

## NEWS FROM THE PADDLE

*British Columbia Table Tennis Association newsletter Vol. 2, No. 2  
June 2008*

### Olympic Trials



*Han Xiao (U.S.) and an unidentified U.S. player (above) and Chris Xu and Sara Yuen (both Canada) battle it out at the Olympic trials.*

Capilano College was the scene of some impressive displays of table tennis skills April 4-6, as the top players from Canada and the U.S. fought for six berths at the Beijing Olympics. Canada did well, securing four of these.

The following athletes qualified for Beijing:

#### Women

Crystal Huang (U.S.A.)  
Zhang Mo (Canada)  
Judy Long (Canada)

#### Men

Wilson Zhang (Canada)  
Peter-Paul Pradeeban (Canada)  
David Zhuang (U.S.A.)

The event had great drama and excitement. As players qualified each day of the tournament, every match was crucial. In Zhang Mo's final match against Chris Xu an arm injury forced her to take a time out, but she showed great heart to fight back and secure an Olympic berth. Zhang Mo and Judy Long are now preparing for the Olympics in Asia.

Thanks to the many sponsors, especially the Bank of Montreal, TMS International and Butterfly for the support that made this event possible. We all wish the Canadian players the best of luck at the Olympics.

**The offices of BCTTA have moved. The new address is:**

**# 227-3820 Cessna Drive,  
Richmond, BC**

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**Tel: 604-333-3655**

**Fax: 604-333-3450**

## Canadian/Chinese Table Tennis



*The Canadian visitors with some of their Chinese hosts at Xiamen. The sign reads "Canadian International Institute and Hong Kong and Xiamen players."*

Eddie To and his merry band of twenty-three had a wonderful time touring China, even if their competitive successes were few. They played against five clubs in Xiamen, Shantou, Dongguan, Pangyu and Zhongshan. The players were generally on about the level of a 1500-2000 Canadian player, so the going was tough. Only Sean To posted a win, 3-2 in a match in Zhongshan.

But the feasts following the matches were superb. Eddie To has now introduced the table tennis dance to China—"forehand, forehand, chop, chop, chop"—which was wildly successful. Rumour has it that it is now the Chinese national dance.

They then proceeded to the Guangzhou World Team Championships, where they cheered the Canadian men's team to one of their victories. Watching the Chinese team win the final was an event none will ever forget. All say it was a wonderful trip which has left many good memories of good fellowship and friendly connections.

The group thanks Amelia Ho, President of the Canadian International Table Tennis Institute for using her influence and connections to make this all possible, and the wonderful generosity of their Chinese hosts—and of course tireless organizer Eddie To.

## **Team Championships**

The Canadian men's and women's teams battled for the team championships in Guangzhou in March. The men finished third in their group with wins over Bulgaria, Australia, England and Israel, and a loss to Nigeria. They then defeated Slovenia and lost to Portugal and Brazil before defeating Turkey. They ended up in 31<sup>st</sup> position, up from 42<sup>nd</sup> two years ago in Germany.

The women also finished third in their opening group, with victories over Belgium, Israel and Chile, and losses to New Zealand and Slovakia. They then defeated Malaysia and Lithuania before losing to England. They finished 28<sup>th</sup> overall.

A complete write up of this event is on the Table Tennis Canada website.

## **Ping Pong Meetup**

A sign in the local mall near where I live advertised a "pingpong.meetup" group. Always on the lookout for new places to play, I spent a very pleasant evening at Vancouver Table Tennis Club, and asked the organizer, Dan Behm, a few questions about this group.

### **Dan, why did you start Vancouver Ping Pong Meetup?**

Whenever I suggested a game of ping pong to friends or co-workers the response was invariable: "I love ping pong, I used to play a lot as a kid." It seems everyone had a table in the rumpus room or knew someone who did. So initially I started the Meetup to get people back to playing something they really enjoyed and fell away from.

### **Where and when do you guys play and who turns out?**

We play at the Vancouver Table Tennis Club on Hastings every two weeks. We

have a good turnout, usually between 15 and 25 players of varying skill levels and ages. We rally for warm-up and then do a competitive round robin where we keep track of wins and points, which adds a more competitive element. And the players really enjoy that. I should also add that it is a very sociable group. Everyone plays everyone; we all know each other and many good friendships have formed as a result. Newcomers always feel welcome!

