

Perth  
Table  
Tennis  
Club

# Ping-Pong @ PTTC #1

Welcome to Ping-Pong @ PTTC, the official and occasional newsletter of the Perth Table Tennis Club. We'll be publishing future newsletters on a semi-regular basis, probably around every 3 months or so, but maybe a bit more often if something important crops up that we especially want to let people know about.

So what's in store for Volume #1? This being the introductory issue, we'll take the opportunity to introduce the PTTC, talk about the team behind it all, showcase the features we have on offer at PTTC, and highlight the events that have taken place in the last 8 weeks since we opened our doors on Tuesday June 14 2016.

## **PTTC Club Vision**

We want everybody who comes through the doors at PTTC to have a good time playing table tennis, regardless of age, gender or playing standard.

Table tennis really is a sport for everybody, and we want new beginners to feel just as welcome and important as our more experienced high level players.

At PTTC, we have the tables (12) and opening hours (5 days a week) to give everybody plenty of time on the table instead of sitting on the sidelines!



*Opening night at PTTC*

## PTTC – The Facts

### Opening Hours

Tuesday 6pm – 10pm  
Thursday 6pm – 10pm  
Friday 6pm – 10pm  
Saturday 1pm – 9pm  
Sunday 11am – 9pm

### Location

Maccabi Gym  
61 Woodrow Avenue, Yokine  
Perth, Western Australia

### Number of Courts/Tables

12 tables in 10m x 5m courts

## PTTC – The Features

- Open 5 days a week
- 12 table venue, excellent court space
- Stiga Expert tables
- Group & One-on-One coaching
- Quick Tips
- Affordable prices
- All ages and standards welcome
- Table tennis robots free of charge
- Weekly fun tournament every Sunday
- Social nights on Thursday and Saturday

## PTTC – The Figures

\$10 per club session

Children u/18 can play for \$5 each during these times:

Tues, Thur, Fri: 6pm - 8pm

Sat: 1pm - 3pm

### Private Table Hire

\$10/hour per table

### Individual Coaching Rate

\$40/hour adults

\$30/hour children U/18

### Group Coaching Rate

\$7.50 / hour



*Min Tai having fun at our Sunday Tournament!*

## PTTC – The Team

Having taken a look at the facts and figures involved with PTTC, let's now meet the people behind the club.

### Greg Letts – Club Manager, Coach



- 2006 WATTA Coach of the Year
- 2006 WA Open Mens Singles Champion
- 2006, 2009, 2010 WATTA Senior Men Player of the Year
- 10 times WA Open Mens Doubles Champion
- 2011, 2013 WATTA Veteran of the Year

Greg has been involved with WA table tennis since he began playing in 1986. Since then he has made regular appearances for WA in junior, senior and veteran state teams, as well as representing Australia several times in the Veteran trans-Tasman competition against New Zealand.

Greg has been involved in coaching in WA since the mid-2000's, as both the head and assistant State Junior team coach, and as a provider of individual coaching services.

### Nita Teoh – Club Manager, Marketing



- 2002, 2003 WA Open Womens Singles Champion
- 2002, 2003, 2009 WATTA Senior Women Player of the Year
- 2010 WA Open O/40 Womens Singles Champion

Nita has been around the scenes in WA table tennis for many years as a player, as well as helping to run the UWA table tennis club in the 1980's and 1990's. She is now using her many organizational and digital marketing skills to promote PTTC. She also makes a great cup of coffee!

### You?



As you can imagine, running a table tennis club that is open 5 days a week is quite a bit of work. So we would love to build up a team of volunteers that can help us out from time to time.

We are always open to new ideas for running the club, and we are especially on the lookout for people who would be willing to help out by welcoming new players to the club, or who could open up the club now and again.

## Coaching

Everybody would like to improve their table tennis, and at PTTC we have several options to choose from in order to get help with your game.

### Quick Tips

Since opening the Perth Table Tennis Club in June 2016, the most frequent request that we have heard from old and new players is for “a couple of quick tips” to help improve their game. Not a full hour long coaching session, but just a fast fix or two for their most urgent ping-pong problems.

So in response to this common dilemma, PTTC has introduced Quick Tips, where you can turn up for a normal club session and get some quick advice from Greg (Level 1 Coach) for no extra charge. Just give Greg a shout as he wanders around the club, and he'll pop over, take a look at your problem, and help you get back on track.

So if you can't hit a forehand loop over the net, your backhand is bad, you are terrible against junk rubber etc, come along to PTTC and get a Quick Tip or two!

