



2014 - 2015 News Archive

M.T.T.A Annual General Meeting and Awards Banquet **6PM - WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14TH**

Details on the Annual General Meeting can be found [here](#). Executive job descriptions can be found [here](#).

Saskatchewan Open Table Tennis Championships **October 17th & 18th, 2015**

[Entry form for the Saskatchewan Open.](#)

Sponsorship - National and Enterprise Car Rental

Sport Manitoba has partnered with Enterprise Rent-A-Car and National Car Rental for preferred rates available to our Manitoba sport community, both for rentals here at home or wherever Enterprise operates worldwide!

Enterprise shops their rates every day, even multiple times a day! So when you login through our Manitoba Table Tennis Association website you will link directly to our preferred customer account on either the Enterprise or National website where you will get the best available rate that day for that location, AND you will automatically receive a 5% discount off of that rate as part of the Sport Manitoba partnership. National rates are preferred rates that are fixed year round by size of vehicle and location.

The benefits don't stop there! Enterprise will also offer a 4% rebate back to our sport organization (1% to Sport Manitoba) on your rental which will help us with costs of sport development programming.

So whether it's for you, friends or family.....for sport, business or personal travel....please think of Enterprise and National for your car rental needs!"

Just click on the National or Enterprise Logo on the left under Partner Links!

2015 Canadian Championships Highlights

Team Manitoba 2015 competed in the Canadian Table Tennis Championships in Trois Rivières, Quebec, August 25-31. Team Manitoba was comprised of Cadets (Under 15 year old players) Jeremy Tran, Yunyang Deng, Devin Chong, Carol Jean Wong, Naoimi Tran, Tina Liu; Juniors (Under 18 year old players) Matthew Lehmann, Manuel Zaki, Victor Yu, and Senior player Biruk Bekele all lead by new coach Ian Kent (Joined Team Manitoba August 1, 2015).



The junior portion of the tournament was played over 3 days August 26-28 with highlights as follows :

In the Junior Boys Team event Manitoba cracked into the top 4 with a 4th place finish after a gut wrenching battle with Quebec in the semi-final that would have seen Manitoba enter uncharted waters playing the final with a worst case Silver. This was not to be ending up with very good 4th place finish in the country! All other teams, Cadet Boys, Cadet Girls, and Junior Girls placed 5th solidifying the obvious goal of getting more teams into the final four, optimistically at home next year as the Nationals will be here in Winnipeg!

The singles and doubles highlights included all three Manitoban Juniors (Lehmann, Zaki and Yu) along with cadets Yunyang Deng and 1st year cadet Jeremy Tran getting into the main draw of Junior singles. Matthew Lehmann went the deepest making the final 16 losing out to higher rated Albertan, Bryan Ho. In Jr. Girls Singles : all cadet players Naomi Tran, Tina Liu, and 12 year old Carol Jean Wong qualified for the main draw while the actual junior aged players in Jacie Liu and Phuong Nguyen were not as fortunate bowing out in the round robin portion. However, on the consolation side of the Junior Girls singles Phuong played with pride riding the wave right into the final winning the event! Manitoba had three doubles teams make the final 8 in Lehmann and Zaki (junior boys) and Jacie Liu and Phuong Nguyen as well as Tina Liu and Naomi Tran (junior girls) bowing out just shy of the medals.

In Cadet Singles, a very promising Jeremy Tran lost in the final 8 with another year left in this age class!

The Senior portion of the Canadian Table Tennis Championships took place immediately after the juniors completing play yesterday August 31.

The highlights were two top 16 Men's Singles results by 33 year old Biruk Bekele and 17 year Matthew Lehmann. Biruk lost to 1st seeded, National Team Member, Pierre-Luc Theriault 4-1 while Matthew lost to Cadet phenom Jeremy Hazen by the same score 4-1 and about 12 hours later Lehmann and Hazen clashed again, this time in the Youth Under 21 year old class losing by the same score 4-1 but in a tactically much better played match. Biruk Bekele and Matthew Lehmann made the final 8 in doubles, a feat that was one win away from a medal.

The highlight of the entire tournament for Team Manitoba was Matthew Lehmann's display in the Men's "B" which featured players who had a rating of 2749 or less. Matthew, with a rating almost 200 points less than the max totally dismantled all opposition dropping only 2 games on his way to the national title in stellar fashion, taking the 1/4 final, semi final and final all 3-0!!!

