



LENASIA TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

ESTABLISHED 2001

LENASIA TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION – HISTORY

The Lenasia Table Tennis Association was formed in 2001. The founding members were Sampie Essack, Billy Morgan, Hasmukh Jairam, Sameera Maal, Umair Jassat and Agsie Pillay. Fixtures officially commenced in 2002, games were played at the Nirvana Haven Hall.

Table Tennis in Lenasia has an illustrious history. Table Tennis was played under the auspices of the South Western Table Tennis Association (SWTTA). In 1979, the South African Council of Sport (SACOS) adopted the “ Doubles Standard Resoultion ”. This was to the disasitfaction of some of the players which resulted in the disbandment of the SWTTA. This gave birth to the Western Areas Table Tennis Association (WATTA). Mr Ashok Odhav, was instrumental in the formation of WATTA. They were affiliated to the Transvaal Table Tennis Association, which in turn fell under the Transvaal Council of Sport (TRACOS), the provincial structure of SACOS. Lenasia High Schools at the time were affiliated to Transvaal High Schools Sport Association (THSSA) which was also affiliated to TRACOS. Lenasia Primary Schools joined the Transvaal Primary Schools Sport Board (TPSSB) in 1989. Players represented the province in various National Tournaments. Table Tennis in 1970’s , 1980’s and 1990’s flourished in the Lenasia area.

In 1994, South Africa finally became a democratic country. On the sport front, unity talks began to emerge. It was out with the old in with the new. Some players formed clubs and continued to participate provincially and nationally. Lenasia Schools afiliated to the newly formed United Schools Sports Association of South Africa (USSASA). Lenasia players continued to excel in Table Tennis.

Sadly, Table Tennis in Lenasia began to experience a steady decline. Various attempts were made to revive the sport. Mr Billy Morgan and few others began playing socially at the Nirvana Haven Hall. This was part of promoting healthy lifestyles. Thanks to Mr David Masher who generously donated Table Tennis equipment. At school level, Mr Sampie Essack was convenor for Table Tennis, he felt that youngsters needed more game time to fast track their development.

Finally in 2001, Table Tennis was back in Lenasia. In 2002, clubs affiliated and fixtures were played on Tuesday evenings at the Nirana Haven Hall. Manchester were the inaugural winners, followed by Big 5, SADTU, Nirvana, Olympians, Taiban, Bourdoir, Lenz Spurs and Hot Shots.

In 2005, what was a dream became a reality. The LTTA seeked assciate membership to the Gauteng Central Table Tennis Association, under the

leadership of Mr Sarel Oberholtzer. The juniors participated in a tournament at the Boskruin Recreational Centre. Our team performed beyond expectations.

In 2006, with the game started gaining popularity and the increase in the number of teams participating necessitated that the LTTA switch the venue to Alpha Primary School. Danisha Patel, Chetan Nathoo, Nabeelah Essop, Kajal and Kalpesh Itchu were some of the youngsters who began to make their mark. They were guided by the experience and expertise of Hasmukh Jairam and Sameera Maal. Both these players represented the country in various national tournaments. Margaret Lekay and Ismail Badat were always available to assist with the coaching. Whilst Mr Sampie Essack was at helm, he was assisted by Mr Billy Morgan, Bharat Narsai, Harshed Govind, Naresh Nagin, Mukesh Itchu, Deepak Thakordas, Ismail Motala, Solly Mohamed, Yusuf Sattar, Shauib Motala, Ahmed Khota, Timothy Brownley and Agsie Pillay over the years. Special thanks goes out to the various sponsors who generously offered donations.

In 2007, The SA Open Championship was held in Benoni. Our seniors and juniors performed exceptionally well.

In 2008, the awards ceremony was dedicated to the late Mr Ashok Odhav. A tireless campaigner for social justice. Mr Ajit Gandabhai was invited pay tribute to this seasoned administrator.

In 2010, the tenth anniversary awards presentation was held at Protea Recreation Centre. The association had grown in leaps and bounds. The season had 24 teams competing for honours.

