



Empire Spin

July 2011

Board Matters

Change of Club Chairperson



On the 13th June Chris Williams took over as Board Chairperson from Graeme Jackson, who has resigned due to work commitments. Chris is now busy talking with board members and finding out about current board activities. He hopes to visit the Midweek, Junior & Sunday clubs in the next few weeks. Chris joined Empire in 1984 and has had a previous spell as board chairperson from 2000 to 2003. We would also like to take this chance and thank Graeme for all the work he has put into the club as chairperson. Graeme will still remain a member at Empire.

The club board is now seeking someone to replace Tai Xu as the IT Convenor. This mainly consists of keeping the club website up to date and other databases that the club uses. Tai will give any assistance he can to ensure an easy handover for the successful applicant. The board would like to thank Tai for all his help while being a board member. We would also like to wish him and his partner the best with the new baby due soon. This will keep Tai even busier than ever.

Members Update

We are pleased to report that Merv Allardyce is doing well after the turn he had at the Vet's Tournament. A belated, but huge thank you to Stephen Hirst and Melanie Armstrong who performed CPR before the ambulance arrived. We must also acknowledge the excellent attention from the Wellington Free Ambulance service who sent two ambulances ensuring Merv got the best possible care. It is good to see Merv back playing at the Midweek club and I'm sure all members will join us in wishing him all the best.

Session Organiser's Reports

Activities Convenor

I would like to make a special thank you to all the club volunteers. Even though we have such a large membership finding volunteers is always a struggle. Even those that may only do the odd job here or there, it all helps with the smooth running of the club. Your help is very much appreciated.

The club also has a supply of ETTTC shirts, these are \$35 each, these are great for wearing both to club sessions as well as for those playing interclub. These are available through Maggie Dyer.

Monday Night Club

There has been a small rise in the numbers of new visitors. We continue to run the re-grading night on the first Monday of each month and we are seeing a few members improving their grades, much of it due to the coaching sessions which Depak is running from 8.30pm each Monday night on table one till about 10pm. If you are interested in this coaching fill in an appointment on the sheet on the organiser's desk on a Monday night. Please ensure you are at table one on time for your allocated session or you may miss out.

Midweek Club

There will be a visit from some Kapiti Club members on Monday 15 Aug 2011. This year is Empire's turn to host the event. There will be 12 players of various grades from each club will be playing. Invitations to midweek club members will be made shortly, but only 12 players will be selected. The club will be open to all Empire Club members to come along and watch. For those who stay there will be a shared lunch and you are requested to bring along a plate of goodies with you to share.

There are a few club members who are unwell at the moment and we would like to wish them a speedy recovery and to see them back playing at the club very soon.

Numbers are being maintained about the same as last year and it's good to see a few younger players getting involved in the midweek activities.

Thursday Night Coaching Club

The club has been averaging 10-12 people per night since the end of February. It has been successful with some players moving on to the coaching provided by Stephen Hirst and Paul Solt from Table Tennis Wellington. Congratulations to the following players – Elias Villanueva, Harry Chen, Harsh Ghambir, Ian Talbot, Ian Wang, John Gan, Kai Xu, Paul Griffin and Rahul Suvarnan.

Friday Night Junior Club

This session is run on a Friday night down at the club from 6.30 – 8.45pm. We would like to welcome all our new members. On average we have had about 60-65 kids each Friday night which is great. We would **LOVE** to see more **GIRLS** coming along and enjoying the game of table tennis, so please continue to spread the word and bring new friends along to have a go. Friday night cost is only \$4 per night with no sub required. For those interested we do have a \$40 multi-ticket with 13 clips on it, saving you a massive \$12 per ticket and can be used at **ANY** of the club sessions, e.g if you also attend the training session on Thursday nights down at Empire.

Sunday Club

Sunday club runs from 9.30 till about 12.30pm. It's a session for players of all levels, whether you are just a beginner or you want some challenging games. Attendance is about 10 players each week, we would like to see some more people come along. Games are not organised, so you choose a partner and have a few hits with them before swapping to another person, regardless of their level of skill. We also have tables available for hire for an hour or two. So bring your family or friends along and have some fun. You must bring along your own bat though, balls are provided.

Interclub – Senior

Series one of interclub is about half way through. There are nine Empire teams, three in each grade. In Prem 1, Empire Assassins are fourth, Empire Courage is seventh and Empire Battlers are eighth. In Prem 2, Empire Dangerous is first, Empire Executioners are seventh and Empire Fiery is fifth. In Prem 3, Empire Hurricanes are fourth, Empire Gladiators are fifth and Empire Xiong are second.

Congratulations to Kai Xu (Prem 2, Snr) and George Stoupe (A Grade, Jnr) who are both currently unbeaten in their respective grades.

Interclub – Junior

After round 5 the results of the Junior Interclub are as follows.

A Grade – Empire Excalibur team consisting of George Stoupe (100%) and Henry Stoupe are currently coming first. Empire 2 team consisting of Chun Kiet Vong and Hui-Ling Vong are coming third.

B Grade – Empire Simsims consisting of Ciaran Sim and Lachlan Sim are coming first.