What's next for Team Manitoba? Some rest and relaxation, back to school and to university for a few weeks before training begins later in September. Manitoba is hosting the 2016 version of the Canadian Table Tennis Championships at the University of Winnipeg in early July 2016. Nothing is guaranteed as far as the composition of Team Manitoba 2016 with a whole season of training and competition ahead under the direction of new Director of Athlete Development, Ian Kent. One thing is for sure...while we made a little dent into the top 4 of the nation in 2015, we will surely be ready to go deeper in 2016!

Ian Kent

2015 Canadian Championships



Table Tennis Manitoba is pleased to announce its 12 athlete team heading to Trois Riviere to compete in the 2015 Butterfly Canadian Table Tennis Championships August 25-30, 2015.

The **Junior Team** (which competes August 25-27) is comprised of **Cadet Girls** (under 15 years old) : Carol Jean Wong, Naomi Tran, Tina Liu ; **Junior Girls** (Under 18 years old): Phuong Ngyuen, Jacie Liu and Saskatchewan players (on loan) Jin Wu, Joane Feng; **Cadet Boys** : Jeremy Tran, Harrison Deng, Devin Chong; **Junior Boys** : Matthew Lehmann, Manuel Zaki, Victor Yu .

The **Senior Team** (which competes August 28-30) is comprised of **Senior Men** : Biruk Bekele, Matthew Lehmann, Manuel Zaki, Jeremy Tran; Victor Yu. **Senior Women** : Phuong Ngyuen, Tina Liu, Jacie Liu, Naomi Tran, Carol Jean Wong .

Ian Kent, former national team coach, is now **Director of Athlete Development for Table Tennis Manitoba** and he will be leading the athletes into battle versus the rest of Canada. This being Ian's inaugural competition as Manitoba's Head Coach, he had the following to say about Team Manitoba. "I am very excited to become a part of Team Manitoba as its head coach. The enthusiasm and smart work the athletes are putting in lends itself to some potentially very good results. While the entire team is comprised of juniors with the exception of one, I think we stand a good chance to have some excellent results in Trois Riviere. While I admit, I don't know the Canadian Table Tennis landscape as well as I would like, I feel very good about the prospect of helping these athletes perform to the best of their abilities. It won't take me long to know the opposition and adjust tactics accordingly. We have a very close group, a table tennis family that I believe is ready, willing and able to help each other out in a combined effort to have the best results possible. The *Needs Assessment Camp* I conducted in July helped me a lot in the areas of managing expectations, and getting to know the psychology of each player. Since then they have been working as a group under the direction of Ron Edwards, Executive Director of Table Tennis Manitoba, and they have made some significant strides forward. We are in the middle of our final preparations for the Nationals now, August 19, 2015 and I can say that this crop of athletes has put in some quality hours over the past month to ensure they are ready for what is ahead of them. We are getting to know each other better with each passing day and we are growing closer as a group, as a team and this will help solidify the individual results of each athlete with the support of all team members. TEAM is what I am emphasizing! Together Everyone Achieves More!"

It is a very exciting time for table tennis in Manitoba with a new head coach, a young team of juniors and one senior player filling out both the junior and senior ranks of the roster, and perhaps the most important fact is that one year from now Manitoba will be hosting the 2016 Canadian Table Tennis Championships right here in Winnipeg!

Pan Am Games - Toronto



Manitoba umpires Darek Mikita and Greg Dzioba were selected to umpire the Men's Team Final at the 2015 Pan Am Games in Toronto July 21. There is more table tennis action at the [Pan Am Games](#).

US Open - Las Vegas



Manitoba athlete, Matthew Lehmann, joined 1,064 athletes from 33 countries competing on 127 tables in Las Vegas at the July 2015 US Open. The men's and women's singles finals were held at the Omnia Nightclub at Caesar's Palace before an appreciative group of spectators.

Manitoba Names Teams for Canadian Championships

Provincial Team Head Coach Ian Kent has named the following athletes to represent Manitoba at the 2015 Canadian Championships being held in Trois Rivieres, Quebec this coming August 25-30:

Men's Team: Matthew Lehmann, Biruk Bekele, Manuel Zaki, Jeremy Tran, Victor Yu

Women's Team: Phuong Nguyen, Jacie Liu, Tina Liu, Naomi Tran, Carol-Jean Wong

U18 Boy's Team: Matthew Lehmann, Manuel Zaki, Victor Yu

U18 Girl's Team: Phuong Nguyen, Jacie Liu, Jin Wu (SK), Joanne Feng (SK)

U15 Boy's Team: Jeremy Tran, Yunyang Deng, Devin Chong

U15 Girl's Team: Tina Liu, Naomi Tran, Carol-Jean Wong, Victoria Wong

As preparation, Manitoba will be hosting 2 training camps....and a series of Tuesday and Thursday evening training sessions commencing July 7th.

