

Southern Table Tennis

March 2017 Newsletter

Rapid Fire Round Robin Tournament – ***entries close Thursday 30th of March***

In the style of T20 cricket Southern are running a Rapid Fire Round Robin Tournament on Saturday morning the 1st of April. Players will be placed into round robin groups of 10 people according to ability and play 9 best of 3 game matches. This tournament is being organised to encourage people who do not normally play in the sanctioned tournaments to enter and have a go. The emphasis will be on keeping it fun and the tournament has been advertised with several different clubs and associations. So far almost half the entries are from players not currently competing in the Southern Summer competition and there is a large variety in player abilities. There are still places available so if you wish to play then please contact Marcel on mobile 0417 870 181 or email president@southerntabletennis.org.au ASAP. The full details for the tournament are available on our website.

Summer Competition



The 2017 summer season has had a number of hiccups with more than a normal amount of players dropping out due to various reasons. This has caused us to have to reduce division 4 to a 6 team competition and redoing the schedule. This had some unforeseen flow on effects with our databases. Unfortunately we are now unable to produce a player percentage sheet and the premiership table for division 4 is required to be manually updated. You can still check out how you are going relative to other players by looking at Ratings Central.

On Thursday nights we have been trying something different by providing the number 1 players in division 3 an extra singles match at the beginning of the night against a number 3 player from division 1. We did this in order to provide the number 1 players in division 3

an opportunity to earn enough ratings points to press for inclusion in division 1 next season. The first few weeks were a bit confusing as everybody got familiar with how it worked but players now seem to have adapted and it doesn't seem to be adding much time onto the night. This experiment is producing exactly what we were hoping for in terms of ratings results. However the extra match is making the beginning of the night much busier than was expected which is causing some issues. Unfortunately the negatives probably outweigh the benefits so will not be looking to set up the competition with this type of extra match again.

Southern Winter Competition

The 2017 Southern Winter Competition will take place from Wednesday the 3rd of May and run for 16 weeks. The entry forms are now out and due by Friday the 21st of April. If you know anybody who is not currently playing but might be interested please encourage them to enter. Any new players need to contact us ASAP so that we can ensure we have time to work out where you will fit into the competition.



TTSA Winter Competition

Unfortunately we did not have enough interest from players for the TTSA Winter Competition to nominate any teams for this year. We were very close to forming one team but it didn't quite happen. We are really keen to have some teams representing Southern Table Tennis next year so if you think you might be interested then start talking to other players now to drum up some interest.

Club Polo Shirt

Ajana



Ajana



Toggle garment view

We have been looking at introducing a club shirt for quite some time now and have finally settled on a design. As green is our club colour it features prominently in the colour scheme of the shirt. Due to the manner in which shirts can now be easily made to order we will actually be offering two different versions of the same design. One with black on the top half and green on the bottom and the other with these colours reversed so that the green is on the top part and black at the bottom. The shirts are slightly different from those pictured as we have made some slight changes to the collars and a Southern Table Tennis logo is on the left hand side of the chest.

The shirts will be made to order and will initially be sold at cost price which we expect to be \$40. Samples for viewing and an order form will be available shortly in the canteen. So please check them out and consider purchasing one.

Term 2 Southern Junior Competition

We will once again be holding a team based junior competition between 7 pm and 8.30 pm on Tuesday nights during school term 2. This competition is suitable for juniors who are capable of playing matches unsupervised. For juniors who are not going to play in the competition we will still be offering a junior coaching session from 6 pm to 7 pm and limited coaching spots depending on table availability from 7 pm to 8.30 pm. If you are interested in playing then please email president@southerntabletennis.org.au or SMS 0417870181 with your name, DOB, address, email address and phone number indicating you are interested in the junior competition. The total cost for the competition is \$50 and further details are available on our website.

TTSA's Summer Smash Hit Program

The final round of this highly successful junior program finished on Saturday morning the 11th of March at Southern Table Tennis. Over 48 kids of all abilities took part in the 11 week competition which was played at both Brighton and Southern table tennis clubs. This program has been a real eye opener as to what can be achieved with junior table tennis and TTSA will be looking to expand the program even further next summer. A lot of the success of this program is due to Keith MARSH who is the Table Tennis Australia state development officer and who has been managing the competition. Special thanks must also go to Max COLLINS from Brighton Table Tennis Club who has done a lot of the recruiting and has been assisting Southern with our own sporting schools program.

Tuesday and Friday morning social group

The Tuesday and Friday morning social group keeps building in popularity and we have now reached the situation where on occasions more than 50 people are attending. It is fantastic to have a full stadium as it creates a great atmosphere. These sessions are about more than just table tennis as the social side is also very important with some people turning up even when they can't play to just have a coffee with the group. The group recently ran a BBQ at the end of one of the Tuesday sessions which had a great turn out. We would like to thank Greg, Mark and Sandra for taking the initiative in organising and managing the BBQ.

Plastic Ball Update



The new DHS D40+ plastic ball

The quality of plastic balls and the variation in their playability continues to receive a lot of criticism world-wide and is a hot topic on many table tennis forums. As many of you would be aware Southern tried the seamed DHS 40+ ball which is currently used by TTSA but the ball would not even last through one night of competition play. We have since switched to the seamless Yinhe 40+ ball which has proven to be very durable. The problem is that anybody playing in the TTSA competition and at Southern needs to deal with two different styles of ball.

This issue may soon be solved as ball manufacturers are now introducing a new type of plastic with which they can produce durable seamed balls with good playing characteristics at a reasonable price. Reviews of the new DHS D40+ ball have been very positive. At the moment they are only available direct from China but as manufacturing ramps up they should soon be available in Australia. Hopefully we will then be able to revert to using the same ball as is used in TTSA competitions.