



Factfile

Name: New Hui Fen
Age: 16
Style: Right-handed hook bowler

Achievements in 2008

- 22nd Asian Intercity Bowling Championships (right) – Two golds (women's masters and team), one silver (all events), one bronze (singles).
- AIA Singapore National Bowling Championships – 2nd (women's division)
- Schools National B Division Tenpin Bowling Championships – Five golds (girls' singles, doubles, quartet, all-events and masters)



New Hui Fen's immediate target is to do well at next year's inaugural Asian Youth Games.
ST PHOTO: ALBERT SIM

New kid on the block

SINGAPORE bowling already boasts world beaters in Remy Ong and Jasmine Yeong-Nathan.

But it might be worth noting the sport's new kid on the block: New Hui Fen.

The 16-year-old enjoyed the biggest wins of her career when she took the women's team and masters events titles at the 22nd Asian Intercity Bowling Championships last week.

Her efforts in Macau against a relatively strong field which included the Philippines' Cecilia Yap and Liza Clutario – part of the trios team that captured the 2003 world title – did not go unnoticed.

Singapore's head coach William Woo said: "In that tournament, she stepped up and showed some world-class players that she can compete with them on equal ground.

"She has the potential to be world-class. She just needs to add some components to her game – to work on the tactical side and to strengthen the mental

side." Working on her game is nothing new to the Singapore Sports School (SSP) student.

Since falling in love with the game as a Primary 4 pupil after finishing eighth in her first national inter-school tournament, she has been honing her skills.

Although Raffles Girls' Primary School did not offer bowling as a co-curricular activity, she trained on her own every night after school at the Civil Service Club's Planet Bowl for close to three years.

Her property officer father New Kay Hong, 56, recalled: "She would bowl five or six games in one session while her mum and I would just watch.

"She's our only child. Her interest is our interest."

More than a mere interest, Hui Fen categorically stated that "bowling is the biggest priority in my life".

The development squad keglar for the past three years has set her sights firmly on clinching a spot in the national squad

by the end of next year.

A more immediate target is to do well at next year's inaugural Asian Youth Games (AYG), in which she is expected to spearhead Singapore's title hopes.

Hui Fen was almost ineligible for the AYG team – not for a lack of skill but because of age restrictions.

Athletes have to be between the ages of 14 and 17 when the event takes place in Singapore, and the Jan 1, 1992, baby knows that had she been born a day earlier, things would have been so different.

She said: "I made it by chance. I'm hoping to make the most of this opportunity."

As her No. 1 fan and mum Florence Ong, 56, revealed, Hui Fen has high expectations of herself.

The housewife, who looks on in all her daughter's training sessions and accompanies her on various overseas trips, said: "I never tell her, 'You must be a champion'. But she pushes herself. There is a certain standard which she asks of herself."

LIN XINYI