Go Manitoba Go! Good luck to all players!

Winnipeg and District Super League Title Decided:

After a hard fought season, spanning some thirty weeks starting in November, the championship title came down to the last few weeks of play. Amazingly enough, 6 of the top spots were claimed by members from 2 families: For the first time ever in his young career, young Jeremy Tran nailed down the top spot and the \$200 prize award. In second spot was his father Norman taking home \$100. In third was penholder Cheuk Yin Chan ("Alan" for short) winning \$75. Then the future of the M.T.T.A. take over: young Victoria Wong who will represent Manitoba at the Western Hopes week in Calgary finishes fourth and pocketing \$50.00. Her sister Carol, also representing Manitoba at the Western Hopes along with Anna Liu and Emma Gu, pockets \$25 for 5th. Then the third member of the "Tran Clan" Naomi wins \$25 for 5th and Victor Yu, older brother of Carol and Victoria rounds out the money winners in 7th with \$25.

Congratulations to all players for a hard fought season. Coach Kent promises an even more exciting league season to follow for 2015-2016 as we head down the stretch to the Winnipeg Canadian Championships being held at the University of Winnipeg next July 5th - 10th, 2016.

Ron Edwards Reporting, (Final standings link to the right)

Titles Decided in \$2,500-Manitoba Tournament Circuit

On Saturday May 9th, the M.T.T.A. hosted our 5th and final event of the 2014-2015 season. At stake, were the \$500 prize monies up for grabs in the Tournament of Champions plus the \$750 Circuit prize payouts. Starting with the premier level, the "Pro-Open" Singles, prior to this weekend, it had been a season-long dog-fight better perennial powerhouse Terry "Tian" Zhang, Junior Star "Leftie-Lehmann" and the new player on the block-Biruk Bekele, formerly ranked number 23 in Africa. Terry had captured 2 titles and Matthew and Biruk one each. All three players were within reach of the overall title. No one else could challenge...then the "luck of the draw." Terry ended up on the "easy" half of the draw. As number 2 seed, he drew #4 Michal Rybak which meant that #1 Matthew would draw Biruk #3 in the semi's...assuming of course they each made it that far. Also on the top half of the draw were players #5 and 6. Fast improving Junior Manuel Zaki #5 met Matthew in the top ¼ after disposing of Naomi Tran in the round of 16. Wow, what a match! Matthew prevailed in 6 games winning 13,-9,-13,9,8,10. In the fourth, Manuel was up 5-0 but he could he hold on? Matthew closed the gap and at 7-4 Manuel there was a tremendous loop on loop rally where Manuel had time to finish and close but he opted for a bh counter loop...mistake! Point Matthew. Matthew took advantage and then forced a couple of mis-hits from Manuel and the match was tied 2 a piece. The last two games were more of the same, great long rallies with each player striving to close it out. Well played guys... the best match in Manitoba since the final in Morden! In the top semi, Matthew then played Biruk (who had knocked off U of M player Sergiu Buda the #6) and disposed of him quite easily 4-1. Afterwards, Biruk, said conditioning was the factor in the match. Hard to keep up with the young kids and so hitting the gym he would do...and he has done! Meanwhile, Terry moved through the bottom half without dropping a game. In the final, Terry proved too strong for Matthew and claimed the title 4-1 as well as the overall Open title putting a cool \$350 into his pocket.

There were a few other interesting matches going on in the open that warrant mention. Young Jeremy Tran had a breakout tournament. Besides an earlier upset over Manuel in the Junior Boy's semi, he also knocked off the >40 Years Master Michal Rybak in 7 games in his 1/4...a war! Then, in the 5th-6th place match, Sergiu bested Michal in and amazing 7 setter that featured loop and smash rallies of 10-15 shots per point...would expedite be put into play? Should Michal be tested for steroids? How could he perform so super? Well done Michal, glad to see the shoulder problems are past! It was a real treat to watch this match and Jerzy Kusal will attest to. In another match of note, another youngster - junior even to Jeremy - the young "C-J Wong" (Carol) was having a break out tournament of her own. She had earlier knocked off top rated junior girl Tina Liu in seven sets and then in her 11th/ 12th place match, she knocked off veteran junior Phuong Nguyen in straight sets! Well done Carol, the practice is paying off!

