accepted protocol for the **2 minute** warm up before the start of a match is to play a series of controlled forehand to forehand shots and then some controlled backhand to backhand shots. Players may throw in some more aggressive shots but they should not be the norm. The warm up is purely for **both** players to get a feel for their strokes and to get their bodies moving.

Plastic Table Tennis Balls in 2014

The I.T.T.F. has decided to ban celluloid balls by the year 2014 and table tennis companies are now developing one piece plastic balls to take their place. The reason for the ban is that the production of Celluloid is very toxic and is being banned in many parts of the world. William HENZEL has had a hit with a version of a plastic ball and has posted a good review on the internet. In summary he believes that they still have a bit of work to do to get the feeling of the ball right and that the ball appears to spin less than celluloid balls. It will be interesting to see how the development of these new balls progresses and how much of a change we will notice in how they play when they are finally introduced.

Results on the website

Many of you have probably noticed that the results for the first 4 weeks of our spring competition were not able to be viewed on our website. This was because the computer on which the results are calculated had crashed and our computer expert in Brian JAMES was away helping out at the Australian Open Veterans Table Tennis Championships in Canberra. He is now back and the results are once again available on our website. At the moment the individual percentages cannot be viewed but hopefully that will also be fixed soon.

Marcel STORKEN
President Southern Table Tennis.