

Marrara Multi-Purpose Hall, 10 Abala Rd  
Marrara, NT 0820  
darwintta@gmail.com



23 April 2023

## TABLE TENNIS TALK - 1<sup>ST</sup> QUARTER 2023

With the Easter break over, I hope your time sharing with family and friends and taking a break from the everyday routines of life was enjoyable.

I would like to welcome all our members that have joined Darwin Table Tennis for the first time and for many long-term members that continue to love playing table tennis after years (even decades) of playing at our club. Together our passion for playing table tennis is driving our club forward with new ideas, with new friendships, and vision to collectively improve the unity and strength of our club.

I'd like to take this opportunity to talk about our club and make members aware of the direction our club is heading - growing and developing the membership and enhancing the experience of playing table tennis.

Our new revitalised committee has been very busy improving and updating the information on our website for members and prospective members. There is an upcoming events calendar that can be viewed as a calendar or as a list, you can look up the Competition results each week in the Newsletter which is posted to the website, and a new top level menu tab - Sunday Social Table Tennis. Here are the links:

[www.revolutionise.com.au/dtta/events/calendar/](http://www.revolutionise.com.au/dtta/events/calendar/)

[www.revolutionise.com.au/dtta/newsletter/2023newsletters/](http://www.revolutionise.com.au/dtta/newsletter/2023newsletters/)

[www.revolutionise.com.au/dtta/sunday-social/](http://www.revolutionise.com.au/dtta/sunday-social/)

If you have not visited our website, please have a look at [www.revolutionise.com.au/dtta](http://www.revolutionise.com.au/dtta) for lots more DTTA information.

The young players that have joined our club, whether they are playing weekly competition or being coached on Mondays, rely on their parents or carers support for transport, moral support, and taking time out to be an integral part of our club. I would like to thank the parents or carers for their commitment to support their child/ children play table tennis on a regular basis.

## SUNDAY SOCIAL TABLE TENNIS - Opening Day 30 April 2023 @ 3 pm to 5 pm

A bit of context...

I just want to let the new members know that I have been a player with DTTA when I started in C Grade in 2012! Back then, the club was very healthy with a competitive weekly competition in all grades. There were many long-term players and the focus of the club was on the weekly competition and junior coaching to a large extent.

In 2017 I joined the committee and since then I have been involved with the club both in an administrative role and playing in competition.

Towards the end of 2019, three key committee members resigned in a matter of weeks, including the Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary. These resignations had a significant impact on the direction of the club in the short term. Robert Ho and I, together with Christine Marshall and Graham Symons, have worked closely together on the DTTA Committee since 2017. More recently in 2022, Ann Webb, Patti Brown and Geni O'Brien joined the DTTA Committee, with everyone working together to maintain the direction and integrity of the club and continue to provide opportunities for table tennis players of all levels and skill to keep on playing and to wanting to play. And in late 2019 when Covid was on the lips of everyone I was elected as President and I feel very honoured to have been re-elected since that date.

In addition to all those other initiatives we've taken, such as Open Days, school visits and demos at Australia Day etc to shape the direction of the club and to grow our membership and provide table tennis to the local community, we are launching **Sunday Social Table Tennis**.

**Sunday Social Table Tennis** is for the local community of Darwin/Palmerston and the rural area to come along and just play social table tennis with family and friends, and meet new people and have fun.

Sunday Social Table Tennis is now a reality - it is starting on Sunday 30 April. For existing club members, there is an opportunity to be involved with. We are looking for members who want to be involved with helping out and facilitating the 2 hour session. We need a minimum of two members to open the centre, greet visitors, collect entry fees and generally convene the 2 hours with fun activities like 'Top Table' and 'Round the World'. There is also an opportunity for an additional 2 to 3 members to provide a mentoring role and generally be an ambassador for our club. We really hope you will feel inspired to join this excellent initiative and take on one or more of these roles.

The success of Sunday Social will be a reflection of our club and the willingness of the members to contribute to the success. In the coming weeks the advertising and promoting of Sunday Social is key to letting as many people as possible know that we are starting on the 30 April. A simple way to contribute to promoting Sunday Social is to pin up the attached flyer, or pick up a flyer from our club to place on the notice board at your work place, or local shopping centre or ask your local school or community group to advertise in their newsletter. Also please check out the Sunday Social Flyer on our facebook page @darwin tabletennis and share it with as many people as possible.

Current DTTA members are welcome to bring a family member or friend along that have not played at our club to introduce them to play socially. There is no cost for a member if they bring along a friend or family player that has not played before at our club.

The attached flyer can be printed out or you can pick up a hard copy from our club.

