

## Senior & Youth Gold at Nationals

The Australian National Table Tennis Championships were held at Seagulls Table Tennis Centre, Tweed Heads from 24 September - 1 October.

A Queensland team of 19 players and 4 coaching staff travelled to Tweed Heads for the week. The teams event was first up on the schedule starting on the Sunday and finishing on Wednesday.

The Men's team (Jake Duffy, Benjamin Gould, Ben Houghton, Lukas Kozak & Altantulga Lkhagvadorj) got off to a great start winning their first four matches with relative ease.

They then faced the difficult NSW B & A teams. By the most narrow of margins the outcome of both matches was a 4-3 to the NSW teams. This meant the last match of the event was the bronze medal playoff against the Victorians.

The guys combined to produce a fantastic win 6-1, and claimed the bronze medal. All team members did their part throughout the event, all finishing with a win percentage of 71% or better.

The Women's team (Matilda Alexandersson, Ching Chong, Xue Bai & Ru Sun) were in a



*Under 21 Men's team*

similar situation to the Men's team, that the last match of the event was for the bronze medal against the Victorian team.

Unfortunately the result didn't go Queensland's way on this occasion. The Victorian team led by four-time olympian Miao Miao won 4-3.

Ru Sun was the standout performer for the team finishing with a record of 11-3. Given this was the first time Ru & Xue have represented Queensland, it was a great event for the team and they can be proud of their results.

The Under 21 Men's team (Olav Dahl, Mateo Dvorani, Matthew Pettett & Fred Xu) were seeded third going into the event. The team completely dominated their competition to win the national title.

This was definitely a team effort with all members producing great performances. Olav & Matthew finished with win percentages of 66.67%. While Mateo (10-2) & Fred (8-1) both finished with fantastic results.

All team members have at least one more year in the Under 21's



*Jake Duffy*

and there's no reason why they can't defend their title at the 2017 nationals.

The Under 21 Women's event was combined with the Women's team event to provide more matches throughout the week.

The team of Ching Chong, Zabrynn Lander & Natahlia Werner combined to finish fourth in the Under 21 age group. First time Queensland player Ching Chong finished with a record of 4-5 and played very well.

In the doubles events, NSW duo Trent Carter & Erny Tsao defeated Kane & Wade Townsend to claim the men's doubles title. Trent continued his success in the mixed doubles combining with Fiona Zhu to win the event. Queenslanders Benjamin Gould & Matilda Alexandersson won bronze in the mixed doubles, upsetting number 2 seeds Karen Townsend & Sarah Tan in the quarter-finals.

In the Women's doubles number 1 seeds Michelle Beaumont & Melissa Tapper went down to K Peng & F Zhu in the final. Luke Cosgriff & Erny Tsao combined well to defeat QLD pairing Jake Duffy & Benjamin Gould in the final of the Under 21 men's doubles. However Jake went one better in the U21 mixed doubles with Maddy Goodsell (TAS) to win the gold medal. Georgina Newton (TAS) and Holly Nicolas (WA) easily won the U21 women's doubles.

In the Men's singles Duffy, Gould, Houghton & Engelbert Hugging all made it to the quarter-finals. But unfortunately all went down to NSW rivals. In the end Kane Townsend defeated Erny Tsao to claim the title.

Matilda Alexandersson got a tough draw in the Women's singles, up against Miao in the round of 16. Miao progressed and went on to win the national title. While Sarah Tan (NSW) won the U21 Women's singles over Holly Nicolas. Well done to Matilda who won bronze in the event.

Finally in the Under 21 Men's singles, Queensland players did very well. Houghton, Duffy & Dvorani all made it through to the semi-finals. Jake progressed to the final to face Erny Tsao. Jake got off to a shaky start down 2-0, but fought back to level it 2-2. Erny got the advantage again up 3-2, but Jake found something special to



*Matilda Alexandersson*

win 4-3 and claim the Under 21 Men's singles title. This result is on the back of the Under 18 Boy's singles title he recently won at the national juniors in July, congratulations Jake.

TTQ would like to thank the Seagulls Table Tennis club on their fantastic efforts in coordinating the event. Also to all officials involved, this includes referees Dave Delpratt, Steve Gillespie & controller Phil Males. Amazing effort by all umpires, including a number of Queenslanders involved such as Nicole, Zark, Mick & Will.

TTQ appreciates the efforts of our coaches throughout the event, this includes Patrick Wuertz, Seref Bakanay, Terry Dahl & Paul Uttley. Congratulations to all Queensland players that competed at the 2016 Australian Nationals.