### **How can people join?**

Just visit the website and sign on! That way you will always get the e-mails that announce the game nights. Web address:

<http://pingpong.meetup.com/90/>

## **For Sale**

1. Double Happiness table Y3723 (retails about \$600 pre-tax and shipping. Robot Newgy 1040 with a custom made net (retails about \$350. Both items are for sale for \$600. Contact Alan Louie at 250-721-0214. The items are located in Victoria in the Gordon Head area.

*BCTTA is not responsible for the above equipment.*

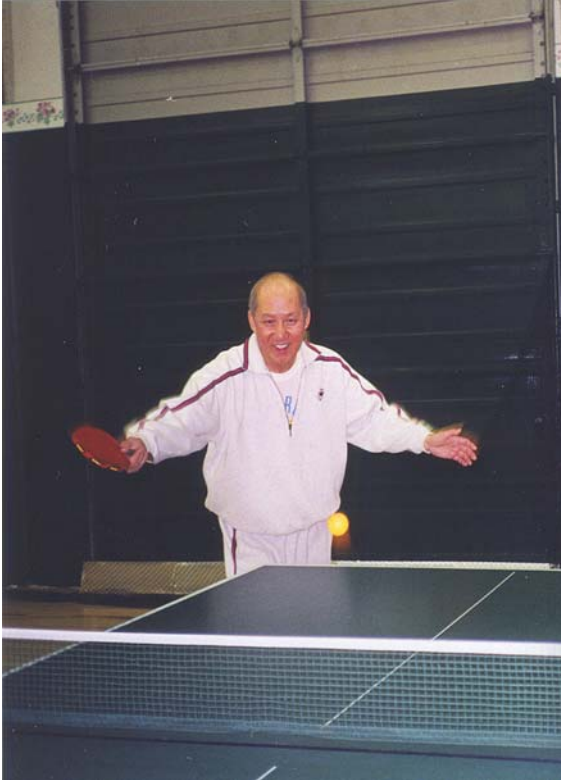
2. BCTTA has used tournament tables for sale for \$600 each. They are blue Stiga tables, expert roller model. Contact Danny Lau at 778-861-3131.

**The following modification of paragraph 3.2.4.2 was discussed and approved at the ITTF Board of Directors meeting in Guangzhou.**

**The current ITTF testing procedures in place before 25 May 2007 will continue until 1 January 2008 at junior events, until 1 October 2008 for the para table tennis events and until 1 September 2008 for all other events; as of these dates respectively new testing procedures and protocols will be implemented to detect harmful volatile solvents.**

## *Player Profiles*

### **Harry Woo**



Harry Woo is a familiar figure to anyone who attends the thrice-weekly table tennis sessions at the Killarney Community Centre. At 76 his speed and footwork is still a match for the best players here, while he also spends time giving tips to younger players.

He started playing table tennis in elementary school back in Hong Kong, but stopped after that until he came to Canada in 1968. Since then he has played competitively, apart from six years running a restaurant, becoming the over 40, over 50 and over 60 champion of B.C. He also played in many tournaments in Seattle and Portland, winning more often than not. In 2001 he

became the Over 70 Canadian champion. He has also played in many BC Seniors Games, and most of the local tournaments.

Harry says his highest point total was about 1800, certainly respectable but not outstanding. What is remarkable is that his current rating of 1216 is the highest for any player his age in Canada.

Harry says he is self taught, learning about table tennis from reading books and watching the top players. He passes this information on to others, including a group of twenty adults he teaches at his church.

Harry is a great model for all of us as to how table tennis can be a lifelong sport, building a sense of fitness and general well-being that can last well into later life.

### **Shirley Fu**



*Shirley Fu at the 2007 Stiga Canadian Junior National Championships.*

In only two years in Canada Shirley Fu has established herself as one of Canada's young players to watch. She has been to the Canadian nationals twice, winning first in the U-13 in Edmonton last year, and in Quebec the previous year was first in the U-11 and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the U-13. She has been recognized on the Premier's list as one

of the top 99 athletes in all sports in British Columbia.

Before coming to Canada Shirley played in China for three years, where she received a good grounding in the game in Chengdu, in the province of Sichuan. After she came to Canada she continued to train and kept on improving. She has done well in local tournaments, finishing second in a recent B.C. top twelve competition.

She appears to have had almost no trouble adapting to life in Canada, and finds time to maintain an A average in Grade 7 at Capitol Hill school in Burnaby, where she especially enjoys art, music and volleyball, and loves to hang out with friends.

Shirley will be going to the Canadian Nationals again this summer, competing in the U-13 and U-15 groups in Halifax. Her skills and love of competition should ensure much future success.

