

MARK SMYTHE NEWSLETTER

Edition 6 - November & December 2010



David Powell
Australian Singles Champion
2006 (U16), 2009 (U18) & 2010 (U21)



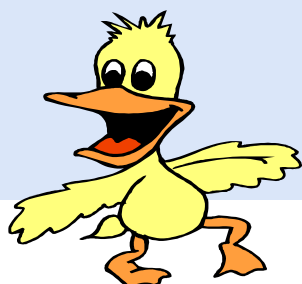
Heming Hu
Australian Singles Champion
2007 (U13&15), 2008 (U15),
2009 (U15) & 2010 (U18)



Lily Phan
Australian Singles Champion
2006 (U14), 2008 (U13&15) & 2009 (U15)



A NEWSLETTER DEDICATED TO PLAYERS COACHED BY MYSELF



HIGHLIGHTS

Lily Phan competes at World Cadet Challenge for 4th time & defeats the champion

Lily set an Oceania record of competing at the World Cadet Challenge. This tournament has been played since 2002 and was her 4th time. Lily (U15 World Ranked no. 117) had some impressive performances, with the best one defeating Eka So (WR 42) of Japan 11 – 9 in the deciding set during the group phase of the Singles event. Eka went on to win the event so this was a fantastic win by Lily.

Heming Hu and Lily Phan compete at World Junior Championships

For Heming and Lily this was their 2nd World Junior Championships. Both Heming and Lily were clearly the best performed players of the Australian Team with Heming winning 3 of 8 matches in the Team event while Lily won 4 of 8. From the World Ranking (WR) U18 List both had one excellent win each. Heming (WR 230) defeated Filip Cipin (WR 72) from Croatia with Lily (WR 341) defeating Caroline Kumahara (WR 75) from Brazil.

Competing at this level is an extremely big step up from the Australian level due to many countries taking the sport seriously by having systems in place to produce a higher level with greater financial assistance & rewards for players.

BEST WINS

- Heming Hu beat Filip Cipin (Croatia) – World Junior Championships
- Heming Hu beat Alexander Yao (USA) – World Junior Championships
- Lily Phan beat Maria Krazelova (Slovak Republic) – World Junior Championships
- Lily Phan beat Caroline Kumahara (Brazil) – World Junior Championships
- Lily Phan beat Katia Kawai (Brazil) – World Junior Championships
- Lily Phan beat Eka So (Japan) – World Cadet Challenge
- Joshua Cheung beat Adam Teague – Parkview Senior Open
- Steven Phan beat Michael Worobec – Parkview Senior Open
- Michael Worobec beat Joshua Cheung – Parkview Senior Open
- Dominic Nguyen beat Atul Shrestha – Parkview Senior Open

BITS AND PIECES

Who's training overseas?

Dominic Huang and Yang Shen have been training in China since mid October and are there for 3 months. Eugene Ng went to China on 11th December for 7 weeks. Joshua Cheung went to China on 12th December for 5 weeks. Heming Hu will go to China after Christmas and be there for 12 months.

Jordan Smythe is born

Jordan was born on 22nd November 2010 which was 5 weeks premature. An interesting fact is the doctor that delivered Jordan was the same doctor who delivered David Powell 19.5 years ago.



Stella, Jordan and I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

NEAR MISSES

Lily Phan

Lily lost to Ariel Hsing (U15 WR 9) of USA 11 – 7 in the deciding set at the World Cadet Challenge.

HANDY HINTS

“We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit”

This quote was sent to me by someone I coach every now and then. Thanks Kelvin.

STABLE OF STARS

Below is a list of regular tournament players I coach (Individually) and how long for.

