

## **THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE RAMPS UP FOR A NEW SEASON OF EXCITING TABLE TENNIS AND GRASSROOTS EXPANSION**

More teams, more players, more excitement and more money are what characterize the upcoming 2008-2009 season of the National Capital Region Table Tennis League in Ottawa, Ontario. The new season is scheduled to begin on November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at Table Tennis Canada's high performance centre, with the defending "A" division champions White Tigers eager to win another team championship trophy. If they succeed, this will put a stamp of authority on their successes over the past three years. However, Matrix, which finished second to White Tigers last season, is a formidable team to watch. It has been chipping away at the dominance of both White Tigers and Gatineau A in the senior division. It plans on hoisting the championship trophy this year, particularly if the team plays up to its capabilities. White Tigers will also have to watch out for Beanferon which came in third place and perennial west Quebec challengers, Gatineau A.

In the B division, there is also much to look forward to from Current and Future Stars which dominated the season with an 8-0 record. They were followed closely by United North and South which lost just one match to slip into second place with a record of 7 wins and 1 loss. Third place went to Asian Dragons with a 6 and 2 performance. Despite its enviable, spotless record of the last season, winning a second team title this year is not guaranteed for Current and Future Stars. The degree of competition and level of performance in the "B" division are quite high and several crucial matches went the full distance when each of the top three teams squared off against each other.

The National Capital Region Table Tennis League is growing in popularity and the NCRTTL organizing committee is planning on including a junior division as it expands to accommodate more teams from more communities in the region. What started off as a community-based competition six years ago has blossomed into a professionally-organized, full-bore, high-level participation by top teams drawn from a number of communities across the National Capital Region including Gatineau in west Quebec. The league accommodates both male and female athletes as well as the physically-challenged in an optional mixed-team, round-robin format. This year, teams will play in a different competition structure which includes two rounds of round-robins. This will provide more matches, more competition and more financial incentives for all the participants. In addition, the value of team prize awards has been increased by approximately 30% making the league one of the better financed in Ontario and Canada.

The NCRTTL's primary focus is to promote the sport of table tennis both at the grassroots and competition levels and provide community-based development and leadership opportunities for youth participants. One of the direct benefits of the league is the opportunity for various diverse communities to interact with each other through the sport of table tennis while also practically promoting health and well-being.

It collaborates with a wide cross-section of communities and engages in beneficial, strategic partnerships with corporate sponsors, including Ping-Pong.com, Magic Reproductions Inc. and BMB Consulting which is the league's main sponsor for the next three years. The NCRTTL also receives very important support from the Ontario Table Tennis Association and its community-based focus has just been recognized by the city of Ottawa as an enterprising vehicle for community interaction and youth leadership development. The city's Community Services division has awarded a funding grant to the NCRTTL in support of the new league season and its community outreach.

The new league season will last for five months with the final round ending in March, 2009. Teams interested in participating in the new league season whether within or outside of the National Capital Region can contact the following committee members: Norman Tang at [normtang12@yahoo.ca](mailto:normtang12@yahoo.ca); Cheuk Chan at: [cheuk.y.chan@gmail.com](mailto:cheuk.y.chan@gmail.com) or Derrick Poon Young at: [dpoonyoung@rogers.com](mailto:dpoonyoung@rogers.com).



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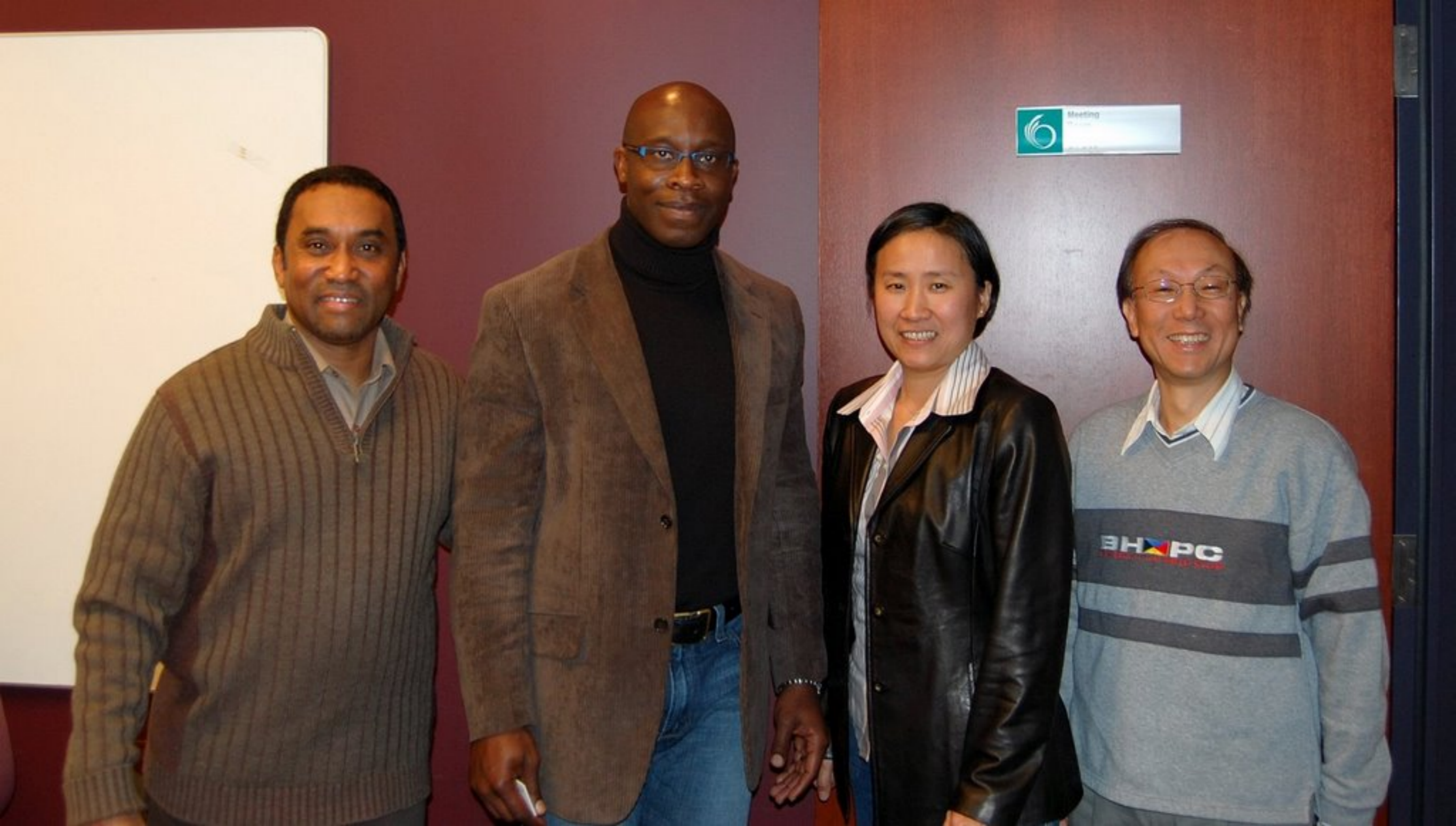
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Meeting

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