

## Table Tennis South Australia

### Inside this issue:

Changing of the Guard	1
Table Talk resurrected!	1
Sam von Eimen does SA proud!	2
Vy Bui goes for Gold!	2
State League Facebook page	2
Wakefield Emergency Sponsor	2
Brighton Table Tennis	3
Port Lincoln Table Tennis	3
TTSA Pathways Program	4
Langley earns State Title	4
New Poly balls introduced	5
South Aussies play Internationally	5
QUIZ - test your knowledge	6

### Can you help?

TTSA is looking for help to run this bi-monthly 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)

## Changing of the Guard at TTSA



**Chris Leonard - President of TTSA for 12 years**

After 12 years of service to the Board of TTSA and over 30 years involvement with Table Tennis in the state, Chris Leonard decided not to stand for election at the 2014 Annual General Meeting. Chris has overseen some exciting changes in the sport over the years and has always been a passionate advocate for the sport championing the game and its cause! On behalf of the Board of TTSA and the broader Table Tennis community, I would like to thank Chris for his efforts over the years – his knowledge will be missed!

As a result of Chris not standing for election, I was elected as President of TTSA. By way of background, my parents and I have had a long history in Table Tennis, over 50 years, as administrators, officials and athletes. On a personal note, I have represented South Australia and Australia at numerous domestic and international events, including the Olympic Games, as well as winning 12

Australian titles and numerous Oceania titles. I am a Level 3 accredited Coach and was National Team Manager and National Women's Coach from 2006 (including at the 2008 and 2012 Olympic Games).

I am proud to take on the President's role and am looking forward to the challenges and opportunities that this role brings. One of the key actions undertaken over the last 6 months was the formulation of the 2014 – 2017 Strategic Plan which was launched at the 2014 AGM. This plan details the key activities and priorities of the Board over the coming years and the opportunities that exist within the sport. The Board of Table Tennis South Australia is focussed on building the sport and engaging with the broader Table Tennis Community to build the sport that is played by so many. Part of the strategic plan, included a number of key activities that are to be undertaken, with the priority to begin engaging with the broader Table Tennis community to understand their needs and identify ways that we can work together as a bigger team.

I encourage you to have a look at the plan, located on our website, <http://www.tabletennissa.com.au/About-Us/Governance>, please have a look at the plan and feel free to provide feedback on the direction and key activities that are planned.

There are some exciting opportunities to build the sport within the community and create an environment that enhances communication between all parties and we look forward to working with you for the benefit of all.

Yours in Table Tennis, Paul

Paul Langley  
President Table Tennis South Australia

## TTSA resurrects the Table Talk Newsletter!

The Table Talk Newsletter is back!

The TTSA Board feels that a newsletter is a great way to share our stories and news, and an effective way to bring the table tennis community together... and together we can achieve so much more for our sport, rather than groups of isolated communities spread all over our state.

The plan is for bi-monthly publications, distributed online and via Email, with the possibility of printed copies as well. I'd like to cover a wide range of topics, including TTSA news, player highlights, club news, Interna-

tional issues, rules, etc.

This newsletter is intended for everyone that participates, or has an interest in table tennis in SA. We want this to be YOUR newsletter, so we're counting on some feedback and thoughts on what you think of it, and what you'd like to see in future publications.

No doubt we all enjoy reading about the achievements of the top players of our game, like the recent great results from Sam von Einem and Vy Bui in this issue, but we'd also love to hear your stories about your club or

members who might have something interesting or inspiring to share.

If you've got some ideas, pictures or stories to tell, please contact me with suggestions. If you'd like to contribute in other ways we'd love to hear from you as well!

We're going to do our best to keep this newsletter up to date and interesting, and we're hoping for your support by sending us news-worthy snippets, and help with distributing to all those that might be interested!

Alex Vanderklugt (Editor)  
Marketing Director TTSA

## Sam von Einem does South Australia proud!

South Australia's own, Sam Von Einem, has been kicking goals recently which has culminated in Sam being named Table Tennis Australia's 2014 Para Athlete of the Year!

Sam recently joined Table Tennis Australia's Athletes with Disabilities (AWD) national squad and competed in a number of national and international events in Europe.