## **Daniel Chi Shing Lai**



Lai, Daniel Chi Shing – passed away May 26, 2008 aged 78 of heart failure. Lovingly missed by his wife of 46 years, Rosalie, son Welby (wife Lucy) and Matthew, twin grandsons Andrew and Bryant and other family members and friends. Daniel was cremated May 29 with the presence of

his brother, Dr. C.W. Lai and family from Australia. Celebration of Life was held Saturday June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2008. Service was on June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at Chown Memorial Chinese United Church, 3619 Cambie Street, Vancouver.

Daniel was an accountant and born in Hong Kong. He attended Wah Yan College and took commerce courses at HKU while working for the government during the day. In 1957 he went to Sydney, Australia to study accounting. After work he studied Economics at Sydney University.

He returned to HK with Rosalie after his father's car accident and got married in 1962. His newly wedded wife went back to Australia to continue her studies while he stayed with his parents in HK. Rosalie returned a year later. Before migrating to Sydney in 1968 with their son because of the Hong Kong disturbance, Daniel was studying law at London University – HK branch.

He was chief accountant of Pioneer Concrete in Hong Kong and in Sydney. After the death of their beloved 5 year old daughter Rosemary Hai ling in 1975, the family came to Vancouver in 1976. Daniel volunteered in community works. In his spare time he studied Legal Court Interpreting, translation and Japanese at Langara College. When he was out of work in the late 80s, he did more volunteer work and did some Court Interpreting and was well liked by judges and lawyers.

He was the Treasurer for the B.C.T.T.A. He spoke English, Cantonese, Mandarin, Hakka, Toishan and some Japanese. He was a volunteer coordinator with the Vancouver Corrections Branch, member of the Vancouver Ethnic Business Council and President of the Kensington Community

Centre. He was awarded Senior of the Year in 1995.

Daniel loved reading, listening to classical music, ballroom dancing, playing table tennis, the theatre and traveling. After he recovered from his 2004 heart attack he went to UBC to study Political Science which he enjoyed very much and passed his exams with good grades. He had quadruple bypass surgery in 2006 and he enjoyed going to Langara, St. Paul's Hospital and YMCA's Healthy Heart Program. He had touched many lives and was loved by many. Special thanks to the doctors, nurses and staff at Vancouver General Hospital, St. Paul's and University Hospital for their care and dedication. In lieu of flowers, donations to the VGH foundation would be appreciated.

### **Upcoming Tournaments**

June 28-29 **Sunrise VTTC New Address Grand Opening Tournament**, Vancouver Table Tennis Club  
July 11-18 **Stiga Canadian Championships** (Halifax)  
July 15-18 **Stiga Canadian Junior Championships** (Halifax)  
July 25-28 **Washington State Senior Games**, Tumwater  
August **Summer Seniors (Over 40) tournament**, Bridgeport (?)  
August 13-23 **Olympic Games** (Beijing)  
September 10-13 **B.C. Senior Games** (Prince George)  
September 6-17 **Paralympic Games** (Beijing)

## **TOURNAMENT RESULTS**

### **B.C. Top 12 No. 2**

April 13, 2008, VTTC

#### **Women**

Carmen Lee  
Shirley Fu  
Cynthia Tan  
Nancy Suyan Tang  
Peggy Hsien  
Paula Hsien  
Wilhelmina Woo  
Parello Smith  
Lucy Orr  
Marta Nykl

Pierre Luc Therriault, 15 year old from Rimouski, Quebec, won silver at the Venezuela Junior Open recently in the U-15 Cadet Singles. A few days later he won gold in Ecuador without dropping a game, defeating two tough Swedish players en route.

#### **Men**

Gary Zhong  
Peter Chiu  
Peter Dziekiewicz  
Peter Yau  
Enoch Yiu  
Andy Lui  
Sam Lin  
Alvin Ng  
Kin Yan Lui  
Robert Yau  
Quoc Shivajie

