

WFA Newsletter Dec 2023

Tournaments

2024 Competitions

Grab your diaries! 2024 will offer a heap of opportunities to play Walking Football in some fabulous locations! And there will be a wide selection of categories so you can pick what suits you!

QUT Brisbane – This has run for several years and attracts several hundred players. In 2024 it will be over TWO days **13-14 April** (9 am start 13th and 1 pm finish on 14th). Just waiting on full details. David is working on a travel package. Categories will be Mens 50+, 60+ and 65+, Women's 40+ and 50+ and social / mixed for less experienced players and wider age limits. At least one overseas team is expected. However team selection can commence – see 'TEAMS FOR ABOVE' below.

Singapore – Yep, you read that right. This is an early warning to pencil in the date and start saving as we work on an amazing competition. A 2 day competition on 30-31 August then, wait for this, we move to a cruise ship for finals and other games on 1st Sept as part of a 3 day cruise to Penang and KL in Malaysia!!! So the travel package through Travel Prospects will **Depart Australia 29th August and return 4th September** (with options for additional days if required). Teams are being invited from all over Asia and the world. There will be several social categories as Singapore are more into social rather than competitive WF so there will something for everyone! If you want to register a team expressions of interest (stating category interested) can be made to WF4Hcomp@gmail.com. Registration and more information to follow

Pan Pacs Masters – This will again be on the Gold Coast slated for **7-9th November** BUT Alan Templeton is considering making it a 4 day tournament (adding the 6th) due to the increase in interest and number of teams. Great

opportunity for a week at Broadbeach! This event will be popular and 2 overseas teams have already expressed an interest in playing! Categories are

Women's 40+, 50+, 60+

Men's 50+, 60+, 65+ and 70+

Mixed / Social (min 3 women)

Registrations open in March 2024 and with the number of people at Pan Pacs it's best to register early to get good hotel and flight rates. So Hub Captains, be ready to start putting sides together early in the New Year! (For those that can't commit that early there is still plenty of time to register later so don't panic).

It will be a far better organised event than Adelaide Masters so let's show up in force – Aim for 10 teams!!! Ask those that went in 2022 – it's a great few days in the sun!!

Travel Packages

To make life easier, David at Travel Prospects will be organising travel packages for these events. Bulk booking hotels means teams can stay in the same location and get discounts. Same can apply for air travel. The Singapore trip will need to go via Travel Prospects who will be the sole agency for the cruise. Details will be forthcoming as soon as costs are finalised.

Teams for the Above

Unfortunately the chopping and changing of sides for the Masters means we will **NOT** be selecting teams for these competitions centrally. Each Hub can choose team captains who will be solely responsible for selecting, registering and managing their side. If players at each hub are without a team but wish to play they can contact the Hub captain at another hub to see if they can be included in a team. Selecting teams centrally caused arguments and player movements without consent therefore there will be no central selection.

National Teams

Steve Trickey and Derek Finch have returned from a freezing Cardiff and the IWFF Winter Nations Cup. Prior to the tournament there were 5 warm up sessions against teams like Fulham, Chelsea, England Heart and Cancer, Barnet, London Peru and Caribbean. In between there was lots of sightseeing!!!

With nearly 25 in the touring party (including some partners) it was a great tour and the teams used the warm ups to learn to play together and sort tactics.

Regrettably the Over 50's suffered injuries to Sonia Geggenhuber (Ex Matildas Captain) and our Steve whose knee gave a huge amount of trouble. This reduced the success of the team.

The Over 70's did a little better in the tournament with 5 losses and 1 win. The losses were narrow and the freezing conditions of -4 degrees saw two muscle injuries which reduced the playing strength. The strength of the other teams who had short distances to travel also didn't help ... lets get them to Australia and return the favour!!!

It has been announced that there will be an IWFF World Championship taking place in Chesterfield UK on 17-19th May 2024. It is anticipated there will be teams for each of the 2 women's and 4 men's categories. It is anticipated that there will also be internationals with Asian countries in the foreseeable future.

Website, Kit and Merchandise

The website has details on all venues and times. We also hope to have new merchandise soon so remember all new information is posted on the website so please remember to visit regularly and <https://www.wfadelaide.com/>

Membership Fees

We still have quite a few who have not paid their membership fees. Please make it easy and pay your \$25 at your next session. We will soon be messaging all those who are unpaid. These payments will go towards the Play Football Insurance so everyone is covered automatically.

Insurance is compulsory when competing in national competitions

Development of the Game

The National Federation (WFFA) has launched a fundraising campaign. The objective is to raise funds for trials across Australia, promote the game and to go to subsidising travel for internationals for those elite players that are unable to self-fund. It can also be used to fly in selectors for trials in SA. Please feel free to share and support the campaign page with your network which can be accessed from the ASF website

<https://asf.org.au/projects/walking-football-federation-australia/walking-football-development-fund>

Promoting WFA

Last month we secured a stand at a small 'wellbeing' expo at Colonnades shopping centre in Noarlunga. Thanks to volunteers Richie, Peter, John C and John T for their time on the stand. We had a number of people interested in playing and several useful contacts for other initiatives so it was very worthwhile.

In March 2024 we also have a Bunning Sausage Sizzle at Marion. This is a very busy Bunnings and in addition to making people aware of Walking Football we will also raise some funds for the club!

What Else?

5th Birthday Celebration

Last year we celebrated WFA's birthday with a great weekend – Demo match at Adelaide United and a party the following day. Well we are doing it again! Put the weekend of **9/10th February** in your diary now. We have locked in the half time demo at Adelaide United (we will look posh with the new kits!) and Saturday we are organising a party night which last year was a HUGE success. Bring friends and family and make it bigger and better! Tickets on sale very soon. If anyone would like to donate a raffle prize please get in contact.