

EMPIRE TABLE TENNIS CLUB

PO Box 38 312 Petone Ph: 5686054
www.empirett.org.nz

Newsletter

February 2005

Happy New Year! This will be a slightly shorter newsletter as the Annual report is due out soon which will provide you with plenty of reading matter. Please note the calendar of dates at the end, which includes some of the local and national tournaments for the coming year.

FROM THE CHAIR

The Club's AGM is coming round again and this year your Board has a number of important matters to address and some very critical decisions to make. Unfortunately this year Merv Allardyce (finance convenor and backbone member/helper) has decided not to make himself available for re-election. Merv has spent almost his entire adult life helping out - not only at Club level but also at Regional and National levels and he clearly deserves a break. It goes without saying that Merv's expertise, good old fashioned common sense, experience and humour will all be very sorely missed. Nevertheless it is high time that we as a Club addressed issues of succession (i.e. who will govern the Club in the future) and Merv's imminent departure from the Board means that we must undertake that review now if we are to continue to operate as a Club.

As members will know, plans are well underway for the establishment of a new Club stadium and amenities block. We will shortly be seeking tenders for the building works. However, what good is a new stadium if there is no one there to keep it going? A new stadium alone is not the answer. At Empire what we need more than anything else are members willing to put some time back into the Club as, clearly we cannot continue to rely on the same few members who presently constitute the Empire Board. We desperately need new (and younger) blood to keep the corporate body going. I am therefore extolling everyone to seriously consider putting a little bit of time aside to help out. At Empire we need people to help serve in the shop, we need people to provide occasional labour when we relay the flooring from time to time, we need people to organise and run raffles, we need a Finance convenor and a Publications convenor. We also need advisors - people with good ideas and people with business acumen and nous. At Empire we need you! If you can help, even if it's not as a board member, let us know - your contribution will be welcome.

Russell Buchanan

ACTIVITIES

Monday Club: has resumed for the year with many keen and refreshed members ready for another season.

Midweek Club: has also started for the year

Friday Club: will start during March, members will be notified nearer the time.

Butterfly: The club now has the agency for Butterfly table tennis equipment in Wellington region. Some gear will be available at Monday club and orders can also be made through John 971 2028.

Summer Interclub: Entries close Friday 18 Feb – that's next Friday! Please give your name to John if you are wanting to play in this competition. There will be several sections played at the Empire and Newtown stadiums. All sections commence Wednesday 2 March with the final round on Wednesday 13 April. No finals will be played. Empire members playing in the interclub competition are expected to wear the club shirt. These are available at the club for \$35.

Tournaments: The NZ veterans Tournament will be held in Whangarei from Thursday 24 – Monday 28 March. A reminder that entries close on Thursday 24 February with TTNZ. There are some entry forms at club.

BUILDING

What an exciting year in prospect for 2005. After so many delays it would seem that significant progress has been made in the redevelopment programme. Our Project Manager will have design work completed shortly and will then be able to go to the market for building quotes. One area of concern is that the construction industry in Lower Hutt is overcommitted at present, but watch this space for developments.

Ron Menchi

FINANCE

SUBSCRIPTIONS have been set for 2005. There are no changes to last year's so they are:

Seniors and working juniors	\$35
Superannuitants and beneficiaries	\$30
Midweek members	\$30
Married couples – Less 15%	
Tertiary students	\$25
School juniors – pay only the night fee	

In addition members pay an attendance fee of \$2.50 per night (or day)

Casual members pay \$5 per night.

Subs can be paid on club nights and club mornings

DONATION

We have received another anonymous donation of \$1,000 for the Building Fund. Accompanying the cheque was a small note "From a former member." Thank you former member.

SERVICES

Raffles

We will be running a series of small raffles with the items we had donated by Metro Ford and also by a club member Jacquie Upchurch. Our thanks must go to them for providing the goodies. Each raffle will have 100 tickets @ \$2.00 so hopefully we will be able to sell all the tickets quickly. Look out for the first raffle in the next couple of weeks - it will be a picnic set and a couple of cushions. Please support the club, as with the coming redevelopment work we need all the funds we can get.

Shop and Interclub

Shop sales also provide valuable revenue for the club. If you would like to help out by running the shop on interclub nights your assistance would be very much appreciated. Even if you can only commit to one or two nights this year it all helps. The shop is not usually very busy so you also have the opportunity to watch table tennis, write letters etc. To begin with Summer Interclub runs on Wednesday nights only, but Winter runs on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Some help with daytime tournaments is probably going to be needed later in the year as well. If you feel you can help in any way please ring Maggie 5704 820 (day), 5899 140 (evening) or see me on Monday nights.

Club Shirts

There are several people now wearing the new shirts regularly at Club - you will agree they are a great improvement on the old shirts. We have good stocks of all sizes at present at \$35.00 Please note if you are playing Winter Interclub in a B grade or high team you will definitely need to purchase a shirt before then.

Maggie Dyer

ITEMS OF INTEREST

One out of the blue - one of our mid-week Club asked a way-out question a short time ago - "has the Club got a rallying song or anthem, and if not, why not?" Well, the Empire Club continues to be an innovator in the sport so a niece of mine who is a member of a "Blue-Grass Group" has written a song for us and her band will be willing to come to Club and "debut" the Empire song at a date to be notified - so watch this space as well. What a giggle, eh?

Ron Menchi

Calendar of Events

February 8	Midweek Club recommences for the year
February 19	Entries Close for Summer Interclub
March 2	Summer Interclub begins
March 14	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
March 24 – 28	NZ Veterans Championships at Whangarei
April 13	Final night for Summer Interclub
May 17 - 18	TTW Winter Interclub commences
July 8 – 10	North Island Championships at Auckland
Sept 30 – October 8	National Championships at Christchurch
November 2	TTW composite teams tournament Commences
November 30	Final Round TTW composite teams tournament

check out www.empirett.org.nz