

## **M.T.T.A. HIRE NEW COACH MILCHO UZUNOV!**

In case you have been sleeping under the table for the last month and a half, Manitoba hired Milcho Uzunov as our new Athlete Development Director, replacing George Damianov who retired last May. Milcho arrived in Canada from his native Bulgaria in the dead of Canadian winter...Friday evening February 1<sup>st</sup>, -30 degrees C! However, the cold did not faze him as he arrived at the Daniel MacIntyre Collegiate gym bright and early Saturday morning Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> to take in the local table tennis scene at the Golden Boy Open.

Milcho is a table tennis coach! What do I mean by this?...Table Tennis is what he studied for 5 years at University! He also stays very current in table tennis through the internet and has completed several levels of I.T.T.F's coaching system as well. He was a top level player in Bulgaria and in Cyprus...and, whenever he can, he will be playing here as well! In fact, if you join the Winnipeg & District League, you can come and challenge him right away...undefeated so far!

However, what Milcho loves to do is to develop table tennis players. In Manitoba, we are moving towards full implementation of Table Tennis Canada's "Long Term Athlete Development Model." What does this mean...it means that the M.T.T.A. will be getting more serious about trying to provide athletes for Canada's National teams so that they can achieve results at the 2016,2020, 2024 Olympic Games etc. This means we want more athletes in the gym more frequently and it will mean more integration of the various sport science fields. So, if you are of a solid level, Milcho wants to see you about training! Where should you start...you enter the full range of events at the Manitoba Open March 16 and 17 so that Milcho notices you! Then you get invited to participate in M.T.T.A.'s Provincial Squads & Hopefulls Training Program! Entry form link on the left hand side of website.

Ron Edwards Reporting.