

# 2022



Email: [darwintta@gmail.com](mailto:darwintta@gmail.com)

Ph: 0427 988 129

Website: [revolutionise.com.au/dtta](http://revolutionise.com.au/dtta)

Facebook: [@darwintabletennis](https://www.facebook.com/darwintabletennis)

## DARWIN TABLE TENNIS WEEKLY

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# A GRADE

## SEMI-FINALS

SEASON ONE 2022

RESULTS		
Sweet Chilli	3 • 0	Benfica
The Long & the Short of It	1 • 3	Roadies

### REPORT

#### Semi-finals 1: Sweet Chilli v Benfica

The grade's top side, *Sweet Chilli*, had all the answers in their semi-final clash with *Benfica* to propel themselves into the grand final with a near dominant display on Wednesday night.

The contest ended at the doubles stage, as **Pedro Lay** and **Jeremie Langlois** held off a determined **Shino Joy** and **Elfrida Kalich**, 11-3, 14-12, 10-12, 11-7.

Earlier in the tie, Pedro ensured his team would have the 2-0 advantage coming into the doubles when he produced one of the match wins of the season to oust A Grade individual winner Elfrida, 9-11, 12-10, 3-11, 11-7, 9-11, 11-8, 11-7.

#### Semi-finals 2: TL&TSOI v Roadies

Meanwhile, in the second semi-final, *Roadies* recovered after dropping the first rubber to defeat *The Long & the Short of It*.

**Mohit Banjade** closed out the tie when he crushed **Dae Gerschwitz** in the fourth rubber which secured his team's place in the grand finale, 11-2, 12-10, 11-3, 11-4.

Earlier, **Mitchell Bedford** got his team off to the best possible start when he defeated Mohit in the opener, 4-1. However, it all unravelled for the youngest team in the semi-

finals when they fell to the lefty combination of Mohit and **John Pudney** in the doubles, 11-6, 11-8, 12-10.

### GRAND FINAL PREVIEW

#### Sweet Chilli v Roadies

We are only one match away from crowning the latest winners of the A Grade team trophy. It will be an interesting contest between two of the better teams in the competition.

On one side, we have the top team, *Sweet Chilli*, who initially had a slow start to the season before finishing strongly, especially in the semi-finals, when they did not give their opposition a chance to weave themselves back into the contest. **Pedro Lay** is looking to steer his team home, especially with **Dennis Evans'** replacement **Jeremie Langlois**.

On the opposing side are the *Roadies*, who have cruised into the grand final with a lot of confidence on the back of strong performances in the doubles recently and their impressive semi win over *The Long & the Short of It*. Captain **John Pudney** will expect to continue with their run and form to the title.

*Sweet Chilli* have had the wood on *Roadies* in all of their encounters this season, both ending 3-2. However, not much can be gained from their history since *Sweet Chilli's* Dennis was present in both contests and will not be in the final.

Therefore, there are two key rubbers to watch for in the final. Pedro and John will face off in a do-or-die singles contest, their head-to-head squared at one win apiece this season. The winner will most likely determine which team ends as the victors, while the doubles will also be a key factor, slightly favouring the *Roadies*.

*Prediction: Roadies to win 3-2.*

# B GRADE

## SEMI-FINALS

SEASON ONE 2022

RESULTS		
MNM	2 • 3	Runners
Raptors	3 • 0	Bush Turkeys

### REPORT

#### Semi-finals 1: MNM v Runners

In a surprise twist on semi-final night, the determined *Runners* scored an upset to edge the minor premiers, *MNM*, sending themselves into the grand finale.

The steady **John Langdon** got his team over the line when he outgunned a misfiring **Michael Ndukwe** in the decider, 11-5, 9-11, 11-9, 11-5, 11-8. At 1-1 and 9-5 up, Michael was looking to take a 2-1 set advantage, however, John had other ideas as he powered past to snatch the set and from then did not look back.

Earlier, **Mohit Banjade** (*MNM*) managed to single-handedly keep his team in the contest when he won both singles, including the rubber of the night against **Ryan Starkey**, 11-0, 12-14, 11-13, 11-3, 7-11, 11-6, 13-11. Ultimately, it proved to be in vain.

