



The changing face of Table Tennis Canada

The faces of Table Tennis Canada have changed dramatically over the past year.

Beginning with former CEO Anton (Tony) Kiesenhofer stepping down and John Hyland taking the reigns. Also joining the staff was Michèle Matthews as an intern and eventually becoming the Communications and Marketing Officer.

For Hyland, building a great staff was a now on his plate. With that Adam Janssen came on board as the new High Performance Director. Janssen officially started the role on November 1st, 2018 and has been busy working on formalizing a structure for our High Performance Program.

In a letter released by Janssen, he states, “I come to TTCAN from Athletics Canada’s High Performance program, and after spending a large part of my first few months on the job behind a computer, I look forward to getting the chance to meet most of you this year at various events, competitions, and camps.”

“As we move forward into 2019 and beyond, we will be working on implementing our short-term performance goals through to Tokyo 2020, and our longer-term performance goals into Paris 2024. I will be building out a detailed high performance plan that will be shared with the Table Tennis community within Canada when completed,” Janssen commented

He continues, “You may notice some changes from the way things have been done in the past, and the purpose of these changes is to implement a high performance, results driven culture within Table Tennis Canada. Results at the top international level is what will ultimately define our success in the eyes of our performance partners, but I truly believe that development and high performance go hand in hand. To that extent, we will work hard to create a clear Olympic and Paralympic pathway, with clearly defined performance metrics for athletes, supporting them with the personnel and financial resources that we have access to.”

Janssen concludes with the following statement, “Individual commitment to a group effort – that is what makes a team work, a society work, a civilization work,” legendary NFL coach, Vince Lombardi.

Next, Michèle Matthews transitioned from Marketing and Communications Officer, to become the new Sport Development Coordinator. Matthews joined TTCAN as an intern in May 2018, after having worked as a strength and conditioning coach and personal trainer for over 12 years. Her responsibilities changing, she will now be coordinating and implementing new table tennis programs and working closely with the provinces on their programs.

On January 1, 2019, Johnathan Humbles joined the staff of Table Tennis Canada as the Manager, Events, Marketing & Communications.

As a representative for Bowmar Sports since 2014 (North American distributor for Butterfly Table Tennis products) Johnathan Humbles has been a prominent fixture at many Canadian National and International events with responsibility for setup/takedown, audio/visual, photography and streaming.

“I have a strong sense of how the tournaments should look and feel, and I want everyone to experience a feeling of **WOW**, this is for me, when they walk through the doors of the playing halls. It will be a building process from tournament to tournament, and I will not be able to do it by myself. I will have to also rely on the leadership of John Hyland, CEO of TTCAN, the staff of TTCAN, and importantly, the help and support of players, athletes and their family members of the players and athletes, to help grow these tournaments.”

Bowmar Sports, (known then as Martin-Kilpatrick) hired Humbles in June 2009 as a photographer / graphic designer focusing on print media and tournament set-up / break-down. During his 9.5 years there, he developed his skill set to include stronger website maintenance, video production and even started their live streaming production for the different events that they sponsored. Those events have included tournaments from coast to coast across the US and Canada. He also attended the 2018 Leibherr World Team Table Tennis Championships, in Halmstad, Sweden, as a photographer for Bowmar Sports.

Although Johnathan is easy-going, when it's time to get down to business, his focus and attention to detail is noteworthy. Johnathan will be available should members seek his expertise.

“I will be the go-to guy for everything concerning events. I will endeavor to make sure everything gets completed by design and on time. I look forward to the challenges that are before me, as we experience things together and work together to grow the best possible events not only for Canada and its members, but to also make Canada a hotbed for International events that will make players worldwide want to come and feel the Canadian tournament experience.”

To assist with day to day operations, Table Tennis Canada brought in two new interns. Although they will only be here until April, they will play big roles during the time that they are here. They added, Yang Yu, as the Events Assistant Intern, to assist Humbles and Matthews. Then, Eric Caplan, as the High Performance Intern, was added to assist Janssen on the High Performance side.

In January, the TTCAN office relocated to 195 Main St North, Markham ON.