## **B.C. Elementary School Championships**

March 22-23 Britannia Secondary

### **Boys' Doubles**

1. William Ho/Anthony Shi (St. Francis Xavier)
2. Eulan Chu/Evans Chu (Oppenheimer)

### **Boys' Singles**

#### **Division 1 (Grades 6 and 7)**

1. Adrian Lee (Scott Creek Middle)
2. Kenneth Zhong (Tait)

#### **Division 2 (Grade 5 and under)**

1. Anthony Shi (St. Francis Xavier)
2. Blair Shao (Jamieson)

### **Girls' Doubles**

1. Shirley Fu/Carrol Jirakul (Capitol Hill)
2. Arundeeep Kooner/Arman Sangha (Henry Bose)

### **Girls' Singles**

#### **Division 1 (Grades 6 and 7)**

1. Shirley Fu (Capitol Hill)
2. Michelle Liaw (Jamieson)

#### **Division 2 (Grade 5 and under)**

1. Leanne Lee (Montecito)
2. Natasha Carr Harris (Unknown)

## **Dr. Chandra Madhosingh Cup Champions: St. Francis Xavier**

## **B.C. High School Championships**

March 7-8 Cambie Secondary

### **Boys' Team**

1. Burnett
2. Lord Byng
3. McRoberts

### **Girls' Team**

1. Port Moody
2. Burnaby North
3. Kitsilano

### **Boys' Singles**

1. Andre Ho (Cambie)

2. Tony Liu (Lord Byng)
3. Adrian Lee (Scott Creek Middle) and Teddy Wu (Burnaby North)

### **Girls' Singles**

1. Carmen Lee (Port Moody)
2. Peggy Hsien (Burnaby North)
3. Angela Shen (Richmond High) and Cynthia Tan (Kitsilano)

### **Boys' Doubles**

1. Calan Lai/Thomas Lee (Burnett)
2. Tony Liu/Cedric Tai (Lord Byng)
3. Marco Chan/Teddy Wu (Burnaby North) and Anthony Chen/Bryan Lin (McRoberts)

### **Girls' Doubles**

1. Cynthia Tan/Joy Yiu (Kitsilano)
2. Paula Hsien/Peggy Hsien (Burnaby North)
3. Margaret Lau/Angela Shen (Richmond High) and Carmen Lee/Jenny Wang (Port Moody)

## **B.C. Open**

### **Open Singles**

1. Tony Liu
2. Dan Poh

### **U-2000 Singles**

1. James Fan
2. Jason Cheung

### **U-1500 Singles**

1. Thomas S.W. Lee
2. Wilson Wong

### **U-1000 Singles**

1. Vincent T.K. Kong
2. Yong Quan Ye

### **600 Singles**

1. Vincent T.K. Kong
2. William Ho

### **U-15 Singles**

1. James Fan
2. Tiffany So

### **Western Canadian Open**

May 17-18

A fine turnout contributed to the success of this tournament. Representatives from B.C., Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, The Yukon and Washington State made for some keen and exciting competition

### **Team Round Robin Men**

1. BC1
2. Alberta
3. BC2
4. Washington

### **Team Round Robin Women**

1. Alberta
2. BC
3. Saskatchewan
4. Yukon

### **Men's Singles**

1. Eugene Wang (BC)
2. Kenny Li (AB)

### **U-2000 Singles**

1. Wayne Yiu (BC)
2. James Fan (BC)

### **U-1200 Singles**

1. Vincent Kong (BC)
2. Chao Liang (BC)

### **Open Doubles**

1. Stephen Li/Andre Ho (BC)
2. Kenny Li/Dong Jun Duan (AB)

### **O-50 Singles**

1. Wayne Yiu (BC)
2. Kevin Mak (BC)

### **U-13**

1. Alan Huang (MB)
2. Adrian Lee (BC)

### **Canada Cup, May 31-June 1**

Eugene Wang and Sara Yuen were victorious here, as expected. Sara Yuen's training with four months in China in the past year is paying off, as she lost only one game en route to victory.

On May 31 the sensation of the National Table Tennis League in Ottawa was Canada's team 2016, led by 12 year old Anqi Lo (SK0, 13 year old Shirley Fu (BC) and 15 year old Paula Hsien (BC)

General Motors' Making Dreams Possible program provides one hundred \$2,000 club coaching grants and ten \$10,000 high performance coach grants to community sports clubs and high performance coaches nationwide on an annual basis. This fall another 50 plus grants will be awarded to community sports clubs across the country for coach training and development. The application deadline is September 26, 2008. High performance grants will be awarded again in February 2009.

*This newsletter is compiled and edited by Francis Mansbridge for the BCTTA. Please send any comments or suggestions to [ttennis2006@yahoo.ca](mailto:ttennis2006@yahoo.ca)*

**Photograph credits:** Thanks to Harry Woo and Shirley Fu for photographs of themselves, and Wayne Helfrich for the photographs of the Olympic trials.