

Empire Spin

April 2010

Now Open Thursday Nights

Public Ping Pong

The stadium is now open for play on Thursday evenings from 7pm until 9pm. There are no organised games at these sessions. The session is a chance for players to come for a training session. We will also be promoting use of the stadium to the general public in May. During May the session fee will be \$4 for all comers and \$10 for families using a single table.

We will be showing coaching and game videos during these sessions to help the public get a better appreciation of the sport.

Please help make these sessions a success by promoting them to friends and colleagues.

We will also be looking for volunteers to help run the session by greeting visitors and taking their money. We will compensate you with a free session pass. Please let us know if you can help.

Contact Stephen Hope on 977 6486 or stephen@empirett.org.nz for more information or to offer your services.

If undeliverable, return to

PO Box 38312, Wellington Mail Centre, Lower Hutt, 5045

Calendar



empirett.org.nz/Calendar/Public/CurrentMonth.html

Wanganui Open Saturday 24 Apr

Jubilee Table Tennis Stadium

London Street, Wanganui

Movie Night Tuesday 27 April

Lighthouse Cinema, Beach St, Petone

Nowhere Boy (M)

Supper 7:30pm, Movie 8:10pm

\$20 per ticket – on sale now at stadium

North Island Individual Championships

Palmerston North, 30 April – 2 May

Marlborough Open Saturday 8 May

Blenheim

Interclub from Mid May Tuesdays and Wednesdays

Newtown and Empire

Details unavailable until late April

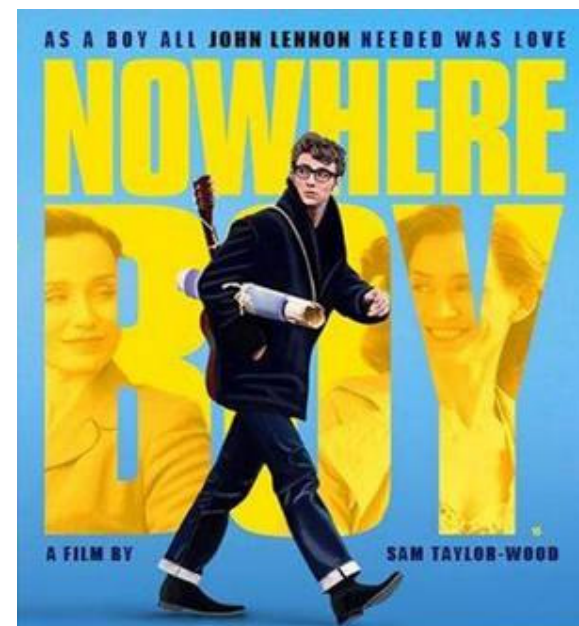
Nelson Open Saturday 26 June

Nelson

Wellington Open 31 Jul – 1 Aug

Newtown Stadium

Movie Night



- Drama Biography, Rated M, 97 minutes
- Tickets (\$20) available from Stadium
- Imagine John Lennon's childhood... A lonely teenager, curious and sharp, growing up in the shattered city of Liverpool. Two incredible women clash for his love. Mimi, the formidable aunt who raised him, and Julia the spirited mother who gave him up. Yearning for a normal family, John escapes into music. His fledgling genius finds a kindred spirit in the young Paul McCartney. But just as John's new life begins the truth about his past leads to a tragedy he would never escape. Poignant and powerful, the untold story of the boy who created The Beatles.

Tickets \$20 from the stadium or board members

Supper will be served from 7:30pm, movie from 8:10pm

Volunteers

We still need one more board member – a Promotions Convener. If you think you can help or can think of someone who could then please let us know.

Last month Stephen Hope and Rose Douglas were elected to the board at the AGM. Raewyn Young was appointed to the board to fill the vacant Finance Convener role earlier this year.

Introducing the new board members...

Stephen Hope



Stephen Hope was elected chairperson of Empire Table Tennis Club in March 2010 after two years as promotions convener. Stephen wants to work with Table Tennis Wellington to help the sport grow in the Wellington region and has joined the TTW Executive to assist with that process. Stephen has only been playing table tennis for two

years although he did have a table at home when he was young. In 2009 he had his first taste of interclub after enjoying the corporate competition offered by Empire earlier in the year. Stephen's sporting interests other than table tennis include hockey, golf and cricket. He spent a number of years as a coach and administrator with hockey and is a life member of the Adelaide University Hockey Club.

Raewyn Young

Raewyn Young volunteered to be the Finance Convener of Empire Table Tennis Club in February 2010, after there had been a vacancy in the position for approximately 6 months. Raewyn is a Chartered Accountant (specializing in Financial Accounting) and has been a member of ICANZ since 1989.



