

Editor's Corner

Welcome to the first edition of Spin, commemorating the start of the Rochester Table Tennis Club's ninth exciting year!

We began in June of 2003, playing once a week on seven tables. Today we have grown to sixteen tables, play twice weekly, and have added periodic Friday training sessions.

Our membership continues to diversify. Once a club of only adult members, we now have youths of all ages. Their presence has convinced us that teaching them is not just rewarding; it is the best way we can grow the sport of table tennis in the Rochester area.

We hope you find this newsletter as a channel to stay in touch with all the happenings at RTTC!



2011 US Open Champions from the Rochester Table Tennis Club. Michael Tran (9-and-Under Boys Champion), and Ben Kubesh & Chris Lam (U-3200 Doubles Champions)

2011 US Open Champions!

by Chi Lam

The Rochester Table Tennis Club of Minnesota sent four juniors Ben Kubesh, Brandon Lam, Chris Lam, and Michael Tran, to this year's U.S. Open Table Tennis Championships in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Chris and Ben won the U-3200 Doubles, beating the top seed. Along the way they dropped only one game. That same day, Michael (the currently top-ranked 9-and-under boy in US and seeded number one) won the 9-and-Under Boys event in a great battle, defeating the #2 seed from Toronto, Canada.

(Editor's note: This is the second consecutive year Michael has won at the US Open, having won the U-1350 Singles event last year. For Chris and Ben, this is their first U.S. Open Championship.)

RTTC Results Summary:

- **Boys 9-and-Under Champion: Michael Tran**
- **U-3200 Doubles Champions: Ben Kubesh & Chris Lam**
- U-1800 Semi-Finalist: Michael Tran
- U-1650 Semi-Finalist: Chris Lam
- U-1500 Quarter-Finalist: Brandon Lam

Upcoming Events:

- Summer season club tournament (Sept 28, 2011)
- Fall season begins Oct 1, 2011

Announcements:

Here are the newly elected Board of Directors and Officers for 2011 - 2012

- **President:** Chi Lam
- **Vice President:** Tu Nguyen
- **Secretary:** Pete Wottreng
- **Treasurer:** Mark Helm
- **Board Members:** Kin Cheung, Norm Hopkins, Tuan Truong

As we welcome the new officers and board members, we would also like to say a big "Thank You" to Kiswanto Thayib, our out-going President, whose leadership has been instrumental in the growth of our club these past four years.

Thank You Kiswanto!!

USATT Tournaments:

- **Badger Open at Waukesha WI (Sept 17 - 18, 2011).** See <http://www.badgeropen.com>
- **South Shore Sports / Butterfly Open at Highland IN (Nov 12 - 13, 2011).** See <http://www.sbtcc.org>

Popular Links:

- **RTTC:** <http://www.rttc-mn.org>
- **USATT:** <http://www.usatt.org>
- **ITTF:** <http://www.ittf.org>

Calendar:

- **Find our current calendar here:** <http://www.rttc-mn.org/schedule/current-schedule>

2011 Minnesota Senior Games

by Norm Hopkins

The 2011 Minnesota Senior Games were held at Mankato June 2-5, 2011. Thirty players contested the table tennis event, with Fuliao Li emerging as the star of the tournament. In the Singles Open he eliminated, in succession, three RTTC players, Don Heuton, Norm Hopkins, and Bunly Suy. Don, Norm and Bunly had won their round-robin groups, but none could handle Fuliao's reverse penhold backhand.

In the Open Doubles, Bunly and Norm faced Fuliao and Jigang Liu in their first match. With proper seeding this likely would have been the championship matchup, but the outcome would have been the same, with Fuliao and Jigang winning easily.

Bunly, displaying great youth and vigor, won his age group, defeating the "old and decrepit" Norm Hopkins. Bunly was our star and really played well all day.

In the 65-70 Age group we were 1-2-3 with Don Heuton, Rick Lee and Northfield's Don Diehl, an "occasional regular" at RTTC whom we will claim as our own. Both of our doubles teams (Norm and Bunly, Don and Rick) won their age groups.



Don Diehl in doubles action at the MN Senior Games

RTTC Summer Training

by Lisa Fu

RTTC's second dedicated training session was held this summer, with 19 students meeting three successive Friday evenings for two hours of instruction and training.

The late-summer training session focuses on each player's personal strengths and weaknesses. Coaches work with small groups, allowing plenty of one-on-one time, and aiding newer players in solidifying their technique. It is during the past two summer trainings that I have improved the most. Training sessions like these help foster greatest success, because coaches have more opportunity to correct mistakes than any other time during the year.

Everyone had a fun time during the training, and best of all we improved our skills!