#### Semi-finals 2: Raptors v Bush Turkeys

In the other match, *Raptors* enjoyed a comfortable victory over the *Bush Turkeys* to qualify for the final.

**Viqar Ali Khan** and **Andrew Barton** were at their best, clinching the doubles rubber in straight sets and with that wrapping up the tie.

Earlier, Andrew held his nerve to overcome a late comeback by the competitive **Rick Gibson** in the second rubber, 5-11, 11-5, 11-8, 11-9, 5-

11, 8-11, 11-6. Andrew's pace and accuracy in the final set got him over the line, which he carried into the doubles.

### GRAND FINAL PREVIEW

#### Runners v Raptors

With the team trophy on the line in the B Grade grand finale, both teams will be looking to gain the ascendancy and eventually pull off the victory on the night.

The *Runners* have had an interesting season, as the combination of **Ryan Starkey** and **John Langdon** was only a recent thing since the relaunch of the B Grade season due to players leaving and teams being reduced. Interestingly, the *Runners* were the only team that had personnel changes.

On the other hand, the *Raptors* have been together since Round 1. **Viqar Ali Khan's** team will be the heavy favourites when the teams face off in the final since they won their most recent encounter with the *Runners* in Round 13. At that stage, the doubles were what ended up being the decider – which resulted in a *Raptors* victory.

On grand final night, the key rubber will once again be the doubles. Whoever prevails in that contest will most likely get their team the win. With their recent dominance in the doubles, the *Raptors* will be the heavy favourites.

*Prediction: Raptors to win 3-1.*

# C GRADE

## SEMI-FINALS

SEASON ONE 2022

RESULTS		
Bold Bashers	6 • 0	Go Team
Roosters	6 • 3	Lefties

### REPORT

#### Semi-finals 1: Bold Bashers v Go Team

The favourites for the title, *Bold Bashers*, were merciless as they blew away team *Go* on semi-final night.

**Anaz Umar Sarif** wrapped up the tie after claiming the sixth rubber over **Dallas Graetz**, 11-5, 11-5, 11-5.

It was **Luca Lobo** (*Bashers*) who had to produce his best table tennis to overrun both **Michael Calwell** (9-11, 9-11, 11-5, 11-9, 11-6) and **Geni O'Brien** (10-12, 11-5, 12-14, 11-7, 12-10).

#### Semi-finals 2: Roosters v Lefties

In the other contest, *Roosters* were crowing after they put away the *Lefties*, in a repeat of last week's encounter.

**Dirk Botha** closed out the match when he outclassed **Iliana** in the ninth rubber, 11-8, 11-3, 11-7.

Earlier in the match, both doubles went in favour with the *Roosters* and went to the deciding set.

In one of the are highlights for the losing team, **Simon Koefoed** held on to defeat an improved **Luigi Lovato**, 11-6, 9-11, 11-5, 8-11, 11-6.

## GRAND FINAL PREVIEW

### Bold Bashers v Roosters

It is no surprise that the number one and two teams have managed to qualify for the final match of the season. Both teams are looking strong and it should be a riveting contest on the 8<sup>th</sup> of June.

*Bold Bashers* have been the most dominant team this season, dropping only two matches with their last loss occurring in Round 4 against the *Lefties*, and are now riding a 12-match winning streak! **Anaz Umar Sarif** and **Luca Lobo** have both had personal best seasons in the singles. **Ken McAllister** has had an incredible debut and has been a revelation for his team.

*Roosters* were initially not a prominent side until **Roy Anderson** made his return to the competition. Since then, his team has done well to finish as the second-best team in the competition. With **Dirk Botha** and the improving **Luigi Lovato** on the team, the *Roosters* will look to do the impossible – claim a victory on grand final night in a David verse Goliath contest.

*Prediction: Bold Bashers to win 6-2.*

**THE GRAND FINAL WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY,  
8<sup>TH</sup> JUNE FOR ALL GRADES.**

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