



# Empire Newsletter

January 2012

## Belinda Harter

We were shocked to learn of the death of Belinda Harter in the Carterton ballooning tragedy.

Belinda was involved with Empire for several years, both supporting her son James and doing volunteer work, mainly in the shop and on the committee for a short time. She was a positive and friendly person. James was a member of the Empire team that won Premier One in 2008 and we send our condolences and sympathy to him and his family at this sad time.

## Official Session Start Dates

The first official night for the adult club is Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January.

The first official session for Midweek is Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February.

Friday night junior club still to be advised.

The Club is desperately short of volunteers to help run club sessions. There is no need to come on the Board to help out! The old story “many hands make light work” applies so if you can help out in some way, even if in a very small way please approach any Board member or session organizer.

## Coaching in 2012

This year coaching will be more formal and run as blocks during the year, the exact frequency will depend on the success of the first block. It will not run as a “free for all” every Thursday night.

The first 6 week course is scheduled to begin **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February** and run until **Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March**, 7.30 – 9.30 pm. It is aimed at players Premier 2 and below with only **12 places** available. Ideally players will be available for the whole 6 weeks. Any financial members from 2011 (and 2012 – anyone who has paid their sub already) are eligible to enrol – whether you play on the Sunday, Monday, Tuesday or Thursday clubs. Cost will be \$8.00 per session - excellent value so get in quick if you are interested!

To confirm your place please or find out more see Depak at Club, email him at [depak.patel@xtra.co.nz](mailto:depak.patel@xtra.co.nz) or ring him on 232 6657.

## Fees for 2012

Unfortunately the Board has been forced to increase club session fees with effect from **1<sup>st</sup> January 2012**. The last increase in session fees was on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2009. In 2010 there was a GST increase that we absorbed. Now, on top of this, we have recently been informed that our insurance premium is increasing by \$3,000, as a consequence of the Christchurch earthquakes, and this we cannot absorb.

The new session fees are:

All Financial Members	\$4.50
Juniors	\$4.50
Non Members	\$8.00
First Time Attendees	\$4.50
Multi Session Tickets	\$45 for 12 Sessions (20% saving)

We are pleased to announce that there will be **no** increase in either senior or concession (senior citizens, beneficiaries, tertiary student) annual membership subscriptions. These have not been increased for several years.

### **Midweek Xmas Lunch**

The Midweek Christmas lunch 2010 was held on Thursday November 24 at the Petone Working Men's Club. Again this was an occasion enjoyed by everyone attending, where members and partners had a chance to socialise and share fun other than on table tennis.

### **Annual Xmas Dinner and Prizegiving ceremony**

This was held at the Maungaraki Chinese Bistro on the 19<sup>th</sup> November. We had about 40 attendees who enjoyed a Chinese buffet and some wine. The prize giving part went well with a good percentage of prize winners being in attendance.

Special trophy winners for 2011 are as follows:

- Best club member: Melanie Armstrong / Arthur Lee
- Best sportsperson: Depak Patel
- Most improved player: Ian Grace
- Most outstanding performance: Thom Nguyen
- Best interclub record (male): Kai Zhu
- Best interclub record (female): Margaret Connolly
- Team of the Year : Empire Dangerous – Chris Williams, Bruce Connolly, Uy Tang

### **Raffle Results**

The results of the last raffle for 2011 are:

- 1<sup>st</sup> wine and glasses : Anita Crowe
- 2<sup>nd</sup> wine and glasses : Ian Talbot
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Yates vege garden book : Colin Gray
- 4<sup>th</sup> Empire jubilee beer mugs : Julie Sheard

Members may be relieved that we are not planning to have another raffle for a little while, although we still have a few donated goods which need to be raffled sometime this year.

### **Annual General Meeting**

This will be held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> March at 8.00 pm. More details following.



Chinese Buffet



Chinese Buffet



Melanie Armstrong / Arthur Lee



Depak Patel



Ian Grace



Thom Nguyen



Margaret Connolly



Empire Dangerous