

MFTTA Inc 2024 Annual General Meeting

President's Report.

Board of Directors:

Thank you to the outgoing Board. The outgoing Board consisted of Peter Myszka (Initial President), Max Coulthard (Treasurer & Interim President), Sarah Forward (Secretary) David Griersmith (Initial Vice President), Cameron Lyall (Interim Vice President), Les Dawson, Lucy McDermott, Carole Quintanilla (Part), Craig Twigg (Part), Kari Sann (Part).

In particular I wish to thank those not seeking re-election. All have contributed greatly and will be missed. I also welcome those new nominations seeking election to the Board for the next 12 months.

Committee Members, Volunteers and Staff

Thank you also to all those on our committees and volunteers who do much of our day to day workload. Without your help we could never run our organisation. Sarsha and Carl joined Emily to provide more resources in our Administration area. Sarsha and Carl focus on competition and events whilst Emily now focuses on general admin, bookkeeping and media.

Gender Equity

Last year we more than fulfilled our goal of a minimum 40% female representation on the Board. We remain committed to this Table Tennis Australia Gender Equity Strategy and aligned gender equity principles of TTV. We have found the diversity of views, innovations and ideas that our female representatives of great value to our membership and ensuring a clear focus of strategies to increase female participation.

Membership

We currently have 352 members with 27% female and 73% male. We will continue to push to regain pre-covid numbers. The Board is also looking at other stadiums throughout the region to provide on-going club feeder sites to our proposed regional hub. We also recognise we are limited in capacity due to our number of courts, however we are not yet back to capacity for night competition. There is also potential competition play at the Frankston venue next year. The return of confidence amongst our morning social groups are likely to also improve our overall numbers.

Regional Hub and stadium expansion:

The Board of Directors has continued to work toward a stadium expansion and has an in-principle agreement from Mornington Peninsula Shire via the Civic Reserve Master Plan completed by Scott Daniel and Rod Spivey, for the provision of 25 full-size courts in an expanded stadium by at the latest 2035. Designs have been completed with inside layout and outside views of the concept stadium available for viewing. The newly elected MornPen council will be presented with the final plan by Scott Daniel for endorsement in February 2025.

Frankston Stadium Venue

This is going very well with Monday Night and Thursday afternoon sessions requiring the regular use of 8 tables. We have advised Frankston South Community and Recreation Centre we are looking at further sessions in 2025 and they have advised we would be looked at favourably as we are community focused. The Board has ordered 5 new tables and new nets for 3 existing tables to ensure all are quick setup and fold up with nets remaining set up on tables with fold-in capability.

Mornington Stadium Venue

The Board has approved replacement of all scorers throughout the stadium. They will have the same capability of being secured to umpire chairs as existing scorers. We have also agreed to fully upgrade all lighting to ensure consistency across courts and table configurations. Expect some testing of new lighting designs early 2025. Some tables are also due for replacement and the old tables will become available for other venues and potentially on-sale to members.

Awards

Last year Les Dawson received the Table Tennis Victoria President's award for his contribution to table tennis. The Association was also a finalist in the Best Table Tennis Club/Association in the State.

New MFTTA Logos and Sportswear

Our sportswear was redesigned after feedback from members. We are offering special deals on remaining stock purchased prior to the end of this year. We are also looking for designs on shirts that will be Junior Squad specific in line with our on-going focus on junior development.

Competition and Tournaments

A diverse range of competition options has been made available throughout the year. The flexible round robin system with two sessions per night including handicap doubles has been popular. After survey feedback from members, A grade was restructured into teams for A1, A2 and A3. This has revitalised the grade and proven very popular.

Juniors

By the end of last school term Friday night juniors were at an all-time high with all tables being used. The start of this current semester saw lower numbers possibly due to cancellation of the first night back in the school term due to a warning of potentially catastrophic weather in Mornington. We expect numbers will build back up again as the semester progresses.

Keenagers

We average between 25-40 playing each day. Numbers are down from peak pre-covid but confidence is growing and many are rejoining though interclub activities by our senior community has not fully recovered.

All-Abilities

Numbers have been consistent throughout the year. However increasing regulations on supervision of people with various mental and physical disabilities is making it harder to ensure as many in-stadium sessions are run throughout the year. We have just passed 1000 visits from all-abilities users this year. Well done Les for his commitment and dedication to the All-abilities groups.

Training and Development

We continue with a strong focus of encouraging training and development with a number of members attending State Umpire training and coaching courses.

Our latest First Aid Training Course was completed on Saturday 12 October. MFTTA paid for all participants. A further 13 people now join the ranks of those already qualified. A big thank you to Lucy McDermott, who as our First Aid Person ran a great session on how staff complete accident and incident reports.

We continue with our commitment to host regular coach the coaches' sessions. Early Oct we had internationally trained coach Bruce Carter run sessions covering dealing with all types of coaching for people from all-abilities through to elite level. Heming Hu is due shortly and we will continue to use in-house coaches where appropriate. We also thank ex Olympian David Powell for running two heavily subsidized Table Tennis Victoria funded junior pathways programs over the last 14 months. We need to promote these types of opportunities more effectively to improve participant numbers.

Spinneroos

The Spinneroos entry level program for 5-12yr olds has continued to run each school term this year. Currently these in-stadium events average 5 young players each session.

Group Training: School programs and School holiday programs

We continue to run school programs at the stadium each week. Numbers range from 10-40 depending on the day. School holiday programs are very popular, and numbers continue to grow. During the recent holidays the numbers were between 12-15 each day over 3 days. Well done Coaching team.

Inclusion programs

FITT (Females in Table Tennis) has been running twice a week on a Monday morning and Friday evening. Attendances have been very consistent on Mondays and many of these players have gone on to become members and join our social mornings.

We have not been as successful in bringing in more people recognising themselves as part of the LGBTQIA+ community. After attempting to run many sessions funded by a dual FITT/LGBTQIA+ grant we found most LGBTQIA+ people were simply happy to join into our regular competition. The funding had a much greater impact when applied to the FITT program.

Open and Closed Tournaments and other events

FITT and Pauline Hayes female specific tournaments continue to grow in popularity. The Anniversary Handicap and Closed Club Championships event were also successful events.

The three open tournaments (Junior, Seniors and Vets) also attracted around 80 participants a day. Although it is nice to see so many participants from other clubs these should be the events where we see more of our local players. Something to work on in 2025.

We opened for World Table Tennis Day to the public, and participated in the Shire "This Girl Can" week that comes up each November. We also participate in the Civic Reserve Open Day each year.

One MFTTA team went to the Country Championships held in Traralgon. They won their grade, and the Board has committed to getting five teams participating in 2025.

Centre facilities

Les continues to provide low-cost table tennis rackets and other equipment from the stadium shop. He is also cleaning the stadium and doing a spectacular job in keeping it a place to be admired. So much for being retired!

Max Coulthard
Interim President and Board Chair
31st October 2024.