

# MDTTC News



**MDTTC June 17-21 Camp**  
**Maryland Table Tennis Center • [www.mdttc.com](http://www.mdttc.com) • Oct 2013 • issue #17**

Archive of past [MDTTC Newsletters](#)

Welcome to the latest issue of the MDTTC News. As usual, there's lots of news to report and new and ongoing programs, and we hope to see you at some of them. As usual a special thanks to MDTTC sponsors [Butterfly](#), [Go Table Tennis](#), and [James Wu/Llewellyn realtor](#). Make sure to read my [daily table tennis blog](#) - I often write about MDTTC happenings there. And if you have a nice picture taken at MDTTC, email it to me and it might make the newsletter!

-Editor and Coach [Larry Hodges](#)

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### **New! Afterschool Program - Accepting Applications Now / [中文 Chinese version](#)**

Starting in January 2014, MDTTC will be running an afterschool program that combines table tennis and schoolwork, with courtesy pickups at schools or houses. MDTTC coaches and staff will pick up students after school (from selected areas), and bring them to the club where they will have a one-hour table tennis session, practice time, and do homework with our resident tutors. Here's [the brochure & application form](#), including background on the tutors.

### **Butterfly MDTTC October Open**

Don't forget to enter the Butterfly MDTTC October Open, to be held Oct. 26-27. Here is the [MDTTC Tournament page](#), and here is the [entry form](#).

### **Fall Sales! Passo Butterfly Tracksuits in limited sizes & quantity**

[Passo Tracksuits](#) available at special 30% discount - retail price is \$99.99; now at MDTTC only \$69.99 (limited time and quantity). Just drop by MDTTC to pick up yours!

### **North American Teams: \$150 Discount available only till October 23, 2013**

The [North American Teams](#) are coming up! This year they will be held nearby in DC, Nov. 29 - Dec. 1 (the Fri-Sun after Thanksgiving). You can SAVE \$150 by entering your team through MDTTC. Players of all levels and ages are welcome! The discount will only be applicable if payments are made before October 23, 2013 in cash &or checks only, payable to MDTTC. Still looking for teammates, please email [MDTTC](#).

### **Adult Beginning Class**

There's been recent interest in a new Adult Beginning Class. If interested, [email Larry Hodges](#). The ten-week class would most likely be on Thursdays 7-8:30PM, but only if there are at least ten students. Class would cover the strokes (driving, smashing, looping, pushing, blocking), defensive play (lobbing, fishing, chopping), serve, receive, footwork, equipment, and tactics.

### **Ongoing Programs**

- **Junior Classes.** This is for beginning and intermediate juniors ages 6-14, with Coach Larry Hodges (with John Hsu and Raghu Nadmichettu assisting), and are held Saturdays 10:30 AM-Noon and Sundays 4:30-6:00 PM. There is also a Montgomery County School program your kids can attend, Thursdays 6-7 PM and Saturdays 9:30-10:30 AM. See the [Group Training page](#). A couple spots are still available in the Thursday & Saturday Classes.
- **Group Sessions.** All ages are welcome - it's about 1/3 adults. They meet on Sat & Sun, 4:30-6:30. The first 30 minutes is practice/warm-up, then 90 minutes of matches. See the [Group Training page](#).
- **Private Coaching,** by Coaches Cheng Yinghua, Jack Huang, Larry Hodges, Wang Qing Liang ("Leon"), Chen Bo Wen ("Bowen"), Chen Jie ("James"), John Hsu and Raghu Nadmichettu. See [Private Coaching page](#).
- **Leagues.** MDTTC runs three different leagues. Take your pick! They are the [Tuesday and Friday Leagues](#) (for all ages and levels), and the Sunday [Elite League](#).

### **MDTTC Member Ernie Byles**

He not only earned gold at the 2013 National Senior Games, he was featured in the Rockville Patch. [Read the article](#) about how table tennis helped save him from the streets of Jamaica and from cancer.

### **Rental Space for Corporate and Private Events**

MDTTC offers space rental for special corporate and private events. Here is [Facility Rental Information](#), and here is info on [Birthday Party Packages](#).

### **MDTTC Web and Facebook Pages**

Don't forget to see the regularly updated [MDTTC Facebook page](#), and make sure to "like" it! Stop by and see all the photos, read the latest news, or post your own comments. Also see the [MDTTC web page](#) for regularly updated info.

### **TIP OF THE MONTH: Real Tactics vs. Parroting Tactics**

By Larry Hodges

"Real Tactics" are the tactics that a player should use in a given match to maximize his chances of winning. "Parroting Tactics" are the tactics that many players use because it's what everyone seems to be doing, and so they figure (consciously or subconsciously) it's what they should be doing as well. When two players of equal ability play, and one uses "Real Tactics" and the other uses "Parroting Tactics," guess who usually wins?

The classic example of "Parroting Tactics" would be rarely serving deep to the forehand. At the higher levels, if you serve deep to the forehand, the opponent almost always loops, and the server is at a disadvantage. And so at higher levels you rarely see deep serves to the forehand except as an occasional surprise. At lower levels, opponents often cannot loop effectively or consistently against deep serves to the forehand, and usually have better control on the backhand side, and so are much better if the opponent serves to their backhand side - which most players obligingly do, since that's what they see stronger players doing.

There is some argument to the idea that a player should play higher-level tactics if he wants to be a higher-level player, and so should avoid serving deep to the forehand since that's generally not a higher-level tactic. But this misses the point. The higher-level tactics that usually goes on in higher-level matches is not about avoiding serving deep to the forehand because others don't do that; it's about zeroing in on the opponent's weaknesses and going after them. They don't think, "I'm a higher-level player, and so I shouldn't serve deep to the forehand." They think, "My opponent has a strong forehand loop, and so I shouldn't serve deep to the forehand." The same higher-level tactics, if applied at lower levels, would be, "My opponent has a weak forehand loop, and so I should serve deep to the forehand." And that's what most lower-level players should do, if the tactic works.

You don't develop higher-level tactical skills by playing weak tactics. You develop them by playing strong tactics, i.e. "Real Tactics." If the opponent has a weak forehand loop, you serve to it, no matter what the level. Against six-time U.S. Men's Singles Champion David Zhuang, a pips-out penholder, most players would serve short (which he was very good against) or long to his backhand (allowing him to control the backhand diagonal, which he was also very good at doing), rather than serve long to his forehand, where his pips limited the effectiveness of his receive and where he'd be drawn out of his favored backhand position. A few players figured this out and would regularly serve long backspin to his wide forehand (often "half-long," so the ball barely went off the end), and then counter-attack effectively to his open backhand side.

I once coached a player who had lost the first game at deuce after serving over and over to his opponent's strong backhand. I told him he should both serve AND receive every ball to the opponent's weak forehand until the opponent won two points in a row. I even had him serve from the middle and forehand side so he could get a bigger angle into the forehand side. My player went up 9-0 before losing a point, and won the next three games easily by relentlessly going to the opponent's forehand side.

Obviously there is a limit. If the opponent knows you are going to the forehand, and you do so over and over and OVER, he might get used to it. So you would mix in shots the other way, especially if the opponent is camping out over there. But guess what? If your opponent does camp out on the forehand side to protect that side, then his backhand opens up, and so you go there. That's "Real Tactics." "Parroting Tactics" would be to continue to go to the forehand because the player read an article that says he should go over and over to the opponent's weak forehand.