

# EMPIRE TABLE TENNIS CLUB

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

## Newsletter

November 2004

Seasons Greetings to you all. This will be the last newsletter for 2004. The next one will be around the end of January. Contributions are most welcome. A reminder that you can receive your newsletter by email, if you wish to do so please send your email address to [di.s.patch@xtra.co.nz](mailto:di.s.patch@xtra.co.nz)

## FROM THE CHAIR

Earlier this year we received a commitment of support from Metro Motors to help the Club raise money toward the cost of our redevelopment. We received some very nice Ford merchandise as well as a replica All Black jersey - to use as prizes for Club raffles. Metro Motors also promised that they will pay the club \$200.00 every time someone buys a car from them (new or used!) and mentions the club's name. The purchaser doesn't have to be a club member; it can be anyone so long as they mention the Club by name. And it works! Last week we received our first \$200.00. This was because a friend of one of our members, when purchasing a vehicle from Metro Motors, mentioned the name of the Empire Club to the salesperson. So, if you are thinking about getting another car, or if you know someone who is about to buy one, give Metro Motors a go and just before you close the deal, mention the Empire Club and we will receive \$200.00 toward our redevelopment. The Ford Metro outlets involved in this special promotion/sponsorship arrangement are: Metro Motors (Porirua) Limited, Metro Motors (Paraparaumu) Limited and Wanganui Motors (1963) Limited.

Russell Buchanan

## ACTIVITIES

### Monday Club:

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of November we had the prize giving ceremony for the achievers of the club champs. The special trophies were also awarded at this event (see below). Visit our website [www.empirett.org.nz](http://www.empirett.org.nz) to see some of the trophy winners.

J R Capstick Cup for the Most Improved Player was awarded to Hanna Squire

R E Mitchell Cup for the Best Sportsperson was awarded to Ian Talbot

Empire TT Cup for the Most outstanding individual performance was awarded to Hanna Squire

The Dick Gray Cup for the member who: is a regular club attender; has reasonable match play success; is a good sportsperson; assists in the running of the club was awarded to Martin Leon

Alf Harding Cup for the best interclub average man was awarded to Julian Wootton

Merle Harding Cup for the best interclub average woman was awarded to Margaret Cloughley

Congratulations to all winners - well done, we hope to see you next year ready to defend your titles.

On Monday the 15<sup>th</sup> November the Under 19 Boys final was played between James Harter and Martin Leon. It was a close match with both players playing very well, after 5 sets Martin came out on top. Well done Martin, I can see these guys taking out some national titles in the very near future - New Zealand look out!!!

Brian Pearson the President of Table Tennis Wellington visited to award certificates to the winning interclub teams from our club, it was good to see a nice thick wad of certificates under his arm to be presented.

### Junior Club:

The junior club champs were held over the school holidays, 27 turned up to battle it out to see who will be the top dog of the junior club. Results below.

A Grade winner: Kerry Young; Runner up: Xuan Liu

B Grade winner: Nick Byrne; runner up: Harry Josephson

C Grade winner: Albert Williams; runner up: Paul McWhirter

D Grade winner: Albert Williams; runner up: Kevin Walsh

We are still getting large numbers on our club nights, it is pleasing to see the kids getting out there and giving it a go. The final night of the year for the Junior Club will be the 3rd of December. This will be a fun night so bring your parents and come along for some fun games.

### Interclub:

The composite teams interclub is well underway. For those who don't know much about this competition - this is how it works: You tell your club selector that you want to play. All the names are put forward to Table Tennis Wellington, who sort and grade players based on previous interclub results or your level of ability and put you into a team with people from other clubs i.e. one team could consist of a player from Empire, Waterloo, Belmont, to give a three player team. This is a great chance to play and socialize with people you wouldn't normally play with. The composite competition is normally played after winter interclub and runs for approx 5 weeks. All in all great fun and well worth playing.

