



Empire Spin

August 2009

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Jubilee Book Launch

Adapted from Yvonne Airey's article in Hutt News

Empire has started its 75th jubilee season with the launch of a club history. Building on the original history by founder Alf Harding for the 50th jubilee, "*Empire Table Tennis Club, 75 Years Old and Growing*" contains much meticulous research by its editor, John Kiley, as well as contributions from other members, including two of the youngest, aged six and nine.

John, who joined Empire in 1964, has himself been one of the long line of faithful club volunteers, serving on the management committee including a stint as chairman, secretary, newsletter writer, as assistant club captain, the all important raffle organiser and of course, a player.

In a message to the gathering, Hutt City councillor Joy Baird commented on the people of vision who made the club such a success, families like Harding, Menchi, Allardyce, Giles, Cleland and many others who are mentioned in the book.

"*Empire Table Tennis Club, 75 Years Old and Growing*" is 84 pages in total and illustrated by 196 photographs. It was published and printed in Wellington by First Edition Ltd. It is available at the club at a cost of \$30.



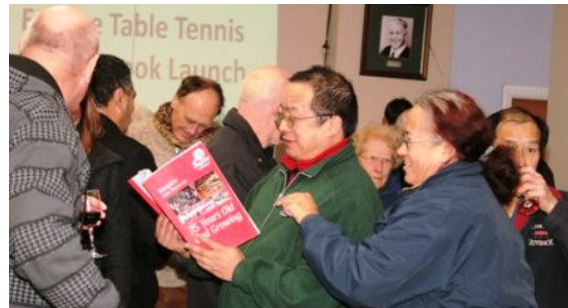
70+ members and guests attended the launch



John Kiley and Yvonne Airey read from the book



Local MP Paul Quinn was amongst the guests



Many began reading straight away

Volunteers & Officials

KIWI UMPIRE IN EUROPE by Malcolm Wong

After overnight stops in Seoul and London, I arrived very jetlagged in Rennes (France). I almost did not make it to Rennes as my flight from Heathrow (London) was delayed for an hour. Fortunately my connecting flight in Cork waited for me.

FRENCH JUNIOR OPEN (May 13-17)

This World Junior Circuit Tournament was held for the third consecutive year in the town of Vern sur Seiche, near the city of Rennes, the capital of the Bretagne region, in North West France.

This was a well organised and run tournament with good playing conditions. Sixteen countries were represented. France (Boys) and South Korea (Girls) dominated.

All the umpires (26) were from Europe except for two Japanese women umpires and me. I umpired by myself on the first day. Then I was paired with Peter Sagat (Slovakia) for the rest of the tournament. He had umpired with Alan Moore at the World Team Championships 2008 in Guangzhou (China). The scheduling for umpires was good with the most matches I umpired being 11 on the Saturday.

There was a cocktail party for the umpires one evening after play finished. We were presented with some gifts. Our photo was taken which is on the tournament site 'vern2009.free.fr'.

There was a function for officials and volunteers on the last night to celebrate the end of a most impressive tournament.

COMMONWEALTH CHAMPIONSHIPS (May 19-25)

This tournament was held in Glasgow (Scotland), which will host the

Commonwealth Games in 2014. Glasgow is the third largest city in the UK.

This tournament was well organised and ran according to schedule. Seventeen countries were represented. Singapore dominated, winning both the Men's and Women's Teams events, and all the individual events except for the Men's Doubles won by India. Conditions at the venue were humid and I developed a rash on my neck and a dry cough. The quality of the food at the venue was poor.

There were 30 Umpires. I was paired with Brian Powell (Guernsey) for most of the tournament. Unfortunately he became ill and had to withdraw. There was insufficient number of umpires on the Saturday when many of the umpires, including myself, umpired twelve 30 minute sessions in a row (9am to 3pm). I umpired some matches on the show courts 1 and 2 which were televised. This included the Men's Singles Semi Finals between two Indian players.

After the individual finals there was a Civic Reception at the Civic Chambers in the evening which made it an enjoyable end to the tournament.



Positions Vacant

Please let any board member know if you are interested in the following roles:

Midweek Organiser: The club needs a new organiser for Tuesday midweek in 2010.

Newsletter Editor: I would be very happy to hand over the production of newsletters to a willing volunteer. There is one more to produce in 2009 (October).

2009 Calendar



Club Sessions

Monday Evening from 6:30pm
Tuesday Morning 9:30am-11:30am
Thursday Morning 9:30am-11:30am
Friday Juniors from 6:30pm
(Except September 18)
Sunday Morning 9:30am-11:30am

Jubilee Events

Jubilee Weekend

Date: 18-20 September
Friday: Registrations; Mix and mingle
from 7pm at Empire
Saturday: Table tennis at Empire
Time capsule burial
Jubilee dinner in evening
Sunday: Open day at Empire from 9am

Other Social Events

Prizegiving Dinner, Sat 7 Nov

Venue: To be advised

Club Competitions

Monday Club

Grading nights on first Monday of the month.

