

## Email Exchange with Online Scammer

On Oct. 28, 2020, I received an email from someone claiming to be Teodor (Doru) Gheorghe USATT National Teams Coach/Manager. He quickly tried to convince me to send him money. I double-checked with the real Doru (who is the USATT High Performance Director - [here's his USATT bio](#)), and he verified his account had been hacked. I decided to have some fun, and so strung the guy along with a series of emails, where I kept promising to send him money, but in return asking for his coaching advice, as he was the "Great Doru," the "Greatest Table Tennis Coach in History." Throughout it I asked him on advice on how to play Kanak Jha in our upcoming league match, who I said played with the Seemiller grip, with long pips and anti, and all sorts of nonsensical semi-table tennis technical terms, like banana serves, forehand pendulum receives, and double axels. He didn't answer my last two emails, alas.

Making this even funnier is that I began BCCing the real Doru on these (after sending him an explanatory email). I would be remiss if I didn't point out that the real Doru did give me advice on how to play Kanak - he wrote me, " Use your baseball bat. You might have a chance. 🙄🙄🙄🙄🙄🙄 "

IMPORTANT - For best effect, go to the very bottom and read in order from there.

-Larry Hodges

**From:** Larry Hodges <larry@larrytt.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 1, 2020 9:39 PM  
**To:** Teodor Gheorghe <ghe0rghet@hotmail.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Hello

I still don't know what to do with the cards. But it's sort of irrelevant. You didn't help me at all, and I lost to Kanak in our league match this weekend. I just didn't know what to do. Thanks a lot.

-Larry

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----- Original Message -----

Subject: RE: Hello  
From: "Larry Hodges" <[larry@larrytt.com](mailto:larry@larrytt.com)>  
Date: Thu, October 29, 2020 8:16 pm  
To: "Teodor Gheorghe" <[ghe0rghet@hotmail.com](mailto:ghe0rghet@hotmail.com)>

I'm back from practice. I scratched off the cards, then put them in a sealed and stamped enveloped. What address do I mail them to? Now, can you tell me what to do against Kanak Jha? I'm starting to wonder if you are the real Doru, who would know exactly how to play Kanak or any other top player. You've seen me play many times and know my game, so how can I beat him? Or is he asking you the same thing, and you are coaching him against me?

-Larry

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----- Original Message -----

Subject: Re: Hello  
From: Teodor Gheorghe <[ghe0rghet@hotmail.com](mailto:ghe0rghet@hotmail.com)>  
Date: Thu, October 29, 2020 4:07 pm  
To: Larry Hodges <[larry@larrytt.com](mailto:larry@larrytt.com)>

Hello. Did you get how to send the cards ?

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**From:** Teodor Gheorghe <ghe0rghet@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 29, 2020 3:25 PM

**To:** Larry Hodges <larry@larrytt.com>  
**Subject:** Re: Hello

Okay no problem. We just have to take time tonight and discuss about that

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**From:** Larry Hodges <larry@larrytt.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 29, 2020 8:21 PM  
**To:** Teodor Gheorghe <ghe0rghet@hotmail.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Hello

Oh, I see the scratchy thing now, on the back. But seriously, I'd like at least something about how to play Kanak first. He plays a unique style that's difficult for me, with the Seemiller grip, with all the topspin he gets with his long pips and antispin, a really good backhand banana flip from the barriers, plus that crazy forehand chopping. I'm really not sure what serves and general tactics I should use. Suggestions? I'm off to practice shortly, and would like to know what types of things to work on.  
-Larry

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----- Original Message -----  
**Subject:** Re: Hello  
**From:** Teodor Gheorghe <ghe0rghet@hotmail.com>  
**Date:** Thu, October 29, 2020 3:15 pm  
**To:** Larry Hodges <larry@larrytt.com>

I told you before just remove all the cards from there packs then scratch the surface to reveal codes then snap the codes and send the pictures to me. Concerning the tactical I'm going to coach you I promised but if I may asked are you putting in a condition before you send me the cards you already get for me ?

I promise

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**From:** Larry Hodges <larry@larrytt.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 29, 2020 8:04 PM  
**To:** Teodor Gheorghe <ghe0rghet@hotmail.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Hello

I just got back from the store and have the three \$100 gift cards, but still am not sure what to do with them. I've attached a picture of me holding one of them - where do I scratch it? But seriously - are you going to coach me or not? Or are you coaching Kanak Jha against *me!!!* Please tell me that's not true. Is that why you won't give me any tactical advice against him???

