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## **PRESIDENTS REPORT 2022**

**25 May 2023**


I would firstly like to recognize all our hard working committee members who have helped maintain and grow the club this past year.

Robert Ho for providing his excellent weekly newsletter, with his passion and commitment to making up the teams for A and B Grade and toward maintaining the individual and team ladders for each grade, also for organizing and purchasing the competition trophies and medallions. Robert also maintains our Facebook page.

Christine Marshall continues her passion and involvement with convening the C grade Competition, making sure there are enough team players to play every week of competition. Christine is also the convenor for the Thursday morning Seniors Social time. Christine has been instrumental in facilitating the growing number of Seniors that attend on a weekly basis. Graeme Perkins also contributed his time to keep the drinks machine topped up and helped out with transporting table tennis tables to an event that DTTA were involved in external to our club. Graham Symons has been very helpful with providing great advice to the committee, especially in respect to Junior coaching and training. In the last months of 2022 Ann Webb joined the committee as treasurer, website manager, and membership secretary for the club. Ann hit the ground running and provided the structure and diligent approach that is required to carry out her role. Patti Brown and Geni O'Brien also joined the committee at the end of 2022 and are hardworking supporters of the club and the activities we run.

There are other members that have consistently contributed their time and effort to maintain, improve and help promote our club.

Elfrida Kalich has been DTTA Junior coach for all of 2022 and given so much time and effort to teach the young players how to play table tennis. Elfrida has been the convenor for A Grade this year and in previous years. Elfrida also cleans our facility on a weekly basis and helps out at our public displays at the Chinese New Year festival and other events that DTTA have been involved with throughout the year.



Andrew Barton convened in Season 2 of 2022 rejoining the club after a break. Andrew and his family have had a strong connection to our club for many years. Andrew joined as a junior and has been a vital and committed club member and committee member over the years.

Thank you to Jono Tong for his commitment to coach the NT Junior squad on Saturday mornings and other times throughout the week.

Joe Abrantes for his contribution to coaching juniors, Seniors Month, and school coaching clinic at Good Shepherd Primary school in Howard Springs.

John Pudney for the use of his trailer and time to join me in external events promoting our club and table tennis to the wider community.

The foundation of a functional, prospering club is the contribution of club members to volunteer some of their time to help out when required.


I would like to briefly mention the depth of experience and longevity of current and passed long standing members that have contributed decades toward our club going way back to the 1970s.


Joe Abrantes has been a member of our club since the 1970s. His historical knowledge of our club through these years is extensive, he has played competitively all the way through the decades. Similarly John Pudney, Denis Evans, Elfrida Kalich, TT Lee, together have a wealth of knowledge and experience and have been representing the NT for decades in National Competitions.

During 2022 our club members were saddened to learn of the passing of TY Lee. TY gave a big part of his life to table tennis and the Darwin Table Tennis Club, his passion and commitment to coaching junior players will be sorely missed. TY was President of DTTA for many years and respected by many people inside and outside of our club. TY was a strong and determined competitor who gave everything to play to the best of his ability winning many individual and team events at our club and interstate.

Also, we remember with sadness the passing of Anaz Umar Sarif in late 2022, a young, vibrant and jovial club member who loved playing table tennis and being part of our club.

Darwin hosted the National Veterans competition in October 2022. Table Tennis NT and DTTA members successfully set up and helped facilitate the event.





DTTA club members Joe Abrantes and TT Lee won Gold medal in the over 80s men's doubles. This is the 1<sup>st</sup> Gold medal NT has won in a National table tennis competition. Elfrida Kalich also excelled, winning 5 medals in individual and doubles finals. The club is very proud of their achievements.

DTTA also purchased 6 new table tennis tables that are now owned by the club. I would also like to thank TTNT for donating to DTTA the 6 replaced tables and the barriers we use today.

The 2022 club competition in all 3 grades was played in the spirit of our game with great participation, played in a friendly atmosphere with keen competition, and friendly rivalry between players. Age knows no bounds playing table tennis - the age diversity of our members playing active table tennis is quite remarkable.


The number of young players playing in all 3 grades is heartening, the future of our club is in the development of our junior players, and providing a place for beginners to learn to play table tennis table tennis, with a pathway to develop the juniors playing skills and techniques to reach their full potential.


This pathway (though limited by isolation living in Darwin) is evident in our club with our four Northern Territory junior team members, Renee Li, Zac Xie, Martin Feng and Sebastian Lai all commencing their junior training at the club some 5y or so years ago. Together they have all represented our Territory with admirable rankings during their time playing on the National stage.

With committed family support from parents and grandparents and guardians of all the juniors that play at our club, the juniors can attend to practise, be coached and play competition, starting in C Grade, to help reach the potential to play in the A Grade competition just like Zac, Renee, Sebastian and Martin have this year.

Importantly, the older members of our club can still be social and active to join the weekly Thursday morning seniors program, with many of them also playing in C grade. This year, more seniors have joined our club to come along and play social table tennis. I would like to acknowledge the dedication and commitment that Christine Marshall has contributed to provide the opportunity for Seniors to enjoy table tennis and provide a pathway for many of the Seniors to play in the C Grade competition.

Darwin Table Tennis Association has a history that goes back to the mid 1980s here at the Marrara Multi-Purpose Hall. Rod Ellis who plays at Seniors Thursday mornings was, with others, instrumental in being able to secure the Marrara Hall for table tennis. The club has been able to maintain a healthy bank balance and





service the members over the years with good quality equipment, flooring and a permanent table set up facility.

This year has been a continuation of strengthening and expanding table tennis in the Darwin / Palmerston area to more people in our community and providing a family friendly environment for all race, cultures, and likeminded people that love to play table tennis.

This will be my final President Report and I would like to extend my gratitude and passion for table tennis and the members and families support that I have received throughout my three and half year term as President of the Darwin Table Tennis Association.

It has been an honour and privilege to be your President, with the ongoing dedicated support of the members during this time and into the future our Table Tennis Community will continue to thrive and prosper to provide the opportunity for table tennis to be the sport for all ages and abilities.

Michael Yaxley

DTTA President

