



## **RCD YOUTH GROUP**

# **Inaugural Table Tennis Tournament – July 24, 2013**

We had a very successful Table Tennis Tournament last July 24, 2013 Wednesday. This is the first inaugural Table Tennis Tournament which was hosted by the RCD Youth Council. It all started with planning. Almost all of the Youth Council members have put their fair share of effort. Their ideas have slowly transformed into a concrete successful event, of course with the help of RCD's staff members. Our game format was round robin where every contestant played each other. The scoring follows the competition format where the first player to get to 21 points is the winner. During an event of a tie, players need to play two more rounds to be the winner. All winners determined by an umpire or coach would advance to the next round and ultimately would have the chance be the first grand champion of RCD's table tennis tournament. This planning is a mixture of strong passion and dedication for this graceful yet intense sport.

Being a part of the tournament, I can speak how the players feel. We had a two-minute practice playing table tennis before the real game with real scores commenced. I supposed at this point every player was getting to know their opponents style although we could make an exception to this assumption; some players just suddenly turned into great professional athletes far from what they have shown in the practice round which I admit that it is another way to win the first place: Not letting other people know your real strength until the end.

There were eight players in total who would be playing with each other using 2 ping pong tables. We also had a good number of audiences who filled the seats at the back of the activity room. Games vary from time to time. Some of them are intense all the way and some of them just keep on increasing intensity as the game progresses. I know how it feels because I can feel that my hearts beats faster and faster especially if the points are really close to each other and most especially if players are battling for the first, second, or third position. One single wrong move can cost some bragging rights and a certificate recognized by RCD.

One of the most interesting games was between Cullen and Kellen who had to play above match point. In the playoffs, Kellen and I played with a close victory to finish third where the lead changed numerous times.

However, the story of the day was Kathleen who played a fabulous game against a competitive opponent in Lee. Lee almost came from behind to win, but Kathleen would hold on to win the first inaugural table tennis tournament.

At the end of the event, we had a great speech from Eileen who was a Paralympic silver medalist which emphasized the importance of passion for sports and surge of energy that comes from enjoying the game for what it is. She was also at the awarding ceremony to give the certificates to the participants.

Being a part of the planning committee and the tournament itself, I can say that I'm proud that everything went well. Thanks, to all who participated in the tournament and of course my colleagues who planned RCD's first Table Tennis Tournament.