Sam had some fantastic results including:

1. Winner of Class 11 at the 2013 Oceania Para Regionals
2. Bronze medal in Class 11 singles at both 2014

Hungary Open and Italian Open

3. Open singles and class 11 singles winner at the 2014 National AWD Championships

Along the way, Sam defeated the no. 2, 3, 5, 6, 11 and 14 world ranked players including the Gold medalist from the 2012 London Paralympic Games! All of these results culminated in a current world ranking of no. 3.

Sam has definitely taken the next step in his game and is looking at doing South Australia and Australia proud!

Go Sam!



Sam Von Einem wins the 2014 Para Athlete of the Year award!



## Vy Bui goes for Gold!

Adelaide's 18 year old Vy Bui is having a spectacular year, winning 5 gold and 1 Bronze medal at the Oceania Cup and Championships.

She followed this up winning the Oceania Youth Olympic Games Qualification tournament in the Cook Islands in May this year. In

the final she defeated Sarah Tan (NSW) 4-1 to book her place for the 2014 Youth Olympic Games that will be held in Nanjing, China in August. What a great opportunity for her!

A huge Congratulations to Vy for this spectacular effort!!!

## Scott Houston heads the new State League Facebook Page!



Did you know that TTSA has a Facebook page? Support your Association by 'liking' our page:  
[www.facebook.com/  
TableTennisSouthAustralia](http://www.facebook.com/TableTennisSouthAustralia)

One of SA's leading State League players, Scott Houston, with the full support of TTSA, spearheads the new [TTSA State League Results, Reviews and News Facebook page](#).

Before the season started, Scott wrote background information on how things work in SA State League, previewed the teams and provided predictions of the performance during the season.

Now that the Winter Pennant Season has officially started, Scott provides regular update of how the teams are going, match results as well as other interesting bits of table tennis news.

The page has been a huge success, with a great number of people now following the page, 'liking' the articles and

making comments. There's been plenty of talk about the page among players in the clubs as well, with everyone looking forwards to see what Scott will come up with next. We'd love to see something similar for every grade one day, and hopefully this page will encourage others.

We'd encourage you to check it out, and if you've got further suggestions for articles or content, send Scott a message, as I'm sure he'll appreciate any tips.

You can show your support for this great effort by 'liking' the page, which will also keep you up to date with the latest news. You can find the page here:

[www.facebook.com/SASateLeague](http://www.facebook.com/SASateLeague)

## Wakefield Emergency Sponsors SA's High Performance Team

TTSA is proud to announce a new sponsorship with Wakefield Emergency Department. Wakefield Emergency Department have agreed to support South Australia's High Performance Squad which aims to develop and provide a pathway for SA's established and emerging players.

Wakefield Emergency Department is situated within Calvary Wakefield Hospital, and provides an extensive range of highly specialised medical and surgical services that is the only 24 hour private emergency department in South Australia and the only one operated by specialist emergency physicians.

Wakefield Emergency Department goal is to maintain the highest standards of clinical excellence and provide a safe environment for patients, relatives, friends and staff.

So, if you are in need, support Wakefield Emergency Department who supports Table Tennis in South Australia!

### Wakefield Emergency Department

300 Wakefield Street, Adelaide Web: <http://wakefieldemergency.org>



Wakefield Emergency



Brighton Table Tennis Club

Would you like to see your club featured here, or do you have anything special to share about your club?

Contact the editor and we'll try and include you.

## SA Club Profile: Brighton - Club of the Year 2013

The Brighton District Table Tennis club provides Table Tennis facilities for competition and social players and is located at 3 Grantham Road, Somerton Park SA. We have seen unprecedented growth in recent times particularly with competition teams, and there has been lots of things going on around the club.

There is no greater evidence in the growth of the club, than in the competition teams put together in recent times, We have sustained regularly around 100 players playing social competition during the spring and summer seasons one Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights and this has led to being able to field greater numbers of teams in the TTSA Winter Pennant. This year we have 19 teams up from 17 in 2013. Last year winning the TTSA Best Club award with 5 premier-ships was a great achievement and nice reward for our volunteers who put countless hours into coaching and helping out around the club.

We also had recent success in gaining grants to support the club from the Office of Recreation and Sport which enabled the purchase of new tables and also began working with TTA to development new programs for AWD (Athletes with Disabilities) and CALD (Culturally and Linguistically Diverse) players. This partnership also enabled funds to contribute to new tables and robot as well as the purchase other equipment to support these new initiatives.