In 2014, the LTTA hosted the Egyptian National Team at the Alpha Primary School Hall. This was part of their preparation for the Glasgow Commonwealth Games in 2014. A packed hall were treated to high quality table tennis. This exposure was awe inspiring. Who would have imagined that in 2022, our very own Danisha Patel and Chetan Nathoo would go on to represent South Africa at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham – England. We eagerly await the day when someone from Lenasia will represent the country at the Olympic Games.

Unfortunately the association folded in 2016, but individuals continued to promote the game and strive for excellence.

The community was elated when Table Tennis once again was rebooted in 2024. At the helm is Mr Vikash Kassin assisted by Gayaraga Dasa, Deepak Thakordas, Naresh Nagin, Bharat Narsai, Ashish Nathoo and Javie Ravjee This augurs well for the future. Watch the space...

By Iqbal Gaffoor

THE Lenasia Table Tennis Association (LTTA) made its mark at the recent Gauteng Central Junior Open Tournament at the Boskruin Community Centre in Randburg.

beaten in the semi-final of the singles title while Chandni Natha and Stacey Lee James acquitted themselves well.

Team Managers - Naresh Nagin, Ismail Motala and Mukesh Itchu - were impressed with the performances of the LTTA

juniors. They believe that their performances auger well for the development programme and the future of the game.

The LTTA has also embarked on a coaching programme specially designed for juniors.

This takes place on Saturday mornings at the

Alpha Primary School.

Hasmukh Jeram and Umair Jassat have been sharing their expertise to all enthusiastic players.

Meanwhile, the LTTA league programme is all set for a nail-biting finish, with Big Five (Pool A) and Eights (Pool B) leading the two tables

PHOTO FINISH FOR BIG FIVE AT LENASIA TABLE TENNIS



Saaid Wala, Nazir Khan and Abdul Aziz Abed

A grand finale for Table Tennis

By Iqbal Gaffoor

THE Lenasia Table Tennis Association (LTTA) is heading for a grand finale as preparations get underway for their singles finals next month.

The LTTA are making an all-out effort to make this final a grand showpiece of table tennis in Lenasia by

stage their league games, will come alive when players wrestle for honours.

The Closed Singles Championship will see last seasons winner, Tim Brownley, up against strong contenders in the likes of South African singles champion, Sameera Maal, Hasmukh Jeram, Margaret Lekay, Abdul Aziz Abed and Faheem

t i t l e .

The Big Five teams includes top players like Maal, Saajid Waja, Nazir Khan, Abed, Abdullah Mohamed and Lekay.

Their quest to retain the league title saw a late challenge been overcome against SADTU who eventually settled for the runners-up spot. Inaugural winners (in 2002)

BOOST FOR TABLE TENNIS

By Iqbal Gaffoor

A full house by teams at the annual meeting of the Lenasia Table Tennis Association (LTTA) gave the association a moral boost — all the teams affiliated to the two leagues for the new season.

The new season is already underway and fixtures are played at the Nirvana Haven Hall on Tuesday and Thursday

12 potential juniors in the B section will be identified and linked to a senior teams for further development. This would ensure that the level of the game is raised among the youth.

The LTTA intends affiliating to the Vaal Table Tennis Association so that some of their better players are exposed to a higher level of the game and able to participate in

Big 5 make it big third year in a row

Lenasia Table Tennis players make their mark at Junior tourney

What a great season for table-tennis



By Iqbal Gaffoor

THE Lenasia Table Tennis Association (LTTA) enjoyed one of its best seasons since its inception five years ago. And the curtain came down to a fantastic 2005 season with the singles championships and awards function on

tremendously to a successful season. CCTI chairman, Saad Oberholzer and vice chairman, Felipe Nunes presented trophies and medals to league winners - Big 5, Sadu and Brazilians (Pool A) and Eights, Shorty Boyz, Paris (Pool B).