In the Active 4 Life/ > 40 Years event, Michal Rybak won his 5th straight title taking 500/500

possible Circuit points. Watch out...I think Biruk might join this category next season?

Matthew "Leftie Lehmann" followed suit in the Junior final also capturing his 5th title of the year to pocket overall \$315.

The Junior Girls race was like the Open one. Prior to this tournament, Naomi had captured 2 titles and Tina and Phuong one each. Anyone of the three players could capture the title! In the end, Tina prevailed in the final disposing of Naomi in 4 games after having her revenge over Carol in the semi.

Complete results are attached [here](#).

It was already a long season preparing for the Canada Games and now the attention turns to the preparation for the Nationals in August. Behind the scene the coaches are working on selections for the Canadian Championships and summer training plans. New Head Coach Ian Kent, expects to release information sometime in the next 2-3 weeks regarding these plans.

All programs are still up and running with John Pritchard Active 4 Life being the first to finish on May 26th. All other facilities and programs are still scheduled to close as listed above on the M.T.T.A. calendar.

Ron Edwards Reporting

MANITOBA HIRE NEW ATHLETE DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

It is with great pleasure that the M.T.T.A. announces that we have hired Mr. Ian Kent as our new A.D.D./ Provincial Team Head Coach. Ian, who hails from Nova Scotia, brings a wealth of experience with him. Ian was a National Team Coach from 1986 to 1990 and is well versed in Chinese and European coaching systems. He was also in charge of the National Junior training centre in Halifax where 7 out of the 10 athletes he worked with went on to become Canadian Champions: Julie Barton at age 16 was the youngest player ever to capture the Canadian Open Woman's Singles title and another player Petra Cada was Canadian Junior Champion at all 4 age categories: 12/14/16 and under 18 years.

In the early 1990's he left his professional table tennis career to pursue his other love in life- soccer! At Dalhousie University his varsity program won 5 Atlantic and one Canadian Championship. Then fate intervened. In 1999 he was diagnosed with Dystonia, a movement disorder. However, being an extreme fighter, Ian returned to competitive play in table tennis 3 years later and is now preparing to defend his Class 8 title at the upcoming Para Pan American Games in Toronto with his ultimate goal to medal in Rio at the 2016 Para Olympic Games. Ian has recently been working as Para Program Development Officer for Table Tennis Canada.

Ian will be in Winnipeg to conduct a pre-Nationals training camp July 14-17 and will arrive in Winnipeg just before the Canadian Championships in August. Currently Ian is in Europe preparing for the Para Pan Ams.

Our new coach can be followed at:

www.twitter.com/ijkentroadtorio
www.facebook.com/ijkentroadtorio
www.kenttabletennis.com
www.iankent.blog.com

"If Better is Possible, Good is Not Enough."

Ian Kent, Athlete Development Director
Manitoba Table Tennis Association

The Table has been set for the May 9, 2015 Tournament of Champions!

Invitation to this tournament are based on the results of the 2014/15 season. You can view the Information and Invitation [here](#).

Manitoba Open Saturday April 18 and Sunday April 19 Daniel McIntrye Collegiate

Terry Zhang was a double winner in the Open section. With team-mate Sergiu Buda, Terry had his first win in Open Doubles, and he followed that up by winning the Open Singles event. Thank you to the Saskatchewan team that made the trip to the Manitoba Open. For full results please see [here](#).

LEFTIE LEHMANN NOT LOUNGING AT THE "SPA"!

Noticing an ITTF Junior event during Spring Break, MTTA Provincial Team Matthew Lehmann player travels to Spa, Belgium to compete in the Belgium Open, a stop on the I.T.T.F.'s World Junior Circuit event. This tournament attracted 135 players from 20 countries.

In the Junior Boy's Singles, Matthew finished 3rd out of 4 in his group losing to players from Russia and Italy but defeating a player from Poland. Matthew advanced to the Round of 32 in the Consolation Division where he beats another Italian player but eventually loses to the consolation winner from Luxembourg in the Round of 8.