We also have some fantastic social groups who use the club during the week and provide valuable support to the running of the club and enable our facilities to be used by a range of people for fun and fitness. These groups consist of;

- Seniors Group - Tuesdays and Fridays
- Wednesday Ladies
- Thursday night group
- Friday night coaching
- Saturday afternoon Club Practice
- Joe Hoad's Sunday coaching groups
- Probus Group on Monday afternoons
- AWD After school program on Thursday afternoons

We now have a team of 5 coaches on hand to assist players at every level of play and offer coaching opportunities many days throughout the week.

It is really enjoyable to be at the club when there are so many people from varying backgrounds and ages all mixing together with great camaraderie each week and this is what makes it a great place to play.

We always will welcome new players to our club and visitors from other clubs. If anyone is interested in further information, they can contact us at [brightonttc@optusnet.com.au](mailto:brightonttc@optusnet.com.au) or call me on 0417 812113. You can also find more details on our website, at [www.brightonttc.com.au](http://www.brightonttc.com.au).

Paul Glassenbury  
President Brighton District Table Tennis Club



## SA Country Club Profile - Port Lincoln Table Tennis

In recent years the Port Lincoln Table Tennis Association has both improved its venue and player standard, as outlined below:

- An additional playing area extension was completed to a usable standard in 2009, with a successful grant from the Office of Sport & Recreation, to install a sprung floor, plus complete the disabled toilet & extended kitchen / dining area, in 2012. 9 tables are permanently set up. Our venue is considered to one of the best in the state.

- Player standard has improved substantially as a result of Barry Hancock coaching some juniors to a state ranking, which had a flow-on effect to other Port Lincoln players.

This year, player numbers are down by 12, with the usual 6 x 6 players in A grade, but only 6 x 6 teams of 4 in B grade. Some talented juniors have moved on for one reason or another and some older players are on long overseas holidays.

Barry Hancock is still willing to coach any players who are

interested in improving their standard of play. There are also about 16 novice juniors undertaking preliminary coaching.

PLTTA members will participate in the Country Carnival and various other tournaments around the state. Our club is also actively involved with taking on board Child safety and member protection behaviours, strategies and education.

There are no PLTTA juniors trying out for state selection in 2014 and only 3 women in A grade.

We are always trying to think of ways to increase participation, but with varied results.

Sally A. Kunze

Vice President & acting Secretary PLTTA



Port Lincoln TTA

## Developing our Players - Did you know?

Did you know that TTSA has an established pathways program to assist in the development of our players?

TTSA has been actively involved in the area of high performance for a number of years with South Australia being an early adopter of the Table Tennis Australia (TTA) High Performance initiative. The aim of TTSA's High Performance Program is to provide a pathway for SA athletes to develop their game and obtain a greater understanding of one of the most played sports in the world. The aim of TTSA's High Performance program is to:

- provide squad members with an environment that introduces them to high performance concepts and training routines that can be taken back to their clubs and individual coaches
- provide a pathway for athletes to compete at an elite level e.g. State, National and International level
- improve squad members daily training environments

- provide athletes with a holistic view of the sport of Table Tennis in relation to international competition, administrative opportunities and other pathway opportunities.

The program consists of 2 squads:

**Tier 1** – state junior A team members.

**Tier 2** – state junior B team members plus other juniors identified as having the right attitude and potential to be representing SA in future years.

The Tier 1 squad trains on a weekly basis under Paul Langley (Level 3 Australian Accredited Coach and Olympic representative [including Coach and Team Manager]) with the Tier 2 squad training fortnightly under Mr David Lowe (ex-State Junior Coach).

TTSA would like to acknowledge the kind support of SA Sport and Recreation and Wakefield Emergency Department.



Aussie team at the Oceania 2014

### State Umpires Course

The next State Umpires course is Sunday, 10th August 2014. Contact Maurice Quinn for more details:

[sattoc@tabletennissa.com.au](mailto:sattoc@tabletennissa.com.au)

## SA State Open Results - Langley masterclass earns State Title!

The SA State Open was played on April 27th at the Woodville Table Tennis Club.

Brighton's Paul Langley claimed the South Australian Open Men's Singles title, when he overpowered all opponents at Woodville. In a vintage performance, Langley's form improved with every match. He survived a scare in the second round, narrowly winning against Vietnamese Friendship's Phi Nguyen 11-9 in the 5th set. From that point on, the former Olympian was unstoppable. He outclassed number 1 seed Marc Tunbridge from Brighton 3-1 in the quarter final before ousting rising star and State League team mate Mensur Cutahija 3-1 in the semi final. He topped off an exceptional performance by putting Woodville's Sam von Einem to the sword in the final, claiming the title with a 4-0 victory.

