

What's Been Happening with Table Tennis in the Northwest Territories?

Submitted by Table Tennis North

An exciting start to this year's season, the Aurora Ford South Slave Table Tennis Open in April, JBT Elementary School was a great venue for this Arctic Winter Games test event. The staff and teachers were enthusiastic hosts for Table Tennis North, and Aerobic Table Tennis, both in preparation and during the event. Lots of helping hands. Fort Smith, Fort Resolution, Fort Providence and Hay River, all participated in the Games with a total of 18 Athletes over the 2 days.

During the week Table Tennis North and MACA hosted an Officials and Coaching Clinic were a total of 19 participants got their first introduction to Community Table Tennis Coaching and Introduction to Officiating. Norman Tang, Board of Directors of Table Tennis Canada, came to host the Officials Clinic and was the Referee for the tournament.

Here are the results:

Junior singles:

1. Chris Canadian (Fort Providence)
2. Neilson Vandell (Fort Providence)
3. Dylan Hope (Fort Providence)

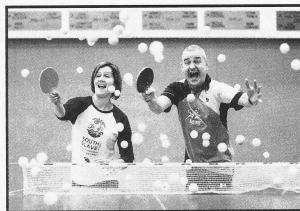
Senior Open:

1. Gordon (Fort Smith)
2. Magnus (Fort Smith)
3. Chris Canadian (Fort Providence)

Senior Women's Open:

1. Beth Hudson (Fort Providence)
2. Shannon Bonnetrouge (Fort Providence)
3. Marina (Fort Providence)

"I would like to participate in the tournament. Winning or losing, it does not matter. As long as I have fun," said nine-year-old Sheena, who started playing Table Tennis a few months ago.



JBT Elementary will be the host of the 2018 South Slave Arctic Winter Games for Table Tennis and we are excited about it. "It will definitely be one of the best events of the Games," says Executive Director Thor Gohl. And we believe him!

In May, the success story went on, after over 100 articles in the media, we were featured in the Readers Digest magazine. A wonderful article about the birth of Table Tennis in Fort Providence and the change that the sport has brought to the community.

The Summer break in the Territories is always the hardest as most kids leave for the South or they are living on the land. We still succeeded to cover a few more news stories during those months.

For the first time in more than 40 years Table Tennis North competed at the Canadian Championships. Thorsten Gohl was able to succeed a few wins in the Open Men's Single. An amazing success for putting the Northwest Territories on the map of Table Tennis Canada.

We are going into an Arctic Winter Games year. We have so many kids that want to become part of Team NWT for the 2018 South Slave Arctic Winter Games. The trials will be hosted at the 2018 Games venue in Fort Smith at JBT Elementary School from January 18-20th, 2018. The Sport Chair, Roger Veil from Fort Smith, will take a lead on this event. We are excited and looking forward to an amazing, successful 2018 South Slave Arctic Winter Games.

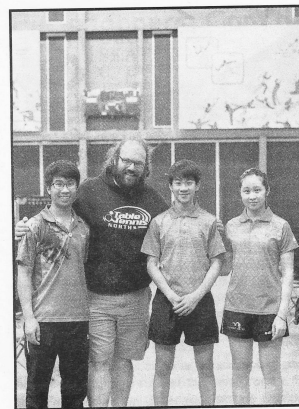
To make the Fall/Winter season even more successful, Aurora Ford has partnered with Table Tennis North. The Territorial Sport Organization is now able to reach the communities more easily with a brand new FI50 truck sponsored for the next two years. A huge milestone for us, being able to reach more communities with clinics, workshops and regular check ins.

With such participation and support from many, good things continue to happen for Table Tennis North and our communities in the Northwest Territories!

2016, the Year of Table Tennis North's Executive Director Thorsten Gohl

This year was the first time that Table Tennis North gave out awards. The Board awarded Thorsten Gohl with the Volunteer and Coach of the Year Award for 2016.

"Thorsten has set the tone for Table Tennis North with his constant promotion of the sport through social media, newspaper and magazine features, and special event coordination. He travels all around the North to provide training for athletes and coaches alike. He also happens to be



the person organizing and running tournaments. He does it all," said Jeremy Kielstra, President of Table Tennis North.

2016 Coach of the Year: Thorsten Gohl
2016 Volunteer of the Year: Thorsten Gohl

"It is very exciting to be in the Northwest Territories and promoting a great sport like Table Tennis. The Board has given me a lot of freedom, and I am very excited that we have accomplished so much in just a short period of time," says Thor, the new Coach and Volunteer Administrator of the Year.

The honour did not stop there as Table Tennis Canada was delighted to congratulate Thorsten Gohl as the winner of the Betty Tweedy Award for 2016. This award is given to an administrator who has made an outstanding contribution to a provincial/territorial or national table tennis program.

The nomination was impressive.

We believe in our young athletes!

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Thorsten has been crucial in starting the Territorial Sport Organization and getting Table Tennis North to being accepted as a member of Table Tennis Canada. Thanks to him, Table Tennis North brought in 60 professional Table Tennis tables into the Northwest Territories. Working with our Sponsors like Butterfly and Rowe's Construction to bring the best equipment possible into the North. All of this supports local clubs with knowledge, equipment and Table Tennis clinics for health, for fun and for futures.

"Thor is a consistent person and has always been there for me, from training to (my) needing help. He is a great coach with lots of passion for what he does."

— Mikaela Vandell (Team NWT Athlete, Coach, Board of Director Table Tennis North)

"He was a coach that was never disappointed, only happy with your improvements and progress. He was always happy. So, when I played my games, it made it easier on me even though he challenged me to be my best." — Jacqueline Larocque (Team NWT Athlete)

Thorsten is always promoting Table Tennis online with daily reports on what happens with the Sport in the Northwest Territories. Telling the stories of our communities, children and adults and their journey with Table Tennis. Thanks to that, we have increased our followers by over 400% and we are engaging more and more people around the Northwest Territories. Table Tennis has been featured over 20 times in local, national and international media outlets (newspaper, radio, television).

"Thorsten has made a tremendous difference in the lives of the youth across multiple communities in the NWT through his tireless dedication to

promoting the sport of Table Tennis. His enthusiasm for the sport and his fierce promotion of the sport through social media has set the bar high for other TSOs in the territories to follow suit. He has spent countless hours working with youth, instilling in them the passion of being engaged in sport. He came to the North as a volunteer at Deh Gah School in Fort Providence, and has found a place where he has made a difference."

— Lois Philipp, Principal Deh Gah School in Fort Providence

Let's continue to think outside the box, create the latest in events and clinics, as we capture the spirit of sportsmanship and fun that our Athletes have. Working with other Territorial Sport Organizations like Tennis NWT, together we promote health with focus and fun in the Northwest Territories. It is for everyone!

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