### Group Coaching

Saturday Afternoon

4.00pm – 6.00pm

Cost: \$15

Coach: Greg Letts

All ages and abilities welcome

Sunday Afternoon

5.00pm – 7.00pm

Cost: \$15

Coach: Greg Letts

All ages and abilities welcome

### One-on-One Coaching

Personal coaching is available with Greg, during the following times:

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 7.00pm – 9.00pm

Saturday: 2.00pm – 4.00pm; 6.00pm – 8.00pm

Individual Coaching Rate: \$40/hour seniors, \$30/hour U/18 juniors.

## 3 Quick Questions on Tournaments

1. If you don't play tournaments, why not?
2. What type of tournament would interest you?
3. If you do play tournaments, what can be improved to make them more fun?

We'd really like to know your thoughts so we can improve our own tournaments.

Contact Greg on 0408 953 764 or [greg@gregsttpages.com](mailto:greg@gregsttpages.com)

## Table Tennis Robots

We have a brand new Newgy Robo-Pong 2050 table tennis robot for Perth Table Tennis Club players to use. And thanks to David Brown, we now have a second Robo-Pong 2050 as well, along with a Robo-Pong 1040. Thanks David!

The Robo-Pong 2050 is a great table tennis robot, easy to set up and put away, simple to use, reliable and terrific for practicing technique and drills.

PTTC players can use it for no charge, although please check with Greg first so that he can give you a quick run-down on how to use the controller to set up the ball feeding for what you want to practice.

If a robot isn't set up when you get to the club, just ask Greg and he'll be happy to get one ready for you.

Remember, a table tennis robot is great for hitting a lot of balls in a short time to groove in your technique, so make sure that you are hitting the ball correctly when using the Robo-Pong. If you aren't sure about your technique, ask Greg for a quick check-up.



*Becky Bennett giving the Robo-Pong a Warm Up*

## **Weekly Sunday Swiss Style Tournaments at PTTC**

Starting from the 17th July 2016, PTTC has been running a weekly Swiss Style tournament every Sunday here at the club. Everybody had a lot of fun at our “Don’t Miss the Swiss” competition in June, and several players said that it would be great if there was a tournament like this to play in every week. So now there is!

Doors open for warming up at 11.00am, with a 12.00pm starting time. Entry fee is \$20, so just turn up by 11.45am, hand over your entry fee to the trustworthy looking gentleman at the door (that would be me), and start playing! The tournament should wrap up around 3.00pm – 4.00pm, depending on numbers.

### **Prize Money Adjustment**

Following feedback from players, we have adjusted our prize money system to give all players a chance of winning their group category and picking up a reward. We are using the Ratings Central ranking system to assign players a rating, and then the prize money is allocated as follows:

\$50 – players over 1600 points winner

\$40 – players between 1300 to 1600 points winner

\$30 – players between 900 to 1300 points winner

\$30 – players under 900 points winner

Players without a Ratings Central points rating will be given an initial rating by the Tournament Director.

### **What is a Swiss Style Tournament?**

Swiss style tournaments are great for several reasons, including:

You’ll get somewhere between 4-6 matches (best of 5 games). No getting knocked out in the first round by the #1 seed!

The idea is to play people with the same number of wins against each other until an overall winner is found. Most of your matches will be against players around your standard. If you are winning, you’ll keep playing better players. If you are losing, you’ll be matched with players closer to your level. You don’t have to be a great player to compete and have fun.

It’s all just one event, so no waiting around for hours getting cold in between different events.

Our playing venue is great – plenty of court space, great flooring, competition tables, stadium seating, good lighting, and even a cafe open on the grounds to get a snack or a coffee!

More variety – we can handle 44 players in each tournament, so you’ll be playing a lot of different people from week to week.

You are welcome to stick around after the tournament and keep playing for free, if you have the energy!

### **Do You Have to Turn Up Every Week?**

You can turn up on any Sunday you like, since each week is a separate tournament. The only exception is when an official WATTA sanctioned tournament is on that weekend. You can always give Greg a ring on 0408 953 764 before 12.00pm Sunday to check if the tournament is on.

Swiss Style table tennis tournaments are great fun, and suit all ages, sexes, and standards. You’ll get plenty of good matches in a relaxed, enjoyable atmosphere. What are you waiting for – see you on Sunday!

## Challenge Board

After a bit of discussion on Facebook, it was suggested that a challenge system could be a fun and interesting addition to our regular club sessions. This got the thumbs up from several people, so we are introducing a Challenge Board at PTTC.

Please note that participating in the Challenge Board is optional.

