



web: <http://www.rttc-mn.org> email: info@rttc-mn.org

Editor's Corner

We had a very busy Winter season. The club hosted the Minnesota State Championships, our second year in a row. We had nearly 100 participants (even more than last year), and with so many club members volunteering, whether with setup and teardown or running the tournament, the event was a tremendous success. Once again I received many favorable comments from the participants. Thank you all for your help and support.

The Minnesota High School Team Championships were also played in February, and the Rochester and Austin teams had a solid turnout. Read our article in this issue for more details.



From Left: Chi Lam, Lai Nguyen, Don Diehl, Stan Wilkinson, Sam Prum, Chris Lam, Joel Lidstrom, Ben Kubesh, Michael Tran, Shashi Sethi, Dave McCarthy, Brandon Lam, Vidhan Chandra, Abhishek Chandra

Minnesota State Championships

by Joel Lidstrom

On February 4th and 5th the Rochester Table Tennis Club, in partnership with the RCTC Table Tennis Club, hosted the 2012 Minnesota Table Tennis Championships. The event was held in the UCR Regional Sports Center for the second straight year, with nearly 100 participants of all ages competing on seventeen tables in eighteen separate events. Competition ran non-stop from 9:00 a.m. until after 6:00 p.m. each day, with several divisions running concurrently and award ceremonies being held at the conclusion of each event. Defending champion Cory Eider of Minneapolis easily won his second MN Championship, and Sandhya Joshi, last year's runner-up to Rochester's Brenda Nguyen, broke through to win the women's crown.

The Rochester clubs were represented by twenty-nine players in virtually every category, including Novice and Hardbat events, Youth and High School events, rated Singles and Doubles, Masters' events, all culminating in the Men's and Women's Open Singles Championships. Of the eighteen events contested, Rochester players medaled in fifteen; of those fifteen, four earned top honors:

Dave McCarthy of Onalaska, one of several RTTC members who commute a significant distance to the club, went undefeated in the Under-1300 Singles event. Dave came from behind in a thrilling championship match to win at -10, -6, 11, 9, and 8.

Vidhan Chandra was spectacular throughout the tournament, beating higher-rated players and forging a well-deserved gold medal in the Under-1500 Singles.

Stan Wilkinson, playing in his first MN State Championship, used his powerful serve and intense third ball attack to win the Novice Singles event.

Michael Tran, Rochester's remarkable nine-year-old, won an exceedingly hard-fought Youth Under-14 Singles title in a match against Ben Huynh of Minneapolis. Michael is the nation's top Under-10 boy, and showed why his future is so bright. Cory Eider lost only two games en route to his Open Singles victory, one to former champion Thor Truelson in the finals, and the other to Michael in the quarterfinals, unfazed by the powerful play of the two-time champ.

Complete results could be found here:

<http://www.rttc-mn.org/tournaments/non-rttc-tournaments/305-2012-minnesota-state-championships>

Announcements:

- RTTC has joined the US Nationwide Table Tennis League (USNTTL), and we plan to have team representing RTTC to compete in this nationwide league, beginning in September 2012. See <http://www.usnttl.com> for more information. If you are interested in playing or sponsoring team(s) to compete, please let us know.

Upcoming Events / Tournaments:

- Northfield Open at Northfield MN (May 5) [See our club website for information](#)
- America's Team Championships at Rockford IL (May 26-27) <http://www.rockfordttc.com>
- US Open at Grand Rapids MI (June 30 - July 4). <http://westmisports.com/wmsc-events/usatt>

2012 Winter Season Tournament

The RTTC crowned a new club champion in the 2012 Winter Tournament, held on Sunday, March 21, 2012. Ye Hu defeated our long-time club champion Lai Nguyen in a very close and exciting 5-game match.



Winners of the RTTC 2012 Winter Tournament (from left): Ye Hu, Lai Nguyen, Vidhan Chandra, Tuan Truong, Norm Hopkins, Justin Wynn, Emmanuel Sacristan, and Jeff Stevens

Division 1: Ye Hu (1st), Lai Nguyen (2nd)

Division 2: Vidhan Chandra (1st), Tuan Truong (2nd)

Division 3: Norm Hopkins (1st), Justin Wynn (2nd)

Division 4: Emmanuel Sacristan (1st), Jeff Stevens (2nd)

High School State Championship

The 2012 Minnesota High School Team Championships was held at the Eagan High School on Feb 12. The tournament has been growing every year since it started a few years back, and this year was no exception. Sixteen High School teams (ten to twelve members each) competing in the boys'/co-ed division, and seven girls' teams (two to four members each) competing in the girls' division.

This year our region sent three teams to the tournament: Rochester North, Rochester South, and Austin. The Rochester teams have expanded from a single team last year to two this year.

The Rochester South team advanced to the Championship round, losing in their quarterfinal matchup. Both the Rochester North and the Austin team moved to the Consolidation round where they met each other in the Quarterfinals. The Rochester North team prevailed, and bested two more teams to become the consolation champion.

The Rochester North girls' team once again came out strong and were able to repeat their last year's performance to win Third Place overall in their division.

Congratulations to all our fine high school players!



Rochester North Team: 2nd row (from left): Yi Chen, Roland Zeng, Abhishek Chandra, Puqiang Wu, Peter Nguyen, Isaac Then, Chi Lam (Coach), Chris Lam; Front row (from left): Lisa Fu, Frank Peng, Qi Cao, Brandon Lam, Xiaoshan Chai