



A PLACE OF OUR OWN -

30 years at The Gold Coast Table Tennis Centre

www.goldcoasttabletennis.org.au/a-place-of-our-own

THE much-admired premises the Gold Coast Table Tennis Association calls home was a long time in the making.

The club had functioned in a variety of drop-in venues since 1967 and its quest for a permanent stadium didn't really gather any momentum until 1991..

Martin Rogers was secretary of the club and when he and his wife Lin, the treasurer, accompanied teenage son Martin to the Wide Bay Open in that year, the seed of an idea began to take form. Their visit coincided with the launch of the Bundaberg Association's impressive new arena and identified the need and potential for the Gold Coast club to embark on a similar venture.

At the time local activity was limited to two nights a week in the Labrador State School hall at Turpin Road. Persuading some of the more conservative members of the Gold Coast committee was not immediately plain sailing. Foundation stalwarts Agnes and Barry Herbertson had diligently accumulated funds over the years but it took Martin and Lin some time to convince the club's officers that this was the project the Gold Coast had to have.

NEW STADIUM

After many delays, the new stadium is finally underway. The concrete slab is down and construction began today (July 28). Things are moving along on schedule to finish in August 20.

The New Stadium is at the top of Harper St, Nerang, opposite the entrance to the Raintree Tap.

17-9-94.
Then was the date of the move from Labrador State School to the new Table Tennis Centre at Nerang. Just one week before the 1994 Open Gold Coast Open Championships. Thanks to the combined efforts of the Gold Coast committee and the club, the move was a success.

INVITES ALL PLAYERS

OF ALL STANDARDS: #Beginners, #Ladies, #Juniors, #Veterans, #Past Players.

September 1994

TO OUR NEW PREMISES

New club

THE Gold Coast Table Tennis Club has successfully sought help from the Albert Shire Council to establish a club house at Molendinar.

The council will contribute \$1000 from May or Ray Stevens' constituency fund towards site preparation works to set up the club.

Location Plan

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New centre a boost for table tennis

TABLE TENNIS
by DON HARTHORNE

TABLE TENNIS is set to boom on the Gold Coast with the opening of a new centre at Nerang on Saturday.

The centre, built at a cost of \$120,000 raised by the association during the past 25 years on land leased off the Albert Shire Council, is situated in Harper Street.

It will be the first for the Gold Coast Table Tennis Association which previously conducted its affairs at the Labrador State School's community hall on Tuesday and Thursday nights.

Permanent

Six table tennis tables will be permanently set up at the new centre, with initial tiered seating for 35 people and standard seating for a further 50.

In the long term, the association aims to have tiered seating for 75 people.

Table tennis will be played six nights per week at the centre which will be hosting the annual Gold Coast Open championships this weekend.

Mondays to Saturdays, with the exception of Mondays, will be devoted to competition. Wednesdays will be a social night for members of the general public who can play for \$4 from 7pm to 11pm.

The association currently boasts 150 members, but expects to double that number in the near future.

Apart from the Gold Coast Open, the association will be hosting the South East Queensland pennant final in December and have nominated to conduct the next Australian veterans title.

The new centre was used for the first time on Thursday night for regular club fixtures.

In A grade, Ashmore edged out Paradise Point, 6-5, courtesy of Michael Gilbert defeating Peter Luxton for the second time this season.

Surfers swamped Nerang 16-1 with both Robert Matheson and Ross Clayfield winning three singles and their doubles.

Greg Jackson helped Helensvale defeat Highland Park 7-4 in the other game.

In B grade, Southport beat Hinterland 6-5 with Barry Herbertson dominant, Springfield accounted for Ormeau 7-4 and Miami edged out Nerang 6-5.

and the centre's canteen was always open to supply drinks and snacks.

The centre was open Monday to Friday for social or competition games and at other times by appointment.

A weekly social night is held on Monday and Mr Matheson said all interested people were welcome to go along and join in, cost \$3 per person.

Coaching is available by experienced ex-Russian coach Vladimir Kojanov by arrangement.

Tuesday night is the C grade competition, while the A and B grades compete on Thursday night.

Mr Matheson said the centre was also available for rental.

Gold Coast Table Tennis Association president Don Luttrell toasts the opening of a new centre at Harper Street, Nerang.

GRUNDY'S
AT SURFERS PARADISE

SHANGHAI LA
CHINA
LISTEN TO THE SURFERS PARADISE

The side garden at the New Table Tennis Centre, October 1994.

In due course members got on board with the concept of a dedicated seven-day operation and Martin contacted Ray Stevens, Mayor of the Albert Shire (still a few years away from its eventual amalgamation with Gold Coast) to make a submission for help with obtaining suitable premises. He was directed to Shire secretary Terry Moore who listened to the club's request and the answer came in the shape of permission to set up on Crown land at Harper Street, Molendinar, as well as the offer of a peppercorn rent and a 10-year interest-free loan to assist with building works.

As fund-raising took on new urgency and quotations for site works and construction plans were acquired over time, the project remained very much a work in progress until 1994, with new president Robert Matheson leading the charge.

Robert took up the challenge. After a delegation met with the Mayor Ray Stevens who said we could occupy the present site, a good imagination was needed to see it come to fruition. Mayor Stevens had the huge D-9 Bulldozer from the Molendinar Refuse Centre cross the road and level out the site. Robert then set about obtaining quotes to build Stage 1 to accommodate 6 playing courts with kitchen, office, and bathrooms. Robert signed a contract with Ranbuild to build our Stage 1 premises, several members went guarantor to make up the full contract price in the form of a loan with Suncorp Building Society.

And so it was the project came out of the ground. We asked the concreters to do a particularly good job as it was to be the only playing surface for quite a while. Eventually lino tiles were installed and this felt like luxury. It was many years before Taraflex the international Table Tennis flooring was installed this not without challenges.

Finally, the build was completed late 1994 without much fanfare, the Mayor opened it. We were all so relieved that we had achieved building a centre of our own. No more setting up and packing up tables and barriers at shared rented facilities.



Of course, we were able to expand and add Stage 2 in 2010 thanks to long serving member and architect Mathew Jones and his team.

A great improvement on Stage 1, Stage 2 included the entry lounge where players and their guests could relax, eat, drink, and be merry. A much needed storage room was incorporated and the club now boasted 14 playing courts, all having Taraflex flooring installed. The grand stand seating accommodation was also greatly expanded in the addition.

We eventually added Solar Power with 144 panels and paid them off in record time. This enabled us to install Air Conditioning which we could now afford to run thanks to the solar power.



These facilities are today enjoyed by everyone thanks to the foresight and hard work of the prime movers in Martin & Lin Rogers, Robert Matheson, and Barry & Agnes Herbertson as well as the committee of the day. A huge thank you to all involved.

Thank you to Mick Coughlan, Martin Rogers in particular and Robert Matheson for the input and recollections in compiling this history of the club. by

Article by Gold Coast Table Tennis Association
2025



