



UQTTC Newsletter, October 2002

by Vincent Chen (new nickname: zZz)

Winners!

Our UQ Open victories were:

Special Doubles runner up David Pile

Under 20 singles runner-up Ben Roberts

Under 20 doubles runner-up Ben Roberts

Under 18 singles runner-up Ben Roberts

Reserve Doubles winner Barry Shimmin-Clarke

Reserve doubles runner-up Peng Ng and Andrew Martin

B singles winner Antony Lui

B singles runner-up David Pile (yes you are right, it's not fair, Mr. Simon)

B doubles winner Raymond Chen & Peng Ng

B doubles runner-up Vincent Chen & Antony Lui

C doubles runner-up Tony Loong & Reuben Pocock

Mini table runner-up Martin Leet

Social Report (from David Simon)

Hi all!

Recently the club had 2 social events, Laserforce and Pitch & Putt Golf. Laserforce was attended by Stanley, Jeep, Matthew and myself. Overall it was a good chance to test out our war skills and after Stanley and I picked aliases as Sriver EL and Formula One respectively we were ready for combat. The rules were simple: Shoot the laser pack of the other people. Three successful hits without getting hit yourself caused your gun to attain rapid fire. If you were hit, your gun was disarmed for 6 seconds. The standout performer was Jeep with his compulsory military service in Korea obviously a good background training. Stanley and I battled it out for the lower places. I beat him on the first 2 missions but he made a good comeback to beat me on the last.

The other social event, Golf at Corinda Golf Club was well attended: Raymond, Alice, Anthony, Andrew, Martin, Stanley and myself. There was many highlights. Alice nearly scored a hole in one when her ball hit the flag (although she did take a few air swings!). Raymond's power was shown when he smashed the ball off the first tee 100m pass the hole. Although his judge of distance was not very accurate, he showed good signs for when we play the actual 9 hole course in the future.

Stanley's putting was impressive and Martin's height achieved from his sand wedge showed his years of experience playing the game.

David

Philosophy and Table Tennis (submitted by Martin Leet)

Many world philosophies and religions emphasise the importance of 'duty'. By this is meant that one's primary focus should be to fulfill one's responsibilities and obligations without any concern for the results of one's actions. This idea might be expressed in terms of 'do your duty and leave the rest to God'. Thus, in one's occupation, one should concentrate upon doing the job well, rather than worry about getting a pay rise or think about whether one will be retrenched next week. Or, one should be honest because it is a duty to speak the truth.

The idea of duty, however, has become less attractive in modern society. This is because we are mainly concerned with obtaining pleasure and monetary rewards. So, in one's job, the main priority tends to be getting a higher salary or a better title. And because we are more interested in having friends and being popular, honesty is hard to practise. In other words, we are focused more on the outcomes or results of our activities, which we could leave to God, rather than upon the activities themselves, which make up our duty. So, what has all this got to do with table tennis?

People begin playing table tennis because it is enjoyable. However, as they play more and improve, they become more and more interested in winning. This creates problems because their enjoyment is less when they are losing. Also, even winning becomes an anxious affair because whenever one is wanting to win, one is also creating in oneself many fears about losing. It is the same problem as with the historical transformation into modern society divorced from religion and philosophy; people become more and more interested in outcomes and entertainment. This is why modern society is full of stress and why many table tennis players yell and carry on so much.

Thus, the idea of doing one's duty is also applicable to playing table tennis. It is better to concentrate upon simply playing the game as well as one can, rather than thinking about the possible outcome. For then, we will enjoy it more whether we win or lose. And also, we will probably win more often because thinking about the outcome is what creates tension. Yet, one needs to be completely relaxed to put lots of spin and speed on the ball and also to know what is the best shot to play under difficult circumstances.

(Thank you very much for sharing your insight, Dr. Leet!)

Extra!

No I won't let you die out of curiosity yet, Mr. president. Here's what I wanted to announce: I'm getting married! No, I wouldn't do that (after consulting Mira about the nature of marriage). However, two of our members, Katy Huang and Charles Lin, are getting married. Wish you all the best, mate!

2002 UQTTC survey summary (Stanley Chan)

Thank you to everyone who filled out this year's survey. We received 16 responses in total and the majority of them are new member (12 out of 16). From the result many of you are not sure about your grade (7 out of 16). If you want to know your grade, ask one of the selectors (Andrew, Vincent or James Sung).

In this survey, we can see our playing atmosphere has the most positive response (4 in average) with equipment second (3.75 in average). However there is also a response mentioning that we need to repair/replace some of our equipment. Our resource has the lowest score (3.07 in average) and promotion was next (3.125 in average). So we will improve these two aspects. Also just in case some of you might not know, in our bookshelf we have various useful table tennis resources including table tennis magazines ordered straight from ITTF (International Table Tennis Federation), the most recent Queensland rating, official rule books, newsletters from our club, Table Tennis Queensland, UQSport, and other table tennis related organization, and other useful information including sports psychology documents. If you are having a break from playing, please take a look at the bookshelf.

Most people suggested we should have more coaching, and to improve (or increase) our competition. Other suggestions include more tables and more social events. More than half of the responses say they would like to improve their skill (10 out of 16) as well as some weekly exercise (6 out of 16). Most of you feel satisfied but some believe we should have more coaching, social events and more opening hours.. Almost everyone would like to have regular beginner coaching (13 out of 16) and believe that the higher grade players should help playing/coaching the lower grade player (9 out of 16). Also some say we should try to rotate players every 30 minutes and organize intermediate group training (6 each).

Only half of the responses feel they receive enough information from the club such as training times, world news and skill information. The social events people like the most include BBQ, travelling (3 each) and other response include movies, dinner and bush walking

From this summary we've gathered many useful opinions. We now have a regular beginner coaching session running for 1 hour every session. Copies of basics skill guide are available on the bookshelf. Much useful information is also available on our new website:

<http://clubs.uqsport.uq.edu.au/tabletennis>

including world news, club news and other items such as our program, photos, etc.

Other initiatives that the club will introduce a new Double Happiness table, 2 Butterfly nets for tournament & 2 clip-on net for social playing at 2003. We will also look for umpire chairs and new court surrounds. We will encourage the players to rotate every 30 minutes and also host more ladder games. The beginner coaching session will continue to run but there is a slight change to the time, it is still going to start at the first hour of Friday and Sunday, but it will be on the last hour on Saturday (ie 11:30am to 12:30pm) for players who can't arrive early. Also there will be our club's posters provided in the storage room for the enthusiastic members to put up. We will update our e-mail list (YahooGroup) more frequently and encourage members to keep the storage room clean.

Once again thanks to those who spent their time filling out the survey.

Club web pages: <http://clubs.uqsport.uq.edu.au/tabletennis>