"Our administration is highly skilled and the guys really work hard. "In terms of competitions we enjoy the experience of our senior players who are a great inspiration to the juniors who watch them and want to imitate them. "For the very first time some

Hasmukh crowned

HASMUKH Jairam (pictured left) was crowned 2005 table tennis champion in the Lenasia Table Tennis Association's (LTTA) singles championships held at the Nirvana Haven Hall on 27 November.

Jairam, playing in Pool A, beat Abdul Aziz Abed 3-1 in a thrilling final. He beat Mohamed Wally to reach the finals while Abed had to overcome Umair Jassat in the semis.

were Big 5, Sadu and Brazilians while Pool B winners were Eights, Shorty Boyz and Parle C. Plaques were presented to doubles winners' Bluebells pair Hasmukh jairam and



Table tennis back in Lenasia

By Iqbal Gaffoor

TABLE tennis has finally got off the ground in Lenasia. The M H Joosub school hall was a hive of activity on August 17 when table tennis finally got off in sporting - crazy Lenasia.

In the past Lenasia

produced some great table tennis players. In the 1970s and 1980s table tennis was flourishing but then began a sad decline in the 1990s.

Interest in the game was dying slowly and development was non-existent.

Members of the community who were interested in the game began playing for clubs outside Lenasia and many made their names there. All that is now history. The Lenasia Table Tennis Association (LTTA) is a reality.

Concerned officials

and players got together and started the ball rolling. Their efforts has finally taken off and table tennis is back to its roots.

Interim officials were elected at the launch to oversee the re-introduction of the game. Among those elected were Abdul Samad "Sampie" Essack, Dynamos fame, Billy Morgan, Hasmukh Jairam, Umair Jassat and Sameera Maal.

Already six clubs have affiliated to the LTTA and more are expected to confirm their participation as

Lenasia Table Tennis Association — looking ahead to promote the game

By Iqbal Gaffoor

THE Lenasia Table Tennis Association (LTTA) is now a fully constituted body following the adoption of their constitution earlier this month.

spport to all persons irrespective of race, colour or creed; to seek continued improvement in the standard of table tennis; and around Lenasia; to produce players who will one

number of teams. Already Bluebells have affiliated a team and more are expected to apply as news of the formation of the LTTA spreads.

Officials said they would seek affiliation to the controlling body once their annual general meeting is behind them, which is expected to be within the next week

Table-tennis popularity grows

TABLE-TENNIS is fast becoming a popular sport in Lenasia after its recent reintroduction. The Lenasia Table-Tennis League says it is booming with teams streaming to join them. Starting out with only five teams they now boast

12 with fixtures being played every Tuesday evenings at the Jias Service Centre for the aged. The teams include Big Five, Nirvana, Lenasia Spurs, Taliban, Sadu Old Boys, Olympians, Panthers, Libra Stars, Valentinos, Scorpions,

Late Comers and Lesco. Fixtures for this season continue until 13 November followed by a lengthy holiday break before resuming in January. "If more teams would like to affiliate contact Sampie Essack on 852-6705 or 854-9390.

Curtains down for LTTA season

THE curtains came down for another fine season for Lenasia Table Tennis Association (LTTA). Table tennis is gaining popularity among the locals, thanks to the efforts of the LTTA officials and players and the standard of the game is improving in leaps and bounds.

In the midst of some stiff competition in the two leagues of the LTTA - Pool A and Pool B, a devastating clinch at Day and Jaiil Bechar overcame Olympians Rameez Khan and Mohamed Wades in the doubles final (11-9, 11-5, 9-11, 11-6).



Lenasia Table Tennis Association's season closes on a high note

The number of juniors adopted by the clubs and association, in terms of providing coaching. Next season the game is expected to spread more among juniors and they are likely to have their own division. The bias of the best

floating shieds were awarded to the winners and glass trophies to the knockout champions and runners-up. Certificates of participation were also awarded to junior players. The new season is expected to start in February. Essack and his committee paid special tribute to the sponsors, secured by David Mather, who donated the table tennis boards to the

encounter. As the second round of the league programme gets underway, Big Five are still enjoying an unbeaten run and are poised to bag the championship title moreover after securing the services of

STRIKERS CLINCH POOL B TITLE

through this season - to bronze medalists. Eight, in the first round and their final match against Aryans.