Open Men

Michael Worobec (D. Valley) – Aug. 2007 to Dec. 2009 then on and off since April 2010

Under 21 Men

David Powell (Croydon) – December 1999

Under 18 Boys

Heming Hu (Dandenong) – July 2007

Tim Nguyen (MSAC) – July 2004 to October 2008 then from January to September 2010

Josh Cheung (Dandenong) – November 2008

Under 18 Girls

Ning Shen (Croydon) – June 2008 to September 2009 then July – September 2010

Under 15 Boys

Steven Phan (Dandenong) – January 2004 to May 2006 then since July 2007

Scott Gilmore (Dandenong) – March 2007

Kaveesh Jayasinhe (Croydon) – On and off Sept. to Dec. 2009 then since January 2010

Under 15 Girls

Lily Phan (Croydon) – July 2004 to June 2009 then on and off since June 2009

Emilie Evans (Croydon) – November 2009

Under 13 Boys

Dominic Huang (Croydon) – May 2005

Daniel Zou (Dandenong) – November 2006

Yang Shen (Croydon) – June 2008

Eugene Ng (Croydon) – On & off from April to August 2009 then since September 2009

Dominic Nguyen (Croydon) – January 2010

Augustine Nguyen (Croydon) – February 2010

Jakob Smith (Croydon) – April 2010

Under 13 Girls

Catherine Duong (Croydon) – May 2008

Under 11 Boys

Atul Shrestha (Croydon) – July 2007 then since January 2008

Dylan Nguyen (Croydon) – January 2010

Under 11 Girls

Mahi Joshi (Croydon) – May 2009

Christina Nguyen (Croydon) – February 2010

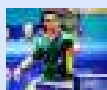
Over 40 Men

Rod Kempton (Croydon) – On and off since January 2007

Over 50 Women

Daisy O’Bryan (M’Vet) – On and off January 2008 to March 2008 then since April 2008

MARK SMYTHE SCHOOL HOLIDAY



TRAINING CAMPS IN 2011



“FOR PLAYERS WHO ARE SERIOUS ABOUT IMPROVING”

This exciting new venture will not only help my own students but many others around Melbourne, Victoria, Australia & Oceania to improve their standard while keeping the costs as low as possible.

I will be running 10-12 x 2hr group sessions per week during every Victorian school holiday period in 2011 at the Greater Dandenong Table Tennis Association (home of 2010 Australian U18 Singles Champions, Heming Hu and Anna Du). There will be 4 separate camps that will cover 8 weeks.

The first camp in 2011 will be from January 10 – 30. Session times are,

Jan. 10 – 16, Mon to Fri 10:30am – 12:30pm & 6 – 8pm then Sat & Sun 10am – 12pm

Jan. 17 – 30, Mon to Fri 10:30am – 12:30pm & 5 – 7pm then Sat & Sun 10am – 12pm

The cost for the players will be \$10 for each session, only paying for sessions attended, and an extra \$10 fee (retainer) per week (Mon-Sun) will be paid to Dandenong TTA. These sessions are open to players of all ages and standards. Players can select any amount of sessions they wish to attend during the 3 weeks. This is an opportunity to train up to 24 hours per week for a maximum \$130 per week under Australia’s most successful coach. What a fantastic deal for the players!!

Many of the best players in Aust. during 2010 for their age group will be attending during the 3 weeks.



Anna Du (U18)



Joshua Cheung (U18)



Scott Gilmore (U15)



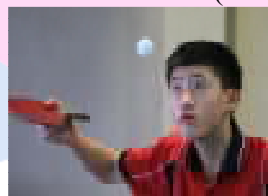
Steven Phan (U15)



Kaveesh Jayasinhe (U15)



Daniel Zou (U13)



Leon Suy (U13)



Dillon Chambers (U13)

Others are, Eugene Ng, Atul Shrestha, Jakob Smith, Dominic & Dylan Nguyen, Augustine & Christina Nguyen, Ning Shen, Emilie Evans and many others. Dominc Huang and Yang Shen will attend after arriving home from training in China on January 23. Lily Phan will attend if in Melbourne at the time.

I, through Leigh Gilmore (Scott’s father), can organise airfare & accommodation packages for anyone who requires it. These packages will be organised through a licensed travel agent. Prices may be subject to change and availability so book early to avoid disappointment.

Closing date for each week will be one week prior to each week commencing. If you are interested to be part of this great opportunity or would like to ask any questions, contact me on (03) 9803 6835 or 0411 493 054 or ducksmythe@hotmail.com

**COME AND TRAIN WITH MANY OF THE BEST JUNIORS IN AUSTRALIA
IN WELL STRUCTURED & ORGANISED SESSIONS**

MARK SMYTHE 2011 WEEKLY GROUP TRAINING/COACHING

WHEN: Tuesday 6pm - 8pm (Croydon)
Saturday 9:30am - 11:30am (Croydon)
Sunday 1:30pm – 3:30pm (Dandenong)

COST: \$10 each session
Discount
After the 1st session any extra session attended in the same week (Monday – Sunday) will be \$5

CONTACT: (03) 9803 6835
0411 493 054
ducksmythe@hotmail.com

I am a Qualified Level 2 Coach and one of Australia's best coaches. Since 2002 my students have won 43 Australian Individual (Singles & Doubles) Titles which includes 4 players winning a total of 12 Singles Titles.