-Larry

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----- Original Message -----  
**Subject:** Re: Hello  
**From:** Teodor Gheorghe <ghe0rghet@hotmail.com>  
**Date:** Thu, October 29, 2020 2:54 pm  
**To:** Larry Hodges <larry@larrytt.com>

Okay am well understood your mails but right now i just to forward the cards to him on time then we can discuss about this much better then i give you some tactics about the games that you don't even know.

I need you to remove the 3 cards from there packs and scratch there backs to reveal their codes then take a shot photo of the cards showing the codes and send to me.

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**From:** Larry Hodges <[larry@larrytt.com](mailto:larry@larrytt.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 29, 2020 7:06 PM  
**To:** 'Teodor Gheorghe' <[ghe0rghet@hotmail.com](mailto:ghe0rghet@hotmail.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: Hello

C'mon, Doru, you are the greatest table tennis coach in history, the perennial coach of the year. You turned Jan-Ove Waldner, a little, untalented kid, into the greatest player in history. You coached the Team USA to three straight team upset titles over the Chinese. You wrote the best-selling table tennis tactics book that *everyone* reads. And I'll never forget when you coached me against Ma Long at the World Championships, and you knew exactly what I had to do – I couldn't have won without you. I don't know why you are suddenly so quiet, you are the guru of table tennis coaching. I'll gladly send you the money, double what you ask for, it'll be worth it. All I'm asking for is a little help in my big league match against Kanak Jha this weekend. What tactics should I use, other than going after his antispin side?  
-Larry

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**From:** Larry Hodges <[larry@larrytt.com](mailto:larry@larrytt.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 29, 2020 1:08 PM  
**To:** 'Teodor Gheorghe' <[ghe0rghet@hotmail.com](mailto:ghe0rghet@hotmail.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: Hello

I got the cards, what do I do now? Regarding going after the antispin side, the problem is Kanak uses the new frictionless antispin from Joolerfly, and so he'll probably just counterloop back short on the table, and I'll have trouble getting to that ball. Should I banana flip against his loop? I really think I should make him play underhand shots – what do you think? I think Ma Long tried that against Kanak, but Kanak just stepped over and did a tomahawk forehand and he beat Long easily. When I beat Kanak last year, he had trouble with lifting my backspins with his underhand, but he's gotten a lot better at that.  
-Larry

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**From:** Teodor Gheorghe <[ghe0rghet@hotmail.com](mailto:ghe0rghet@hotmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 29, 2020 12:36 PM  
**To:** Larry Hodges <[larry@larrytt.com](mailto:larry@larrytt.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: Hello

Yeah should go after the antispin side

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**From:** Larry Hodges <[larry@larrytt.com](mailto:larry@larrytt.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 29, 2020 5:27 PM  
**To:** 'Teodor Gheorghe' <[ghe0rghet@hotmail.com](mailto:ghe0rghet@hotmail.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: Hello

Will get the cards for you when I go to the store. But I have to train tonight for my match with Kanak this weekend, and really could use your advice on what I should work on. Kanak's forehand chopping is heavier than anyone at my club, but Stanley Hsu's backhand chops are almost as heavy – will that be the same? I'm thinking I need to focus on Brazilian teams against Kanak. I'm thinking of trying out my

around-the-net serves against him, he'll probably just triple-play them, but then I can bazooka them to his backhand and follow with an underhand smash. Should I quintuple spin on my receive? I really could use your suggestions here, Kanak's a tough player, he's improved a lot since I beat him in the men's final at the Nationals last year.

