

## Memories of 1973:

by Alvan White



### The start of Southern Table Tennis.

There were 3 clubs, each with 2 teams, all in 1 grade.

Each team was strictly 8 players, 4 men and 4 women. Men played men, and women played women, and each person played 2 singles and 1 double.

Port Noarlunga played in the Institute, on just 2 tables.

Port Noarlunga Cockles was run by Harry and Sue Cowgill. (Winners in 74).

Port Noarlunga Mussels was the Dyke family (Tom, Maia, Brod and Ingrid) plus their friends including Colin Pix and Ted Oakley. (winners in 75).

Morphett Vale played in the Hackham Hall using 4 tables. There was sometimes a problem with slippery floors if "DanceO" had been used to help the couples glide around.

Morphett Male Black was captained by Geoff Goss, who is our Treasurer of course!

Morphett Vale Red was captained by Ron Hill, and I was in this team, along with Fred Biggerstaff.

Happy Valley started in the Happy Valley Hall, but soon moved to Braeview Primary, and later to Happy Valley Primary using 4 tables. Of course their teams were the Devils and the Demons. Eric Mason was Captain of one of these teams.

It is interesting that Eric Mason and Fred Biggerstaff migrated to Australia on the same ship, and played table tennis for practically the entire trip!

After just 4 weeks, there were a huge number of extra people wanting to play, so 2 extra teams were added, and the programme was re-written.

Morphett Vale White was formed, by re-shuffling the players and having our home matches at McLaren Flat for the remainder of the season.

Happy Valley Tigers was the other new team.

1973 Champions were:- Stuart Collins, Val Laaring, Murray Reid, Chris Young and ladies Gaynor Waites, Aileen Jordan, Yvonne Burton and Marilyn Jackson.

1973 SEASON

**TABLE TENNIS**

After the completion of the Southern Table Tennis season, the percentages of the 16 most successful men and women are listed below.

**MEN** — T. Dyke 41 wins 1 loss 97.6%; J. McArdle 16-2, 88.2%; V. Laaring 20-4, 83.3%; G. Tode 11-3, 78.6%; S. Collins 31-9, 77.5%; B. Dyke 31-11, 73.8%; C. Probyn 13-5, 72.2%; J. Jensen 23-9, 71.8%; E. Mason 19-9, 67.8%; R. Hill 24-12 and P. Hansen 16-8 each, 66.6%; J. G. Goss 24-14, 63.1%; J. Martin 22-16, 57.8%; C. Pix 24-18, 57.1%; R. Perry 18-14, 56.2%.

**WOMEN** — C. Probyn 12-0, 100%; M. Dyke 40-2, 95.2%; F. Guerin 15-1, 93.7%; J. Haines and P. Darnell each 32-4, 88.8%; P. Martin 28-3, 77.7%; S. Cowgill 30-12, 71.4%; P. Sutton 24-10, 70.6%; H. Robertson 26-12, 68.4%; K. Wilson 24-14, 63.1%; Y. Burton 26-16, 61.9%; R. Crocker 21-13, 61.7%; J. Perry 24-16, 60.0%; G. Waites 26-18, 59.0%; B. Christie 19-15, 55.9%; K. Alcock 18-16, 52.9%.

The Morphett Vale Club is holding practice nights in the Hackham Hall on Tuesday nights over the summer season.

Any person interested in playing table tennis, whether a member of the Morphett Club or not, is invited to attend.

**In the next few years** I started up the **Christies Beach High School** club, Keith Beens formed the **Hills Industries** club. And other new clubs were **Sola International, Christies Beach, Calvary, Pimpala, Reynella South, Youth and Friends, Onkaparinga, Reynella East High School** and Just recently **All Stars** (Started by Keith Beens).

There were always more men than ladies, and the rules had to change. We had:-

4men	4women
5men	3 women
6men	2women
5men	1woman

And now we just play in 3 or 4 person teams in order of merit.

The only people still around from 1973 are:-

Alvan White  
Eric Mason  
& Geoff Goss.