



Empire Spin

March 2010

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

Calendar



Annual General Meeting Mon 15 March

Empire Stadium 8pm
Presentation of Annual Report
Election of Board Members

Veterans Tournament Sat 20 March

Empire Stadium 9am – 5pm
Events for Men and Women
Over 40, 55 and 70; Singles and Doubles

New Zealand Veterans Championships

North Harbour, 1-5 Apr

www.tabletennis.org.nz

New Zealand Junior Championships

includes ITTF Junior World Circuit Event

and Youth Olympic Games International Qualifying

Auckland, 3-11 April

www.tabletennis.org.nz

Junior Club Opening Fri 9 April

Empire Stadium, 6:30-9:00pm

Movie Night Wed 29 April

Details to be advised in next newsletter

North Island Individual Championships

Palmerston North, 30 April – 2 May

Volunteers

Becoming a volunteer is not just about selfless giving. Becoming more involved in a club can enhance your enjoyment of the sport. Read below about who is helping out and what opportunities there are for you!

New Helpers

Thank you to Aldrich De Guzman for taking over the webmaster duties. Joy Mozer is also assisting Norman at Tuesday midweek club.

Coaching

We are delighted to have two volunteer coaches for 2010.

Depak Patel is offering coaching on Monday nights before and after the organised games. A booking sheet is being used as these sessions are very popular.

Paul Solt will be coaching at junior club when it gets underway on April 9. This will be group coaching.

Board

March 15 is the Annual General Meeting where three board positions are up for election – Chairperson, Services Convener And Promotions Convener.

Recently, Raewyn Young was appointed as Finance Convener. Since Michael Xu left midway though last year, Maggie Dyer has been managing two portfolios so it is great to have Raewyn on board to ease the load.

Help Needed

If interested contact Diane or Stephen Hope, 977 6486 or activities@empirett.org.nz.

Stadium Booking Agent – Email, phone and computer access is essential. Take stadium bookings and issue invoices. This position is rewarded with free membership.

Newsletter Editor – Good computer and word processing skills required. Publication dates: 22 March (Juniors), 12 April, 14 June, 16 August, 20 September and 15 November. This position is rewarded with free membership.

Technical

This issue's information comes from

<http://www.allabouttabletennis.com/official-table-tennis-rules.html>

The Serve

Rule 2.06.01 states that "**Service shall start with the ball resting freely on the open palm of the server's stationary free hand**".

This purpose of this rule is to prevent a player from imparting spin onto the ball (with his fingers or his hand) as he throws it up.

This rule was introduced after the 1930s when finger spin serves were very popular. Players were able to impart heavy spin onto the ball before they struck it with their racket.

Rule 2.06.02 states "**The server shall then project the ball near vertically upwards, without imparting spin, so that it rises at least 16cm (approx 6 inches) after leaving the palm of the free hand and then falls without touching anything before being struck**".

The purpose of this rule is to ensure that the server strikes the ball as it's falling from the vertical.

Before adding this requirement for the ball to rise by at least 16cm, it was difficult for the umpire to establish whether the ball was being struck on the way up or on the way down.

Also, by requiring the server to throw the ball upwards within a few degrees of the vertical the umpire can be sure that the ball has been thrown upwards and not sideways or diagonally. This prevents a player from throwing the ball directly onto his racket, thereby generating extra speed on his serve.

As soon as the server has **deliberately** thrown the ball upwards, the ball is "in play", so if the server does not make contact with the ball, he loses the point.

News

Empire on TV



Ron's fame has spread to TV land. Following on from Yvonne Airey's article about Empire and Ron in the Hutt News, some Empire players were invited to the Avalon studios to feature on TV1's Good Morning Show.

Ron Menchi was the main interviewee. Eddie Moore had a comfortable victory over Brendon Pongia. Merv Allardyce, Joy Mozer and Diane Hope were players in the background.

You can follow the link on our website to view the two segments.

That same night, Thom Nguyen and Andrew Hubbard were featured on Sky Sport 1. They were interviewed at Empire Stadium about Thom's trip to the World Junior Circuit and Youth Olympic Qualification tournament in Cairo.



Tournaments and Results

TT Sports Empire Veterans Tournament

Our major event for 2010 is the TT Sports – Empire Veterans Tournament. This tournament is targeted at players from the lower North Island and can be used as an introduction to tournament play or a warm-up for the nationals.

The tournament is being sponsored by TT Sports (Paul Solt, distributor of Joola and Yasaka equipment), Andro (Andrew Hubbard) and Butterfly (Chris Talbot). For the less competitive players there is still the chance of winning a spot prize.

The tournament will aim to have events for men and women in the over 40, 55 and 70 age groups. There will be singles and doubles events. Players may only play in one age group. Entry is \$10 and covers all events entered.

It will be a full day of action that kicks off at 9am and finishes at 5pm. Qualifying rounds will be held in the morning. The afternoon section will be graded from the morning results.

Lunch will be available.

Entry forms are available on the website: www.empirett.org.nz or contact Diane Hope:

activities@empirett.org.nz or (04) 977 6486.

We would like to be able to offer more spot prizes so if you know an organisation that can help please let us know.

Summer Interclub

Summer Interclub started on February 24. We have six teams competing, three out of the six teams in the two sections. This competition runs for seven weeks, concluding mid-April.