I was the Head Coach of the Australian Team at 2006 Commonwealth Games and Victorian Coach of the Year in 2009, 2007, 2005, 2003, 2001 & 1999.

Come along to learn & improve your skills in a structured system and enjoyable atmosphere. Players of all ages & standards are welcome.



Players I coached that made Victorian Junior Teams in 2008



DUCK'S VIEW

After discussing how players can improve their level and how administrators can provide financial incentives for Elite Players, I'll now discuss another aspect that involves both parties.

BEST SYSTEM FOR MAKING STATE & NATIONAL TEAMS

After observing many ways in which players have made Teams (State & National) over the last 25 years, I believe there's one that stands out as the best and fairest. That one is a Qualifying Tournament (QT), where players make Teams through their performances at the right time.

A QT is based on a Round Robin concept where all players play against each which determines who finishes 1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc.

Currently the Qualification Tournament (QT) concept is used for the 2 biggest Senior Events players strive for. They are the Olympic Games (since 1988 when TT was first in the Games) and Commonwealth Games (since 2002 when TT was first in the Games). It has a proven history off being the best & fairest system and is well received by the most important people, the players. Both Events have 2 stages, Round Robins, where one player qualifies for the Team and one is eliminated after stage 1 then others progress to stage 2 where results from stage 1 are carried over but only for those who participate in stage 2.

The QT concept is also used for players to make the Oceania Cadet Team each year and was used for this year's inaugural Youth Olympic Games. Both have only one Round Robin stage.

Reasons why a QT should be used for players to make State and National Teams are,

- Players have destiny in their own hands
- Provides the best pathway for players to adapt to a system that is used for the biggest events (Olympic & Commonwealth Games) at senior level and other important events for younger age groups.
- Provides the most appealing marketing tool to promote the sport as there as multiple matches occurring at once of the best players. This set up will help to produce a better product to "sell" to potential sponsors and assist in gaining a higher profile for the sport as there are more spectacular points to be seen compared to watching one match at a time.
- No outside influences such as subjective opinions with selections when decisions are close
- No exemptions are required. If any player is sick or injured and cannot participate then that's bad luck which is the same situation when the Olympic, C'wealth Games, etc, are played.

A QT can be used for making all State Teams (covering all Age Groups) and most National Teams. It's unrealistic for all National Teams that compete at International Tournaments to have a Qualifying Event attached. I'll discuss how a QT can work for State and National Teams.

STATES/TERRITORY

Due to the States/Territory having various amounts of tournaments and situations they can form their own system of how players are able to qualify and/or be eligible for a QT.

As I live in Victoria and know the system well, I'll discuss how it can work there. Currently each category (Veteran, Senior, Youth and Junior) has a series of tournaments, usually 10, in which players gain X amount of points (State Team Points list – STP) for Winning, R-up, SF, QF, etc, which essentially leads to Teams being selected directly from this List. I think this is a very good system but believe it can be improved by incorporating a QT. There shall be no prize money attached to QT.

I would like to see the No. 1 player from STP automatically qualify for State Team and not participate in the QT. This would be just reward for players who finish on top after a series of tournaments.

The rest would then play off for positions in State Teams and B Teams, if required. The tournaments during selection period can be used as a way for players to qualify for the QT. This means there would be less interest in more tournaments compared to current situation due to most spots for QT being decided well before the QT. This would then require the host of each tournament to provide more incentives to attract as many players as possible.

This is the best scenario for the sport and the most important people, the players, as the tournaments become more appealing to compete in while preparing for the QT then Australian Championships.

NATIONAL

Senior Teams

Currently Senior Teams are selected and/or qualified for, usually for 2-3 International Tournaments per year. Through the idea suggested (more tournaments and prize money for Elite Seniors article from July & Aug edition), which has now been adopted by TTA, QT's can be used and applied.