With State League starting since late April, Langley has sent an ominous warning to the rest of the competition that he is still the man to beat and in doing so further underlined Brighton's credentials as a premiership contender. Remarkably, Langley's 2014 victory comes 21 years after he first won a State Title, way back in 1993. Surely that must be a record!

Other notable performances came from Sam von Einem, who made his first final at the State Championships. He continued his red hot form thus far in 2014, defeating Adelaide Dragon's Scott Houston for the first time 3-0 in the quarter final before recording a 3-1 victory over 2013 SA Open Champion An Phan in the semi final. Also, Mensur Cutahija reached his first

SA Open semi final after dominating multiple State Champion Jon Shubert with a clinical 3-0 victory in the quarter final and putting up a good showing against Langley in the semi final.

In the Women's Singles, Payneham's Stephy Ngu atoned for her defeat in the final last year, defeating Adelaide Dragon's Vy Bui 3-0 in the final. In a clinical display, Ngu found the perfect balance of consistent play and stinging attacks and never gave Bui an opportunity to assert herself in the match. The victory will give Ngu confidence for State League season. Given that Payneham are the pre-season premiership favorites, they need her performing at her peak. Bui will be disappointed with her performance, after recently claiming 5 gold medals at the 2014 ITTF-Oceania Championships, she struggled to show her best form throughout the day.

Full results from the 2014 South Australian Open are as follows:

### OPEN EVENTS

Men's Singles: Paul Langley d. Sam von Einem 9, 3, 5, 7

Women's Singles: Stephy Ngu d. Vy Bui 9, 6, 7

Men's Doubles: Marc Tunbridge/Jon Shubert d. Mensur Cutahija/Sam von Einem 12, 4, 2

Mixed Doubles: Jon Schubert/Stephy Ngu d. Marc Tunbridge/Marsha Guseva 2, -11, 8, 5

### OVER 30 EVENTS

Men's Singles: Scott Houston d. Sharad Pandit 8, -9, -9, 13, 9

Men's Doubles: Scott Houston/An Phan d. Paul Langley/Sharad Pandit 6, 3, 5

### UNDER 21 EVENTS

Men's Singles: Mensur Cutahija d. Matt Blumenfeld 7, 4, 4

Women's Singles: Vy Bui d. Marsha Guseva 7, 7, 10

Men's Doubles: Mensur Cutahija/Sam von Einem d. Jay Muecke/Tom Williamson -9, -13, 6, 10, 9

### RESTRICTED EVENTS

Restricted Singles: Jamie Ey d. Matt Blumenfeld 2, 5, 6

Restricted Doubles: David & Kevin Malyschko d. Jamie Ey/Steve Sando -10, 4, -7, 9, 8

Well done to all champions, State Titles are never easy to win and you can be proud of your efforts!

by Scott Houston



## ITTF Introduces new Plastic Poly balls

The ITTF has announced that from July 2014 onward, there will be an introduction of 'poly' (plastic) balls to all ITTF competitions – replacing the current celluloid balls.

In addition to a change in material, there will be a slight increase in size as well, as the size tolerance has changed from the current "39.5-40.5mm" to a "40.00 to 40.6mm" for poly balls. The expected increase in size will be about 0.5 - 0.6mm. The new balls will have a "40+" marking, indicating the larger size.

Early testing of the seamless poly balls were not very positive, as players complained the balls lacked spin and were slower, as well as making an unusual sound on the bounce, likened to a broken ball. However more recent test of seamed poly balls sound more promising, as they appear to be much closer in performance to the current celluloid seamed balls.

So is time to panic? Not really, or at least not yet! As of May 2014 the poly balls are still not commercially available, and they will only be used at a number of International ITTF events this year.

The National associations of several countries have already indicated that they will not be using the poly balls for their local competition this year, and will make the decision for future competition when the ball become more commonly available.

