

# Table Tennis SA Inc.



Annual General Meeting  
Sunday 13 March 2022

# Agenda Item 4

## Chair's Report

**Our Vision** - To grow a vibrant SA Table Tennis community; and in doing so, connect more people in SA with Table Tennis.

**Our Purpose** - For the SA Table Tennis community to work together to provide more opportunities for more people to engage with Table Tennis in more ways, in more places, more often.

# Key Highlights

- 2021 has not been without its difficulties as we continued to battle the impact of COVID-19
- Whilst the impact of COVID-19 on our sport eased slightly during the year, the impact on the sporting community remained high
- We acknowledge that the most significant impact was felt in the south-eastern states, we were not immune to this impact in SA
  - local lockdowns and restrictions impacting on the day-day operations of our clubs, affiliates and our operations
- Despite the challenges of COVID-19, and the uncertainty caused by local lockdowns and restrictions, we managed to host numerous local and state competitions, schools competitions and other key events

# Our Achievements

## **An agile response to COVID-19**

- Provided leadership and regular updates in relation to COVID-19 with numerous communications released to our TT community and external partners
- Sought advice from key regulatory stakeholders on certain scenarios relating to COVID (including No Jab No Play)
- Engaged with stakeholders (including clubs and affiliates) to map a path out of COVID with consideration including the potential upside and downsides of this path

# Our Achievements

## Operational efficiency

- Spent a material amount of time updating and revitalising the new website including adding new modules
- Implemented the new TTSA Winter Pennant scoring and laddering system that provides near real time data on teams, individual players and match status
- Implemented a practical user guide/manual (specific for TT) for Star Club accreditation that was rolled out to all clubs/affiliates to walk them through accreditation
- Maintained regular Board meetings to ensure the continuity of decision making and impact assessment
- Provided Board summaries to all affiliates and clubs to provide insight into key activities and areas of focus for the Board of Management

# Our Achievements

## Recognition and financial security

- Built on the membership levels that were implemented the prior year including ongoing liaison with stakeholders to embed the requirements
- Continued to manage/oversee member disputes at the local level
- Managed the fall-out from a loss of grants and realigned programs to ensure minimal impact

# Our Achievements

## Our Sport

- Conducted the junior, para, youth, senior and veterans State Titles
- Hosted the 2021 Country Carnival Tournament (following an absence in 2020 due to COVID restrictions)
- Maintained and built on our Social Media presence
- Outsourced the running of the Smash Hits program in a year of significant disruption for player programs
- Maintained an agile response to the ongoing commitment to TTSA squads (High Performance, Development and Emerging Athletes and Para programs)
- Supported individual clubs with grant applications
- Supported and advocated for TTA (National Federation) programs such as Spinneroos, Corporate Cup and Sporting Schools

# Our Achievements

## Improvement Focus

- Held the Winter Pennant Competition with little to/no impact as a result of COVID
- Hosted the Super Saturday Finals with a change in format to reduce COVID risks in a period of heightened awareness
- Held member feedback sessions in relation to tournaments formats, Smash Hits and Schools programs.



# People Highlights

- Greg Bungey, recognised by Table Tennis Australia and was awarded 2021 Volunteer of the Year!
- 25 Years of Service to Table Tennis Award
  - Greg Bungey - Table Tennis South Australia and Adelaide Table Tennis Club (SA)
- 50 Years of Service to Table Tennis Award
  - William 'Bill' Oatey OAM -Payneham Table Tennis Academy (SA)
- Loraine Baker and Kay Crowell were appointed as the Team Manager and Head Coach respectively for the SA Junior and Teams (U11 through to U19)
  - The National Championships were cancelled, and then rescheduled, only to be cancelled again in 2021
  - They showed passion and a high degree of resilience and patience

# Other Highlights

- After a forced hiatus in 2020, Winter Pennant returned as strong as ever with 11 divisions, 78 teams and 670 matches completed
- Created and distributed the TTSA STARCLUB Accreditation guide and continued to act as a point of reference for all TTSA Affiliates as they navigate the accreditation process
  - Almost  $\frac{3}{4}$  of TTSA Affiliates have begun accreditation and seven have now completed the online section and are awaiting the final interview and verification by a STARCLUB Officer
- Sporting Schools - several affiliated Clubs were active in having their coaches run programs in local schools with the program successful in introducing table tennis to school children

# Digital Highlights

- TTSA's social media presence and engagement continues to grow with over 1,550 followers of our Facebook page (up 10.5% in the last year)
- 130 social media posts with a combined reach of over 100,000 accounts and over 11,000 engagements
- As well as being a platform to assist the many enquiries received on the TTSA page, it represents an opportunity for promotion
- Affiliates should consider utilising social media for their own purposes and TTSA is happy to assist

# Website Improvements

- Website Competitions Module used to manage the TTSA Winter Pennant program for 2021
- Enabled match results to be entered online and once entered could immediately be viewed by the players
- Competition and individual result tables were updated automatically as results were entered
- Program used by players to see the match schedules and see where they were playing the next week
- Online event entry - used for a number of tournaments in 2021, mainly State Championships, and was well received by players
  - Approximately 40% of tournament entrants used the facility when it was offered.

