**2021/22 Annual Report of Goulburn Table Tennis Club**

In May 2021 our own Richie Jiang was selected to play for NSW in the Junior National Championships to be held in Coloundra, Queensland in July 2021. The club was looking forward to Richie performing well at these championships and was excited for his selection – it was the first time in many years that Goulburn had produced a state representative in table tennis.

Unfortunately, Covid-19 struck again. The Queensland border remained closed in July, and the Championship was cancelled.

It seemed that Covid was going to contribute to yet another disruptive year for our club –and it did. Competitions were abandoned, regular social play was cancelled and the club closed its doors once again as lockdown instructions came into effect

Richie was subsequently selected this year to represent the ACT in the Australian Under 19 team’s Championship, to be held once again in Coloundra, Queensland in July 2022.

We wish Richie all the best for this tournament.

In July 2021 our Wednesday morning social table tennis program for members of the community had recommenced and the club had started its weekly evening Winter competition for both A Grade and B Grade club players.

The competition comprised of 7 x 3 man teams in A Grade and 7 x 3 man teams in B Grade – a total of 42 players playing a weekly competition.

Unfortunately, this competition had to be abandoned in mid-August, after only 4 weeks play, due to another round of Covid 19 lockdowns.

In late July the club took delivery of a 20ft shipping container which was craned into the front yard of our compound. This has alleviated a chronic lack of storage that the club was experiencing providing secure, weather tight external storage and doubling up as a wind break against the westerly winds coming through the fence.

The club’s AGM was held on August 11 (just prior to COVID lockdowns coming into place). The new Board members were elected with Executive positions being awarded to Michael Turner (President), John Lees (Vice-President), Jamie Miles (Secretary) and Nicola Fraser (Treasurer). Joanne Dungey, David Manning and Mark Soley were elected as general members of the Board.

The club remained closed for two months reopening on 9th October for social play after COVID lockdowns were lifted. Strict conditions of play were adhered to and gradually our calendar of events came back online.

Unfortunately, the annual Southern Country Teams Championship event that Goulburn Table Tennis Club had hosted for the last four years in October had to be postponed this year. The 2021 event was rescheduled for January 2022.

In early December 2021 the club held its Closed Championships –graded singles and doubles events were contested in a competitive manner with the day culminating in an end of year Xmas Family Social BBQ. It was great to finally have a social event and bring club members together after the disruptions and isolation of COVID and lockdowns.

The Men’s Open Champion for 2021 was TK Fun, the runner up was Richie Jiang.

The Women’s Open Champion for 2021 was Elisa Chung, the runner up was Nicola Fraser.

The re-scheduled 2021 Southern Country Teams Championship was held on the weekend of 29 & 30 January 2022. Twenty teams from around the Southern region were invited to play in this 2 day invitational with The Honourable Mayor, Peter Walker, officially opening the tournament on Saturday morning. Goulburn fielded two teams in both Div 1 and Div 2 with our best result coming from Goulburn 1 (Mark Soley & Richie Jiang) placing 4th in Div 1.

There were some exciting matches, fiercely fought competitions, atrocious weather and friendships renewed as after the cancellations of club competitions around the state, all competitors were keen to hone their skills in the first competition for the New Year.

It was a great weekend, and we would like to thank all players and officials that were involved, helping to make this our most successful tournament yet. We hope to build on the success of last year when we host this year’s tournament in Oct/Nov 2022.

Goulburn Table Tennis club would like to thank both the Goulburn Workers Sports Council and Goulburn Mulwaree Council for their continued support of this event.

The Wednesday morning social table tennis program made a welcome return in early February. This is an initiative of TT NSW encouraging clubs to open their doors to the wider community, especially seniors, to promote table tennis as an all ages sport that can provide many health and social benefits to its players. We are seeing a regular number of players each Wednesday morning, with numbers slowly growing. It is a fun social time for those that attend with a few players enjoying their table tennis so much, that they have transitioned into playing our weekly club competitions on Monday & Wednesday evening.

February also saw the commencement of our first weekly competition for the year – the Summer Comp. It was played with six teams in both A Grade and B Grade. A Grade teams, however, were reduced to 2 x man teams (instead of 3 man teams) as some club players were hesitant to return to competition, still mindful of Covid health implications.

Goulburn fielded three teams in this year’s NSW Country Teams Championship, held in Gosford in May. This tournament has been cancelled the last two years so it was very good to be able to send some teams to this event.

Goulburn's best results came from teams that contested Divisions 2, 4 and 7.

The Goulburn #1 team of Richie Jiang, Mark Soley and Angus O’Rourke took out the Division 2 event with four wins and one loss.

The Goulburn # 2 team of Michael Turner, Lachlan Bill and Robert Ramazini played in Division 4 and came third with two wins and two losses.

Goulburn’s # 3 team of Jack Gray, Bagaskara Ariza and Daniel Tsai came second in Division 7 – they lost to the eventual winners Penrith, in their last game.

In May the club participated in an event organised by NSW Schools to provide a Multi – Sport Disability Day for disabled kids. This was held at the Veolia Centre in Goulburn with children coming from local and district schools to participate.

Participating sports included bowls, cricket, netball, table tennis, boccia, golf, rugby league and hockey. Kids moved through 6 of the 8 sport stations throughout the day, experiencing those activities in 25 minute blocks of time at each station. It was a very successful day, the kids had lots of fun and the volunteers from the club went home very tired………

but seriously, thank you to the club volunteers of Nicola Fraser, Phil Fraser, Dave Manning & Joanne Dungey who helped to make it a fun day for the kids.

As mentioned above, the Summer Competition commenced in February and despite some weeks with multiple player absences, due to Covid illness, was finally able to be completed.

Grand Finals were played on Wednesday 15th June 2022.

The A Grade winners were The Eighty Eights – the team consisting of Mark Soley and Gerard Gray. Mark’s other team members throughout the competition were Johnny Fang & Daniel Tsai, both unavailable to play in the finals.

The B Grade winners were The Pies – the team consisting of Dave Manning, Peter Trama and Simon McDonald.

Congratulations to all winners and thank you to all club players for returning to competition and social play throughout these uncertain times.

We will be commencing our Winter Club Competition in July with a further competition and Club Championships scheduled for later in the year.

On a final note, our vice President John Lees, has been sidelined this year with illness. We wish John a full recovery and hope to see him back again next year.

Once again I would like to acknowledge and thank the Workers Club and Sports Council for their continued support of the Goulburn Table Tennis Club. It is with your continued support that we are able to offer club members and the wider community of Goulburn a table tennis club that is the envy of many clubs in NSW.

Report prepared by

Nicola Fraser

Goulburn Table Tennis Club - Treasurer