Trial handicap night: August 17

Handicap Competition

See below (Sep 21, 28)

Midweek Tournament and Visits

Levin Trip (Aug 10), Host Kapiti (Aug 17)
Annual Invitation Doubles (Sep 3)

Winter Interclub

Grade Championships
B Grade (Sep 9)
Premier 3 (Sep 15)
Premier 2 (Sep 16)
Premier 1 Final (Sep 22)

Tournaments

Around the Region (Aug-Oct)

Wellington Open (Aug 15-16)
Manawatu Veterans Doubles (Aug 22)
NZ Secondary Schools Champs (Aug 31-
Sep 2)
Manawatu Open (Sep 5)
Wellington Spring Open (Sep 12-13)
NZ Open – Auckland (Sep 29-Oct 10)

Handicap Tournament

During September we will be conducting a handicap tournament. There will be a qualifying round on September 14 and the top 16 club members (based on games won and points score) will progress to a knockout finals series on September 21 to find the club handicap champion.

Non club members are welcome to play in the qualifying round but cannot contest the finals round.

Handicaps will be based on Monday Club grades. The two players in a match will play 1 game to 51 with the starting point determined by the difference between the player's grades.

On August 17, there will be a trial handicap night to trial the handicap system. Players not wishing to play in the handicap matches will be able to play on spare tables but there will be no organised games for them.

Competition Results

Club Championships

The Empire Club Championships attracted only a small number of entries but there were still a lot of keenly contested matches.

Depak Patel triumphed in the Open Singles over Chris Talbot. In the Open Doubles, Chris and Ian Talbot were victorious over Raewyn Young and Depak Patel.

In Division 2, the singles were won by Martin Young who narrowly missed out on the open event after losing in 5 sets to eventual winner Depak Patel. The doubles was won by Jason Giles and Diane Hope. Runners up were last year's winners, Allen Tso and Norman Chan.

| Event | Winner | Runner Up |
|--------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Open Singles | Depak Patel | Chris Talbot |
| Open Doubles | Chris Talbot & Ian Talbot | Depak Patel & Raewyn Young |
| Division 2 Singles | Martin Young | Norman Chan |
| Division 2 Doubles | Jason Giles & Diane Hope | Norman Chan & Allen Tso |

Junior Development Tournament

Some Empire players were amongst the prizes in the Junior Development Tournament held on June 21.

Andre Wilkinson – Winner U12 Boy's Singles

Jessica Mullis – R/U U12 Girl's Singles

Adam Xiong & H Nickel – R/U U12 Boy's Doubles

Jason Zhao – R/U U14 Boy's Singles

Hugo Humphries & Dominic Miller – Winner U14 Doubles

Jordan Musgrave & Kieran Whitfield – R/U U14 Doubles

Joshua Vogt – R/U U16 Boy's Plate

Premier 1 Interclub (After Rnd 1)

| Place | Team |
|-------|-------------------|
| 1 | Empire Storm |
| 5 | Empire Typhoons |
| 6 | Empire Tempest |
| 7 | Empire Whirlwinds |

North Island Championships

Held in Palmerston North, 15-19 July

Empire players who feature in the results:

Singles

| Player | Event | Placing |
|--------------|-----------------|-----------|
| Depak Patel | Men's C Grade | Runner Up |
| Chris Talbot | Over 50 Men's | Runner Up |
| Depak Patel | Over 40 Men's | Winner |
| Raewyn Young | Over 40 Women's | Runner Up |
| Thom Nguyen | Under 15 Boy's | Runner Up |

Doubles

| Player | Event | Placing |
|-----------------------------|----------------|-----------|
| Depak Patel | Men's C Grade | Runner Up |
| Chris Talbot Ian Talbot | Over 50 Men's | Runner Up |
| Depak Patel | Over 40 Men's | Winner |
| Depak Patel Raewyn Young | Over 40 Mixed | Runner Up |
| Thom Nguyen | Under 15 Boy's | Runner Up |

Winter Interclub

Premier 3 Competition 1

1st: Empire Tornadoes – Mike Aldred, Hayden Kirkbeck, Graham Sole

=2nd: Empire Tsunami – Chris Palmer, Craig Bailey, Tristian Alay-ay

=2nd: Empire Gales – Maggie Dyer, Margaret Connolly, Margaret Cloughley

7th: Empire Thunder – John Kane, Dawn Dorresteyn, Stefan Vrecic

B Grade Competition 1

1st: Empire Trojans – Hayden Brown, Justin Cho, Lesley Xie

3rd: Empire Invaders: Richard Dalziel, Cameron Smith, Luke Falvey

5th: Empire Crusaders: Stephen Hope, Tony Seymour, Daniel Qin, Angelo Miranda

Premier 2 (After Rnd 1)

3rd: Empire Hurricanes

6th: Empire Cyclones