Building Convenor

TTW have now provided us with the Joola scoring flipcharts. These have been adapted to fit the existing umpire stands. Tables 7 – 12 will be done before the Wellington Open in July. A new concrete emergency ramp has been erected at the east end of club. A bit of tidying up work still needs to be completed. ***When playing over the tables please refrain from wiping your sweaty hands on the playing surface of the tables. Bring along a hand towel as it takes time to clean away the greasy finger and swipe marks.***

Coaching Convenor

The club has recently purchased a Return board from Germany and a Donic Robot Machine. These items were able to be purchased because of the recent fundraising activities such as the movie night and wine raffle. These items will be available for use once protocols are established by the board.

Depak and Raewyn, along with Stephen Hirst (Belmont), recently qualified as International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) Level One coaches. Their assessment was conducted by Joachim Kusche (Canterbury) in Palmerston North on Saturday 18th June. They had to coach a group of mixed juniors from Manawatu Table Tennis on a variety of skills within 2 hour slots. Well done Depak and Raewyn.

Commercial Services Convenor

Shop - This has finally got busier with the advent of the Friday Night Club. Even though sales don't appear to have been that great, stock seems to need replenishing regularly.

Movie – Tue 10 May saw Empire members and lots of friends at the Lighthouse, Petone for our annual fundraising movie night. This time we saw the film **Brighton Rock**, which was based on Graham Greene's novel. There was plenty of action so no snores evident, although at times a little less violence might have been nice! The board and helpers provided a good selection of nibbles before the movie – thanks to everyone who helped. The lucky number ticket bottle of wine was won by Pauline Blaikie. Thanks to those unable to attend who gave a donation towards the evening –

much appreciated. Including the donations, the GST claim on the Lighthouse cost and donated supper, profit was approximately \$800.

Raffle – We also drew the raffle which had been at the club for the last couple of months and the winners were. 1st prize was a night at the James Cook was won by Kevin Dyer. 2nd prize was a pair of Andro shorts and shirt kindly donated by Dzung Nguyen, was won by Alex Kettles and the 3rd prize was 2 bottles of wine, was won by John Kane.

Fundraising Raffle – A new raffle with 3 prizes and \$2 per ticket. 1st prize a bottle of red wine and 2 Empire Club glasses. 2nd prize is a bottle of white wine and 2 Empire Club glasses and finally the 3rd prize is 2 Empire Club beer glasses. Draw will be done once raffle tickets all sold. So please all bring along your \$2 and be in to wine.

Membership – The database is mostly up to date for all sessions – although a few Monday people have not yet filled in the 2011 membership form. So if you have not already done so please ask one of the Monday night organisers to get you a blank form to complete. There is a regular stream of new Friday night players joining also.

Services Convenor

On the 29th of May the first of our exchange social games between Wanganui and Empire was held up in Wanganui. This used to be a regular annual event, but has stopped and started again throughout the years, but has now been resurrected. After the call went out for interested members to make the trip to Wanganui, we managed to rally together only eight players which was a bit disappointing. But the weather held out for us while travelling, arriving around noon after a quick stop for refuelling at McDonalds. We were welcomed with a nice cuppa. Once teams were organised, we had 2 sets of round robin games. The socialising between the two clubs went well and was full of fun and laughter with many challenging games resulting in Wanganui winning 5 out of 8 games. So well done Wanganui. A nourishing afternoon tea was put on for us and this completed the days activities very nicely. Wanganui have been invited to play at Empire Sunday 30 October 2011. Times are still to be confirmed. We would like to see a better turnout with the number of Empire players this time. So please keep this date free and be ready for a day of fun and enjoyment.

Earlier this year we visited Feilding to play some friendly matches and on Sunday 4th September we have invited the Feilding Club to come down to Empire for a days play. A time is still to be advised. We would like to have a larger contingent of Empire players this time round. Here is a photo of the Wanganui and Empire players kindly taken by Matthew Hobbs. Unfortunately we will be losing Joy Mozer to the Wanganui Club about October 2011, when she moves up to Wanganui.



[Wanganui and Empire Club Members 29 May 2011]

Upcoming Events

Empire Club Champs

To be held on Sunday 7th August starting at 9am. There will be both singles and doubles events. Entry forms have already been emailed out to all club members and there will be copies available at the club from tonight onwards. If you can't find one please ask Chris Williams for one and he will be able to get you one. Other details will be forwarded closer to the time of the event. **Depending on the number of entries we may need to cancel the regular Sunday club on this date. We will let you know.**

Table Tennis Manawatu

Saturday 6th August commencing at 9.15am at the Barber Hall, Waldegrave St, Palmerston, Table Tennis Manawatu are holding the "Himatangi 12th Graded Open Doubles Tournament. There is also an after tournament dinner for those interested. Open to players of age 40 years and over. An entry form should have already been sent to. If you have not received one please see one of the board members and we can arrange to get one to you. Entries close Thu 4 August 2011 and should be emailed or sent to;

Don Cooper

116 Lethbridge Street, Feilding. Ph: (06) 3240 055 (Evenings) or email doncoop1@hotmail.com.

(Please do not send entries to Jim or Shona as they are away in July)

Misc Matters

2011/2012 Entertainment Books

These are available through Ron Menchi if you would like one. These are books with discount vouchers/coupons for use at fast food outlets/restaurants and for accommodation around NZ. There are about \$15,000 worth of savings in the book and these last a year. These are sold for \$60 each and the club makes money on each book sold. These are very good value. Using 3 or 4 of the coupons in the book often will save you the \$60 cost of the book.