



ACROSS THE NET

Melton Table Tennis

November 2016

Melton Table Tennis **Presentation Night**

Thursday December 1st 7:00pm-11:00pm

Q-Lounge

20 McKenzie St Melton

Private Function Room

SPECIAL GUEST PRESENTERS AND SPEAKERS

All members and guests are welcome

\$15 per head

Finger-food and Soft Drinks FREE
Alcoholic drinks available at bar prices

Please notify Matt or Glenn of number of tickets required
by Friday the 25th of November

PRESENTATION, PUZZLE, PUTTING UP A FIGHT, PERSON OF HISTORICAL SIGNIFIGANCE

In this edition we talk about this year's presentation night, review the poorly named Melton-Werribee Challenge, try to make you think, and find out that there was more than one Richard they called Lionheart.

END OF YEAR PRESENTATION NIGHT

For many years the Melton Table Tennis Presentation Night has been held at the playing venue with **Ahmet Halil** cooking up his fantastic kebabs. This year will see a change to that format.

Due to our hosts at the **El Aman College** using the rooms outside the hall on Thursday nights we had the need to find another venue, and with Ahmet being overseas at that time we needed to find another caterer.

This year the MTTA Presentation Night will be held on the **1st of December** at **Q-Lounge**. Centrally located on the corner of **McKenzie and Smith Streets** in Melton (just behind the Golden Fleece Hotel), we have



booked a **private function room**. The event will be catered with finger-food provided, soft drinks free of charge, and alcoholic drinks available at bar prices. The event will run from **7:00pm** to **11:00pm**.

Another point of difference for this year will be the attendance of *special guests* to present the **Leading Player** and **Club Champion** awards. Don't miss the opportunity to hear the words of wisdom, experience and encouragement from Australian sporting royalty.



Tickets for the night will be **\$15 per head**. As the event will be catered, we need to know numbers for the booking. Please notify either Matt or Glenn of guest numbers as soon as possible. Watch the notice board and SMS messages for more information.

A PUZZLE TO SOLVE

Alex Bellos of **The Guardian** newspaper in the UK had this interesting puzzle a few weeks ago. The solution will be on the last page. *Don't peek.*

Three friends (A, B and C) are playing table tennis. They play the usual way: the winner stays on, and the loser waits his/her turn again. At the end of the day, they summarise the number of games that each of them played:

A played 10

B played 15

C played 17.

Who lost the second game?

MELTON – WERRIBEE CHALLENGE



On Sunday the 23rd of October, 24 players from Melton travelled to the new *Top Spin Court* at Werribee to compete in the **Melton-Werribee Challenge**. Since the last time we visited in 2012, this venue has been completely re-built and now offers Werribee players a large and well-lit facility.

Werribee provided **8** tables for the competition, limiting the number of players Melton could take to the event. With **2** tables of our **A-Grade** players, **2** tables from **B-Grade**, **2** from **C1** and **2** from **C2**, we attempted to give players with a range of abilities a chance to experience tournament play.



The event was decided purely on the total number of games won, rather than the number of tables won as is the case in the Melton-Sunbury Challenge.

Although the final games score showed Werribee victorious by **50** games to **22**, the contest was far closer than that. Many matches went to the fifth set in very tight battles. **Connor Ziday's** first match finished with a Melton victory at **22-20** in the 5th set.

We thank our hosts for their hospitality, good sportsmanship and for providing the local pizza shop with the best profit they've had in years. We eagerly await the opportunity to renew the rivalry at next year's challenge.

NEW LEAGUE THE WORLD'S RICHEST

Although the list of players is yet to be finalised, the new **T2 Apac League** will kick off next year with the first season to be played in Hong Kong. The total prize pool of **US\$1.5 million** is *triple* the richest ITTF event on the professional circuit.

With prize-money like that, you would expect that the 24 places (12 men and 12 women) will be filled by some of the world's best. The new league has received the endorsement of the **ITTF** and the **Asian Table Tennis Union**.

The competition has been designed for digital consumers, with all matches to be played in studios rather than stadiums. The telecasts will feature super-slow motion replays and other technological advantages not available in stadium play. Match time limits and a unique scoring system will also be featured.

Big names have been recruited to set up the new league, with former ITTF Executive Director, **Mikael Andersson** appointed as *Director of Competitions and Technical Operations*, and **Vladimir Samsonov** appointed as *Director of Player Operations*.

The first season will be comprised of **228 matches** played from July to December 2017, and will be in the format of Men's, Women's and Mixed teams events.

More details when they become available.

RICHARD THE LIONHEART

What do Austria, England, fleas, table tennis, clocks, World War II, and the Harlem Globetrotters have in common?

Richard Bergmann was born in Vienna, Austria in **1919**. As one of six children, the family were bordering on poverty. He was **13** before he first played table tennis, and the fact the he was part of the World Championship winning **Austrian** team only 3 years later is proof of his talent and tenacity to succeed. Bergmann's ball control was unsurpassed. One of the best defensive players of all time, he was a tactician who studied the strengths and weaknesses of his opponents.



Nicknamed "the flea" because of his diminutive size, Bergmann won the **Men's Singles Championship** in **1937** at *Baden, Germany*, with the help of three alarm clocks. The year before, the ITTF had brought in the 20-minute time limit rule on games. To avoid being caught out by this rule, Richard set up these clocks to go off at 12, 17 and 19 minutes. A wrist-watch would have served the purpose, but he refused to wear one in competitive play. "*It impairs my rare balance,*" he explained.

