



Junior Club

March 2010

Season Opens April 9

The Empire Table Tennis Junior Club resumes after Easter on Friday 9 April. A few things have changed since last year.

- Premier 1 player, Paul Solt, has offered to come and do group coaching twice per month. Players will be grouped according to age and ability and then taught a skill and some drills to practice for part of the evening.
- We have a newsletter dedicated to the junior club.
- We will be open by 6:30pm and will consider an earlier start if people want it.
- We will trial some different format competitions to allow players to come and go more easily.
- The session fee has increased to \$4 (there is still no membership fee). There may be an option of a one time payment for the year. This will be announced at the first session. There is also a 13 session ticket available for \$40.
- Two graded competitions will be held on 25 Jun and 24 Sep and a teams competition on Oct 15.
- The season will finish on 5 November
- Paul Solt also sells table tennis equipment (Yasaka and Joola) and will have his shop at some club nights. Andrew Hubbard (Andro) is also likely to return with his shop.



Calendar

The format of club nights will be as follows:

6:30pm Stadium Opens, Casual use of tables

7:00-8:30pm Organised games

9:00pm Stadium Closes

Season Opening Friday 9 April

Club Movie Night Tuesday 27 April

Lighthouse Petone 7:30pm (8:10pm movie)

Nowhere Boy

Tickets \$20 (including supper)

Graded Tournament Friday 25 June

Games start 7:00pm

Club Championships September 25

Games start 7:00pm

Teams Competition October 15

Games start 7:00pm

Prizegiving Night November 5

Junior Development Tournaments will also be run by Table Tennis Wellington. These will be listed in future newsletters once the details are known. These are usually held on weekends.

Table Tennis Wellington also runs development squads. Players showing promise in the sport will be invited to join these squads.

Volunteers

The regular organisers, Diane and Stephen Hope, will be back and the long time coaches, Ron Menchi and Merv Allardyce may even make some guest appearances. We also need some help from parents to supervise tables, run the shop and assist with coaching.

Stephen and Diane have a holiday planned so they need someone to step into their shoes for a few weeks.

Help Needed

A few parents lending a hand each week will make a huge difference to the running of the club. How can you help?

Shop Attendant – Spend an hour or two in the shop serving drinks and food. You may wish to make suggestions about new product lines.

Table Supervisor – Keep an eye on a few tables. Make sure that players are playing fairly and that people are turning up for their games. Put a stop to any bad behaviour.

Coaches – Assist with the group coaching under the direction of Paul Solt. You do not even need to know how to play.



New Games

The round robin competition used in past years will be used again but we will also trial a ladder competition in which players move up the tables if they win and down the tables if they lose. The theory is that the best players end up at table 1 and the beginners at the higher numbered tables. This competition also allows players to enter and leave easily.

Rules

One of the most confusing aspects of any sport for beginners is learning and understanding all the rules of the game. Ping-pong is no different, and sometimes it is even harder due to the constant rule changes in some areas, such as the service rule.

To assist players learn the basics the newsletter will contain articles about rules of the game. This first edition will cover equipment.

<http://tabletennis.about.com/od/importantrules/a/importantrules.htm>

The Racket

Construction

The racket must be black on one side of the blade, and red on the other. If two rubbers are used, that means one rubber must be red and the other rubber must be black. If only one rubber is used (which is legal, but in this case the other side of the bat that has no rubber is not allowed to hit the ball), then it can be red or black, but the other side which has no rubber must be the contrasting colour. (Law 2.4.6)

Damage to the Racket

You are allowed to have small tears or chips anywhere in the rubber (not just the edges), provided the umpire believes they will not cause a significant change in the way the rubber plays if the ball hits that area. This is at the umpire's discretion, so that means that one umpire may rule that your bat is legal, while another may rule that it is not legal. (Law 2.4.7.1)

Changing Your Racket During a Match

You are not allowed to change your racket during a match unless it is accidentally damaged so badly you cannot use it. (Law 3.04.02.02, Point 7.3.3 HMO). If you do get permission to change your racket, you must show your opponent and the umpire your new racket. You also should show your opponent your racket at the start of the match, although conventionally this is only done if your opponent asks to look at your bat. If he does ask, you must show it to him. (Law 2.4.8)

The Net

The top of the net, along its whole length, must be 15.25cm above the playing surface. So before training or playing a match, you should quickly check both sides of the net and the middle of the net to make sure that the height is correct (if the umpire has not done this already). Most manufacturers make a device that checks the net height, but a small ruler will do the job just as well. (Law 2.2.3)

The Table

A table tennis table is a rectangular table, 9 feet long (2.74m) and 5 feet wide (1.525m), and with a flat upper playing surface 29.92 inches (76cm) above the floor.

The best table tennis tables have a playing surface of 1 inch (25mm) (or thicker material, although 0.75 inches (19mm) is acceptable for non-elite play.

Touching the Table

You are not allowed to move the table, touch the net assembly, or put your free hand on the playing surface while the ball is in play. (Laws 2.10.1.8, 2.10.1.9, 2.10.1.10) This means that you can actually jump or sit on the table if you like, provided you don't actually move it. It also means that your free hand can touch the end of the table (which does happen from time to time), just as long as you touch the side and not the top of the table. You can also put your free hand on the table once the ball is no longer in play.

For example, imagine that you have hit a smash past your opponent, who failed to touch the ball, but you are starting to overbalance and fall over. Once the ball has bounced a second time (either on the table, floor, surroundings, or hits your opponent), the ball is no longer in play and you can put your free hand on the playing surface to steady yourself. Alternatively, you could have simply allowed yourself to fall on the table, and provided you did not move the table, or touch the playing surface with your free hand, that would still be perfectly legal.

One thing to watch for is a player who bumps and moves the table while hitting the ball, such as smashing the ball. This can

happen quite often and is an automatic loss of the point, and is the reason you should always check that the brakes are on when using a table with rollers, since it makes it harder to accidentally move the table.

News

Time Capsule

Last year we gave parents and juniors the opportunity to contribute to a time capsule. Due to delays in manufacturing the time capsule it is not too late to write a letter to yourself or your family.

Parents, imagine how interesting it would be to read a letter from your child now in 25 years time. What sort of job do they think they will have and what do they like doing. They can add some artwork or a picture of themselves.

The more that is contributed, the more interesting it will be when it is opened at our centenary in 2034.



Fundraising Movie Night

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.

See Calendar for date and time.

Drama Biography, Rated M, 97 minutes

Tickets available from Stadium