In doubles, he paired up with a Belgian player and they lose in the round of 16 to a pair from the USA.

In the team event, he and his Belgian partners were in a three way tie for third, but in the tie breaking, finish 5th (last) in their group.

This was Matthew's first tournament experience outside of Canada and the United States and when coupled with his Chinese training experience in the summer of 2014 has really opened his eyes as to the overall level of play world-wide.

Well done Matthew!

Ron Edwards Reporting

William Liu at National Collegiate Table Tennis Championships

Manitoba player William Liu, who is attending university at McGill in Montreal, is a major force on the McGill Table Tennis team. You can read more about the McGill team and the National Collegiate Championships [here](#).

FRONTIER SCHOOL DIVISION HIGH SCHOOL TABLE TENNIS TITLES DECIDED:

Gillam hosted the Frontier Games for 2015. Table Tennis was one of 7 sports contested and the top 2 boys and 2 girls from each of the Regional Games got to compete. Overall, 27 Boys and 28 Girls from 14 schools from Westman, Parkland, Interlake, Norman, Eastman Sport Regions competed.

MTTA lost the services of Head Coach Milcho Uzunov and Jiayun Du was in China. Ron Edwards could not attend but he prepared the draws and provided resources needed for teacher Dean Rebeck to run the event. Dean was no stranger to TT as he had helped Milcho and Ron each of the last 2 seasons with all of the Games and clinics hosted at numerous schools throughout Frontier.

Results: (62 matches coded for MB ratings/rankings).

Boys: Gold-Lawrence Cook, Wanipigow. Silver-Jackson Hall, Wanipigow. Bronze (3rd / 4th)-Clinton Apetagon, Norway House & Blake Knutson, Wabowden.

Girls: Gold-Autumn Dixon, Norway House. Silver-Delilah Wood, South Indian Lake. Bronze (3rd/ 4th)-Cassie Wesley, Little Black River & Emily Bushie, Wanipigow.

Congratulations to all players on fine performances.

Ron Edwards Reporting

Thanks Coach Milcho!

Many MTTA members gathered for food and fun to wish Coach Milcho well as he returns home to Bulgaria. We wish thank Coach Milcho for the work he did over the past two years. We will miss you!



(Thank you to James Deng for his great photos. Check out the link James has posted on MTTA Facebook page for more photos)

Canada Winter Games



CONGRATULATIONS TO CANADA WINTER GAMES TEAM!

Well, our teams are back from the 2015 Canada Winter Games that concluded Saturday in Prince George, British Columbia. We had hoped to realize maybe a medal or two – and these were “outside shots” if you look at the pre-event ratings/ rankings - but this was not to be...TO WIN A MEDAL MEANS that EVERY SINGLE LITTLE THING NEEDS TO GO YOUR WAY...from the preparations starting years in advance (technical/ tactical/ physical/ psychological) to all of the minute on-site details...transportation/ sleep/ nutrition/ practice/ good draws/ stress-free environment/ equipment etc. etc.

Our athletes and coaches all tried their best and we improved on our results from 2011. In 2011 we finished 5th in table tennis with 1298 points. These points were based upon: Boy's Team Silver Medal 2/11, Girl's Team 6/10, Mixed Doubles Alan Huang & Phuong Nguyen 7/9, Boy's Doubles Terry Zhang & William Liu 4/11, Girl's Doubles Yilin Tian & Jacie Liu 6/9, Boy's Singles Terry 8/32, William 12/32, Alan 16/32. Girl's Singles Yilin 17/29, Jacie 18/29, Phuong 23/29.

In British Columbia we earned 1358 points overall to again finish 5th. The Boy's Team finished 5/11 teams and the Girl's 5/10. Our doubles teams all finished 5/11...Matthew Lehmann and Phuong in the Mixed, Naomi Tran and Tina Liu in the Girl's and Jeremy Tran and Manual Zaki in the Boy's. In the singles, Boys: Matthew 7/33, Manual 14/33, Jeremy 19/33. Girl's: Tina 8/32, Naomi 12/32, Phuong 15/32. So BIG KUDO'S TO ALL PLAYERS and of course SUPER HUGE KUDO'S TO COACH MILCHO AND MANAGER/ COACH JIA JIA! Your commitment and dedication are much appreciated on the road that was not always as smooth as it should have been!

I would like to say a BIG THANK-YOU to COACH MILCHO for his outstanding work in the gym over the past 2 years! We are all going to miss you!