Daya and Jaiil Bechar overcame Olympians Rameez Khan and Mohamed Wades in the doubles final (11-9, 11-5, 9-11, 11-6).

Players are already looking forward to this event as it provides a grand finale to the season. Maal will have to defend her singles title on September 30 at the Nirvana Haven.

LTTA table tennis players upbeat about their progress

BY IQBAL GAFFOOR

ABDUL Aziz Abed was in devastating form early this month when he bagged the Lenasia Table Tennis Association's (LTTA) Pool A

outplayed and outclassed Olympians Umair Jassat and Mohamed Anel Wally. Sameera Maal was unable to feature in the championships for the second time due to national commitment. She is attending a course at the High

Shaukat Mia while Faheem Essop accounted for Amit Morar. In a thrilling final Brownley beat last year's winner Essop. Essop took the first game 11-8 only for

Brownley crowned singles champion

TIM Brownley was crowned singles champion for 2004 as the Lenasia Table Tennis Association held its singles finals and awards function last month. In the semifinals Brownley overcame

Shaukat Mia while Faheem Essop accounted for Amit Morar. In a thrilling final Brownley beat last year's winner Essop. Essop took the first game 11-8 only for

Brownley to win the next three 11-8, 11-2 and 11-3. In the Pool B championship Mohamed Sameer Hoosain beat Ismail Cassim comfortably in three straight games 11-7, 12-10 and

Table Tennis-more teams are joining

By Iqbal Gaffoor

Naresh Nagin (disciplinary committee)

Plans afoot to get table tennis going again

PLANS are afoot to revive table tennis in Lenasia. The National Cricket Stadium has been identified as the venue for the first meeting on 10 July at 7.30pm.

A few years ago table tennis was a thriving sport in the community going on to the extent that it was reported in the press going to clubs outside of Lenasia.

Since development was non-existent and neither were there administrators to get the ball rolling. Previous attempts to get table tennis going again proved fruitless.

Table tennis league splits men from the boys

the boys cannot compete with the men and this led to the creation of two divisions in the Lenasia Table-Tennis Association (LTTA).

After a strenuous two round league competition it was decided to separate the men from the boys, according to the log standings, to create stiffer competi-

A very good season for Table Tennis

By Iqbal Gaffoor

THE Lenasia Table Tennis Association (LTTA) enjoyed one of its best seasons. The introduction of a new format in league competition turned the game around for the LTTA who saw an increase in membership.

Chandni Bhayroo, a lad with lots of potential and the ability to be a classy player. He beat Nirmal Fakir for the title. The fight for the league title went down to the wire. Big Five clinched the title after enjoying more wins over Manchester, Rich, finished on 20 points but Manchester lost four.

Table tennis coaching clinics taking shape

COACHING clinics on Saturday mornings by the Lenasia Table Tennis Association is taking shape. The clinics form part of the association's development programme and classes are growing weekly, according to the secretary Bharat Narsai.

The players include Chetan Nathoo, Hitesh Dullabh and Nabeela Bhamjee. The trio had their first session on early in March in Alberton. They admit that they have a lot to learn in table tennis, but the

First round of matches for Lenasia Table Tennis

BLUEBELLS and Parle head to their respective pools after the Lenasia Table Tennis Association (LTTA) completed their first round of matches. After showing plenty of promise, Bad Girls seem to have gone off the boil. They will have to change the game plan if they are to become force.

Lenasia Table Tennis to introduce new format

By Iqbal Gaffoor

THE Lenasia Table Tennis Association (LTTA) will introduce a new format for the new season in an effort to move the game to a level higher.

allowing the younger players to get exposure to senior competition and prepare them for better competition.

