

EMPIRE TABLE TENNIS CLUB

Newsletter

July 2004

Diane Allardyce has kindly offered to act as Newsletter editor and this is her first one – and a timely one too considering all the exciting things which have been going on at Empire in addition to the club's usual activities. Participation levels are up across the board with record numbers of juniors coming along on Friday nights. The club's redevelopment plans have been steadily taking shape, which is just as well given the demands being made on our facilities. The sub-committee responsible for advancing the redevelopment scheme has forecast that work will begin later this year. This will see the arrival of a new playing area to compliment the existing large playing hall, a new mix and mingle area, a separate lounge, a brand new amenities block incorporating a kitchen/canteen, office, control and meeting rooms, changing rooms, showers and toilets. In addition we will have new tables and the very best in table tennis floor coverings. Club facilities to die for! This really is a very exciting time in Empire's long history and gee isn't it good to have a Newsletter again!

Russell Buchanan Chairman.

ACTIVITIES

Monday Club: Numbers are steady with an average of 40 each night. We see a range of ages and standards of players. It is great to see so many of our premier grade players attending regularly. There is still a steady influx of new people coming in wanting to play this fantastic game. The night starts off with a fun game of doubles and then games of singles that are matched by players ability or request. Play breaks for a nice cup of tea and a good old natter followed by some impromptu games. A reminder that coaching is available, just let us know when you check in.

Midweek Club: The atmosphere on a midweek morning is fair buzzing with activity. There is regularly a good keen crowd attending and with doubles being played on every table during the morning there is a fair amount of good humoured fun and laughter as balls and people go in every direction. A trip to Paraparaumu is planned for August and on 3 September the annual tournament will be held with entries open to all lower North Island clubs.

At the end of May a morning tea was held to farewell Lily and Eric Gaunt who have moved to Auckland. On 1 June a celebration luncheon was held to mark 30 years of the midweek club. A cake was cut and Margaret Allardyce made a speech.

Midweek operates on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9.30-1200. Coaching is available by arrangement. For further information contact Lois McStay on 5692915.

Junior Club: Numbers are high with an average attendance of 67 which would account for the cacophony of sound that hits the ear drums even before walking in the door. The attendance is a mixture of boys and girls of different ages and standards of play. The club is open from 6.45pm and organised play starts at 7.30pm and continues until about 9.30. Coaching is available on request – so just ask when you check in. Parents are always very welcome and are encouraged to come in and see what's going on (bring your ear muffs!)

Some comments from the kids on why they come to the Friday club:

"Best club I've been to, well organised" (and yes - he has been to other clubs!)

"It's a fun sport"

"The food's really cheap"

"To play table tennis, to beat my sister, I want to be in a NZ team"

Club Champs will be held at the club from 9.30am on Sunday 8 August. These are open to all members who have paid their subscription. There will be open singles, doubles and mixed doubles, handicap singles and doubles – something for everyone so please support them. The entry fee is \$2.50 and can be paid on the day. Hot and cold drinks and sweets will be available for purchase, you should bring your own lunch. The club will be open from 9.00am on Sunday 8 August. Play will commence at 9.30am sharp. See attached entry form for more details.

Interclub: The first competition in B and C grades has finished and the results are as follows:

B Grade

2nd Empire Whirlwind: Leo Barnett, Norman Chan, Dick Hince, Tony Pearson

3rd Empire Tornadoes: George John, Robert Tiu, Petar Vrecic

4th Empire Tempest: Margaret Cloughley, Margaret Connolly, Maggie Dyer

C Grade

1st Empire Emus: Narayan Mani & Gray Lu

3rd Empire Eagles: Alex Gu & Nick Burns

Individual statistics show percentage wins in singles matches Leo Barnett 94% Norman Chan 93% Margaret Cloughley 88% in B Grade and Alex Gu 87% in C Grade

Results to date show that the Empire teams are performing well in the other grades too.

Premier 1: Empire Thunder 3rd and Empire Storm 5th

Premier 2: Empire Hurricanes 1st, Empire Cyclones 7th

Premier 3: Empire Lightning 3rd

A reminder to all interclub players - please be on time, the club is open from 6.45pm and you should be wearing a club shirt, these are available from the club at a cost of \$35. If you are unable to play for any reason please let John know in plenty of time (phone 9712028 and leave a message).

Tournament Results: The North Island Champs were held in Palmerston North from 15-18 July. There was a good turnout of Empire members with results as follows:

B grade men's doubles runners up: Chris Talbot & Ian Talbot

Under 21 women's singles runner up: Hanna Squire

Under 21 women's doubles runners up: Hanna Squire & Michelle McCarthy (Belmont)

Under 19 girls singles winner Hanna Squire

Under 19 girls doubles runners up: Hanna Squire & Michelle McCarthy (Belmont)

Under 19 mixed doubles runners up: Hanna Squire & Blair Patterson (

Under 17 girls doubles winners: Hanna Squire & Michelle McCarthy (Belmont)

Under 17 boys plate winner: Martin Leon

Over 70 men's singles runner up: Paul Bargh

Over 70 men's doubles runners up: Merv Allardyce & Paul Bargh

Over 70 mixed doubles winners: Paul Bargh & Annice Robottom (Wanganui)

Over 70 men's plate runner up: Eddie Moore

Over 65 men's singles runner up: Merv Allardyce

Over 65 men's doubles runners up: Merv Allardyce & Paul Bargh

Over 65 men's plate runner up: Eddie Moore

Over 50 men's singles runner up: Ian Talbot

Over 50 men's doubles winners: Ian Talbot & Bryan McConnachie (Onslow)

Over 40 men's doubles runners up: Chris Talbot & Ian Talbot

BUILDING

Plans are well underway for the building redevelopment, which is due to commence in October. A project Manager has been appointed. The floor plans are currently being finalised. We have received approval from the Hutt City Council for a new lease on the extended land area.