Next up begins the search for a new coach (already started) as well as preparation s for the 2016 Canadian Championships being held in Winnipeg and the new four year plan for table tennis that is due in September.

Ron Edwards Reporting

Remembering Liam Barclay



The Manitoba Table Tennis Community extends its condolences to the family of Liam Barclay. Liam passed away in Winnipeg on February 10, 2015. Liam was a true gentleman who loved the sport and loved to compete. Liam was a mainstay at the Manitoba Tournaments and helped a new generation of table tennis players by sparring with the provincial team. A true competitor, his self-chastising shout of "Liam!" could be heard after a missed opportunity. Liam understood the sport and always said that "table tennis is a game of confidence". Liam will be missed and fondly remembered.

Details on Liam's memorial service can be found [here](#).

Golden Boy Open Saturday February 7 Daniel McIntrye Collegiate

Biruk Bekele is enjoying his first Manitoba winter. After placing third in both the Manitoba Closed and the Red River Closed, Biruk took home the top money defeating Terry Zhang in the Pro-Open Division at the Golden Boy Open on Saturday February 7.



The full results can be found under '2014-2015 Results'.

2015 Canada Series Final

The 2014/15 Canada Series featured four events from East to West, culminating in the 2015 Canada Series Finals. The Final event was held January 30th to February 1st 2015 at MYTTC in Mississauga, ON. Congratulations to Matthew Lehmann who was selected by Table Tennis Canada to attend this tournament. Matthew and Coach Milcho came home with a bronze medal in the President's Cup event.



The Canada Series has become a premiere Table Tennis Canada event for high performance and younger Hopes athletes. In 2016, it would be great to qualify more Manitoba athletes in the Hopes and Canada Series Final and possibly host a Canada Series event in Winnipeg.

TTCAN National Team - 2015 Winter

Congratulations to the following MTTA players for making the Table Tennis Canada National Team lists:

- Carol-Jean Wong - Hopes
- Jeremy Tran - Cadet 15
- Matthew Lehmann - Junior 18

See [TTCAN National Team - 2015 Winter](#) for more details.

Active for Life - Friday night club change

Effective immediately - so starting this Friday January 23rd - the Active for Life practice will move from Laura Secord School to Daniel MacIntyre Collegiate from 6:30-9:30 pm. Daniel MacIntyre has 12 tables and there are already 8-10 players out training as part of our Hopefuls and Squads program. We also offer lessons for Junior Developmental players...so if you have kids who would like to learn, please considering signing them up for lessons!

Winnipeg Table Tennis League Results

The Winnipeg Table Tennis League standings to January 7 are posted under '2014-2015 Results'. Coach Uzunov is in lead over penholder power Alan Chan. There is room for more players. Come out to Daniel Mac on Wednesday evening and join the league!

MTTA Provincial Team Winter Camp



The provincial team was hard at work over the Christmas holidays. Coach Uzunov had the team practicing two 3 hour practices on most days. The team is looking forward to future competitions.

Red River Closed and Canada Winter Games Trial #3 Saturday & Sunday December 6 & 7 Daniel McIntyre Collegiate

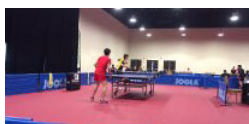


The Red River Closed was held at Daniel Mac Collegiate on December 6th and 7th. The 'Filipino Club' must be doing something right, because as you can see from the photo they took home some hardware!

Please check out the MTTA Facebook site for photos, and video of the CWG Trials.

Please see results under '2014-2015 Results'.

Joola North American Teams



The Joola North American Teams tournament was again held on the American Thanksgiving

Weekend. The 2014 edition was held in Washington, DC with 825 players in 207 teams playing on 136 tables. Matthew Lehmann joined Team Alberta alongside Betty Luo and Lucas Wang. The team was seeded second in its preliminary round robin group and advanced to Division 2 where they played another round robin with similarly ranked teams. Three days of competition gave the opportunity to play more than 20 matches against many different styles. It was a fun but tiring weekend - especially for Betty who went to five games in most of her matches!

