

Jubilee Newsletter – April 2009



Early Bird Registrations close July 1

The jubilee year is well underway by now. Above you will see the jubilee logo that we have designed especially for the 75th jubilee. In late March we held an Open Veterans Tournament, our first jubilee event.

The next event will be the **launch of the jubilee book**. John Kiley and his able assistant Yvonne Airey have been working very hard to put this fascinating chronicle together. It will be going to the publishers later this month. The book contains interesting insights into all aspects of the club over the last 25 years and earlier.

The book will be launched at a wine and cheese event on **Wednesday, July 8 at 7pm**. This is an invitation only event so be sure to request an invite if you wish to attend. In addition to the launch of the book we will also be unveiling a Hall of Fame on this night. Books will also be available for purchase at all club sessions for the week following the launch. John Kiley will be on hand so you can even request an autographed copy.

The following page contains some extracts from the book as a taste of what it contains.

The **jubilee weekend** is September 18-20. **Friday** night will be a mix and mingle event at the stadium. On **Saturday** we will have a fun tournament and some demonstration games during the day (lunch will be provided if you participate). The time capsule will be "buried". In the evening, the dinner is being held. If you wish to make a speech or can suggest a good speaker or two then please let us know. On **Sunday** there will be a club Open Day from 9am.

We wish to let as many former members as possible know about these events so please send us any address and email **contact details of past members**. We will have a list of names on the web site in the near future.

The website will be updated with details about the jubilee as soon as they become available.

<http://www.empirett.org.nz/jubilee.html>

Extracts from the Jubilee Book

Foreword by Chris Williams

"In 1984 we arrived in New Zealand to live permanently. ... My first visitor was Alf, who dragged me down to Empire to "have a hit", but really to assess my ability. No doubt Alf hoped that he had unearthed a playing diamond. Whilst he did not find a gem, he did unearth someone who has now been playing for Empire with enjoyment and pride since those days."

Empire Sets the Standard by Yvonne Airey

"The latest addition boasts 378 square metres of new playing area, allowing for 14 tables for international events and room for several more if required, plus an expansive 162 square metre "mix and mingle" viewing area with a suspended ceiling which will provide an attractive social area for players and spectators."

A Friendly Atmosphere by Dean Deleare

"Table Tennis is useful to me in relation to my work. I'm a chef and my job requires me to be fully focused. Table Tennis has the same requirement. The club is also good for social contact. With my full time job and a chef's course on top of it, the club is one of my few contacts with the world outside my trade."

Midweek Club by Yvonne Airey

"The first male member (retired painter-paperhanger Charlie Parson from Petone) joined in 1981 and in 1984 there were three male members from a total membership of 46. By 1994 the membership was 108 with a 50/50 gender ratio."

Table Tennis by Laura (6) and Matthew (9)

"Table Tennis is played with a very little ball and a very small bat. The ball and the bat are the main problems of the game because it's very hard to actually hit the ball with the bat. ... We are learning to play this game with the help of Mr Menchi and Mr Allardyce."

Friday Club by Emma Smith

"The balls that we haven't managed to lose are left on the tables and everyone comes in to find out their group for the night."

Club Founder, Alf Harding by Yvonne Airey

"Empire could not have chosen a better founder for its club than Alf Harding - a gifted and enthusiastic sportsman and administrator and a proud advocate of Petone."

Empire's Present and Future Stars by Diane Hope

"In January 2008 he travelled to Xi'an, China with Oceania for academy training. As if that isn't enough, Thom is a NZ rep in tennis, college rep in athletics and came away from his first college prize-giving with a pile of awards."

Jubilee Organisers

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