### Challenge Board Rules

- To challenge someone, you must be within two places of that player (counting only players present at that night's meeting).
- If the higher ranked player wins, nothing is changed.
- If the lower ranked player wins:
  - The winner moves up to the loser's position.
  - The loser, and those below, are bumped down one place.
- Challenge matches are best 3 out of 5.
- If a fifth game is played, remember to change sides when one player reaches 5 points.
- Make sure you let your opponent know that you are challenging him/her for the board. Otherwise the result will not count.
- Try to accept all reasonable and legal challenges. You may turn down a challenge if you are tired or injured, but try not to turn one down repeatedly.
- Players who have played two challenge matches that night (or who have already played a challenge match against the challenger that night) can decline a challenge.
- Players absent for more than a month will be removed from the board. When they come back, they can challenge anyone they want to get back on the board.
- New players begin at the bottom of the board.
- Results will be input into Ratings Central each week.

## Big Ball (44mm) Table Tennis

PTTC have recently purchased a number of 44mm table tennis balls, and we are currently waiting for their delivery.

We plan to run a one-off fun Big Ball Tournament in the near future, and we are thinking about whether a Big Ball social pennant competition (perhaps on a Saturday?) would be popular with WATTA members and our new players.

What do you think? Would you like to play in a Big Ball social pennant or perhaps a Saturday Big Ball Swiss Style Tournament every week? Perhaps parents would like to play some fun big ball social pennants on a Saturday while their kids do some normal training at the club?

Give Greg your feedback on 0408 953 764 or [greg@gregsttpages.com](mailto:greg@gregsttpages.com)

## **“Don't Miss the Swiss” Tournament Results**

The 2016 “Don’t Miss the Swiss” Swiss Style tournament was run on 26 June 2016 at the Perth Table Tennis Club, starting at around 12.30pm and concluding around 4.00pm.

Many thanks to those players who came and had a great time, and competed in a serious but friendly spirit.

Craig Campbell ran away with the number 1 spot, while we needed a playoff to decide positions 2-5 due to the fierce competition. James Lim managed to prevail, with a number of hardfought 5-game victories along the way propelling him into a terrific #2 finish.

Final Results:

1st – Craig Campbell \$100

2nd – James Lim \$50

3rd – Robert Lee \$25

4th – Russell Stein \$20

5th – Wayne (Min) Tai

## **Weekly Swiss Style Tournament #1**

Craig Campbell took home the \$100 as the winner of our first weekly Swiss Style tournament on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2016, but it was Matthew Young who was the big point mover of the day, followed by Connor Johnstone.

Jeff Drew was the winner of the \$50 player participation random draw.

Many thanks to everyone who came along and made it a great day after the unfortunate cancellation of the West Coast tournament.



*Rusty Stein showing his best side at the "Don't Miss the Swiss" tournament*



*James Lim was the surprise player of the day at the "Don't Miss the Swiss" tournament*



### **Weekly Swiss Style Tournament #2**

With much of Perth outside enjoying the sunshine, a small but dedicated band of table tennis enthusiasts stepped inside the Perth Table Tennis Club to do battle for the \$100 first prize.

This week it was Greg Letts' turn to claim top spot and the biggest positive point change, while Raffy was the recipient of the \$50 player participation prize draw.

### **Weekly Swiss Style Tournament #3**

Craig Campbell took home the \$100 first prize, with Marina Saykovskaya winning the \$50 player participation draw.

Many thanks to all who competed!

Best point movers of the day were Dasun Ranasinghe with +29, Craig Campbell with +16, and Jeff Drew with +12.

## **PTTC – Plans For the Future**

While we have your attention, the team at PTTC would just like to share some of our plans for the future with you. As you will see below, we are dreaming big, and perhaps not everything will work out as planned, but these are the thoughts we have in mind for WA table tennis in the years to come.

### **Propel Ping-Pong Forward in WA**

After a bit of a drop off in the 1980's and early 1990's, table tennis in WA has been at a fairly steady state for the last 20 years or so. With a 12 table venue open 5 days a week, we are hoping to successfully introduce a few new ideas at PTTC.

Here's a few of the possibilities we have in mind for the future at PTTC:

- High Performance Training Centre – for our top juniors and seniors.
- Big Ball (44mm) social pennants catering for new players, parents of juniors, and veterans.
- Training camps/workshops with Australia's top coaches brought over to WA.
- Sponsored visits from Australia's top players to train with our top juniors and seniors.
- Sponsor WA players travel costs to play in Eastern states tournaments.
- Coaching Corner – a place to produce new coaches, and allow them to develop their skills under the mentorship of WA's best coaches.
- Premier League with significant prize money, aimed at keeping our top juniors playing past age 17-18, and to provide incentive for our top seniors to train and improve.
- Looking a bit further ahead, and without wanting to get ahead of ourselves, set up a second full time venue that WATTA could operate from without having to sell the current centre.

### **Suggestions and Getting Involved**

- If you have any suggestions or ideas to help grow the sport at PTTC, or would like to help out, we would love to hear from you. Contact Greg on 0408 953 764 or [greg@gregsttpages.com](mailto:greg@gregsttpages.com)