Winter 2015 Bingo Dates

Help your Association and help yourself - cover your table tennis expenses. The Winter 2015 Bingo dates are now posted. (See "Fall and Winter Bingo Dates" on left side of page)

Time for Table Tennis: Little Black River School, Eastman

Little Black River School is located about 160 km North East of Winnipeg on the East Shore of Lake Winnipeg. The school is part of Area 3 of the Frontier School Division. Each year the Frontier School Division hold the Frontier Games for kids aged 15 and under and also the High School Games for the older athletes. These events are amongst the largest Games held annually in the Province of Manitoba. They draw kids from Falcon Beach in the South East corner of Manitoba up to Gillam in the North East and across to South Indian Lake, Leaf Rapids and Lynn Lake in the North West. Table Tennis is one of about 7-10 sports contested each year with the others being basketball, volleyball, trap-setting, badminton, cross-country skiing, indoor soccer and archery.

On Monday November 17th, Coach Uzunov and I headed up to Little Black with Dean Rybeck from Frontier and Grant Richter from the Manitoba Heart and Stroke Foundation. Milcho and I were going to deliver some skill clinics as well as run the school tryouts for the Area 3 Frontier Games. Grant, is also an established basketball coach, was heading up to promote both basketball and a new healthy living initiative from the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

First up at the table were 4 boys and 9 girls from Grade 5. Most of them had never played table tennis before but after 2 hours they were competent enough to rally, serve and of course keep score...they wanted to play each other for points!...whatever the big kids do, the young ones want to follow.

Next up after lunch were 7 boys and 15 girls from the grade 6-8 classes. Many of these kids had played before having been to the Regional Games before. The biggest challenge here was trying to convince the better players to trade in their old-school pimped paddles for the modern sponge bats that can impart both more speed and spin to the ball. At the end of the coaching clinic, we ran the Area 3 School tryouts where the competition was fierce.

Girl's Results: Gold-Sarina McPherson/ Silver-Kaapi Bird/ Bronze-Carissa Bird.

Boy's Results: Gold-Wave Kent/ Silver-Zack Harry/ Bronze-Trevor Harry.

Thanks to Dean and the Frontier School Division for partnering with us to help both grow the sport of table tennis and develop the athletic abilities of young Manitoban's in the Frontier School Division.

Ron Edwards Reporting

PS: In the visitor's Exhibition match, Game 1 Coach Uzunov 12, Ron Edwards 10, Game 2-Ron Edwards 1, Coach Uzunov 0...winner determined by the bell!

Manitoba Closed and Canada Winter Games Trial #2 Saturday & Sunday November 8 & 9 Daniel McIntyre Collegiate

It was an exciting weekend of table tennis at the Manitoba Closed and Canada Winter Games Trial #2.

It was great to see some new faces at the tournament. Congratulations to the following athletes that competed in their first Manitoba table tennis tournament: Emma Gu, Victoria Wong, Sparsh Agrawal, Adriano Neis, Bryanna Su, Anna Liu, and Leandro Mecerado. Adriano went home as the under 300 winner.

A newcomer to Winnipeg (and Canada), Biruk Bekele made his presence felt -- heading home with a third place cheque in the Pro-Open Division.

Many exciting matches were contested with a few 'upsets'. The 'young guns', Jeremy Tran and Manuel Zaki eliminated Terry Zhang and Kevin Liu in doubles on their way to a strong second place finish in Open Doubles A Division.



Canada Winter Games Trial #2 - Top 6

The Canada Winter Games Trial #2 started with a round robin on Saturday afternoon, and continued on Sunday morning, with the semi-finals and finals on Sunday afternoon. The boys' event had the same results as Trial #1, with Matthew Lehmann, Manuel Zaki, Jeremy Tran and Yunyang Deng rounding out the top four. The girls' competition was a different story. With many matches going to 5 games and many games to deuce, attempting to pick the winner before the final match was played would have been an exercise in futility. When the dust settled, Phuong Nguyen came out on top, followed by Jacie Liu, Naomi Tran, and Tina Liu. The final trial next month will be very interesting...

Final Results:

A SGLS: Matthew Lehmann def. Terry Zhang 11-6,11-9,9-11,11-5,11-7.

B SGLS: Michal Rybak def. Jeremy Tran 9-11,11-8,11-5,11-7.

C SGLS: Naomi Tran def. Carol-Jean Wong 11-4,11-5,11-9.

D SGLS: Adriano Neis def. Victoria Wong 11-5,11-5,11-6.

E SGLS: Sparsh Agrawal def. Anna Liu 11-3,11-4,11-2.