If you have any further questions or ideas regarding Sunday Social table tennis, please talk to me or one of your committee members.

The focus of the committee is to begin a successful weekly Social Table Tennis event for the general public to attend.

### **EXTENDING THE CURRENT MEMBERS PRACTICE TIMES**

The committee also plans to extend the hours of practice time for current competition and social members from the existing Monday and Friday times to include either another weekday time, most likely Thursday from 5.00 pm to 6.30 pm, or 2h on a Saturday afternoon with a yet to be determined opening and closing time. The committee would be happy to hear from members their interest in wanting to open more hours for practice through the week and on the weekend. Because of the extra lighting/cleaning costs, there will have to be an additional small annual fee that will contribute toward the cost of opening the Centre for these times.

### **JUNIORS COACHING PROGRAM**


DTTA Junior coaching program has been an integral part of our club for many years and we acknowledge the great work of past coaches especially TY Lee.

The success of the Junior Coaching Program relies on a collaborative approach between Table Tennis Northern Territory (TTNT) and DTTA. DTTA is fortunate to have current members that provide Level 1 coaching: Elfrida Kalich, Jonathon Tong, and recently arrived Nick Pastrikos. Other members that also help out with coaching are Joe Abrantes, Rodney Hee and myself, and Level 2 coach and CEO of TTNT, Graham Symons.

In school Term 2, DTTA is holding a Spinnerroos Coaching clinic for beginners age 6 to 12 years. This will be an opportunity for young beginners to learn how to play table tennis in a structured, fun and inclusive environment. Spinnerroos will commence on Wednesday 26 April 2023 from 5.30 to 6.30 pm and will run for 8 weeks. The current Monday juniors that have been playing during Term 1 can elect to join the Spinnerroos program in Term 2.

The Monday Junior program for intermediate level that has been coached by Elfrida Kalich in Term 1 will be on Mondays from 5.30 pm to 7.00 pm.

Both these Junior Programs lead into the DTTA Junior Pathway Coaching program for young players who want to commit to train and be coached for possible selection to the NT Junior Squad that represents the Northern Territory on the National stage. The Junior Pathway Program trains on Saturday morning. Selected juniors are invited to participate.



DTTA currently has 4 Juniors, Sebastian Lai, Renee Li, Matin Feng and newly joined junior member Antara Panchal, who train on Saturday mornings after the Junior Pathway coaching. Both coaching programs are coached by Jonathan Tong.

### **ITALIAN FESTIVAL 2023 - Saturday 13 May 2023 12.00pm to 11.30 pm - Waterfront**

DTTA has had a close affiliation with the Italian Festival Committee, providing the orderly disposal of waste and recycled bottles throughout the day of the Festival in recent years prior to COVID.

This year DTTA has been invited again to help out at the Italian Festival. This is a very generous and community-inclusive activity for DTTA to participate in.

It is a big event and DTTA will be responsible for removal and replacement of all the waste including the bottles and cans for recycling.

To fulfil our responsibility and successfully carry out the duties required, we will need around 20 to 25 club members to help out including family members.

If you have some time to spare on Saturday afternoon 13 May to volunteer, please text or email DTTA or speak to a committee member. A roster is being drawn up to spread the load throughout the day. Just an hour or two would help!

In previous years DTTA has received over \$2000 for our contribution to helping on the day.

As I said, this is a very worthwhile and community-engaging activity and one that our club has been proud to undertake in previous years when the Italian Festival has been held.

### **THURSDAY MORNING SENIORS**


From humble beginnings our weekly Thursday morning Senior program has grown to become a very popular time for Seniors to come together and play table tennis. Christine Marshall has been instrumental in the growth and popularity of Thursday Seniors, and with her commitment and passion, we are now in a position where we will be offering another morning session for Seniors. Tuesday morning is the preferred day, members will be advised in the very near future. As usual, DTTA will participate in Seniors month with free sessions, coaching and refreshments.

### **COTA SENIORS EXPO**

As in previous years, DTTA will once again have a stall at 2023 COTA Seniors Expo on Saturday 27 May and will stage demonstration games to impress and attract new members.

### **END OF YEAR GALA DINNER**

The club is planning to hold the much-loved end of year Gala Dinner again. We will provide more information when bookings are confirmed.





## IN CLOSING

In closing, our club membership is growing - currently we have 91 registered members. The continued success of our club is entirely dependent on our members being involved with club events, volunteering on the committee, taking on some ownership of being part of our club. We hope lots of you will consider volunteering a small amount of time to share the load for the club to grow and prosper.

Kind regards

Michael

President DTTA