Example is, for 2012 World Team Championships (held anytime between March - May) a qualifying tournament could be held somewhere between December - February. If other International Events, such as Oceania Championships, were held around this time of the year then the QT would count towards that as well. As the date for 2012 Olympic Games is July 27 – August 12 then another QT can be held anytime from a few weeks to 2 months after World Team Championships. These QT's would replace some of the extra tournaments (4) TTA have in place for 2011 therefore prize money will be attached.

This would encapsulate nearly everything I believe the players would want and appreciate. They are,

- Opportunity to earn more prize money
- Opportunity to qualify for any National Team they wish to strive for

Also, this allows the host to market & promote the QT for the purpose of, recruiting new players, providing the Elite Players with a higher profile and enabling local players to see the best striving for a spot in the Australian Team.

The QT for each Event will have prize money attached and must be played over a weekend to cater for those who work and/or study which covers most/all players. There is no system that is perfect but I believe my idea is getting close.

Junior Teams

Junior Teams are currently selected up to twice a year. Once for World Junior Circuit Event (June or July somewhere in Oceania) for U18 & 15 age groups and other for World Junior Championships, U18 only, providing Team has successfully qualified during the week of World Junior Circuit Event.

The QT for World Junior Circuit could be held just prior to each country needing to submit their teams while the QT for World Junior Championships can be held one day prior to Australian Senior & Youth commence or one day prior to Australian Junior Championships (September) commencing – the day would be a Saturday for both. All/most players in realistic contention for Junior Teams usually play at Australian Senior & Youth Championships. If not, then QT would be an incentive to play. These QT's shall replace all junior (U18, 15 & 13) weekend training camps TTA have initiated for 2011. My suggestion is going to save players and their parents, money and time.

SUMMARY

As shown, the QT concept to make all/most Teams is clearly the best & fairest system. It allows the players to make/miss Teams on the table while allowing the administrators/hosts to promote the sport, using the Elite players, in the best way possible to attract more, people to the sport and sponsors. A win, win for all involved!

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

INTERNATIONAL

WORLD CADET CHALLENGE (November 1 - 7) – 1 played

Lily Phan

Singles Event

Finished 18th of 24 players

In the group phase Lily beat the eventual winner, Eka So 3-2 and a player from Nigeria 3-0 while losing to players from Serbia 3-1, USA 3-2 and India 3-2.

After the group phase Lily results were as follows,

- Defeated player from Congo 3-0
- Lost to player from Egypt 3-0
- Defeated player from New Caledonia 3-0
- Lost to player from Venezuela 3-1

Team Event

0 wins 5 loses

WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS (December 4 - 11) – 2 played

Heming Hu

Team Event

3 wins 4 loses

Beat players from, Croatia, USA & NZ
Lost to, Japan, Germany, Egypt & Serbia

Singles Event

Lost to players from, Japan & Russia

Lily Phan

Team Event

4 wins 4 loses

Beat players from Slovak Republic, Peru and Brazil x 2
Lost to, USA, Korean, Czech & Slovak Republics

Singles Event

Lost to players from, Poland & Serbia

NATIONAL

The 2010 rankings were released in December. The following players were ranked in the top 10.

Open Men

9 David Powell

U18 Boy

1 Heming Hu
3 Tim Nguyen
9 Joshua Cheung

U18 Girl

2 Lily Phan

U15 Boy

4 Steven Phan
5 Scott Gilmore

U15 Girl

1 Lily Phan

U13 Boy

2 Daniel Zou
4 Dominic Huang
10 Yang Shen

STATE

PARKVIEW SENIOR OPEN (November 14) – 6 played

Steven Phan

Won Division 2 Singles
Won Division 2 Doubles
SF U21 Men's Singles

Scott Gilmore

Won Division 2 Doubles

Dominic Nguyen

R-up Division 4 Singles

Michael Worobec

R-up Division 2 Singles

Below is a letter that is designed to try and gain some sponsorship for most of the players I coach. Any business/company person interested can contact me; details are below.