A DBLS: M. Lehmann/ Jacie Liu def. J. Tran/ Manuel Zaki 11-8,11-7,8-11,16-14.

B DBLS: N. Tran/ Phuong Nguyen def. Sam & Liam Nadurak 11-6,11-8,11-13,11-5.

>40 YRS. A SGLS: M. Rybak def. Don Kokan 11-8,8-11,9-11,11-9,11-4.

>40 YRS. B SGLS.: Marcos Sioson def. Andrzej "Bob" Wiewiora 11-8,9-11,12-10,8-11,11-4.

Boys Under 18 C.W.G. Trials Top 6:

1. Matthew Lehmann
2. Manuel Zaki
3. Jeremy Tran
4. Yunyang Deng
5. Victor Yu
6. Gordon Chow

Girls Under 18 C.W.G. Trials Top 6:

1. Phuong Nguyen
2. Jacie Liu
3. Naomi Tran
4. Tina Liu
5. Carol-Jean Wong
6. Kaitlyn Su

Report from Greg Dzioba on the 2014 Commonwealth Games:





It was a great honour to represent Canada at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, Scotland. Three umpires from Canada were selected to officiate at the Games. It was great news for Gregory Chan and I, as we were two out of the three! This was good for Manitoba officials. Umpires from 44 countries were invited to the Commonwealth Games.

The Games took place in Glasgow from July 23th - Aug 2nd, 2014. Athletes from 77 countries were competing in the various events. Both Gregory Chan and I were assigned to umpire at the Show Courts, which were very difficult matches. We were involved in the semi-finals and finals in different categories.

It was a pleasant surprise for me to be selected as an umpire to officiate the Men's Team Final with my Assistant, Averil Roberts from Australia. The match was between Singapore and England, and Singapore won 3:1. We had the opportunity to see the Opening and Closing Ceremonies.

It was wonderful experience for the two of us from Manitoba to work in Glasgow. We would like to give a big thank you to MTTA and Table Tennis Canada for nominating us to officiate the Commonwealth Games.

Greg Dzioba

Saskatchewan Open Results

Great results last weekend in Saskatoon!



U13 Boys	Euwe Makinano	Silver
U13 Girls	Carol Wong	Gold
U15 Boys	Devin Chong	Silver
U15 Girls	Tina Liu	Gold
U18 Boys	Manuel Zaki	Gold
U18 Girls	Tina Liu	Gold
Open Singles B	Yunyang Deng	Gold
Open Singles C	Devin Chong	Gold
U600	Euwe Makinano	Silver
U1000	Victor Yu	Silver
U2000 Doubles	Manuel & Euwe	Silver

(for full results see Saskatchewan Open under 2014-2015 Results)

Manitoba Umpire Achieves Blue Badge

Congratulations to Gregory Chan on achieving his International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) Blue Badge Umpire designation!

Gregory joins Darek Mikita and Greg Dzioba, placing three Manitobans in this elite group of officials which numbers only twelve in North America and 244 worldwide!
Click [here](#) to see the article on the ITTF Website.

2014 MTTA Award Winners



The MTTA Annual Awards and AGM were held on October 6, 2014.

The award recipients were:

Honorary Lifetime Membership:	Roger Page
Player of the Year:	Matthew Lehmann
Junior Female Player of the Year:	Jacie Liu and Carol-Jean Wong
Junior Male Player of the Year:	Matthew Lehmann
Most Improved Player:	Jeremy Tran
Junior Sportsmanship of the Year:	Victor Yu and Kaitlyn Su
Volunteer of the Year:	Andrzej Wiewiora
Manitoba Order of Sport Excellence - Award of Merit:	

Jerzy Kusal, Tina Liu, Terry "Tian" Zhang, William Liu, Manuel Zaki, Matthew Lehmann, Yilin Tian, Jacie Liu, Phuong Nguyen, Liam Nadurak, Victor Yu, Jeremy Tran, Yuniyang Deng, Samuel Nadurak, Gordon Chow, Naomi Tran, Kaitlyn Su, Shaelynn Su, Carol-Jean Wong, Ewue Makinano, Victoria Wong, Milcho Uzunov, Jiayun Du, Frederick Eng, and Norman Tran.



Manitoba Team enjoyed the 2014 Canadian Championships in Edmonton. Athletes are looking forward to 2015 in Trois Rivières, Quebec. Start planning for July 2016 when the Canadian Championships come to Winnipeg!

Reporters Wanted!!