Most of her professional career has been in government but she has been working for a large not-for-profit organization since mid 2007. Raewyn has been playing table tennis at a top level for over 30 years and has represented New Zealand at both Senior and Veteran level. She comes from a local table tennis pedigree with her Uncle (Barry Cross) winning various junior New Zealand titles in the 1960's and her Father (Allan Cross) being the Administrator of the St Joseph's Club in Upper Hutt for many years. Raewyn is passionate about table tennis and wants to use her financial experience for the benefit of the Empire Table Tennis Club.

Rose Douglas



Rose Douglas, joined the Empire Table Tennis Club in 2008 and is a newly elected member of the Board. Upon choosing to retire from the Lower Hutt Tennis Club after a number of years of playing and on the committee, she thought of earlier years of enjoying table tennis. With this recalled interest she joined the Empire and soon realised her table tennis was "rusty" but by attending club games she met

others and obtained some casual coaching from Merv Allardyce.. Appreciating his interest in helping her game to improve led to further commitment. She attended the club's 75th Jubilee where she enjoyed hearing about the club's history and was impressed to learn of its humble beginnings through to the success it is today.

Help Needed

Newsletter Editor – Good computer and word processing skills required. Publication dates: 14 June, 16 August, 20 September and 15 November. Additional junior newsletters may also be published. This position is rewarded with free membership.

Junior Club Helpers – Stephen and Diane need someone to fill in for them for 4 weeks in July – August. Computer literacy and a friendly nature are all that is required.

Time Capsule



The time capsule is now available to be filled! It is a large container so we have plenty of room for more letters.

We will now be 'burying' the time capsule on Friday June 25, 2010. It will be re-opened at our centenary in 2034.

Members have until the end of May to contribute letters and items to the capsule. Letters may be to the club or to family members in the future. Letters may include one photograph.

We would also like to secure some sponsorship for the capsule so please provide any details of any contacts that might be able to help. Personal donations in excess of \$100 will also be acknowledged on a plaque above the capsule.

For more information contact Arthur Lee
(arthur@empirett.org.nz)

Technical

This issue's information comes from <http://tabletennis.about.com/od/spin/a/spin.htm>

Spin

The most important difference between modern competitive table tennis and the game that is played in basements and garages around the world is spin. The amusing past-time that most people are familiar with as ping-pong does not have the same amount of spin involved as the real sport more often know as table tennis. It is the ability of advanced players using modern technology to apply spins of up to 150 revolutions per second that truly makes table tennis a unique sport.

In order to become an advanced player, you need to know all about spin, including:

- Why is Spin Important?
- How does Spin Work and How do You Create It?
- How to use Spin Properly
- How to Read Spin
- How to Handle Spin

Why is Spin Important in Table Tennis?

It is probably easiest to understand how important spin is by first imagining what table tennis would be like if there was no such thing as spin. If you could not spin the ball in table tennis, what would be different?

How Hard You Can Hit

First of all, you would be limited in how hard you could hit the ball. A table tennis table is 9 feet or 2.74 meters long. A top player can hit a ball off the bat at around 175km/hour (although it will slow down a little due to air resistance).

Without boring you with all the physics, this means that the ball will drop due to gravity about one and a half to two centimetres during the time it takes to cross the table. So if the ball is hit at the same height as the top of the net, it will be physically impossible to hit the ball at this speed and still land the ball on the opponent's court - the ball will simply not drop fast enough. It gets worse as the ball gets lower, since the ball must now be hit upwards to get over the net, and then there is only gravity to

pull it back down onto the table. (By the way, you could hit the ball as hard as you can virtually straight up in the air, hoping that it will come down on the other side of the table. But practically it's a pretty silly thing to do, and very hard as well - try it sometime!)

The ball could only be hit at full speed and power if the ball was high enough to draw a virtually straight line between the ball and a point on the opponent's side of the table, without the net getting in the way. This is roughly 30cm above the table if the ball is hit at the endline.

Spin is what allows players to hit a table tennis ball hard when the ball is low or below the net, but still land it on the table. By putting heavy topspin on the ball, a player is able to make the ball drop towards the table faster, so that he can hit the ball fast in an upwards direction, but have his heavy topspin pull the ball down onto the other side of the table.

Spin is why the real sport of table tennis is played so much faster and harder than the basement version - the more you can spin the ball, the harder you can hit it and still hit the table!

Variety of Strokes

Secondly, without spin you would lose the ability to curve the ball through the air, and bounce in the direction of the spin when it hits the table. Every stroke would go in a straight line in the direction that the ball is hit - much like a badminton shuttlecock.