Pool A fixtures will start on February 6 while Pool B will kick off on February 8. All matches will be

Table tennis stars

By Iqbal Gaffoor

LENASIA Table Tennis Association (LTTA) members performed well in the recent South African championships, ahead of the forthcoming internal knockout competitions.

showing class. She received her SA colours after the tournament. In the under 18 team event with Nabeela Essof and Stefnie Patel bagged gold and finished in the quarter finals of the singles. Kalpesh Itchu ended in the quarter finals.

Ismail Badat - the new table-tennis singles champ

THE curtain came down for another successful season for the Lenasia Table Tennis Association (LTTA) with the staging of all their championship finals.

The LTTA brought the season to an early finish due to the fasting month and also the final examination, on September 11 at the Alpha Primary school hall.

They wrapped up the league competition in August and played the various stages of the knockout competitions since the end of last month. The league competition was tough among the top clubs in both pools, resulting in the men being separated from the boys. Despite this, the game is growing in the area and so is the standard.

Newcomer to the association, Ismail Badat, met former singles champion Sameera Maal in the finals over the best of five. And it proved to be the best of the games of the evening.

After a hard fought contest Badat emerged winner with score that reads like this - 11-6, 8-11, 11-7, 13-15 and 11-9.

Last year's runner-up, Hasmukh Jairam, kept a low profile. In the doubles he partnered Kiran Rama and they lost to the

Maal/Badat pairing in the final - 11-2, 11-3 and 11-7. Shuaib Ibrahim beat Bilal Patel 11-7, 12-10, 6-11, 4-11 and 11-8 in the boys singles championship finals, while Fatima Sayed defeated Chandeneo Natha in the girls' singles finals - 9-11, 13-11, 6-11, 11-8 and 11-9. The doubles final saw a close encounter when Sivesh Dindayal and Ebrahim outlasted Patel and Riyad Essof 11-1, 6-11, 8-11, 11-2 and 12-10. Bluebells annexed the Pool A league title for the

Table Tennis off to a good start

By Iqbal Gaffoor

THE new season of the Lenasia Table Tennis Association (LTTA) got off with a bang at its new venue.

After five years at the Nirvana Haven, they moved to the Alpha Primary School hall which has more lights.

Fixtures for the season got underway on February 7 for Pool A and on February 9 for Pool B.

The atmosphere was electric when players took to the tables in their opening fixtures and officials are optimistic that the season ahead is going to be a better one.

They believe the standard would also increase,

especially among the development players.

Development is another first for the LTTA. For the first time a development team featured in league competition in Pool A games.

Every week a development team will be selected to play a fixture against a club from Pool A.

Should the Pool A club lose, those points will be reflected on their Log sheet and should they win it will count in their favour. This move will also encourage players in Pool B to perform.

Fixtures took a new meaning as many games were close encounters where no quarters was given or taken. It was also

evident that the standard has gone up.

Two teams from last seasons Pool B were promoted to Pool A - Eights and Shorty Boys.

After the first round of games, Pool A will split down the middle, separating the stronger teams. Then it will be strength against strength.

Matches in Pool B will be played over two rounds.

There is a possibility that another knockout competition may be introduced, dependent on the availability of time.

Abdus "Sampie" Essack was re-elected to lead the LTTA for another season when the association held its annual meeting last month.

NEW VENUE FOR TABLE TENNIS PLAYERS

By Iqbal Gaffoor

THE Lenasia Table Tennis Association has moved to a bigger and spacious venue at the Alpha Primary School hall.

numbers fixtures became congested.

Teams had to play till late in the evening to complete their games and this caused major setbacks especially towards the end of the season when players

formality but what is important is that the LTTA wants to start fixtures by the end of January.

"We had no alternative but to move from the Nirvana Haven," said Abdus

"We had to move to bigger premises and Alpha suited our needs.

"We have to thank Nirvana Haven for allowing us to re-establish the sport and for it to grow in numbers and standard."

