

WFA Newsletter November 2023

Tournaments

Master Games Adelaide 12-14th Oct

The Masters Games is over and although there were a number of issues with the management of the tournament (WFA has written to the AMG and FSA management to complain) it was still an opportunity to get 8 teams out in competition. We had a reasonable amount of success on the field with Gold in the Mixed, Silver for Over 50+, 60+ and 65+ and bronze for 60+. It was also an opportunity for a greater number of players to experience a competitive tournament so we are looking for more players to attend the national competitions next year.

2024 Competitions

There are several competitions already organised for next year so put the dates in your diary now (see below) and more info will flow. NOTE – as agreed at committee, Selection of teams will be the responsibility of HUB captains. Where there are surplus or insufficient players for the teams the Hub captain will liaise with other Hub captains to fill spots.

QUT Brisbane – This has run for several years and attracts several hundred players. In 2024 it will be over TWO days 13-14 April. At least one overseas team is expected

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 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 W40+/M50+

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 last year – it's a great few days in the sun!!

Asia – WFFA are in serious discussion on Asia Pacific co-operation. Nothing definite yet although Singapore have committed to bringing a team to QUT. However we are talking about Asia based club comps AND a WF theme cruise out of Singapore. More info to follow once we have any details.

National Teams

As mentioned last newsletter the IWFF Winter Nations Cup is taking place in December in Cardiff and Steve Trickey (over 50's) and Derek Finch (over 70's) are part of the squad.

It has just 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.

As previously mentioned teams will be selected – from trials and from scouts at national competitions. Therefore if you are interested you will need to play in national comps and be 'spotted'. It's **not** a case of putting your name forward.

New Venues

Clearview Bowling Club in Gordon Avenue is now up and running on a Thursday evening. We have not been able to find an organiser for Mitcham so that's shelved for now but we do have another

possibility instead. As of now we have 5 venues which demonstrated how fast we are growing!

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 trails 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?

Christmas Function

Scoffed are hosting a WFA Christmas party! Saturday 17th Dec from 2 pm. Cost is \$50 including food and Tony G providing the sounds. More info and booking at <https://scoffedcookingschool.com.au/product/lights-wfa-xmas-show-american-style-bbq-17th-december-2-00pm-6-00pm/>

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 on 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! Details soon

Survey

We have been asked to get our players to complete a Walking Sports Survey from Flinders University. It can be accessed here https://qualtrics.flinders.edu.au/jfe/form/SV_0B2Ntwipg4j2pAq

Lastly

It's been a huge year for WFA. We are now nearly double the size of a year ago, we have finished in the top 3 of every interstate competition and we have an active women's development program. John Walker would be super proud.

None of this just. Therefore thank you to all that help – either on the committee or just in their own way. Please offer any assistance you can – many hands make light work.

But most of all enjoy your game. This is a friendly social sport and it gives us all a chance to get active – for some of us long past the day we thought we would be kicking a ball!

There are lots of interesting things for the New Year so get involved and HAVE FUN!