I asked Table Tennis Australia on their position, and this was their response:

*At present TTA is taking a wait and see approach with regards to the new poly ball.*

*TTA is sponsored by Adidas and we receive quantities of the old ball (Celluloid) for use in all National Championships. TTA will continue to use the Adidas balls at least until the end of this year by which time we will have a better understanding of the availability of the new balls and can make a more informed decision on 2015 events.*

The current celluloid balls are still legal and there are no plans to change this, so it will be up to organisers of competitions to decide when, or if, to make the change over.

by Alex Vanderklugt



**New 40+ plastic table tennis balls approved for 2014**

### Fun Facts

At the 2014 World Championships held in Tokyo there was a total of 209 international teams (countries) competing! One of the largest sporting events in the World!

## South Aussies on the Internationally Scene

### Vy Bui Conquers Oceania Mountain

18 year old Vy Bui of the Adelaide Dragons has had a golden run over the past two months. At the K-Sports 2014 ITTF-Oceania Championships, held in Bendigo in April, she came away with a stunning haul of 5 gold medals. She stood on the top step of the podium in the following events:

Women's Team, Under 21 Women's Team, Under 21 Women's Singles, Under 21 Women's Doubles, Under 21 Mixed Doubles.

In May at the 2014 Youth Olympic Games Oceania Continental Qualification tournament, held in the Cook Islands, Bui emerged successful. Seeded number one, Bui displayed some shaky form in the group stage, winning only three of five matches. However, in the knock-out phase she produced her best form, beating Sophia Dong (NZ) 4-1 in the semi-final and Sarah Tan (NSW) 4-1 in the final. Winning the event means that Bui has booked her ticket to compete at the 2014 Youth Olympic Games in Nanjing, China in August!

### Henzel does it again!

Two other South Australians tasted international success recently. Our greatest ever player, 32 year old William Henzell, claimed a record sixth title at the K-Sports 2014 ITTF-Oceania Cup. In doing so he took home a \$5,000 winners cheque and has booked his ticket to the ITTF Men's World Cup in Dusseldorf, Germany later this year.

### Marsha Guseva shines!

Also, 15 year old Marsha Guseva from Brighton made her Australian debut at the K-Sports 2014 ITTF-Oceania Championships. She made a successful start in the green and gold by being part of the Under 21 Women's Team that claimed a gold medal. Congratulations Vy, William and Marsha for doing South Australia proud!

### Glenn Errington and Kathy Kunhegyery

Congratulations to SATTOC officials Glenn Errington and Kathy Kunhegyery on their selection to officiate at the Ozcare Australian Open held in Sydney, May 2014 as well as Glenn's selection to officiate at the K-Sports 2014 ITTF Oceania Cup and Championships.

### Our Veterans

Congratulations to all of the veterans that competed at the World Veteran Championships in NZ in May – results will be published in due course.



**William Henzel**

# TTSA

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[www.facebook.com/TableTennisSouthAustralia](https://www.facebook.com/TableTennisSouthAustralia)



## 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!).

### Equipment:

1. What is the maximum allowable thickness of a rubber (including sponge) that can be put onto a blade?
  - a. There is no limit
  - b. 2.0mm
  - c. 2.2mm which is called 'MAX' on a rubber sheet
  - d. 4.0mm
2. What are the restrictions on blade size and shape?
  - a. The area covered by the rubber must be no more than 160mm wide or high
  - b. The blade can be any size or shape but it must be flat and rigid
  - c. The blade shall be no larger than the largest sheet of ITTF approved rubber
  - d. The blade can be any size, but the area covered by the rubber must be oval in shape

### Rules:

3. How far do you need to throw up the ball on service?
  - a. As long you don't impart spin with your hand, there is no minimum distance
  - b. At least 4inches or 10cm after leaving the palm of the hand
  - c. At least 16cm
  - d. As long as it's above the table and not hidden behind your body, there is no minimum distance
4. Which one of the following is NOT regarded as a LET:
  - a. If the ball touches the net assembly upon service
  - b. If the receiving player is not ready and does not strike the ball
  - c. If either player calls a let during a point
  - d. There is a disturbance during play outside the control of the players
5. Who wins the point and why? Player A accidentally double hits the ball, first off his finger and then the bat. After the ball goes over the net and hits the table in Player B's side, player B catches the ball and claims the point.
  - a. Player B wins the point, because a double hit is not legal and the point is finished as soon as it hits.
  - b. Player A wins the point, as a double hit is legal as long as it's accidental, and player B should not have caught the ball.

### 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: 1:d, 2:b, 3:c, 4:c, 5:b