John Allardyce

## Midweek Club:

Twelve players went to Levin on 4 October and 16 Levin players returned the visit on 1 November. Over 100 have registered to come to our Christmas luncheon at the Petone Workingmen's Club on Thursday 25 November. December 7 will be our final morning for the year with a Yankee tournament followed by a shared lunch. Eddie Moore will open the club at the usual times on a Tuesday and Thursday until Christmas and from 15 January for those wanting to play through the Summer. We are missing Ron Menchi who is laid up with a broken ankle and Sommee Gee who is in Wellington Hospital with a brain haemorrhage. We farewell Maurie Howe who is moving to Hamilton.

Lois McStay

## Tournament Results:

Empire members who played in the Nationals in Auckland recently

Teams Events

Grade	Names	team placing
Open Men's A Grade	Julian Wootton	8 <sup>th</sup> of 8
B Grade	Depak Patel & Chris Talbot	5 <sup>th</sup> of 8
Open Women's	Hanna Squire	3 <sup>rd</sup> of 9
Over 45 Years Men's	Chris Talbot	1 <sup>st</sup> of 9
	Malcolm Wong & Russell Buchanan	8 <sup>th</sup> of 9
Under 19 Years Girls A Grade	Hanna Squire	2 <sup>nd</sup> of 6
Under 15 Years Boys A Grade	Martin Leon, James Harter	2 <sup>nd</sup> of 6
Under 15 Years Boys B Grade	Junou Huang	5 <sup>th</sup> of 6
Under 15 Years Boys C Grade	Ignacio Leon	3 <sup>rd</sup> of 7

### INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

Open Women Singles Quarter Finalist: Hanna Squire

Open Women Doubles Semi Finalists: Michelle McCarthy (Belmont) & Hanna Squire

Men's Doubles Semi Finalists: Heath Murdoch (Belmont) & Depak Patel

OVER 45 Men's Doubles Semi Finalists – Ian Talbot & Lindsay Ward (Titan)

OVER 35 Men's Doubles Semi Finalists – Chris Talbot & Ian Talbot; Heath Murdoch (Belmont) & Depak Patel

UNDER 21 Women's Singles Semi Finalists – Hanna Squire

Women's Doubles Runners Up – Michelle McCarthy (Belmont) & Hanna Squire

Mixed Doubles Semi Finalists – Hanna Squire with Josh Alexandre (Auckland)

UNDER 19 Girls Singles Runner up – Hanna Squire

Girls Doubles Winners – Michelle McCarthy (Belmont) & Hanna Squire

Mixed Doubles Runner Up – Hanna Squire with Blair Paterson (Manawatu)

UNDER 17 Girls Singles Runner Up – Hanna Squire

Girls Singles Winners – Michelle McCarthy (Belmont) & Hanna Squire

Mixed Doubles Runner Up – Hanna Squire with Blair Paterson (Manawatu)

**Congratulations to Hanna Squire for being awarded the NZ Junior Player of the Year Award**

## **BUILDING**

Many thanks to A Non & A Miss for the following: "\$1000 donation towards the Club's Building Fund has been made possible by distribution from Hutt-Mana Energy Trust. We had voted for these funds to remain in trust to be used for community projects. We are now in a position to assist with a local community project worthy of support. We hope the Club will be able to make an early start on the building."

Positioning of amenities has now been agreed and drawings to obtain building consent are now underway.

We still seek donations to our building fund in order to fulfil our mission "to be debt free before the new stadium is completed" please contact Ron Menchi 9704581 or Merv Allardyce 9736682 if you are able to help.

## **FINANCE**

Subs and fees for 2005 will remain the same as for the current year.

## **SERVICES**

### All Black Shirt

We are pleased to say all the tickets in this raffle were sold finally and the winner was Steve McCarthy - ticket number 108. Thanks to everyone who bought tickets - we appreciate your support. For those who are All Black fans we have more gear to raffle so look out for the next raffle.

### Shop Sales in 2004

The shop has continued to be busy this year. Thanks to everyone who has helped out in some way this year at regular club sessions, interclub and at tournaments and special thanks to those who helped to make toasted sandwiches. All profits go towards the Club's operating expenses, and every little bit helps particularly now we are trying to fund the redevelopment of the club.