Funding: The projected budget is \$500,000. We have \$255,000 many thanks to members and non-members who have contributed \$10,000 to date. This is a tremendous achievement. Further contributions are still required and will be much appreciated. Have you thought what you will do with your Hutt-Mana Energy Trust payout? Those lucky enough to receive this windfall may like to consider sharing some with the club. All contributions will be recognised. If you can help us reach our goal of \$350,000 before building commences and our mission "to be debt free before the new stadium is completed" please contact Ron Menchi 9704581 or Merv Allardyce 9736682.

SNIPPETS

Diner: Will my hamburger be long? Waiter: No Sir, it will be round.

* * *

Quote for the month: For every minute that you are angry, you lose 60 seconds of happiness - Anonymous

SERVICES

Fundraising: The club was lucky to be donated some merchandise from Metro Ford and an All Black shirt is currently being raffled. The next raffle will be a tracksuit so hope you will all support this one too.

Shop: The club has a small shop selling drinks, chocolate and lollies. We would very much appreciate some help with operating this for Tuesday night interclub. It is not very onerous - time 7.15pm - 9.30pm. Price list, float and heater provided and you get the opportunity to watch some excellent table tennis. If you feel you could help out please contact Maggie 5704820(day) or 5899140 (night).

New club shirts are now available in sizes S – XXL at a cost of \$35. They are red with a navy blue collar and shoulder and sleeve detailing.

HISTORY

The Midweek Club recently celebrated it's 30th birthday - a great achievement and just cause for a celebration. You may or may not know the history of this section of our club. For those who don't read on, for those who do - read it again, it's a great story. The midweek club was initiated by Lorna Bargh, who was the Secretary of the Hutt Valley Table Tennis Association, when she asked Margaret Allardyce if she was interested in playing table tennis midweek. A positive reply was followed by notices in local papers and on 29 May 1974 the Empire Midweek Ladies Club was born. In the early days club mornings were rather like a Creche or kindergarten with often as many children as there were players but it met a need - a meeting place and a recreational time for young Mums and older women. School terms defined seasons. A year later a name change saw the "Empire Midweek Club" become an inclusive group for all. In 1978 the first Round Robin End of Season Tournament was held which was open to all the midweek players from the six clubs in the greater Wellington area. This has become an annual event with a change in format to accommodate changing needs. The first male appeared on the scene in 1981 and gradually male numbers increased until the present almost 50/50 mix. The attendance continued to increase reaching 40 in the late 1980s and a second morning was started. By 1992 the membership blossomed to 109. Suddenly 78% of membership was between 55-75 years of age and the whole ball game changed. The atmosphere became vibrant, morning talks began - a time to share events and notices and have a laugh – the best preventative medicine of all. The emphasis was on fun, friendship and healthy exercise regardless of age. It is better to wear out than rust out! By 1999 numbers had grown even more, midweek was running 2 days a week nearly all year round. Margaret retired leaving the running of midweek to Trevor Billows and Lois McStay. When Trevor died in 2001 Lois carried on with help from various others and is still there making sure the many keen players are kept active and occupied. Many thanks to all those who have contributed over the years to the continued success of the Empire Midweek Club. (Source: Margaret Allardyce)

PLAYER PROFILE

Martin Leon age 14

How long have you been playing table tennis? About 3 years.

Why do you play table tennis? For fun, competition, I enjoy being with table tennis people.

What other sports activities do you participate in? Rugby, basketball, tennis, school and correspondence school.

What do you enjoy about being a member of the Empire Club? The people, the club's stadium.

What is the highlight of your Table tennis career so far? Being in the team that won the schools nationals in 2002, coming second in the under 15 at the Wellington Open this year.

What are your future goals? To improve my game, to win more games.

Calendar of Events

August 5	Entries close for the Club Champs
August 8	Club Championships
August 11	Entries close for the Table Tennis Wellington Open
August 14-15.....	Table Tennis Wellington Open
August 26.....	Board Meeting
September 3	Midweek Tournament

EMPIRE TABLE TENNIS CLUB

2004 Club Championships
Sunday 8 August 2004

Name: _____

Events: please tick the box beside the events you would like to enter.

Open Men's Singles

Open Women's Singles

Open Men's Doubles

Open Women's Doubles

(partner's name or partner required)

Open Mixed Doubles

_____ (partner's name or partner required)

Handicap Singles

Handicap Doubles

Entries close on Thursday 5 August with John Allardyce, Activities Convenor. Please hand in your entry at club, phone 9712028 and leave a message or email jtallardyce@paradise.net.nz. The entry fee is \$2.50 and is to be paid on the day. Hot and cold drinks and sweets will be available for purchase. You should bring your own lunch. The club will be open from 9.00am on Sunday 8 August. Play will commence at 9.30am sharp.