

STTA's revolving door

World No. 6 Feng Tianwei, who has been axed by the Singapore Table Tennis Association, has admitted that the fallout from last October's Polish Open was the turning point in her relationship with the STTA and former national women's head coach Jing Junhong. The Sunday Times looks at the coaches Feng has worked under during her time at the STTA.



Liu Guodong, 42

National head coach, January 2006 - December 2008

Liu, who was in charge of both the men's and women's squads, quit in 2008 after rejecting the offer of a new contract. While he had led the Republic's women to a historic silver medal at the 2008 Olympics, he also had a role in the blunder that led to the absence of a coach for Singapore's No. 1 male paddler Gao Ning in the singles event in Beijing. The Gao incident resulted in Liu's public vilification by then STTA president Lee Bee Wah, but the issue was later resolved. In 2009, the STTA decided against nominating him for the Singapore National Olympic Council's Coach of the Year award, even though he helped to deliver the country's first Olympic medal in 48 years.



Zhou Shusen, 74

National women's head coach, January 2009 - December 2012

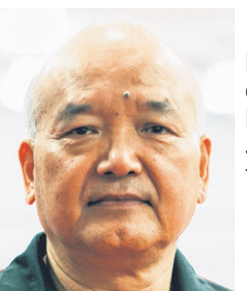
Zhou delivered on his targets and more. Tasked with helping Singapore win two Olympic medals, he watched the women's team and Feng (singles) take bronzes at the London Games. He also achieved what no one had expected, masterminding Singapore's maiden world team title triumph in 2010 by toppling mighty China. The Hangzhou native cited his age as the main reason he did not renew his contract.



Jing Junhong, 48

National women's head coach, January 2013 - November 2015

Former national player Jing, who spent three years as Zhou's deputy, took over in 2013. Around October, Feng and teammate Yu Mengyu, who felt they were not improving enough under Jing, asked for then men's team head coach Yang Chuanning to take over. Jing fell out with Yu at the Polish Open in end October and was later redeployed as chief coach (youth development). Yang was sacked.



Liu Jiayi, 66

National women's head coach, November 2015 - February 2016

Jing's deputy Liu stepped up to take the reins. With just months to go till the Olympics, it appeared that the Fujian native would shoulder the responsibility of leading Singapore to more glory in Rio de Janeiro. But his time in the hot seat lasted just over three months.



Chen Zhibin, 54

National women's head coach, February 2016 - present

Chen took charge after the STTA granted the women's team's request for a new coach, with Liu assuming the position as national men's head coach. Feng and Co failed to win a medal in Rio, the first time in three Games the team returned from an Olympics empty-handed.