

2013 Butterfly MDTTC August Open  
Compiled by Charlene Liu, Ph.D.

Seventy eight players from seven states competed in the 2013 Butterfly MDTTC August Open on August 24 &25 at the Maryland Table Tennis Center.

We have a record number of entries for the Open event, almost too much for us to handle. So we had to reject some entries. MDTTC assistant coach Raghu Nadmichettu was nice enough to yield his spot in the Open event to Harold Baring. Larry Abass was also very nice and offered to yield his spot in the U2400 event to Raghu. Fortunately, we have some open spot in the U2400 event, so both of them could play. MDTTC assistant coach Bowen Chen beat colleague Qingliang Wang in four games to claim the Open Champion. Qingliang is one of the best choppers in US. Most players cannot handle choppers very well. However, Bowen practices with Qingliang all the time, so he is more comfortable against choppers. Semifinalist Harold Baring lost to Qingliang Wang after a hard fought 5 game. This might be the best match for this tournament. The other semifinalist, 2178 rated Heather Wang, is the happiest person in this tournament. She could not believe it after she beat 2362 rated Larry Abass in quarterfinal. She was still dancing after she lost to her coach Bowen Chen in semifinal.



Open semi-finalists: Heather Wang (left) and Harold Baring (right)

MDTTC top junior Nathan Hsu beat Raghu Nadmichettu in three games to win the U2400 event. It was nice to see Nathan competed well and injury-free at this tournament; he has not been able to play his best for several months due to injuries. In the semifinals, Raghu defeated Larry Abass in a 5 game match, while Nathan beat “Joe” Tangyingyong 3-1. Joe had to overcome a 0-2 deficit to win in the quarters against Qiming Chen.

Nazruddin Asgarali won the U2250 event over Qiming Chen. Nazruddin wanted to enter three events. However, he could only enter one due to other engagement. He lost first two games to Qiming Chen in the final, and won the next three to win the match. In the semifinal he had a hard fought five game win over DJ Settle. DJ Settle lives in Raleigh, NC, plays in the Triangle area and works for Butterfly North America. He started playing table tennis in 1997 at Sports Fitness Table Tennis Club in Clemmons, NC. DJ and Spencer Ip entered this tournament at the last minute because there was nothing going on with them for the weekend. They both caused upsets. 2085 rated DJ upset a 2187 rated player to reach the semifinal. 2035 rated Spencer upset another 2187 rated player in round of 16. Two different players rated 2187 lost to two players from NC. What a coincidence. DJ told me that he was seriously challenged by MDTTC junior players, because there are no junior players in his club, and he was not used to play against top junior players.

In the U2050 event, winner Julian Waters won his group comfortably. He had a bye in the round of 16 and won the quarter final by default. He almost fell in sleep during his long waiting, while other players were fighting fiercely. Felt sorry for his long waiting, I suggested him to warm up with my nephew Frank Xie. They both had fun hitting on a back table. After that Julian was relaxed and confident going into the remaining matches. He won the semifinal over Vedprakash Dookhum in three games. In the final Julian played the top seed Spencer Ip. Spencer is much younger than Julian and he beat Julian 3-1 in U2250 round robin group. However, Julian felt fresher than Spencer this time and was able to win in 5 sets. Julian had been up 2-1 but Spencer came back strongly to 2-2. In the fifth game, Julian had a big 6-2 lead, but Spencer came back again and Julian had to pull it out at deuce!

Julian Waters found the MDTTC club when he was 36, about 20 years ago. He designed club t-shirts and the MDTTC logo which is still used today. He was also a board member of the club for a few years. His rating after his first MDTTC tournament in 1993 was only about 600, but since then he has steadily improved, taking many lessons with MDTTC coaches and winning many tournament matches. He first reached 2000 after the age of 44. Now at 56 he has a rating of about 2030. Julian won numerous US national titles in doubles, including O-50 US Open men's doubles with MDTTC Coach Cheng Yinghua. Julian has been the MDTTA Annual Circuit points winner 10 of the last 12 years. Now he plays mainly for fun and exercise but still enjoys the mental and physical challenges of competition.