11TH October 2010

To: Whom it may concern

Re: Sponsorship

I am one of Australia's top Table Tennis Coach's who as a player represented Australia at 1996 and 2000 Olympic Games plus was Australian Singles Champion in 1998. I was the head coach of the Australian table tennis team at the 2006 Commonwealth Games. I coach (one-on-one) approximately 25 players (mainly juniors) some of whom are Australian and Victorian Champions, with many others who are in the top 10 in Australia and/or Victoria for their age group. This includes players winning six Australian junior individual (singles or doubles) titles at the recent Australian Championships, September 26 – October 3, 2010 and another player winning under 21 singles and men's doubles titles at Australian Youth Championships, June 20 – 27 2010.

I am seeking your financial assistance in order to help all the players while offering advertising for your company/business in return.

I've included all players as they can maximize any advertising due to the fact they play in a range of weekly competitions/pennants covering two Clubs (Croydon and Dandenong) on different nights of the week. Both clubs are, by player numbers, two of the largest clubs in Australia and, by junior player results, the two most successful clubs in Australia.

Also, nearly all players compete in state tournaments during each year and attend group training sessions I run by me each week.

Most of these players are working hard each week in order to improve and are held in high regard amongst the table tennis community at club, state and national level.

My initial thought re advertising is, for players to wear your company/business logo with contact details that can be pinned on the back of their playing shirts or made into a badge to be sewn on the playing shirt. I would also agree to wear this advertising for all group training sessions I run during the year.

Also, I will set aside some space in my newsletter, which is emailed out (every two months) to the table tennis community within Victoria and Australia, for you to advertise your company/business free of charge – around 120 people receive newsletter via email, plus some send to their friends and two copies are placed at Croydon Club for all to read.

The amount of assistance and advertising can be worked out in further discussions.

I am available to discuss over the phone or in person if you are interested. My contact details are, 0411 493 054 or 9803 6835 or ducksmythe@hotmail.com

Yours sincerely

Mark Smythe

Looking for work

This is free of charge and restricted to players have coached or currently coach and their families.

Jack Han (father of Lenny)

Jack has been working in Sydney for 4 months. Due to his current work situation, his son (Lenny) and wife have moved to Sydney straight after Aust. Junior C'ships. Jack is looking for work in Melbourne. Anyone wanting Jack's full resume can email me and I'll send it to you.

Qualification

1992-96 Bachelor of Engineering (Mechanical)

Harbin University of Science and Technology China

*Above qualification has been assessed by the **Overseas Qualifications Unit** as equivalent to Australian degree and has been recognized and endorsed as a professional Mechanical Engineer (ASCO 2126-11) by **Engineers Australia**.*

Employment history

Jun. 2010-Present: Product Design Engineer



Invenco Pty.Ltd.(Sydney): [Http://www.invenco.net](http://www.invenco.net)

My responsibilities include: The design and development of new products and components in both plastics and metals, Assembly, testing and refinement of physical prototypes, Creation and maintenance of 3D Models and 2D Engineering Drawings as well as their related drawing registers and lists, Manage project deliverables, from design concept through to delivery of drawing packages - with minimal supervision, Regular interaction with suppliers and customers in relation to product specifications and product support, Ensuring that new designs meet the original client specifications and criteria.

2006-09 Senior Project Engineer

Master Lock Company, Guangzhou office



Master Lock Company is recognized around the world as the largest global manufacturer and marketer of security products and is a US based company, major members of Fortune Brands, Inc. (NYSE Listed: FO). Website: <http://www.masterlock.com>

My role as Senior Project Engineer was to manage all the new product development projects for both of Europe and Australia market, which involved whole product development process such as defining project, preparing project schedule, reporting project status, compiling the technical documents (ECO, Drawing, BOM, Product specification, PPAP documents), conducting test and analysis, quality control, sourcing and procurement.

2002-06 Product Engineer

Hisense Kelon Electrical Holdings Co.,Ltd.



Hisense Kelon Electrical Holdings Co.,Ltd. is currently one of the largest manufacturers of household electrical appliances manufacturing enterprises in China, exporting the products to 80 countries-including Australia (Hong Kong Listed: HK0921). Website: <http://www.Kelon.com>

My role as Product Engineer involved design and development of early stage products and inventing, creating, analyzing, testing and developing new ideas, prototypes, tools and systems to support business objectives and growth opportunities, performing and managing tasks relating to new market exploration and technology research, new market and technology research, development of input documents including patent proposals, generation of innovative design and embodiments.

