

# May 2016 Newsletter

## Winter Competition

It is great to see we have 96 players for the 2016 winter competition and we were able to spread the players evenly between Wednesday and Thursday nights. There were actually 98 applicants but in order to make the competition numbers balance Ray NEULING and Catherine LINDUS were happy to be reserves.

Some of the interesting facts about the winter competition are

- 26 players from summer have dropped out for various reasons.
- 22 former players/reserves that didn't play summer are back for this winter season.
- Only 2 new players to our club and they both have competition experience.
- 4 people playing on both nights.
- 2 divisions and 48 players on each night.
- All the Wed night div 2 players had rankings which would have qualified them for div 1 on Thursday nights.
- There is only 1 player on Wednesday nights who also could have played Thursday nights due to their availability and ranking.

Due to the number of players who could only play on Wednesday nights we had very little choice about how to set up the competition. We did look at trying to bring 6 players over from Thursday nights to Wednesday so that we could avoid having 5 person teams and to strengthen up division 2 but we just couldn't make it work.

We hope you all have a fun and competitive winter season.

## 5 person teams

We normally try to avoid 5 person teams but this season with the mix of players we had and the need to provide as many players as possible with competitive seasons it was the obvious way to go. Previous criticism of 5 person teams has been about the flow of matches for the number 2 players so we have made a minor tweak to the order of matches. With the tweak if the number 1 player plays in the last doubles and with 2 tables being available no player should have a gap of more than 2 matches between when they play. There are 19 matches to be played on two tables but there are also 2 spare tables available each night. The best opportunity to jump onto the spare tables with 5 person teams is during the first round of singles and towards the end of the night. It also works best if the matches are played in the order listed on the scoresheets.

## Thanks Jenny POOLE



After almost 10 years as our recording secretary Jenny POOLE has decided it is time to devote some more time to her other interests and is resigning as recording secretary. Her main task has been to collect the weekly competition results and record them onto our database. It takes a fair bit of dedication to do this every week especially when also raising a young family. We would like to thank her for her contribution to Southern Table Tennis and wish her all the best in her other endeavours.

## Thanks Tom GRACE

We would like to thank Tom GRACE for picking up the job of entering the competition results onto our database. Tom has been a player at the club for quite a few years now and for the last couple of seasons has been playing on both nights of the competition. Please help make Tom's job that little bit easier by filling out the score sheets neatly and correctly while also making sure to enter the full names of players at the top of the score sheet or when you have fill in player's.

## LED lighting

In a major coupe for the club we have been able to participate in an AGL free fluro replacement program where AGL have very generously replaced all the lighting in the playing area with LED Fluro tubes. We had investigated doing this ourselves previously but due to the high cost involved had put this on hold pending LED lighting becoming cheaper. Hopefully this will see a further reduction in our power bills which prior to the solar panels being installed had on several occasions exceeded \$2000 a quarter. Well done to Geoff GOSS on liaising with AGL and ensuring that we were able to benefit from this program.



## City of Onkaparinga Junior Tournament



Southern Table Tennis will be running the City of Onkaparinga Junior tournament on Sunday the 29<sup>th</sup> of May 2016. This is a great opportunity for Southern juniors to compete in a sanctioned tournament against players from other clubs in a home environment. On the day Keith from "Keith Hart Table Tennis" will be running a sausage sizzle as well as conducting a paper plane challenge. Entries close on the 16<sup>th</sup> of May and we would really like to see as many juniors from Southern as possible taking part.

## Polo top for volunteers

We now have a club polo top for volunteers to wear when doing activities such as promotional work or coaching. We will be giving these polo tops to volunteers and we are also still working on a club polo top for players to wear. In the last month we have done displays at Ramsay Place, Clarendon Primary School and participated in a national youth week event at Seaford. We also had about 200 students from Morphett Vale East primary school visit the hall for a hit. Hopefully having volunteers at these events wearing a club polo shirt will help present Southern Table Tennis in a more professional manner.

## Fun Round Robin Nights

In the two week break between the summer and winter competitions we held some fun round robin nights which attracted about 28 players on each occasion. It was good to see some people who are not taking part in our competitions also come out for a hit. These nights were very informal with no umpiring and players competing just to win their round robin groups. We varied how the round robin groups were run depending on the mix of player abilities and the size of the groups with some people playing best of 5 games while others did the best of 3 games. Keep an eye for these type of events in the future as they are good fun and you get to play plenty of table tennis.

