

U. of M. TABLE TENNIS TOURNAMENT:
Saturday February 9th

The Recreation Services Department at the University of Manitoba held their Second Annual Table Tennis Tournament for students on Saturday February 9th in the Brown Gym. In the summer of 2011, the U. of M. purchased 4 Butterfly Europa tables from the M.T.T.A. and we have been working together ever since to try and set up a more structured table tennis environment than that which had previously existed down in the "Gritty-Grotto" area. So for most of 2011-2012 people could by a facility pass for about \$10 per visit and knock the ball around. The M.T.T.A.'s Glenn "Tennis" Sikorski for example, almost live there on Sundays! Last year they held their first tournament but the M.T.T.A. never received the results so they were not coded for Manitoba rankings. This year, with the help of Jiayun Du, Zihui Ye and the Wiebe brothers - Toban and Michael - the club has become more official and organized. So besides the drop-in play that is open to everyone (~ \$10 per visit), there is now a student club affiliated with the M.T.T.A. that play regularly 2-3 times per week.

On February 9th, they held their second tournament open to U. of M. students. The event was won by Kevin Liu who defeated Ahmed Jad in an exciting final. Hats off to Christopher Chong who ran the event on behalf of the Recreation Services Department. Coach Uzunov was impressed with the level of play and hopes to see some of these players attend the upcoming Manitoba Open event in March.

Long-term, it is hoped that Table Tennis could become an Inter-Varsity sport as it is in Ontario and British Columbia. As a starter, the U. of M. have challenged the U. of W. to a home and away team-match series, but, to date, the U. of W. M.T.T.A. regulars - who shall remain nameless - have not responded...scared I think to pick up the gauntlet? Come on boys...the challenge has been laid!

Ron Edwards Reporting.