

## Southern Table Tennis Secretary's Report 2016

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Change and technology. Both these factors have impacted table tennis significantly over the last 10 years. If it is not a change to the rules and equipment, technology drives the promotion and development of the sport. I cannot remember the last time I received a physical letter, although as Secretary I consistently receive in excess of 100 emails every month (excluding spam) and send about 80. We have an active Facebook site and player results go up each week to Ratings Central, an online results repository used by many countries around the world. Additionally, world table tennis has now moved to plastic balls, and Southern has membership of several web sites to manage its table tennis activities (Sports Vouchers, Sporting Schools, AIS, Rec & Sport, DCSI, ASC, etc.). This year I have also participated in several online meetings with TTA in Queensland and others around Australia. How things have changed in the way we now run table tennis!

Putting that aside, 2015 / 2016 has been a very active year for Southern, particularly in promotion and development, junior development and capitalising on the renewed affiliation with TTSA. Plenty of dot points for me to list.....

- Funding assistance was received from the City of Onkaparinga for running sanctioned tournaments and towards the cost of barrier replacement,
  - Southern registered and promoted to some 50 primary schools the Australian Government initiative called 'Sporting Schools'. Six of the schools received funding and participated in the 5 week program. Several of those schools received free table tennis tables as part of the overall package / program. Thanks to Max and Dot of the Brighton Club for delivering school based coaching on behalf of Southern.
  - Southern has been fortunate enough to receive additional funding from TTA to further its work with primary school students over the current school term and the first and second term of 2017,
  - Southern ran the City of Onkaparinga Veterans tournament in August attracting 50 players from around SA. The event was well received by those participating,
  - Southern after significant investigation and physical testing changed to the DHS 40+ seamed plastic ball for the 2016 Summer and Winter seasons. The damage rate was so high that Southern moved to the Yinhe 40+ seamless plastic ball for the 2016 Spring season,
  - There has been a changing in the guard in respect to managing team match results. Jenny Poole has stepped down after doing the task for many years (thanks very much Jenny) and Tom Grace has taken on the role,
  - Through an AGL fluoro replacement initiative, Southern was very fortunate to have all its playing area fluoro tubes replaced for LED tubes. Thanks AGL,
  - Congratulations to member Cynthia Langley who was awarded an OAM for her services to table tennis in many capacities over a long period of time,
  - Southern's association with the Wilfred Taylor Reserve Users Group (WTRUG) has seen 2 joint beneficial initiatives in 2016. An Active Ageing Australia come and try day has attracted new participants to Southern's Tuesday and Friday morning social sessions, and Morphett Vales East Primary School had some 150 students try 3 different sporting activities (table tennis being one) on a 'Big Day Out' for the school,
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- Southern put its name down to participate in the Noarlunga Bunnings 'sausage sizzle' roster. Fronting up in late July, a fun / bonding day and fund raiser,
- On a promotional basis, Southern set up a stall at the SUNA Markets, had a similar stall at the Seaford Shopping Centre and participated in the City of Onkaparinga National Youth week event at Seaford,
- Southern's coaches and volunteers have been issued a polo top embossed with the Southern logo,
- Thanks to Brian and Bev James, Southern's new website was launched at the beginning of the year,
- Otherwise, social group numbers on both Tuesday and Friday mornings are healthy, competition numbers are stable and the Tuesday Night Junior Program is getting more popular.

A good year on reflection. Each week there is approximately 235 > 250 players, partners and family coming into the Southern stadium, and that figure does not include school and general hire. And for the most part, opening the stadium and coordinating the activities being delivered is undertaken by a hand full of volunteers.

I hope in 2017, others will put up their hands to help out, even if that assistance is a small specific not very time consuming task. Please give it some thought...have you a bit of time you can give back to Southern.

I also want to acknowledge the work both on Committee and operationally performed by Marcel Storcken in the last 14 years. He has been put forwarded to this AGM to receive Life Membership. A worthy recipient indeed.

And finally, once again, I say to all those who have contributed to the effective running of Southern during the last 12 months, thank you, your input has not gone unnoticed.

Maurice Quinn  
Secretary

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