Putting topspin on the ball causes the ball to drop faster and kick more forward when it bounces, while backspin makes the ball tend to lift against the force of gravity and slows down the forward bounce. Left sidespin and right sidespin cause the ball to curve to the left and right, and bounce towards these directions when hitting the table. Any combination of two of these spins can be used to achieve strokes that are harder for the opponent to return than a ball with no spin. If the opponent doesn't adjust for the effect of the spin on the flight of the ball and the way it bounces, he's unlikely to even hit the ball!

Spin is the reason why the modern game has much more variety of strokes than the basement version - with spin you have many more choices about what to do with the ball - hit it hard or soft, with topspin or backspin, or curve it left or right with sidespin.

Thirdly, without spin you would lose the ability to deceive the opponent about what spin is on the ball. Every ball would have exactly the same amount of spin - none.

In the modern game, it's possible to deceive the opponent with spin in a couple of ways. Firstly, clever players can trick the opponent about what type of spin is on the ball. This is quite difficult to do during a rally, but more achievable when serving. Secondly, it's possible to make an opponent guess wrong about the amount of spin on the ball, for example making him think the ball has light backspin, when in actual fact the ball has heavy backspin. The opponent would be likely to put the ball in the net. *Spin is the reason why the modern game is much more difficult to play, but also much more rewarding. The ability to vary the spin and deceive your opponent is crucial to success in advanced table tennis.*

Conclusion

As you can see, spin is an essential part of modern table tennis. It is that magical element that makes it fun and causes the most frustration as well. Learning to use spin and handle your opponent's spin can take time, but once you start to learn how, the satisfaction you will get from being able to do things to a table tennis ball you never dreamed were possible is immense!

Interclub

There was much debate about the format and price of interclub at the TT Wellington AGM. Due to a lack of consensus Winter Interclub is expected to be a 3 player format as it has in past years. The final format and cost of interclub will be determined by the TTW Executive later this month.

If TTW listens to comment at the AGM then there will be the opportunity for players to participate in discussion on the future shape of the interclub competition.

Players interested in Interclub for 2010 should let Diane Hope, the activities convener, know.

Diane Hope

activities@empirett.org.nz

Ph 977 6486 (h)

Tournaments and Results

TT Sports Empire Veterans Tournament

The second annual veteran's tournament was held on Saturday 20 March. 28 entries were received from as far afield as Kapiti and Manawatu. Many games were played and much enjoyment was had. Grateful thanks to our sponsors:

TTSports – Yasaka & Joola (Paul Solt)



Andro (Andrew Hubbard)

Butterfly (agent is Chris Talbot)



Results

Event	Winner/s	Runner/s up
Yasaka Over 40 men's singles	Lindsay Ward	Depak Patel
Joola Over 40 men's doubles	Chris Talbot & Ian Talbot	Bryan McConnochie & Lindsay Ward
Andro Over 40 women's singles	Raewyn Young	Maggie Dyer
Andro Over 40 women's doubles	Bev Astwood & Janette Richards	Maggie Dyer & Melanie Armstrong
Butterfly Over 55 men's singles	Richard Ammundsen	Wanlong Shi
Andro Over 55 men's doubles	Jim Jarmin & Richard Ammundsen	Graham Sole & Norman Chan

Summer Interclub

Summer Interclub concluded last week but we do not have the final results through from TTW.

After round 6, in section A:

2nd: Empire Tempest – Depak Patel, Paul Solt, Jason Giles

3rd: Empire Hurricanes – Chris Talbot, Graeme Jackson, Russell Buchanan

5th: Empire Storm – Ian Talbot, Norman Chan, Harry Chen

In section B:

2nd: Empire Gales – Tristian Alay-ay, Chris Palmer, Stephen Benfell, Phil Coffey

3rd: Empire Tornado – Graham Sole, Vladimir Vysotskiy, Rod Weston

4th: Empire Tsunami – Tim Hills, Melanie Armstrong, Arthur lee

NZ Veterans Championships

Four club members travelled to North Harbour to compete in the National Veteran's Championships over Easter and picked up medals.

Eddie Moore and Leo Barnett picked up gold in the over 70 men's B teams and bronze in the over 75 men's teams.

Merv Allardyce and Ron Menchi won bronze in the over 75 men's teams.

Merv Allardyce also won silver in the over 75 men's singles.

Eddie & Leo also won silver in the over 75 men's Doubles.

Former club member (and recent visitor to Empire) Chris Nightingale won gold in the over 50 B men's teams playing for North Harbour.

Merit lists were compiled from the teams and individual events.

In the over 75 list, Merv Allardyce was 1st, Eddie Moore 3rd and Leo Barnett 7th.

In the over 70 list, Eddie Moore was 5th and Leo Barnett was 9th.

Subs Overdue

Annual subs have been due since January 1. If you have not paid the majority of your 2010 sub then you will be charged \$7 to attend club sessions.