

Gold Coast Table Tennis Association Inc.



Newsletter March 2010



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HERBERTSON DRIVE, MOLENDINAR

COMING UP

Unfortunately the 2010 Wynnum Open has been cancelled.

The Queensland Schools Championships will be played in May 2010. Make sure you get your schools entries in quickly as there are limited spots available.

Venue: Brisbane Table Tennis Centre, Green Terrace, Windsor, 4030. Date: Wednesday 19th May 2010

STATE & NATIONAL UMPIRING COURSE

Brisbane 8 & 9 May, held at BTTA Windsor. Cost \$40, register early to avoid disappointment. Closing date: 30 April.

NATIONAL TOUR

TT Aust is conducting a National Tour to present a weekend of Coaching & Administrative updates. This is for accredited NCAS coaches, club administrators and committee members. It is a FREE 2-day weekend workshop. To be held: Sat 22 & Sun 23 May at BTTA, Windsor. To register to attend, fill out the attendance form available from hpm@tabletennis.org.au by 5pm 26 March.

BUNDABERG OPEN: 20-21 MARCH

Rockhampton Open & team event, 3-5 April

Aus. AWD Championships Canberra, 4-7 April

Aust Youth Championships, Adelaide 6-10 April

Oceania cadet challenge, Auckland NZ, 1 April

ITTF Junior Training Camp, Auckland, NZ, 3-5 April

ITTF Junior Circuit, Auckland, NZ 6-9 April

Youth Olympic Games International Qualification, Auckland 10-11 April

Oceania Championships, Auckland, NZ 12-18 April

OUR COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT: Mick Couglan

VICE-PRESIDENT: Greg Quinn

SECRETARY: Lukas Kozak

TREASURER: Zark Rokсандic

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Karl Braun, Virgoe Buckland, Duncan Turpie,

Tejay Lovelock

TREASURER'S REPORT

This month has been action packed. The good news is that on Wednesday the Qld gov representatives of the



Major grant inspected our new extension and were very happy with the progress thanks to the very capable and dedicated people, Matthew Jones and our builder Ray Jennings and his team.

The inside plastering is almost finished while the foyer, canteen & office will soon be furnished and only the lighting will need to be completed, as we have trialed different sets of lighting for the new area.

Thanks also go to Mick and his team who cleared and cut down the grass around the gates which looked like a jungle after the recent rain.

Let's hope it will not take too long now before we can use our extension for what it is intended.

Also a reminder to you all for the opening ceremony / party is being planned. Anyone with any ideas is welcome to contribute. We are required to stage an official opening by inviting all officials involved from the Qld Gov & GCCC. This may have to be a separate function because of the longer lead time required. It is also good news that our fixture competition is well underway without too many drawbacks.

Thanks again to Bert, Cass, Robert, Roy, Jack, Marcus & Agnes as well as committee members. Agnes is selling raffle tickets - so please buy some. Your committee is applying for more grant monies to complete the

refurbishing to the standard required.

Unfortunately, the bad news is that the club was robbed sometime in the early morning of 12th Feb. The thieves forced their way through the wall, avoiding our security alarm system and removed our safe with all the money in it, although the safe was hidden from general view and bolted to the concrete. They also stole the money in the till, which they unlocked with a hidden key. The police have been informed and their forensic team is still examining the evidence. We will endeavour that this will not happen in the future as no money will be kept overnight on the premises.

ZARK ROKSANDIC

MEMBERSHIP FEES are now overdue. Please pay these fees as soon as possible, as this covers your TTQ registration and public liability insurance.

DONATIONS & SUPPORT

We are reaching the end of the building extension, and the club is urgently seeking donations from members to help support and raise funds for the extension.

RULE REGARDING COLOUR OF CLOTHING:

3.02.02.02 The main colour of a shirt, skirt or shorts, other than sleeves and collar of a shirt shall be clearly different from that of the ball in use.

This means, if the ball is yellow, then a yellow shirt is not acceptable. If the ball is white, a white shirt is not acceptable. Many people have experienced the disappearance of the ball in play when it crosses a shirt of a similar colour. Some clubs, ask for dark clothing, which solves the problem.

Our club also has a few extra rules:

Shirts or T-shirts must be worn in the centre. That means, no singlets or bare tops.

Bare feet, thongs, or boots are not permitted.

You are entitled to a two-minute hit up: (1) If you have not played a game. (2) between rubbers. A one minute break between games is permitted. Players should not leave the court during rubbers (up to 3 metres allowed).

Another rule, not always understood by newer players is:

2.5.2 The ball is in play from the last moment at which it is stationary on the palm of the free hand before being intentionally projected in service until the rally is decided as a let or a point.

This means if you take a swing the ball and miss it altogether, you have lost the point. Only one chance.

COACHING

Coaching is now underway on Sundays and Tuesdays. All sessions have been well-attended. It has been a while since we have had coaching suitable for everyone. This is another step forward to strengthening the skills of club members. I would particularly like to thank Cathy and Graeme Townsend for their involvement in this.

CATHY DEMONSTRATING



FUNDRAISING AUCTION

In mid May there will be a fundraising auction for the club. We now require donated items worthy of being auctioned. Sure, you can help! Have a look around your house for something you no longer use. Maybe it is an Aston Martin or a \$200,000 ring, given to you by an ex-partner. Maybe it is a new TT rubber. Try and find something and bring it in.