1996-2002 Product Design Engineer (Mechanical)

Hisense Kelon Electrical Holdings Co.,Ltd.



My role as Product design Engineer involved defining and developing new products and designing components and subsystems, assisting and supporting the manufacturer plants with samples development and tooling changes, inspection and selection of samples, liaising with tooling contractors for tooling modification and alterations, sample testing and result analysis, PPAP sample approval.

Local Training

- 3rd May-11th June 2010: 6-week Practice Placement in Centreline Engineer (<http://www.centrelineengineering.com.au/>) as Product Design Engineer.
- 4th Jan.- 30th Apr. 2010: English Certificate VI (Employment/Professional) in Holmesglen institute of Tafe 20 Weeks

BUTTERFLY – The Worlds leading brand in Table Tennis Equipment. For all your Table Tennis requirements, Tables, Bats, Balls, Rubber Sheets, Clothing, Shoes and Accessories:

Contact David or Brett Smythe
(03) 9779 6406 or 0414 927 983.

www.butterflyaustralia.com

Email: butterflya@optusnet.com.au

**Butterfly Australia is a proud sponsor of
Mark Smythe's coaching programs**



MARK SMYTHE

DISTANCE COACHING

CONCEPT

Help players improve their level regardless where you live.

MY CREDENTIALS

COACH

- Self employed coach since 1997 (mainly Individual/Private sessions). Have coached hundreds of players covering all different levels (beginners to highest level in Australia) and ages (7 – 70's) with great success
- Qualified Level 2
- Since 2002, players (12) I've coached (one on one) have won 43 Australian Individual (Singles & Doubles) Titles with 7 starting with me from beginner or very low level
- Since 1996, coached 45 players that have made Victorian Junior Teams including 16 in 2010, 14 in 2009 and 19 in 2008
- Head Coach of Australian Table Tennis Team at 2006 Commonwealth Games and coached Australian Junior Teams at International Tournaments 4 times in 2003 & 2004
- Victorian Table Tennis Coach of the Year 2009, 2007, 2005, 2003, 2001 & 1999

PLAYER

- 2000 & 1996 Represented Australia at Olympic Games
- 1995-2000 Member of Australian Team
- 1998 Australian Men's Singles Champion
- 1998 Australian Senior Player of the Year
- 1998 Oceania Men's Singles Champion
- 1990 Australian Under 17 Boys Singles Champion
- 1990 Australian Junior Player of the Year
- 1988 Australian Under 15 Boys Singles Champion



HOW IT WORKS

Send your matches and/or training sessions to me then I'll provide a report on how to improve your standard and send back to you.

SERVICE PROVIDED

- Identify current strengths & weaknesses
- Suggest how to improve weaknesses
- Suggest how to improve techniques on various shots
- Suggest how to organise training sessions to improve your overall game (shots, techniques, movement, etc)
- Suggest how to utilize your strengths in matches from a tactical point of view

Also, you may wish to advise which skills you want me to observe and focus on.

COST

\$50 per match or training session

Note: Can send multiple matches and/or training sessions if wish to. Cost will increase (example, \$100 for 2 matches) if more matches and/or training sessions are required to be viewed.

PROCESS

Step 1

Send match/s and/or training session/s

Ways of sending are,

- Post if using Disc, Video Tape or Memory Stick
- Email
- YouTube

If send through post, provide pre paid envelope so can return to you.

If send through YouTube, provide link/details so I can observe.

Step 2

I'll confirm receiving info by email and/or txt message.

Step 3

A report will be provided. There are 2 options to choose from. They are,

1. Written report to be emailed and/or sent in mail together with Disc, Video Tape or Memory Stick if required.

OR

2. Verbal report to be done via phone or internet (Skype – my Skype contact is mark smythe1).

You will need to advise which one is preferred.

PAYMENT

Cheque made payable to,

Mark Smythe

4 Banner Court

Glen Waverley

Victoria 3150

Payment can be made with Step 1 or before Step 3 is completed. Once received, I will confirm via email and/or txt message.

I guarantee all information will remain confidential.

This service can be used on a need basis as part of your ongoing development.

If have any questions, please contact me on,

(03) 9803 6835

0411 493 054

ducksmythe@hotmail.com