As an Austrian Jew, Bergmann was declared stateless in **1938** and fled to England, assisted by the *English Table Tennis Association* under **Ivor Montagu's** direction. Bergmann received very little funding from them and had to work as a waiter and night porter. He competed for his adopted country at the **1939** World Championships in Cairo, winning the *Men's Singles* and *Men's*

Doubles with **Victor Barna** who himself had fled from his native Hungary to escape the war.

Richard was finally allowed to enlist in the British RAF towards the end of World War II and to serve as a physical training instructor. While stationed on the south coast of England, the reigning world table tennis champion stood as one soldier among 160,000 awaiting D-Day. Bergmann had also qualified as a signals officer, '*directly responsible for giving information to our front line fighters and bombers as to the strength, positions and types of enemy aircraft likely to be encountered during any specific flight*'.

On the **3rd of June 1944**, amid all the chaos of the invasion preparations, Bergmann was lost on the base, looking for the right building to drop off his application for the job of sports officer. Bergmann opened the wrong door. He saw a large room filled top to bottom with shiny white table tennis balls. He closed the door. Then he opened it again to make sure he wasn't hallucinating. Finally he understood why his table tennis supplies during the last five years had been so limited. Table tennis balls had been produced exclusively for the RAF to pack into the wings of seagoing aircraft as an inexpensive floatation aid.

At the conclusion of the war, and with no world championships scheduled, Bergmann accepted an offer to tour with the **Harlem Globetrotters** basketball team, playing exhibition matches during the breaks in the basketball game. These matches made Bergmann one of the first 'professional' table tennis players. Because of this, he was denied to opportunity to defend his title when the World Championships recommenced at **Paris** in **1947**.

Disappointed but undeterred, Bergmann went to Paris and staged a protest demonstration, parading back and forth in front of the venue, with a large placard proclaiming that only he was the true world champion, challenging anyone to play a match for 500 British Pounds.



When the restriction on professional players was lifted the following year, Bergmann came back to win the **1948 Singles World Championship** in London, and also won the **1950 Singles World Championship** in Budapest as well as the **Teams World Championship** in 1953.

Continuing to play his exhibition matches, Bergmann played through the 1950's and into the 1960's, touring with the Harlem Globetrotters and playing at Butlin's Holiday camps in England. A noted traveller, he played table tennis in 108 countries.

An outspoken opponent of sponge, Richard made his own bats which had a slightly larger than normal blade and a thicker handle to suit his style of play. A *Slazenger Richard Bergmann Valor* bat was recently for sale on a specialist collector's website for **US\$1,175**.



After a career split by a world war, and divided between two countries, Richard Bergmann passed away in a London hospital at the age of **50** after suffering from a brain tumour.

Inducted into the **International Jewish Sports Hall of Fame** in **1982**, and one of the twelve founding members of the **ITTF Hall of Fame** in **1993**, Richard The Lionheart will long be remembered as possibly the greatest defender of all time.

The **Richard Bergmann Fair Play Trophy** has been presented at each World Championship since **1967**. What more fitting tribute could one ask for.

ON THE WEB

Just for a giggle, I logged on to Google and typed in "How do I play table tennis?" Now, anyone who's seen me play may point out that this was a valid question for me to ask, but I'll ignore those slings and barbs and carry on regardless.

One of the options offered to me was from **wikiHow** who have very conveniently broken the entire game of table tennis into 3 sections. The first section is entitled "Playing the Game", and the first point of this is "Find someone to play with". Well, *Duh!!!*



Point 3 was the most interesting for me, though. In deciding who should serve first, they state that "*...the serve is determined by a quick rally, typically with each player spelling out one letter of the word P-I-N-G for each hit they make. After the word P-I-N-G is spelled out, the person to win the rally serves first or chooses which side of the table they wish to play on.*"

We've been doing it wrong, people!!! *WE'VE BEEN DOING IT WRONG!!!*

What's your favourite table tennis site on the web? Let us know so we can share it with other members.

Are you a member of our facebook page? Search for **Melton Table Tennis** on Facebook and join in our conversations. Don't forget, you can find our web page at **www.meltontabletennis.com**. Make us your home page.

NOVEMBER TOURNAMENTS

The last two local tournaments of the year are getting close.

Saturday the 5th sees the running of the **Geelong Open Junior Tournament**. With lots of local talent, this would be worth the trip down the highway to watch.

A bit further away, the Vets get to play at the **Albury/Wodonga Open Veterans Tournament** on Sunday the 27th. This is the last tournament for the vets before they have a Bex and a good lie down over the summer.

PUZZLE SOLUTION

Player A lost the second game.

First let's deduce how many games were played in total. If we add up the games that each of them played we get $10 + 15 + 17 = 42$. Since each game requires two people, we half that number to get a total of 21 games.

Now let's consider the **minimum** number of games it is possible for any player to play. This would be for a player who loses every time they play. If this losing player was in the first game, he/she would be out in the second game, play again in the third game, sit out the fourth, and so on. In other words the games played would be the odd-numbered games: 1-3-5-7-9-11-13-15-17-19-21. That's eleven games in total.

But if this losing player sat out the first game, debuting instead in the second game, the player would play only the even numbered games: 2-4-6-8-10-12-14-16-18-20. That's ten games in total.

The only possible way to play 10 games is if only the even numbered games are played. Since A has played only 10 games, we can deduce A played in all the even games (and lost them all). So he/she lost the second game.

YOUR FEEDBACK

This is **your** club and **your** opinions are valid and valued. If you have any comments to make on the contents of this newsletter, or if you have any suggestions or information for future editions please let us know.

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