

Striking Gold



SGCC has got itself a bona fide world champion! Meet 15-year-old Arianne Tay, who won the World Junior Bowling Championship title in Paris in March.

Winning a gold medal at a major international competition five years after picking up a sport seems like a stretch for most, but that was exactly what Arianne Tay did.

The 15-year-old recently flew to Paris and won gold at the inaugural World Junior Bowling Championship in March, scoring a comfortable win of 230 pinfalls compared to 190 pinfalls by her nearest competitor, Peppi Konsteri, from Finland.

Reflecting on her experience, Tay sees this as a big milestone for her. "Being able to win the world junior title feels a little surreal to me as this is the first major title that I have ever gotten," she shares. "In order to win gold, I had to be in the top three to advance into the semi-finals. At first, I didn't know if I could even get into the top three. But once I was in the semi-finals, I had the goal of bringing the gold medal home, even though I knew it was difficult due to the stiff competition. At the finals, things were really looking up for me and I won. I really couldn't believe it."

Picking a CCA

Tay first picked up bowling because her older sister, Arielle, is a bowler in the school team. "I didn't really think of bowling as a possible co-curricular activity in school. But I am grateful that I joined bowling with my sister; the support from my parents, siblings and coaches definitely enabled me to develop a passion for the sport after playing for a period of time," she says. Both siblings have since joined the national bowling team.

Their family joined SGCC in 2015 because the club was close to their home, and the girls were looking for an accessible bowling alley nearby. Tay credits her achievements to her formative experience at SGCC's Youth Bowling Team. "Coach John has definitely built a very strong foundation for my bowling, which played a very big part in me being able to join the national team."

A quiet confidence

Despite her general disbelief over her win, there is a strong underlying sense of ambition and drive that explains her achievement. From the get-go, bowling was never just a hobby for her — she had always wanted to try out for the national team, and participated in the try-outs when she was 12.

Additionally, her hectic schedule, which consists of going to school until 2.30pm then training from 4pm–6pm (or 7pm–9pm if she has extra lessons in school) never seems to faze her. "I just have to plan my time well, and try not to procrastinate too much. I'll have to make some sacrifices, like not being able to go out with friends or missing breaks to catch up with school work, but that is ok," Tay reveals.

You will never know if it will work out unless you keep trying.

More tournaments

Tay has also set her sights on more competitions. "I aim to participate in more major competitions. If I'm able to win them, that would be a bonus!" she states.

Apart from a strong work ethic, she believes that a good bowler must have sportsmanship, be a good team player, and be humble. As for advice to aspiring bowlers: "Just go for it! Before joining bowling, I would never have expected to be a bowler. But now, I am in the national team. You will never know if it will work out unless you keep trying."

SGCC offers a range of bowling coaching programmes for social, junior and adult bowlers. We have in-house leagues such as the Mrs Lim Hwee Hua Bowling Challenge, Junior Bowling Championship, Senior Bowling, and Quarterly Bowl to create opportunities for bowlers to improve their skills. The club's bowling team trains frequently and participates in inter-club competitions, such as the Adult and Youth Inter-Club Bowling Mixed League.

For more information on classes and events, please refer to our round-up of upcoming Sports & Recreation events, starting from page 30.

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