GLUE SHEETS

These are very thin, double-sided glued, clear plastic sheets that you use instead of glue to hold the rubber to your blade. You peel off the outer layer which reveals a sticky surface. Apply it to the wood, then remove the second protective layer, so that now the surface of the glue sheet is sticky. Then you put the rubber on to the sticky glue sheet. (Similar to using double-sided tape).

It's easy enough to use, and they hold the rubber onto the wood quite strongly and evenly. You can remove the rubber without any trouble. But removing the glue sheet is difficult without damaging your blade. It is best to remove the rubber, then reapply glue to the existing glue sheet and new rubber.

I am not sure they are a good idea. They must change the characteristics of the bat, since they are between the wood and the sponge. Apparently you can stick one glue sheet on top of another, but each time you do this you are adding weight and changing the character of your bat.

Have you had any experience with glue sheets? Email and tell me. (Marcus)

BALSA BLADES POPULARITY

There appears to be a growing trend for player to use blades with Balsa layers. So what's so special about Balsa wood?

Balsa has some very unique properties that make them suitable for both defensive and offensive styles blades. Read on to find out more about balsa blade properties, and the styles that it may suit.

Physical properties of balsa:

Balsa is a very light and low density type of wood. It is very soft, so soft that you can easily dent it with your fingernail and leave a permanent dent. Since it is not very strong by itself, it's usually sandwiched between some stronger and harder plies or composite layers which gives the blade strength.

It's very low weight is one important reasons for the popularity of balsa blades. There are balsa blades that weigh less than 50g, and combining these with some light rubbers, make it possible to make complete bats of weights in the low 100g! Some players with physical constraints may prefer such a bat, and others that use a lot of wrist movement in their strokes will find it's much easier and quicker with a low weight bat.

Characteristics of a balsa blades:

Low impact:

Since balsa is usually used for the inner or centre ply of a blade, the feel of the blade is obviously effected by the outer plies as well. In general balsa gives the blade a very soft feel, which makes it feel slow and offers good control and touch, particularly on low impact strokes, such as return of serves or pushes.

This properties makes it particularly attractive for long

pimple (with no sponge) players as the touch for drop shots or short balls is often critical to their game.

High Impact:

The property of the Balsa layer changes depending on how hard the ball hits the blade, it is not linear like most other types of wood. The higher the impact, the quicker the rebound off the balsa. In contrast to the low impact property, where slow balls are held by the balsa giving it long dwell time, on high impact the balls are rebounded very quickly giving it very short dwell time. Although this can be seen as a disadvantage, since low dwell time generally means less control and less ability to generate spin, the major advantage is for blocking and counter hitting, where low dwell time means much reduced sensitivity to spin, and the ball comes back much quicker to your opponent.

Thickness of balsa layers and stiffness of the blade.

The thickness of the balsa layer, and the combination of this layer with other wood or composite plies, allows manufacturer to make different balsa blades to suit different styles. A thick layer tends to make the blades stiffer and fast, which promotes the high impact property, whereas a thin layer tends to promote the low impact properties.

http://oneofakindtrading.com.au/balsa_table_tennis_blades.htm

PRACTICE / SOCIAL PLAY

TUESDAY: 6:30 pm - 10:30 pm

FRIDAY: 9am - 12 noon (Organised handicap events for senior and veteran players, including free tea/ coffee / biscuits. This is a good event to get you started at our club.

FRIDAY: 6:00 pm - 9:30 pm

SATURDAY: 9:30 am - 2:30 pm

COACHING

TUESDAYS

Coach: Cathy Townsend

Level 2 NCAS, AASC Coach

Session 1: 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

For all players to improve their all-round game. Focus on skill development. A new skill will be introduced every session. e.g. short service, understanding spin, tactics against different types of players, etc.

Session 2: 12:15 pm - 1:45 pm

Aimed at players who wish to master consistency and train in routines. Footwork routines. Ball placement. Match sense routines. Players of all abilities are welcome to participate in either or both sessions.

Bring along your bat, towel, water bottle, suitable clothing and non-marking shoes.

SUNDAY SQUAD TRAINING

Coaches:

Graeme Townsend Level 2 NCAS

Cathy Townsend Level 2 NCAS

AASC Coach

10 am - 1 pm

Note: Training will start at 10am sharp so please be ready on court. The centre will be open from 9:40 am.

Squad will be split into two groups:

Group 1: Established squad trainers

Focus for representative athletes as training will be planned around major tournaments

Training will be high repetition and consistency with highly skilled and physical routines

Group 2: Players who wish to improve ability to train in squad atmosphere

Focus on learning training routines, mastering of consistency, positioning ball and increasing table tennis fitness

Training will be planned around skill development to improve your all-round game.

Bring along your bat, towel, water bottle, suitable clothing, non-marking shoes and a competitive team attitude.

FEES

Tuesday Coaching

Junior/concession: \$8 for one session, \$15 for both.
Adult: \$10 one session, \$18 for both

SUNDAY SQUAD TRAINING

Junior/concession: \$15

Adult: \$18

Note: Coaching is a benefit for club members. Non-members can participate for 2 days before needing to become a member. See the 2010 Club Guide for membership details.

That's all for March,
Good hitting !

Marcus Clark, editor

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