Maggie Dyer

## ITEMS OF INTEREST

The Club was fortunate to be visited by Hongling Qi, a co-director of one of the first private enterprise sporting organisations in China. Till recently, members would know, that all sports were State controlled and funded. Apparently now, the availability of sponsorship money in China has enabled the development of private enterprise organisations, sporting or cultural. Kathy, her English name, was impressed with the Empire Club's set-up and history. So much so that a suggestion that we could develop a brother/sister club relationship would be a possibility. However, the remoteness of the province from which Kathy comes (up near the Mongolian border) would make any interchange of players a logistical nightmare, but nothing is impossible. It was fortunate that the Club was visited by such a prominent player/administrator and who knows the extent of any future developments that may result.

Ron Menchi

## HISTORY – Friday Night Club - continued

Needless to say Ron was no longer coping alone. From 1973 John Kiley attended as administrator and from 1974 Neil Menchi joined as an additional supervisor. In retrospect these numbers seem unbelievable. The children ranged in age from 8 to 17, with the majority about 13. Many went home at 9.30 or before having played no more than two games, sometimes only one. But they all kept coming, week after week. A social atmosphere prevailed that was infectious. Although fears were expressed by some that the club may have become too social at the expense of table tennis, the competitive spirit and social element remained surprisingly compatible. The best players were singled out for extra coaching and Pat Low's talents were utilised to build on the base established by Ron Menchi. The coaching system paid handsome dividends. Interclub participation was encouraged and steadily increased until 1975 when the club entered a record 24 teams in the main competition and 9 "under 14" teams. Improvement was rapid and a total of nine Friday night players reached "A" Grade. The club president and founder, Alf Harding, then offered a cash incentive to any Friday night junior who won a title at the New Zealand Championships. The offer was taken up – Ruth Lee was the first and others followed.

In 1976 the bubble burst. A large percentage of the junior membership simply "grew out" of the Friday Club at the same time and stopped coming. As a result the atmosphere vanished, others also stopped coming and within about six months of its hey-day the junior club had to be rebuilt almost from scratch. But rebuilt it was. Merv Allardyce replaced John Kiley and Neil Menchi, and a lean period in the late 1970s was survived with the Friday club held together by a loyal band of regular attenders made up largely of the Allardyce and Holden families. Then, without warning, it began to mushroom. An even more efficient coaching system was developed; all the original novelty attractions were still there, more were added and it looked as though the whole cycle was starting again. By 1981 attendances were back into the thirties; by the end of 1982 they had again surpassed 60, with another big increase in junior interclub participation. In 1984 (Jubilee year) the Friday club is alive and well. Ron Menchi is still at the helm, and the climate of ingredients that existed in 1972 have existed throughout. Will the golden era of 1972-1975 ever be repeated? Only time will tell.

(From Golden Jubilee Booklet article by John Kiley)

## PLAYER PROFILE

Margaret Cloughley

**How long have you been playing table tennis?** About 15 years, I started playing at work.

**How long have you been playing at Empire?** About 5 years.

**What do you enjoy about being a member of the Empire Club?** The tables are always up. I like the people, it is a friendly club, where I know everyone and I feel supported. The juniors are sociable as well as the seniors. I enjoy coming on a Monday night as I'm fresh at the beginning of the week. The organisers do a brilliant job. I love the game and enjoy playing people of different strengths and styles.

Margaret won the women's open singles at the club champs as well as having the best interclub average for women in the club.

## Calendar of Events

December 1 .....	Finish of Composite Teams Tournament
December 3 .....	Last night for Junior Club
December 7 .....	Last organised morning for Midweek Club
December 20 .....	Last night for Monday Club
January 17 .....	Monday night resumes
March 14 .....	AGM of Club

**FOR SALE:** Small size butterfly shirts \$34.50; small size butterfly shorts \$24.50; Friendship rubber \$22.50 per sheet; Hurricane II rubber \$22.50 per sheet; Hurricane III rubber \$30 per sheet; full range of DONIC products available from Paul Bargh Ph 06 3672170

check out [www.empirett.org.nz](http://www.empirett.org.nz)