-Larry

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**From:** Teodor Gheorghe <[ghe0rghet@hotmail.com](mailto:ghe0rghet@hotmail.com)>

**Sent:** Thursday, October 29, 2020 12:16 PM

**To:** Larry Hodges <[larry@larrytt.com](mailto:larry@larrytt.com)>

**Subject:** Re: Hello

You know what let discuss that later. Let me know when you have the cards done

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**From:** Larry Hodges <[larry@larrytt.com](mailto:larry@larrytt.com)>

**Sent:** Thursday, October 29, 2020 4:57 PM

**To:** 'Teodor Gheorghe' <[ghe0rghet@hotmail.com](mailto:ghe0rghet@hotmail.com)>

**Subject:** RE: Hello

I'll get the cards from the grocery store as soon as I can, probably this afternoon. But since I'm doing this favor for you, can you give me some advice for my match with Kanak? He likes to loop with his long pips, and uses the Seemiller grip, so do you think I should go after the antispin side? I think I can get him with a topspin chop strawberry serve, but then I'll have to face his double axel. What do you suggest?

-Larry

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**From:** Teodor Gheorghe <[ghe0rghet@hotmail.com](mailto:ghe0rghet@hotmail.com)>

**Sent:** Thursday, October 29, 2020 11:16 AM

**To:** Larry Hodges <[larry@larrytt.com](mailto:larry@larrytt.com)>

**Subject:** Re: Hello

You can have the physical cards purchase at grocery store, drug store or pharmacies. I just need you to get iTunes gift cards \$100 x 3. Once you have the physical cards just remove them from there packs and scratch the back to reveal the codes then send me the shot photo of the code so i can forward it all to him.

Thanks

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**From:** Larry Hodges <[larry@larrytt.com](mailto:larry@larrytt.com)>

**Sent:** Thursday, October 29, 2020 4:01 PM

**To:** 'Teodor Gheorghe' <[ghe0rghet@hotmail.com](mailto:ghe0rghet@hotmail.com)>

**Subject:** RE: Hello

I'm going to do it. How do I get the iTunes gift cards for you? But seriously, I'm supposed to play Kanak Jha in a big match this weekend, and can't decide if I should challenge his underhand smash – it's supposed to be erratic. Maybe I should serve long to his forehand and make him forehand flip?

-Larry

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**From:** Teodor Gheorghe <[ghe0rghet@hotmail.com](mailto:ghe0rghet@hotmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 29, 2020 10:55 AM  
**To:** Larry Hodges <[larry@larrytt.com](mailto:larry@larrytt.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: Hello

I just need you to get iTunes gift cards \$100 x 3. Once you have the physical cards just remove them from the packs and scratch the back and send me the shot photo of there codes via my email.

Let me know if you can get it done for me now.  
Thanks

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**From:** Larry Hodges <[larry@larrytt.com](mailto:larry@larrytt.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 29, 2020 3:47 PM  
**To:** 'Teodor Gheorghe' <[ghe0rghet@hotmail.com](mailto:ghe0rghet@hotmail.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: Hello

Hi Doru,  
I'd love to send you some money. Also, as a top table tennis coach, could you give me some tactical tips on how to play against national champion Kanak Jha? Should I serve half-long, quarter-long, or perhaps try a banana serve to stop his pendulum receive? Thanks,  
-Larry

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**From:** Teodor Gheorghe <[ghe0rghet@hotmail.com](mailto:ghe0rghet@hotmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 29, 2020 6:25 AM  
**To:** [larry@larrytt.com](mailto:larry@larrytt.com)  
**Subject:** Re: Hello

Thanks and i'm sorry for not getting back to you sooner am just checking my email now.

I'm on a short trip and i need your favor to run an errand to purchase a gift cards \$300 for my Nephew, Its his birthday but i can't do this now and i tried purchasing online but unfortunately no luck with that.

Please let me know if you will be able to get it for me at grocery store,drug store or pharmacies and send to me via my email.

Awaiting your prompt response.

Teodor (Doru) Gheorghe  
USATT National Teams Coach/Manager

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**From:** [larry@larrytt.com](mailto:larry@larrytt.com) <[larry@larrytt.com](mailto:larry@larrytt.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 28, 2020 5:15 PM  
**To:** 'Teodor Gheorghe' <[gheorghet@hotmail.com](mailto:gheorghet@hotmail.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: Hello

Hi Doru,  
I'm guessing you didn't actually send the below? Or are you the real Doru?

-Larry Hodges

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**From:** Teodor Gheorghe <[gheorghet@hotmail.com](mailto:gheorghet@hotmail.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, October 28, 2020 12:10 PM

**Subject:** Hello

Hi

Hope you're well, Did you get my previous mail?

Teodor (Doru) Gheorghe

USATT National Teams Coach/Manager