Semifinalist 1762 rated Vedprakash Dookhum from Pittsburgh caused major upsets. He beat a 2010 rated player in the round of 16. The biggest upsets came from my nephew/student 1421 rated Frank Xie. Frank beat one 1902 rated player and one 1649 rated player in the group stage

In the U1900 event, the winner was Anthony Lewis from Pittsburgh, and the runner up was MDTTC/NOVATTC junior Wesley Duan, my husband's nephew. Anthony is a club member of two table tennis clubs: Pittsburgh Oakland Table Tennis Club (POTTC) and South Park Table Tennis club. Anthony started playing table tennis 4 years ago at Duquesne University with friends. Since then, he has been training about 4 days a week, try to mimic the Chinese national team as much as possible, specifically, Ma Long. He owns much of his success to his friend and training partner Akbar Ormes and rest of POTTC. He is also grateful to his parents for supporting him throughout school and giving the ability to train. Arkbar and Mark Krotec are the presidents of POTTC. Eight players from POTTC played in this tournament and most of them got excellent results. Akbar played at a much higher level than his 1179 rating indicated. He upset a 1620 rated player in the group stage.

After a summer of 6 hour daily camp training, MDTTC junior Leon Bi's skill level improved dramatically. He won the U1650 event over Hal Barnes from Carrollton VA. Leon is in 8th grade at Herbert Hoover Middle School in Potomac, Maryland. Besides table tennis, his hobbies include crew, film making, and band (trombone and baritone). While his main focus is on school this year, he will still practice table tennis with the help of his awesome coaches Yinghua Cheng, Bowen Chen, and Nathan Hsu.

Hal played five events in two days and he was at his peak performance on the second day. 1128 rated MDTTC junior Henry Wung was the player of the day. Although he lost to Leon in semifinal, he upset a 1573 rated player in quarter final. The other semifinalist was Ci Cheong. Ci came in late so her U1900 group finished round robin without her. She checked her email and we identified a miscommunication problem between us. My tournament assistant Lixin was quick enough to provide a solution to the problem, let Ci to play in the U1650 event.

Chanakya Anne beats MDTTC junior Benjamin Kang in 4 games to win the U1400 event. Chanakya started playing table tennis in April 2013 in US after a long gap of 6-7 years. In MDTTC April Open, he lost many matches and started observing his weak points. He thinks it is a great opportunity to play in these tournaments with many good players and to improve his game. He would like to perform better in the U1650 event for the next tournament. Runner up Ben's dad Jin has been driving Ben to train at MDTTC regularly from Virginia for the last year. Thanks to supportive parents like Jin who spent hours driving their children to train at MDTTC, a group of young players from Virginia are making good progress and continue to enjoy playing table tennis.

Another MDTTC junior Michael Li also made significant improvement over the summer. He beat fellow MDTTC junior Sameer Shaikh in 5 close games to win the U1150 event. Michael has been playing ping pong for around 3 years and never took it too seriously. This is the first time he ever won a tournament and it was a great experience. Michael trains at MDTTC with Coach Jack Huang every Saturday. The training helps him improve his skills and gets him better and better. Winning the U1150 champion was a great motivation and he now wants to take table tennis to a higher level as each year passes.

In the Under 12 year old age event, Ryan Dabbs beat Bowen Zhang in 3 games to win. As we had a record number of young players under age 8 participated in our camps this summer, we hope to see even more young players competing in our tournaments in the future.

I would like to thank all participants of this tournament. Without your participation and support, there will not be any tournament. I would also like to thank our tournament sponsors Butterfly North America and James Wu, a Llewellyn realtor for their continuing support, and the developer of Omnipong tournament software ([www.omnipong.com](http://www.omnipong.com)) Craig Krum for his great help. My appreciation also goes to our referee Paul Kovac for his long time support of MDTTC tournaments. Thank you Lixin Lang, you are truly a valuable helper. You know almost every one so you can send out match card quickly. Without your help, this tournament would have long delays. Special thanks go to co-authors Chanakya Anne, Leon Bi, Wen Hsu, Anthony Lewis, Michael Li, DJ Settle and Julian Waters for their contribution to this article.