Essack added that because of the commitment of the LTTA executive and its membership they hope to have more competitions.

As members of Gauteng Table Tennis, LTTA players will get more exposure and participate in more

Danisha Patel - newest kid on the block in Table Tennis!

Table Tennis season comes to a grand finale

By Iqbal Gaffoor

A smashing final between Sameera Maal and Hasmukh Jairam followed by the awards presentation brought a fine season of the Lenasia Table Tennis Association (LTTA) to a grand finale.

The semi-finals and finals of the LTTA knockout competition held at Alpha Primary School hall on September 19 brought the curtain to another successful season.

LTTA president, Abdus Samad "Sampie" Essack was full of praise for Lenasia Times.

He said: "We must thank Iqbal Gaffoor and Lenasia Times for the excellent coverage we received since our inception. They put us on the map.

"Wherever I went in Lenasia, Benoni or Laudium people always spoke about seeing our association's news in the Lenasia Times."

Essack also thanked Eastwave Radio for the coverage

Lenasia Table Tennis Association winds up its season on 9/11

By Iqbal Gaffoor

THE Lenasia Table Tennis Association (LTTA) will wind up their season next month with the finals of its knockout competition.

September 11 - Finals.

The top seeds that are going to find the going a bit steep include Sameera Maal, Ismail Badat, Hasmukh Jairam, Keeran Rama, Abdul Aziz Abed, Sivesh Dindayer, Shuib

(28), Paragon (24), SADTU (16), Eights (14) and last season's runner-up, Mujahideen finished eighth with 12 points.

Demio Boys, who were promoted from Pool B, and who still need to find

Thrilling games bring table-tennis

THE season drew to a close for the Lenasia Table Tennis Association (LTTA) when they hosted all their championship finals

the Alpha Primary School hall. The LTTA says it brought its season to an early close because of the start of the

was nearing close for the final school exams. The league was wrapped up in a competition held in August with the various stages of the

knockout competitions. League competition among the top clubs in both Pools A and B were strenuous and competitive with the

men being separated from the boys. Newcomer Ismail Badat met former singles champion Sameera Maal in the finals in the best of

Efforts to encourage table tennis locally

By Iqbal Gaffoor

THE Lenasia Table Tennis Association (LTTA) is making determined efforts to encourage the sport locally.

Coaching clinics are conducted on Saturday mornings as part of their development program. And this is taking shape with the classes growing every week.

LTTA secretary Bharat Narsai said the classes was a tremendous boost to improve the level of the games which is gaining popularity among juniors.

The Saturday clinics are spearheaded by singles champion, Hasmukh Jairam. He takes between 40 and 50 kids through their paces at the Alpha Primary School.

Some of them are showing great potential, which prompted Jairam to look at splitting the classes to separate the stronger ones and the new groups.

Sampie again heads table tennis

SAMPIE Essack was re-elected the Lenasia Table Tennis Association held annual general meeting held on 16 January at the Alpha Primary School hall. Naresch Nagin was elected vice chairperson with Mukesh Itchu (treas-

Shuaib Motala, Sameera Mall and Ahmed Khota. A new format for Pool A was finalised with a minimum of five players with not more than 8. Five will play two singles each and one doubles. The Pool B format re-

mains the same as last season.

Fixtures start on 6 and 8 February for Pools A and B respectively. New teams that want to affiliate to the association should call Naresch Narsai on 018-788-5334 or 011-854-5483.











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Brownley crowned singles champion

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A decade of table tennis

Hasmukh crowned

Wheels in motion for table tennis

*Lenasia Table Tennis
players make their mark
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Lenasia Table Tennis Association — looking ahead to promote the game

Egyptian table tennis team visited Lenasia to spar with South Africa team

A very good season for Table Tennis

ZAPPERS juniors are determined

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Ismail Badat - the new table-tennis singles champ

PHOTO FINISH FOR BIG FIVE AT LENASIA TABLE TENNIS

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Shree Lakshminarayan Mandir



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