# Website Improvements

- TTSA website was further developed during 2021 and will continue to change during 2022

1.	Home	65,880
2	Draws & Results	58,420
3	Competition Tables	52,116
4	Calendar	34,663
5.	Tournament & Pennant	12,925
6	Ratings Central	6,567
7	Clubs	4,157
8	Smash Hit Juniors	4,110
9	Contacts	3,799
10	TTSA Winter Pennant Competition	3,591
11	Tournament Results	3,195
12	About	2,176

# Event Management

- COVID impacted the number of events that could be held however TTSA conducted state titles to ensure ongoing continuity of state champions
- Some changes were introduced such as the COVID management guide which included no doubles and reducing the time spent in the playing venue - all in accordance with the COVID guidelines in place at that time
- Conducted a review of sanctioned tournaments with an online survey sent to players with ~50 respondents providing feedback
  - Affiliates invited to attend a review session and provide feedback
- Players feedback (which is ultimately what we need to consider) resulted in some changes to tournament structures – this will be piloted and reviewed in due course

# High Performance

- HP and Development squads (Para and Able) continued to be led by Paul, Kevin, Kay and Paton with support from other coaches and hitting partners
- In place since 2006 led by Paul and has resulted in some of the best results at National Championships across all age groups over a number of years as well as providing a pathway for our SA athletes (able and para)
  - Fun fact – TTSA's HP Program has seen >400 players go through this program since 2006
- Top current level players have come through this program including the likes of Sam, Mitchell, Isaiah and many others – with others including Scott H, Kerry, Ann Marie, Alex Swanson, Keyman Liang, David Moffat etc
- A big part of this program is about equipping the players (young players) with the tools to which they can progress their game – as well as introducing them to group training concepts, goal setting, prioritisation, dedication and effort required to reach the top
- We are now entering a new phase of junior development which has resulted in a review of the current structure and format for 2022

# Coaching

- Kay has conducted two Tops Courses and One Level one Course throughout the year
- TTSA continues to encourage you to continue to develop your coaches
- ***The legal environment in which coaches operate now is complicated and I would encourage you to ensure that your coaches operating out of your clubs are appropriately qualified and have the appropriate child protection checks***
- TTSA continues to carry out coaching in the schools through sporting schools and have been active providing coaches for schools and colleges (private and public)



# Performance Highlight

## 2020 Tokyo Olympics

- Sam von Einem claimed the Men's Singles class 11 para-table tennis silver medal at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games after losing a tightly contested 5-game match against 2012 Paralympic champion Peter Palos of Hungary (11-6, 7-11, 11-7, 6-11, 9-11)

# Country

- 2021 Country Carnival Tournament was held on the traditional June long weekend after having been forced to abandon 2020 due to COVID restrictions
- Despite the uncertainty faced by the 2021 environment we had an exceptional number of competitors over the two days
  - 74 Participants from across country SA
  - Participants from Port Lincoln, Whyalla, Riverland, Barossa and Light, Murray Bridge, Gt Southern and Mount Gambier
  - 12 tables were required to ensure matches were completed in good time. Again the days were long running from 0800 to 2030 Saturday and 0800 to 1830 on the Sunday
- Congratulations to all involved

# Looking Forward

- Whilst we can look back on the last 12 months positively, there is an element of growth focus that has been missing for our sport
- Consistent with TTSA's strategy, we established a Working Party to help identify opportunities within the community for a new TTSA venue/ head quarters
- Working Party is chaired by an independent Chair, Sarah Sandley who has great experience in the sporting world having relocated from NZ to Adelaide where she was CEO of Aktive NZ
  - Sarah has subsequently been appointed to the Board of Sport SA which is the peak industry body for all sports in SA for which we offer our congratulations
- We are excited about the opportunities that lay ahead and seeking out a home for TT in SA all within the framework and guiding principles of a stadium that is fit for purpose for our sport and one that we can call a home

# Looking Forward

- In 2022 we do expect a continued easing of the impact from COVID-19 in our sport, however, offsetting this is expected degree of hesitancy for people to come back and play
- TTSA will continue to focus on promoting the positive health and wellbeing (mental and physical) messages of active community participation

# My Thanks

- We do appreciate that not everyone will agree with the decisions that the TTSA Board makes however you can be guaranteed that appropriate due diligence and care has been taken prior to any decision being made that impacts on a member, members, clubs/affiliates or the TT community in general
- Thank you to the TTSA Board members
  - *Greg Bungey*
  - *Cynthia Langley OAM*
  - *Kay Crowell*
  - *Michael Zhang*
  - *Geoff Langhans*
  - *Laurette Norton*
- I would also like to acknowledge Lenno Stevels who retired from the Board in 2021 and we do thank and acknowledge his service to the sport